

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE
HOMWOOD-FLOSSMOOR AREA
(LWV HF-AREA)
ANNUAL MEETING



MAY 13, 2021
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

In Memoriam
Syvia Tillman
Joan Adams

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR AREA**

**MAY 13, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Zoom Administrivia	Joni Bradley-Scott
Introduction of President Hayes	Sandra Slayton
Welcome and Call to Order Social Justice Statement	Barbara Hayes, President
Adoption of Order of Business	Sandra Slayton
Report of Disposition Of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes	Chris Schmitt & Committee
Announcements & Recognition	Barbara Hayes
Treasurer's Report	Pat Jackson
Budget Proposal	Pat Jackson
By-Laws Changes and Exception	Ruby Marsh & Committee
Nominations & Elections	Barb Donaldson & Committee
Membership	Joan Strohm & Committee
Directions to the Board	All Members (Use Zoom Chat Tool)
Other Business	Barbara Hayes

Adjournment

LWV H-F Board of Directors 2020-2021

Executive Board

Term Ending

Barbara Hayes, President	2021
Sandra Slayton, Vice President	2021
Dominique Newman, Vice President (resigned Feb 2021)	2022
Patricia Jackson, Treasurer	2022
Eugene Cutler, Secretary (1 - year appointment)	2021

Directors

Lillian Bacon	2022
Dominique Bordelon-Bristol	2021
Joni Bradley-Scott	2021
Lorea Farley	2022
Michelle Hayes	2022
Patty O'Brien	2021
Joan Strohm	2021
Glenda Townsend	2021
Roxie Williams	2022

Nominating Committee

2021

Barbara Donaldson, Chair; Veroncia Amen, Ruby Donahue, Eugenia Cutler, Glenda Townsend

President's Message

Despite the challenges we faced due to the pandemic, the Homewood Flossmoor Area League still had an impactful and exciting year. We achieved our goals with positive results.

Although there was a slight decrease in membership this year, the Board has discussed innovative strategies for increasing membership over the next year, covid restrictions permitting.

We are working on increasing the Communication Committee to improve our website, Facebook, and social media presence, as well as our expertise with Zoom, Constant Contact and other technologies to deliver quality programs and information.

We successfully moderated virtual Candidate Forums for several communities, including Flossmoor, Homewood, Hanover Park, Glenview, Dekalb Township, Olympia Fields, and Itasca.

We partnered with our sister league, LWV-Park Forest, on a Criminal Justice Consensus Committee to assist the LWVIL in updating its Criminal Justice position. The project allowed committee members to become knowledgeable in many aspects of criminal justice law. We also hosted a social and educational Movie Night on Criminal Justice Reform.

We held informative programs with engaging and enlightening presenters and informative topics, and we celebrated Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Earth Day.

We also developed a Fair Tax Committee in cooperation with LWVIL to advocate for the reduction of taxes on middle- and low-income individuals.

I want to thank our Board for their hard work and strong commitment to our League. Glenda Townsend, Program Chair, will be leaving the board as her term has ended. Glenda ensured our League gained insight and knowledge by inviting phenomenal guest speakers for our General meetings who delivered presentations over a broad spectrum of topics. Speakers included U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Cook County Commissioner, Donna Miller, State Senator Patrick Joyce, prominent physician, Dr. Terry Mason, CEO of Trevention, and Executive Director of the South Suburban Housing Center, John Petruszak. Glenda's contributions to the League are outstanding. She made sure that the topics discussed were engaging and left us with a call to action. Thank you for your dedication, Glenda.

Joan Stroh, Membership and Website Chair will also be leaving the board this year as her term has ended. Joan will spend more time with family and friends. Joan enjoyed volunteering her time especially with Membership. As Chair of Membership, Joan welcomed and communicated with the new members, contacted members to renew their membership, and sold League merchandise (pre-covid). Occasionally, Joan would coordinate a "Drinks and Dialogue" Membership drive to invite prospective members to join our League. Joan split her time working with our Webmaster and the Board to update our website.

Thank you, Joan for your dedication to the League.

Please stay tuned for notices regarding our summer events/activities. However, you can still check our website, E-blasts and newsletters for any updates. With your continued support and involvement, we look forward to growing our membership and increasing the visibility of the League of Women Voters of the Homewood-Flossmoor Area.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

LWVUS 50-Year Certificate

*Peggy Butler
Karen Maurer*

50 + Years

*Margaret Boivin
June Gerrish
Barbara Gordon
Pat Paulsen
Frima Margolin*

40 + Years

Anita Healey

30 + Years

*Sylvia Tufts
Edna Littlewood*

20 + Years

*Aurelia Nicholson
Betty Baker
Ruby Marsh
Carol Vance
Chris Schmitt
Ruby Donahue
Dr. Rachel Berg*

15-19 Years

*Marjorie Armstrong
Joyce Grant
Erin Roeper
George Roeper
Marie King
Beth Bongard
Rich Bongard
Freeda Marshall
Diane Williams
Dr. Jane Brown*

Syvia Tilman College Scholarship Award

Barbara Hayes, Scholarship Fund Founder; Committee – Erin Roeper, Ruby Marsh, Freeda Marshall, Ruby Donahue, Barbara Moore, Penny Shnay, Nala King, Beth Bongard, Pat Jackson

On April 27, 2021, the Scholarship Committee selected three (3) students to receive the Syvia Tillman Memorial Scholarship - 2021. Each student will receive a \$1,000 award.

Criteria:

Must be a high school senior.

GPA of 3.0 or better.

Two letters of recommendation; at least one from a classroom teacher.

Essay of 350 words on “Why I Want to Major in Political Science.”

Acceptance at College/University.

<u>Awardee</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>College</u>
Joslyn Smith	Rich Township High School, S.T.E.M. Campus	North Carolina AT&T State University
Alexander Pratt	Homewood-Flossmoor	North Central College
Emma Murphy	Homewood-Flossmoor	University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

The Members of the Syvia Tillman Memorial Scholarship would like to thank the contributors for their support in honoring Syvia’s Legacy.

Contributors to the Syvia Tillman Memorial Scholarship Fund 2020-2021

Margaret Boivin	Julie Krasne, DVM
Beth Bongard	Paula Lawson
Dr. John Bradley	Anne Marie Leofanti
Jane Brown	Nancy Marcus
Nancy Clark	Ruby Marsh
Carolyn Cosentino	Freeda Marshall
Janet Craft	Barbara Moore
Ruby Donahue	Margaret O’Hara
Diane Edmundson	Susan Palcek
Barbara Gordon	Doris Pierce
Kathleen Graffam	Kim Reed
June Gerrish	Erin and George Roeper
Janice Golberg	Cynthia Schilsky
Krista Grimm	Chris Schmitt
Janice Golberg	Chris Slowik
Peggy Kell	David and Margaret Smith
Nala King	Elizabeth Williams
Barbara Koger Hayes	LWV Cook County

South Suburban Diversity Members

Nominating Committee Report
Election Slate for 2021 Annual Meeting

Candidates and Terms of Office

Executive Board 2-Year Term (vote required)

Barbara Hayes President 2023
Sandra Slayton Secretary 2023

Board of Directors 2-Year Term (vote required)

Trinita Henry 2023
Chastity Neal 2023

Nominating Committee 1-Year Term (vote required)

Pearlene Carter, Chair 2022
Lillian Lee 2022
Ruby Donahue 2022

Executive Board Proposed 1-Year Appointment (no vote required)

Vice President

Board of Directors 1-Year Appointment (no vote required)

Eugenia Cutler
Joni Bradley-Scott
Dominique Bordelon-Bristol
Patty O'Brien
Mary Griffin

REVENUE	Date: 5/13/21	2020-2021		2021-2022	
		March	YEAR TO DATE THRU March	Budget	PROPOSED BUDGET
DUES		\$315.73	\$6,312.48	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 6,475.00
CONTRIBUTIONS		\$ -	\$ 455.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 460.00
LWV of H-F Area (not tax- deductible)			\$ 385.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 400.00
LWVIL Education (tax-deductible)			\$ -	\$ -	
Bulletins Mailed (5 mailings)			\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
			\$ -		
OTHER INCOME		\$250.00	\$1,240.00	\$ 4,621.00	\$ 6,160.00
Bulletins Ads/ Sponsorship		\$250.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 1,000.00
Fundraisings			\$ -	\$ 481.00	\$ 450.00
Annual Mtg			\$ -	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,750.00
Miscellaneous			\$ -		
State/National			\$ 840.00	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 2,960.00
Total Revenue		\$565.73	\$8,007.48	\$12,571.00	\$13,095.00
Restricted Income (Website)			\$2,682.56		
(Voter Service Grant)			\$ 208.44		

EXPENDITURES 5/13/21	March	YEAR TO DATE THRU March	Budget	PROPOSED BUDGET
Operating Costs				
Supplies		\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -
Printing(Annual Mtg Booklets)		\$ 88.03	\$ 100.00	\$ 120.00
Postage(Annual Mtg Booklets)		\$ 29.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 70.00
PO Box/ paid annual	\$ 118.00	\$ 118.00	\$ 92.00	\$ 118.00
Insurance		\$ 115.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 115.00
Equipment ZOOM	\$ 84.97	\$ 304.85	\$ 60.00	\$ 175.00
Media/Publicity		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 125.00
Fundraising		\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Miscellaneous	\$ 94.25	\$ 469.93	\$ 75.00	\$ 150.00
Total Operating Costs	\$ 297.22	\$ 1,124.81	\$ 901.00	\$ 873.00
Sponsorship/Finance Committee				
Printing (12 Bulletins) 6 per year(paper -lnk)		\$ 171.87	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.00
Postage (12 Bulletins) 6 per yer Thank You		\$ 142.58	\$ 40.00	\$ 110.00
Supplies (Envelopes-Thank You)				\$ 70.00
Total Sponsorship Committee	\$ -	\$ 314.45	\$ 140.00	\$ 305.00

EXPENDITURES 5/13/21	2020-2021			2021-2022
EXPENDITURES	March	YEAR TO DATE THRU March	Budget	PROPOSED BUDGET
President Even Year = National = DC				
Transportation		\$ -	\$ 140.00	\$ 207.00
Meals/ Lodging		\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 822.00
National/State Conventions-Registration		\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 200.50
Total President	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 665.00	\$ 1,229.50
Delegates (1) National (1) State				
Transportation		\$ -		\$ 207.00
Meals/ Lodging		\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 822.00
National/State Conventions-Registration		\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 200.50
Total Delegates	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 525.00	\$ 1,229.50
Annual Meeting				
Room Rental Idlewild		\$ -	\$ 985.00	\$ 1,045.00
Speakers		\$ -		
Diversity Dinners		\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
Meals		\$ -	\$ 1,270.00	\$ 1,113.00
Gifts		\$ -		
Total Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,380.00	\$ 2,283.00

EXPENDITURES 5/13/21	2020-2021			2021-2022
	March	YEAR TO DATE THRU March	Budget	PROPOSED BUDGET
Membership				
Printing (Book)		\$ 679.64	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00
Postage		\$ 103.20	\$ 40.00	\$ 75.00
Recruitment		\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00
Total Membership	\$ -	\$ 782.84	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 1,075.00
Voter Service - Restricted Funds				
Supplies		\$ 160.18	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Local		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00
Voter Service Candidates Meetings		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Total Voter Service	\$ -	\$ 160.18	\$ 275.00	\$ 200.00
Hostess				
Supplies			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Total Hostess	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Website - Restricted Funds				
Consultant		\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Constant Contact		\$ 250.69	\$ -	\$ 230.00
Hosting		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Total Website	\$ -	\$ 750.69	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,230.00

EXPENDITURES 5/13/21	2020-2021			2021-2022
	March	YEAR TO DATE THRU March	Budget	PROPOSED BUDGET
Financial Support for the League				
National PMP 50%	\$ 840.00	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 2,960.00
State PMP 50	\$ 840.00	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 2,960.00
Tot Financial Support for the League	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 5,880.00	\$ 6,720.00	\$ 5,920.00
Inter-League Organizations				
Cook County - Waved 2021-22		\$ -	\$ -	
Upper Mississippi River Region		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Lake Michigan		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Total Inter-League Organizations	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Educational Activities				
Program Committees		\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 55.00
Combined National & State		\$ -		
		\$ -		
Total Educational Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 55.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,977.22	\$ 9,087.97	\$ 13,846.00	\$ 14,525.00
Restricted Expenditures (minus)	\$ -	\$ 910.87	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,430.00
Total Expenditures (Operating)	\$ 1,977.22	\$ 8,177.10	\$ 12,571.00	\$ 13,095.00
		\$ (169.62)	\$ -	\$ -

PROPOSED BY-LAWS EXCEPTION AND CHANGES

Proposed By-Laws Exception

Article V, Officers, Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers, states: One or more **Vice-Presidents** and the Treasurer **shall be elected in even-numbered years.**

The position of Vice President became vacant recently with the resignation of a Vice President from the position. Election of a new Vice-President, however, to fill the vacancy in this odd-numbered year would violate the election cycle of the By-Laws as specified in the above paragraph. Therefore, this Request for Exception would allow an appointee to fill the unexpired term of the former Vice President for the one-year period beginning with the 2021 Annual Meeting and ending with the Annual Meeting of 2022, an even-numbered year when a Vice-President may be elected in accordance with the terms of the By-Laws.

This request is made pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the By-Laws which states "In the event that any Director's or Officer's term of office conflicts with these By-Laws, a one-time exception may be granted by a motion approved by the majority of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting."

Proposed By-Laws Changes

Below are the proposed changes to the By-Laws. The addendum to Art IV, Sec. 1, Enumeration and Election of Officers, was submitted by President Hayes, and proposes term limits for the positions of President, Co-President and Vice President. Article VII, Section 3 simply formalizes and adds into the By-Laws, the use of virtual technology (e.g., Zoom) to conduct meetings.

Article IV Board of Directors

The President, Co-Presidents, and Vice Presidents shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Article VII Meetings

Sec. 3 Virtual Meetings (new) The LWV-HF may meet to conduct business by holding a meeting through electronic communications e.g., using a conference telephone or interactive technology, including but not limited to electronic transmission, Internet, or other remote communication.

REPORT OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Climate Change Committee Annual Report **Carol Vance, Chair**

Committee: Betty Baker, Marietta Burke, Cheryl Berger, Peg Boivin, Pat Barker, Lorea Farley, June Gerrish, Deb Hampton, Lucy Kokal, Doris Pierce, and Penny Thomas. The committee had monthly communication via email. We held no Zoom meetings, as many were unable to Zoom, or were not comfortable with it. Bulletin article ideas, and written articles were submitted to the committee for approval and feedback. We then submitted one article per bulletin regarding current research and events around climate change. All emails were mailed via USPS to committee members who are not using the internet. The committee looks forward to gathering in the future.

Articles include the following:

- **The Texas Power Grid Failure**
- **The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) recommendations to the new administration for the integration of the goals of climate, equity and public health**
- **EARTHJUSTICE, an environmental law organization, and its coalition projects around the country**
- **The Clean Energy Jobs Act, 20+ apps and websites to live a more sustainable life,**

Recommended reading: Plastic Free, How I Kicked the Plastic Habit, and How You Can Too by Beth Terry.

Programs Committee Annual Report
Glenda Townsend, Chair and Michelle Hayes, Co-Chair

One year into the Covid-19 pandemic we are proud to have found ways to communicate and meet with members in ways never imagined. Technology has enabled our guest speakers to present on a variety of pertinent topics, keeping us informed and enlightened. Nevertheless, we look forward to a return to in-person gatherings and the important collegial connections they bring.

At our Annual Elections Officials meeting held in September, Robin Kelly, US Representative 2nd District, Illinois spoke about *Voting in the Age of COVID-19* where she outlined the historical and current importance of voting, the voting methods available, where to get resources or information about candidates as well her efforts to expand economic opportunities in the 2nd District.

In October, our guest speaker was Attorney, John Petruszak, Executive Director of the South Suburban Housing Center (SSHC). Mr. Petruszak began work with SSHC more than 38 years ago and has worked diligently since then to secure fair housing and civil rights for disenfranchised individuals. After many years of service with (SSHC) and as a private attorney, John Petruszak became its Executive Director in 1995. His presentation, *Recent Rollbacks on Fair Housing Protections*, informed us of the challenges we face in meeting the basic needs of our most vulnerable populations.

Our newest Senator from Illinois, the Honorable Patrick Joyce representing the 40th District, joined us for our November program. Currently the proprietor of a fully functioning, 25-year family farm, Senator Joyce discussed his unusual path to politics. He shared his legislative focus, goals and current initiatives including simplifying access to medical information and services for families of long-term and critically ill individuals.

In February, we were joined by Dr Terry Mason, Chief Executive Officer of Trevention, Inc. (Treatment and Prevention for life) which aims to help prevent and decrease chronic diseases by educating audiences about how food either contributes to: the quality of life, longevity and/or demise of populations. Dr. Mason spent 26 years of his life as a Board-Certified Urologist and Surgeon. He has appeared in numerous documentaries and films, and currently hosts *Re-Start for health* meetings at Trinity United Church of Chicago, and is a weekly guest on “Couch Conversations,” with Congressman Danny Davis, all concerning public and personal health and wellness.

Cook County Board Commissioner, Donna Miller, was our honored guest in March as we celebrated Women’s History Month. Commissioner Miller paid homage to the woman in her life who inspired her to a lead life of public service. Additionally, she shared with us her resolve to address the equitable distribution of health and economic resources, attract new industries, and advocate for fair taxation for the residents of the geographically massive 6th District within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This April, we were very excited to have three presenters: Laura Davis, a member of the LWV Palatine Area and a Director on the board of the LWV Cook County; Bill Koehl, climate activist and LWVIL Environment Team Co-Lead; and Attorney Jennifer Lucas, “Go Green Barrington” founder. We were given valuable information on important local and global environmental issues and actions we might take to help protect the planet for future generations.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Committee: Barbara Koger Hayes, Barbara Donaldson, Ruby Marsh, Melanie King, Joni Bradley-Scott, Pearlene Carter, Lorea Farley, Patricia Jackson, Joan Strohm, Lillian Bacon The Committee held monthly zoom meetings and conducted small group meetings to review 14 criminal justice topics.

Last summer's social justice protests and continued attention on police and citizen relationships, have made it more important than ever for the League to update its Criminal Justice Reform Position, an issue it has worked on since 1995. The LWV-HF League held a virtual meeting on January 14th to survey members on Criminal Justice Reform issues such as community policing, cash bail, alternatives to arrest, police training and successful re-entry programs. Each Illinois League is responsible for providing input on 14 Criminal Justice survey topics and reporting their responses to LWVIL's Criminal Justice Study Committee. After collecting the data from the 41 Leagues, the Study Committee drafted an updated Criminal Justice Position, which was sent to the LWVIL Board for approval, and then will be presented at the State Convention in June for ratification by the entire League. The LWVIL and Cook County Leagues' work on Criminal Justice Reform have made a powerful impact on the Illinois General Assembly which recently approved criminal justice reform legislation that would end cash bail and require all police officers to wear body cameras. Governor Pritzker signed the legislation into law on February 22, 2021.

Voter Services Annual Report
Roxie Williams, Chair and Lillian Bacon

August 2020

The Voter Services team was very diligent in their efforts to make democracy work in the 2020-2021 elections. During a time where our nation faced a pandemic the commitment to register voters and get out the vote remained intact. Many of our volunteers who were seniors followed CDC guidelines but courageously made sure voter were registered in a safe, secure and inclusive manner.

During July and August, the team completed several successful curbside voter registration drives as we partnered with the Bremen Township “Produce Giveaway” in Markham, Illinois. In August we were present at Hazel Crest’s “Can We Count On You” Census Community Walk-a-thon. 150 people attended and our team registered youth and adults at the event.

September 2020

September 22, 2020 was ~~our~~ National Voter Registration Day and volunteers scheduled various voter registrations at community businesses and multiple community events in surrounding townships. Co-chair Lillian Bacon organized and managed the follow up for deputy registrar training 2020. As a result of COVID-19, all training was conducted virtually by the Cook County Clerk’s Office. The committee worked diligently to set up a process to sign up 33 new volunteers for the training and helped ensure all deputy registrars renewed their expired cards.

February/March 2021

LWV-HF moderators conducted several candidate forums this year, providing an excellent format to educate voters about candidates running for election in the HF Area. Voter Services also supported LWV sister leagues in Park Forest, Roselle-Bloomingtondale, Glenview-Glencoe, and DeKalb County by providing moderators to conduct forums for their communities. The following forums were conducted:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elected Position</u>	<u>Number of Candidates</u>	<u>Moderator</u>
3/4	Itasca Trustee	2 Candidates	Erin Roeper
3/6	Glenview Trustee	6 Candidates	Erin Roeper
3/10	Olympia Fields Mayoral	2 Candidates	Sandra Slayton
3/11	DeKalb Township Supervisor	2 Candidates	Erin Roeper
3/13	HF SD 233 School Board	6 Candidates	Sandra Slayton
3/15	Hanover Park Trustee	5 Candidates	Sandra Slayton
3/25	Flossmoor Mayoral	2 Candidates	Roxie Williams

Special thanks to Susan Craighead, Vice President of Naperville and Roberta Borrino of Roselle-Bloomingtondale for their incredible technical support to LWV-HF for two of the forums.

Membership Committee Annual Report
Joan Strohm, Chair and Lorea Farley

Despite the unprecedented covid-19 pandemic in 2020 we are happy to report that our League still has over 100 members as of April 9, 2021. Please join us in welcoming our eleven newest members:

Steven Anderson

Linda Cerva

Trinita Henry

Tamara Hill-Pryor

Marcia Hollis-Bratcher

Gina LoGalbo

Susan Lombardi

Heldia Richardson

Frances Starks

Brenda Tannehill

Puna Tannehill

Due to edicts from the CDC to isolate, quarantine, and social distance throughout 2020, and the closing of many venues, there were no events held to recruit members. The League continued to engage members with quality programs and informative speakers. As we make plans for the upcoming year, we will continue to grow our membership through invitations from you to family, friends, and neighbors to attend our virtual events and eventually, in-person gatherings. Our success as a League is due to the support of loyal League members like you.

Ad Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee Report
Patty O'Brien, Chair and Michelle A. Hayes Co-Chair

Nine ad sponsors brought in revenue of \$450 for 2020-2021. Ads taken out for the year were added to our website and the bulletins with a link to each sponsor's website. We are pleased that many sponsors continued their support from last year and we have new sponsors as well.

Members are encouraged to help find new sponsors and reach out to them directly to help raise funds. Members are also encouraged to use the services and/or products of our business and professional sponsors to convey our appreciation for their support of our League.

Business and Professional Contributors

Angelica's Bakery

The Craft Bar

Colin Cutler, Exit Realty Solutions

Joni Bradley-Scott, Keller Williams Realty

Law Office of Thomas E. Brabec

Math Language, LLC.

Seattle Sutton — Christine Brown

South Suburban Family Shelter

The Zora & Josephine Tea Room

2021 Legislative Interviews

Annually the League asks local LWV Chapters to conduct interviews with State legislators in their districts. This provides the locals an opportunity to develop and/or nurture relationships with our State Senators or State Representatives. It also lets us know the legislators' opinions on topics representing league positions that may have legislative consequences for the spring session. Building these relationships is also helpful when we are soliciting their support on legislation the League favors. This year Erin Roeper coordinated a team of HF leaguers who interviewed two State legislators that represent many of the communities in which our members reside. The subject topics and their responses are provided below for your information.

Legislator: William Davis, State Representative, Illinois 30th District, April 6th

Erin Roeper, Moderator; Stephanie Bell, Carolyn Cosentino

Question 1: Education Funding Restoring funding for the Evidence-Based Funding Model (EFB) could be challenged for the coming budget year. Last year, flat funding was maintained due to Covid 19. Interest on both sides exists in legislature but there is hesitancy in the administration. Republican members are interested in restoring EBF though the committee working on it is partisan so difficult to predict how GOP will vote on it.

Question 2: Redistricting The process needs to be more open to input. Hearings are taking place across the state now. Rep Davis invited LWVHF to the virtual hearing on Thurs., Apr. 8, at 10am. The hearings are also open to the public. Rep. Davis stated there still has to be additional conversation beyond this first round. Many legislators have concerns about redistricting, one of which is getting reliable population information as the basis for new maps. Davis stated that in his mind, the process needs to be open and inclusive, engaging people who might not have felt they had a voice or could be included. (He stated that restructuring underway in the Dem Party in IL can support these goals.) All elected state officials in the legislative and executive branches are up for re-election with the new map. The mandate is to pass the map by May 31, 2021, i.e., passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. If not, it will go to a commission with equal numbers of Dems and GOP. If the commission comes to an impasse, a coin flip will decide who draws it.

Question 3: Cutting greenhouse gases and creating new green jobs The Governor's office has the responsibility of drawing a bill re clean energy. Path to 100 Bill is a path to expanded solar and wind power. With regard to CEJA, has some concerns regarding specifics of implementation. The demand for all drivers to drive electric vehicles can face obstacles in becoming reality. The infrastructure for powering vehicles has many considerations: Build powering stations where? How many in a given place? If grocery stores provide one location, what about areas that are food deserts? In older neighborhoods with no alleys and street parking only, what is practical? All bills are trying to address equity in the build up toward this. There are many challenges to finishing a bill this year. Interests of utility companies and their work force must be part of the discussion, with funding for the process of conversion.

Question 4: Criminal Justice Reform Act A major concern is getting clear answers from groups involved in the process of developing policy. Those groups need to dialogue. The development process for the bill has meant more conversations taking place among different groups and more answers provided; accurate information has come from the dialogue. Regarding policing, better conversations occur now concerning what it means to serve and protect; for communities having a relationship with their police dept.; and the administration of laws without favoritism or prejudice. Regarding bail, it is not that anyone should get a "free pass," but Davis stated that there is a need to rethink what we do and how in light of the possible consequences of the policy. The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus has jump started this review. Some Sheriff's associations have been interfering by putting inaccurate information out to the public. We are only at the beginning of the reform process. There is a need to move away from incarceration and toward reform that helps people figure out a better path. This applies to both juveniles and adults. This is not to say that nobody should be jailed. Our current director of the state system has been in his position for 2 years and should now be able to make recommendations for improvement.

We need to remember that policies intersect and impact each other, both negatively and positively.

Another point to remember is that a category of criminal action may not be restricted to what we think it is. And policy/punishments may have more limiting impact than intended.

Question 5: Healthcare disparities Some of the disparity is due to funding of Medicare and Medicaid. Providers need to be paid appropriately for their care, so that everyone has access to needed care. Rep. Davis related what he learned about healthcare in Australia which begins at birth. Chips in medical cards have all of a patient's medical information. Government plays a large role in it which he says probably would not be popular here.

Question 6: Education Funding Regarding expanded access to preschool and childcare: Rep Davis is part of the Early Childhood Funding Commission. The Commission includes Dems and GOP, care providers and educators. Their focus question has been "What would it look like to fully fund early childhood education." The question is not only with regard to needed funding, which is estimated at \$14 billion, but in working with providers, including school districts, and families, and developing paths for systems to "talk to each other" to get parents and children efficiently to the appropriate assistance program. Funding, access, and equity are all key considerations.

Regarding the teacher shortage, there are a variety of issues to address. Establishing a state-wide base salary for beginning teachers is one approach. Partnership with the Illinois School Board Association has resulted in recommendations for solutions. "Growing Our Own" is one approach to supporting teacher training for college students in Illinois. Consideration of students who run out of money at the end of training, sometimes at the point of student teaching, needs support. ISB Assoc has proposed a bill for short term licensure while teacher works toward completing endorsement.

Legislator: Debbie Meyers-Martin, State Representative, 38th District, April 9th
Roxie Williams, Moderator; Peg Boivin, Lorea Farley, Michelle Hayes, Trinita Henry, Erin Roeper

Question 1: Educational Funding Rep. Meyers-Martin will and does support increasing education funding as part of the budget process as well as providing childcare at a very young age. The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus has 4 pillars, one of which is to create a Task Force to study how to increase funding for more bilingual teachers. However, she stated that this is a very political issue due to budget constraints.

Question 2: Redistricting Rep. Meyers-Martin supports having public hearings to get feedback regarding the concerns of the public. She also supports respecting the boundaries of municipalities and counties. She specifically mentioned Homewood, which is in several different Senate and House districts which causes confusion with residents.

Question 3: Clean Air She strongly supports the Clean Air Act and the Clean Energy Jobs Act. She was the sponsor of a bill last session calling for stronger standards by 2050. The bill was moved through the committees and has not come to the floor for a vote. She is supporting a similar bill sponsored by Rep. Ann Williams this session. She supports "Solar for All" to reduce our carbon footprint. She sits on both the Economic and Environment Committees working to keep moving forward on environmental issues.

Question 4: Criminal Justice This is another of the 4 Pillars of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus that she supports. She supports the mandating of police body cameras by 2024-2025 and mental health training for police responders. However, these will take time so there will not be an immediate response. It is costly and takes time. She also mentioned that different communities have different needs. She does not support defunding the police. She supported HB 3653 (the Criminal Justice Omnibus Bill signed into law by Governor Pritzker on February 22, 2021.)

Questions 5: Health Care This is another of the 4 Pillars of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. She supported HB 158 (Health Care and Human Services) -- a Medical Management bill. She will also support a bill re: Emergency Insulin if introduced.

Question 6: Affordable Housing Rep. Meyers-Martin is passionate on the issue of affordable housing. She stated that the southern suburbs are not the areas that need to be looked at since it already actively monitors and provides affordable housing. She feels that northern and western communities should continue to work toward implementing Affordable Housing Act provisions. She supports amending the Illinois' Affordable Housing and Appeal Act for those communities. She would like the \$23 million funding associated with this Act to be used for senior housing. She would support "bridge rental subsidies" for the individuals suffering mental illness.

Question7: Juvenile Justice She supports clearing the 5 juvenile prisons. However, there are so many issues within the juvenile justice system that it will take all of us to come up with viable solutions. She also felt that the closer to home a juvenile is cared for, the more resources would be available from the family, community, etc. She ended her comments by asking that people contact her office with questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns. When asked how she would prefer to be contacted she said e-mail, and if she didn't respond within a reasonable period, to call and remind her.

Legislators' contact information is provided in the LWV HF Membership Handbook



HOMEWOOD- FLOSSMOOR AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER
Membership Form – Fiscal Year 2021/22

Name(s): _____ Date _____ New _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____ *Email: _____

*Bulletins are delivered free via email or \$10 via US mail.

Annual Dues (through June 30,2022)	Cash	Check #	Pay Pal Rec #
• Individual Membership	\$70.00	_____	_____
• Household Membership	\$105.00	_____	_____
• (2 people residing in same residence)			
• Bulletin Mailing Fee	\$10.00	_____	_____

Other Contribution Options

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• LWVIL Education Fund (tax-deductible- must be a separate check made payable to LWVIL Ed Fund) **Amount:** _____ **Check#** _____

Please return this form and your check to: H-F Area LWV
 P.O. Box 801
 Flossmoor IL 60422

For questions contact (lwwhfareboard@gmail.com)

I am willing to do one or more of the following activities to continue to keep our local League strong and vibrant:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Voters Service | Green (Environment) Committee |
| ____ Voter Registrar | ____ Finance Committee - Fund Raising |
| ____ Candidate Forums | ____ Budget Committee |
| | ____ Nominating Committee |
| Special Topic Group Study | |
| | |
| Legislative Issues | Publicity |
| ____ Tracking legislation | ____ Write Bulletin Articles |
| ____ Advocate for Issues | ____ Distribute Flyers |
| ____ Interviewing Legislators | ____ Proofreading Bulletins |
| | |
| Hospitality Committee | Membership Committee |
| ____ Program Planning Committee | ____ Observer Corps |
| | (various community board meetings) |