

ALERT ALERT ALERT

DATE CHANGES FOR 2020 PROGRAM MEETINGS

Please be advised that the dates listed in the 2019-2020 LWV-HF Area Membership Handbook for the February, March, and April Program Meetings, are *incorrect*.

The correct information follows:

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Minority Birth Disparity in the US

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Trafficking of Women in Illinois

The meetings will be held at:

Grande Prairie Library

3479 W. 183rd Street, Hazel Crest

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Climate Change and It's Effects on Children

The meeting will be held at:

Homewood Science Center

18022 Dixie Highway, Homewood

Refreshments and socializing at 6:30 PM.

Programs begins at 7:00 PM.

Message from the President



On November 19, 2019, I attended the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Board Meeting to speak to their Board about the League's opposition on the Arming of Teachers and Funding Firearms Training. To summarize, I asked the Board to vote "No" on two (2) resolutions from the Illinois Association of School Boards. Resolution 1 would "provide local school boards the option to decide if they will allow properly trained staff to be armed in school buildings". Resolution 2

would establish school safety grants so school districts can hire School Resource Officers (SROs) who may carry a firearm provided the SRO has had proper training. Both resolutions would serve to bring guns **into** the schools. Schools should be safe spaces and there is no evidence to show that arming personnel within a school increases school safety. For more information, read the HF Chronicle, October, 2019 issue: [Local League of Women Voters chapters oppose resolutions on arming school staff.](#)

Additionally, as we embark upon the holiday season, I just want to provide you with a few housekeeping matters. Our holiday party will be held at the home of Rich and Beth Bongard, on **Tuesday**, December 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. The goal of this party is to increase membership. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a League member, please invite that person to our holiday party. For more detailed information on the holiday party, please contact Joan Strohm at jdsjan@aol.com or 708-921-0859.

On Saturday, January 18, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., we invite League members to attend our Program Planning Meeting at the home of Sylvia Tillman. There will be discussions regarding League State Positions/Issues and Advocacy.

Our next General Meeting will be in February 2020 in honor of Black History Month. We will feature a presenter on Black History at the Grande Prairie Library on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES: LWVIL

- The League's 100th Birthday Celebration, February 14, 2020, Congress Hotel, Chicago.
- The Issues Briefing Meeting, February 15, 2020 at Northeastern IL University, Chicago
- The League's 100th Anniversary Commemorative Luncheon, September 24, 2020, Palmer House in Chicago.

Lastly, I want to wish you all happy and safe holidays. I look forward to seeing you at some of our planned events.

Barbara A. Hayes,
President LWV H-F Area

News From LWVUS

Census 2020 - why it matters

The U.S. Census data is used to make decisions around education, healthcare, infrastructure, and political representation. With increased growth in the country, getting an accurate and complete count of every person living within is crucial to ensure that each state receives funding to support the



number of residents in each state. This Census the focus continues to be on reaching hard to count communities and ensuring these communities get included in the Census count.

The League's Census work will occur in three phases: (1) Education; (2) Get Out to Count activities, (3) Watchdog reporting. In the months leading up to Census Day—April 1, 2020—Leagues around the country will be in communities sharing information and resources about how to participate and the importance of the U.S. Census. On Census Day, the League will work in coalition to help get everyone counted, work in Complete Count Committees to share out information about low-reporting areas, and communicate where additional support is needed. Once the Census count wraps up in the Summer/Fall of 2020, the Leagues will remain in communities and will watchdog any issues from the ground.

Take Action to Secure Our Elections

Election security should not be a partisan issue. We must invest in our elections and prevent meddling from the same foreign actors who targeted our elections in 2016. Contact your Senators and demand immediate action to secure our elections.

2020 Women's March

2020 marks the 4th anniversary of Women's March, and the League of Women Voters is proud to continue our partnership. The march will take place Saturday, January 18, 2020. There will be a main march in Washington, D.C. with sister marches planned around the country. As in past years, we encourage Leagues to determine for themselves whether it makes sense for them to participate at the local and state level.

Countdown to Convention 2020

Join us for our 54th Convention in June 2020! Convention will be hosted in Washington, DC, June 25-28. The first call with more information is on the League Management Site. Registration will be open by January, 2020.

Climate Change Committee Green Corner

The annual meeting of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) was attended by Carol Vance in Lakeside, Michigan on October 25.

The LWVLMR is comprised of 42 local Leagues of Women Voters within the Lake Michigan watershed and regional planning areas along with each of the State Leagues. Our local League – LWV H-F Area – is a member of LWVLMR as well as the LWVUS, LWVIL, and LWVCC. We support the goals of maintaining high standards for water quality throughout the Great Lakes Basin with emphasis on preventing water pollution.

Presenter, Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director of FLOW (For the Love of Water), focused on dangerous toxic substances called PFAS which are pervasive in both ground and surface water. PFAS, short for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of man-made, highly persistent chemicals known for their ability to repel water, grease, and stains. They are found in a wide range of common products from food packaging to non-stick cookware to furniture and outdoor clothing.

The US EPA warns that exposure can lead to adverse human health effects. According to Earthjustice magazine, "the ubiquity of PFAS in everyday products has resulted in 95% of the U.S. population having some PFAS in their blood, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Yet, the EPA has not set a limit on the amount considered "safe" for drinking water, although, it has issued a health advisory.

The LWVLMR's position statement as well as in-depth information on issues and advocacy, projects, action plans, and more can be found at lwvlmr.org.

Consider highlighting products or services, sales or promotions, personal bios, and more. Use images that complement your message, and link your images to supporting resources.

Observers

League member, Lillian Bacon, attended the City of Country Club Hills regular board meeting on November 11. Of general interest is the announcement made by Mayor James Ford that a Notice of Public Hearing for the New Development Plan I-57/I-80 TIF Redevelopment Project Area (RPA) was issued. This plan replaces the previous plan for an outlet mall and will include housing development and other uses. The mayor also informed the residents that he will meet with the Gatlings regarding the use of their road which will be included in the new development.

Alderman Lockett announced there will be a Property Tax Appeal seminar on December 3, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. The seminar is hosted by Commissioner Larry Rogers of the Cook County Board of Review and residents attending can learn how they can appeal their property tax assessments.



Voter Services

The momentum created during National Voter Registration continued at Homewood-Flossmoor High School College Night where we signed up six new voters. That brings our total new voter registrations for the year to 137!

Suburban Access

The Voter Services team is volunteering to assist South Suburban Access in packing and distributing Thanksgiving holiday groceries for 1300 families. This will be a great opportunity for the League to provide information and register additional voters. We will be at South Suburban Access on the following dates:

Packing Groceries

Date: November 21, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Distributing Groceries & Voter Services

Date: November 26, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

South Suburban Access is located at 900 Maple Ave., Homewood. Any League member interested in volunteering to help can contact Pat Jackson at 312-485-4951.

The League of Women Voters continues to encourage every eligible American to register to vote.

Membership

The League of Women Voters of Homewood-Flossmoor Area sponsored a Drinks and Dialogue for new and prospective members on October 15th at the Flossmoor Station Brewery from 6:30 P.M. to 10 P.M. The evening began by watching the televised Democratic Candidate Debate, and later the group had fun playing a Debate Bingo game. Over refreshments, the thirty people in attendance engaged in spirited conversation. It was an outstanding opportunity for those interested in the political process to come together and share their thoughts and ideas. This is the latest in a series of opportunities the Membership Committee organizes for the community to gather and discuss political concerns.

In 1860, Illinois communities hosted the Lincoln Douglass debates leading up to that historic election. It was in that same spirit the League hosted the debate watch and discussion as we move towards the 2020 presidential election. It is in keeping with our mission to encourage informed and active participation in government and increase understanding of major public policy issue through education and advocacy.

Registering to vote is easy and convenient. You can register online, in-person, or by mail (the registration form is available online and can be downloaded for completion). Detailed information about online, in-person and mail-in registration can be found at the website of the Office of Cook County Clerk, Karen Yarbrough, cookcountyclerk.com.

Our Sponsors, Community Services, and Leaders 2019-2020

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