

Upcoming Events:

>> Our Calendar is a work in progress -
check our website for updates. lvvhp.org

Early Voting (HP Library) ends	April 1
Leadership Team Meeting	April 13
LWV Lake County Board Meets	April 19
April Book Club	April 25
Program Planning: April or May	TBD
Annual Meeting: June	TBD

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ELECTION APRIL 4, 2023



Candidates Forum March 5, 2023

Our League sponsored two Candidate Forums on March 5th. Two segments: one for Highland City Council and the second for Highland Park City Council. Forum videos are available for these well attended League sponsored events. See [page 4](#)



It's Spring ... What's next?
Focus on the Arts - Habitat Highland Park
Program Planning
Watch emails for details

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

LEADERSHIP TEAM MESSAGE

Dear Leaguers and Friends,

Proudly, our League is now in it's 95th year. We recently honored a few members, who have reached their 50 year membership milestone, thus becoming Life Members of LWV. ([page 10](#)) Since the Autumn newsletter was released, our League has been very busy. This early Spring edition highlights League's recent activities.

While virtual meetings will continue, our Leadership Team has been focused on getting back to in-person meetings. Since the last newsletter we have had two wonderful in-person events, both organized by our long-time member and event planner extraordinaire, Elaine Adler:

- Our Holiday Party was held on Dec 15th at Bella Via with guest speakers, HP City Manager Ghida Neukirch and HP Fire Chief Joe Schrage. At the Holiday party, we presented our long overdue and greatly deserved Nora Licata Award to Judy Miller. ([page 5](#))
- It's election time and a hybrid Candidates Forum was held on March 5th. Both Highland Park and Highwood City Council candidates participated. ([page 4](#)) Our Voters Guide was released late February and was shared widely on social media by candidates and residents of both communities.

Other highlights since the last newsletter include:

- Our Annual Meeting was virtual on Dec 1st. Take-aways: focus on our membership better reflecting the diversity of Highland Park and Highwood; hold a generous bequest from the estate of long-time member, Ruth Wander, in a separate account, to be used for significant projects; in addition to annual local Program Planning, conduct a review of our League Position papers with suggested modifications to be presented at our next annual meeting.
- On Dec 5th our League had a powerful virtual program on Gun Violence Prevention presented by Sara Knizhnik. A recording of that program is available [here](#).
- MLK Day participation (in-person Jan 16th) ([page 6](#)).
- Ranked Choice Voting Program with guest speaker Alisa Kaplan (virtual Feb 12th) ([page 7](#))
- While not new or novel, we continue to register voters and have a date at HPHS in May to register students who will be 18 by the November.

It's an impressive list. However, going forward, we will have a difficult time sustaining a level of informed and active participation in our communities, with only the same members stepping up. We are 100+ members strong, but need active involvement, from more members to continue with our programs. We need strategies to attract younger members, who have a stake in our schools and park district, and also to help chart the direction of our League going forward. Whether a small or large project ... there are so many ways to participate. See one of our Leadership Team member's thoughts ([page 12](#)).

Nancy Goldberg, Leadership Team Chair, Communications Chair

On behalf of the leadership Team

Not a member? It's easy to join on our [website](#).



HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

Upcoming Consolidated Election April 4, 2023 Info:

BE INFORMED.

- Check <https://illinoisvoterguide.org> to find out most information:
 - Am I registered to vote?
 - What are my options to vote early?
- You can find out where your polling place is on election day [here](#).
- What's on **my ballot**?
 - For our Highland Park members and friends, click [here](#) for a sample ballot.
 - For our Highwood members and friends, click [here](#) for a sample ballot.
 - Other Lake County sample ballots can be found by following prompts at this Lake County [link](#) by entering house number, street and zip code (bottom left of the County's webpage.)

Early voting in Highland Park started on March 20th and runs through April 1st at the Highland Park Public Library, 494 Laurel Ave, Highland Park.



**CUT
THRU
THE
SPIN.**

**BE INFORMED.
THE LEADERS
YOU ELECT**

**MAKE
DECISIONS
THAT WILL
IMPACT
YOUR LIFE.**



HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

LOCAL CANDIDATES FORUMS CELEBRATES FIRSTS

Our **FIRST** Hybrid Forum was held on Sunday afternoon, March 5th. The well-attended event, held at the Highland Park Country Club, was enhanced by over 40 people who watched on Zoom.

Another **FIRST** was having both Highland Park and Highwood forum segments on the same day including:

- Four candidates running for three positions on the Highwood City Council.
- Five candidates running for three positions on the Highland Park Council.
- Our intrepid Voter Services Chair had another **FIRST** with a nasty fall on her way into the Country Club. Regardless, Elaine applied ice, made sure everything was going properly, and then opened each of the forum segments. After the forums she went to the ER. Gratefully, she was ok, with a shiner as a souvenir of the forums. Bravo, Elaine!

The Forum Committee that made this complex event a success included: Elaine Adler, Voters Services Chair; Nancy Goldberg, Virtual Host; Rose Feder; Sue Piro; Marilyn Revesz; Marlene Senescu and Paula Lawson, Moderator.

We also thank our many other volunteers: Audrey Cohen, Candice Dalrymple, Larry Feder, Dan Jenks, Carole Kohn, Emma Kowalenko, Peg Laemle, Betsy Lassar, Margaret Lindsay, Judy Miller, Jean Murray, Sam Piro, Ginny Schulte and Gail Taxy. **An example of members stepping up and participating.**

All involved continue the League's commitment to enlighten and enrich the lives of our communities.

Submitted by Elaine Adler (except for editorially adding the intrepid part).



Recordings of the Forums: [Highwood](#) and [Highland Park](#)



Moderator, Paula Lawson
Mike Fiore, Andy Peterson, M. Brad Slavin,
Cindy Hamilton



Moderator, Paula Lawson
Tony Blumberg, Jeff Hoobler, Yumi Ross,
Adam Stolberg, Kelly Nichols

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

HOLIDAY PARTY: DECEMBER 15, 2022

What a wonderful party! The first in-person event for us since March 2021. Organized by Elaine Adler, our organizer extraordinaire! The food was delicious! We were fortunate to have two guest speakers: Highland Park City Manager Ghida Neukirch and Highland Park Fire Chief Joe Schrage. Ghida and Joe led our group in a game: "State of the City—Jeopardy Style". It was fun, we learned how much we don't know ... What is Highland Park's population? What year was HP incorporated? Want to know and learn some more facts about HP? [Here](#) is a link to the questions ... with the answers too!

It was great to have an in-person celebration. We were thrilled to award Judy Miller the **Nora Licata Award** for her years of League contributions. The Leadership Team wanted to give Judy the award earlier, but doing it over Zoom just didn't feel right. Judy's daughters were able to attend and Elaine introduced Judy with a beautiful tribute, followed by Judy addressing us and sharing many of our League's accomplishments during her years of membership and service. Our League established the **Nora Licata Award** in memory of a beloved, distinguished Leaguer. Nora was a luminous mentor to many and exemplified the best of League with her leadership, creativity and dedication.

Our League produced an art card set in 2020 in honor of the passage of the 19th Amendment. The artwork included 9 original works donated to our League by local women artists. We sold the original pieces at the Holiday Party and donated the proceeds to the Highland Park Community Foundation.



HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE DAY: January 16, 2023

Our League of Women Voters participated in the January 16th City of Highland Park Martin Luther King Day of Service at the Rec Center again this year. We had a Superhero ballot, Kids' Voters Booth as well as coloring paraphernalia pertaining to MLK, LWV and Real Historical Super Heroes. Once again the program was well attended and successful in teaching children about voting. It offered a way for parents to explain voting to their kids. We heard many Moms and Dads saying, "this is how Mommy/Daddy vote when there is an election." It was such fun! (Wonder Woman won this year and was announced during the entertainment portion of the event.)









LWV Highland Park/Highwood

Martin Luther King MLK Day of Service January 16, 2023

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHERO

COMPLETELY FILL THE OVAL BELOW YOUR CHOICE and Place in the Ballot Box

 <p>CAPTAIN MARVEL</p>	 <p>SUPERMAN</p>	 <p>BLACK PANTHER</p>
 <p>STORM</p>	 <p>WONDER WOMAN</p>	 <p>SPIDER-MAN</p>

DON'T LIKE ANY OF THE CANDIDATES; WRITE IN YOUR FAVORITE ON THE LINE BELOW

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD

Submitted by Marlene Senescu

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE



RANKED CHOICE VOTING

A virtual presentation on February 8th
with Alisa Kaplan, Executive Director of
Reform For Illinois

On February 8, 2023, Alisa Kaplan, Executive Director of Reform For Illinois (formerly Illinois Campaign For Political Reform), gave us a Zoom presentation on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Alisa was fresh from helping lead her home town of Evanston, Illinois to become the first Illinois jurisdiction to adopt this voting method for some local elections. There is growing interest in RCV in a wide variety of jurisdictions in the US, such as cities and towns in Utah, Colorado, and California; New York City, Minneapolis, and San Francisco; and the states of Maine and Alaska.

Some see RCV as a way to determine who has the strongest support; to encourage civil campaigning; to lessen "wasted" votes; and to reduce the need for multiple elections.

With RCV, the voter ranks in order of preference their first through a set number of choices or as many as they want to. The software determines if anyone has over 50 percent (the winner). If not, the software finds the lowest vote-getter and redistributes their second choice votes to the remaining candidates. This is done again when a round does not produce a winner or the requisite number of winners. It can be used where there are single member districts, like the Evanston and Highwood City Councils or an at-large Council as in Highland Park.

Some see this as helpful even if the candidates are elected in single member districts. It enables a voter to select the candidate they really favor but are hesitant about, as a less favored but "acceptable" second-choice is favored to win or has more resources etc. It allows that voter's choice to count and not be "wasted.". In addition, it is thought civility is increased when candidates must compete for second or later choice votes. Studies of RCV have shown that this system tends to produce rough proportional representation in terms of race or ethnic characteristics or in contested issues in a community, such as environmental issues.

In Illinois, any home rule community can put a referendum on the ballot to enact RCV for particular offices. To enact RCV statewide, it must be passed by the state legislature. [Here](#) is the recording of the presentation.

Submitted by Carole Kohn

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

2023/2024 LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

LWV OF HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS

In League lingo “program” refers to selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action.

Only with input from our members will we have a viable and exciting action oriented program to move us forward in influencing public policy in Highland Park and Highwood.

At this meeting, we'll go over our local positions in their brief form – asking if we retain/restudy/drop each position by category. The more prepared you are, the faster the process will go, and the fastest way to update yourself is to read over our positions prior to the meeting. We'll limit discussion as necessary to stay within the time frame. We do not have a formal observer corps, but we do have several members with specific expertise in policy areas that will attend the meeting to share insights on various positions.

WHAT HAPPENS AT PROGRAM PLANNING?

- 1: REVIEW OUR CURRENT POSITIONS, determining whether we retain/re-study/drop
- 2: MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT POSITIONS
- 3: MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STUDY AND/OR A NEW ACTION FOCUS ITEM

Watch for email with the Date for the Meeting

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

SPRING ECOLOGICAL EVENTS!

Two ecological spring events of special interest to League members are approaching – **Focus on the Arts** and **Arbor Day**.

Focus on the Arts (April 17-20, times vary, Highland Park High School) is a biennial, multi-day arts festival. A collaboration of the Highland Park High School Fine Arts Department and the Parent Teachers Organization, the festival offers a schedule brimming with workshops, performances, and presentations that explore a wide range of fine arts. On Wednesday, April 19, as part of the architecture focus, **Red Stem**, a local landscape company that designs and builds gardens based on ecological landscape design, will present a display of live plants and shrubs and a slideshow highlighting how native plant gardens provide beauty, support birds and pollinators, address water management concerns, and sequester carbon. Collaborating with Red Stem will be **Habitat Highland Park**, and our local **LWVHP-HWD**. Our League's participation aligns with the LWVUS climate action position by supporting gardening for pollinators and other wildlife. Learn more about how to integrate native plant gardens into your yard or porch and pick up some free pollinator-friendly seed packets during the Thursday evening program. Read more about **FOCUS** [here](#).



Arbor Day (April 29, 9-11 am, Ravinia Festival West Parking Lot, 301 Ravinia Park Road) is the annual City of Highland Park celebration of native trees and plants. Join your neighbors to learn more about the vital importance of planting native trees, shrubs, and plants that thrive in the growing conditions of Illinois. Giveaways will include native tree seedlings, native shrubs, milkweed plants. The **Habitat Highland Park** team will be present to provide information on gardening that attracts pollinators and other wildlife and free seed packets. For more information on Arbor Day giveaways and planting guides, please read [here](#).



HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE Spring 2023



Welcome to our new member Anna Marie Ruben.

We recently honored a few dedicated members who have reached the League of Women Voters 50 year membership milestone, becoming Life Members of LWV. Those members are Rose Feder, Bryna Gamson, Judy Miller and Rhoda Pierce. Aside from acknowledging their many contributions, becoming Life Members means they no longer need to pay dues to LWV!

We now have a Junior Membership that your children and grandchildren can make use of. Help us remain a strong chapter as we've been in the past. Talk to your friends and family. Many want to get involved because of what they see happening in our country. They just don't know where to start. We are a known, well-respected organization and I think many will join if approached.



Our membership drive was successful!
We are 105 members strong.

Membership is open to all genders age 16 and older.

Our mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Our vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

We were sorrowed to learn of the passing of long-time member, Zelda "Stoney" Freeman last October. [Here](#) is a link to her obituary.

Marlene Senescu, Membership Chair

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

** GET INVOLVED **



Want to get more involved? League needs you!

Let us know how you would like to participate.

Contact us at lwvlocal@comcast.net

JOIN ONE OF
OUR
COMMITTEES!

The Program Committee co-chairs are searching for committee members to work on both the planning and recommendation stages of the 2023/24 program.

See more [info](#) here on Program Planning.

Contact our Program Committee Co-chair, [Barb Lippai](#), if you are interested.

Openlands Lakeshore Preserve



From Openlands [Website](#)— March 2023 Update

Openlands is excited to share the news that the Navy's Historic Document Review and Field Investigation Report for Openlands Lakeshore Preserve has been accepted and approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Report is now being prepared for public distribution. No date has been provided for the final dissemination.

The Report is important because it contains a series of recommendations to be undertaken before the Preserve is re-opened. In April 2021, Preserve visitors found historic unexploded ordnance that were safely disposed of. For the safety of all, Openlands closed the Preserve for an investigation by the Navy. Openlands is committed to reopening the Preserve as soon as the safety measures are complete later this year.

"Public safety and wellbeing are our top priorities, so it is important to follow each step of the reopening process very carefully. We are pleased with this key step toward reopening the Preserve," said Jerry Adelman, Openlands President and CEO.

The Preserve is located at the former Fort Sheridan military base in southeastern Lake County. A nonprofit celebrating 60 years of protecting nature in the region, Openlands has owned and operated the Lakeshore Preserve for more than a decade.

Note:

There has been pressure placed on Openlands from the Cities of Highland Park and Highwood. Likely from other sources as well. While this appears to be progress, it's not real until the plan is published AND a date for reopening is declared. Many from my neighborhood plan to continue writing to the City of Highland Park and Openlands until a real commitment to reopening is declared.

Nancy Goldberg



MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The League keeps up with local government, even when the news media doesn't cover it. LWV has an active Observers Program. The main goal of the League's program is to monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community/state.

Our League is looking for a simplified observing ability, as the following describes:

We need members to attend in person meetings of the City Council, the Park Board and the two school districts. For the most part they meet twice a month. Meetings are in the evening and last a couple of hours. If you would like to learn how decisions are made and what people think is important, this might be something you would like to do for three to four months. How about signing up for this and bringing a prospective member along with you? Reports are expected to be high-level, but can be as detailed as you would like. *If you are interested, contact [Jean Sogin](#).*

The League's future in Highland Park and Highwood

We know we need to find ways not just to attract new members but also to create events and activities to get them involved. In this era of increasing polarization and uncivil discourse, the League has the bonafides to be part of the solution. Now we're going to figure out how. If you have any suggestion, contact [Jean Sogin](#). Stay tuned for more information.

LWV HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEADERSHIP TEAM

Leadership Team 2022—2023:

Nancy Goldberg (Rotating Chair)
 Elaine Adler
 Candice Dalrymple
 Rose Feder
 Carole Kohn
 Judy Miller
 Susan Piro
 Marlene Senescu
 Jean Sogin

Advisors: Ginger Seff, Barbara Lippai and Ginny Schulte

Nominating Committee 2023:

A work in progress.

Treasurer: Ginger Seff

Webmaster: Nancy Goldberg (NRG)



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HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE:

- Election related: The candidates for Council in both Highland Park and Highwood were very excited about submitting their responses to be included in our local Voters Guide, We've seen a very significant spike in user engagement of our website since the release of the Voters Guide on February 26th. The highest number of "hits" were right after the release, and as we saw many references to the Voters Guide on Facebook and NextDoor, we assume copies of the pdf were made and circulated.
- Election related: Our first hybrid Candidates Forum was challenging, but ended up coming together in reasonable fashion. I (Nancy) learned a lot! Thanks to Sue and Sam Piro for helping manage the virtual portion of the forums. We are indebted to Juan Reyes from the HP Library for lending us equipment, instructing on use, and then helping to stitch together the videos for us to upload to YouTube. Look for all of our videos on YouTube. Our channel is LWV HP-HWD.
- Sue Piro continues to be a super contributor to the communications team. Bryna Gamson is a go-to resource, whose advice is much appreciated.
- Leadership Team and Book Club (we have geographically remote members) meetings will continue on Zoom. As the weather warms up, in-person events will pop up and we may want to try to integrate a simple hybrid solution to accommodate geographically remote members.
- Canva continues to be a great tool. We've created flyers, zoom backgrounds for candidate forums and more for our League and have been happy to assist colleagues in our neighboring Leagues.
- *Mailchimp campaigns. Our open rates are high, compared to reports from other Leagues, and we have been thanked for our mailings increasing virtual program registrations!*
- *Make sure you check our Facebook Page, "Like" us and invite your friends to like us as well!*
- *We do not have a working Instagram account. The one we have should be deleted and we should start from scratch. **IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP TO SET THIS UP?** If we can get help to set it up, we can maintain the updates. We've shied away from Twitter and haven't considered TikTok. Any suggestions, and help, on getting broader messaging out? Contact Nancy Goldberg, email listed below.*

Nancy Goldberg jamn148@gmail.com.



VOTER REGISTRATION NEWS: 15 NEW VOTERS

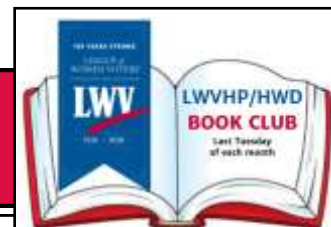
Voter Registration at Highland Park High School—Jean Sogin, Voter Registration Chair

On Thursday, May 11 from 10:20-12:20 we will have voter registration at Highland Park High School. If you know a student who would like to register to vote, tell them to bring two forms of identification such as their student ID and a driver's license. One of the forms of identification must show their current address. They also need to know the last four digits of their social security number. In the last 6 years we have registered over 800 new voters. It is a rite of passage for turning 18 and most students are excited about it.

Submitted by Jean Sogin

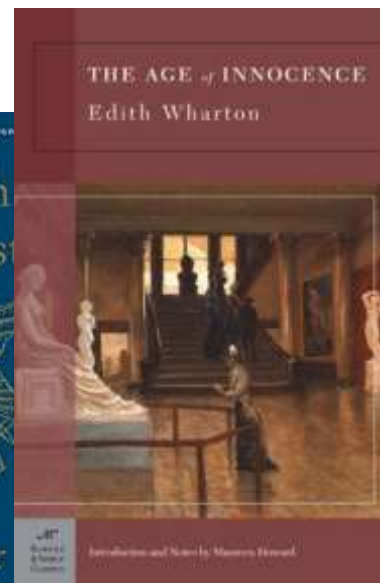
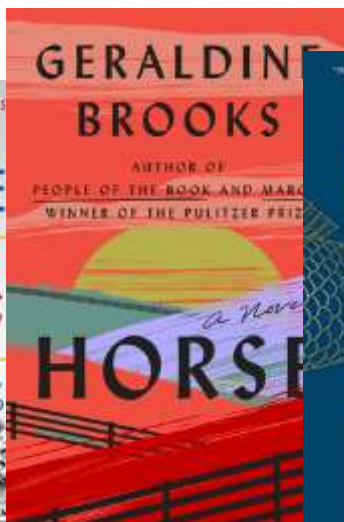


LWVHP/HWD BOOK CLUB



Our Book Club continues meeting over Zoom the last Tuesday afternoon of each month at 3:30 pm.

The March book review will be of "Why Fish Don't Exist" by Lulu Miller. In April, we will read a 1920 novel by Edith Wharton, "The Age of Innocence". Watch for emails from our League with information about our readings and join us over Zoom. Interested in joining us? Email me, [Nancy Goldberg](#).



LWV-LAKE COUNTY

LAKE COUNTY WOMEN'S COALITION

Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories

On March 4th I attended this organization's Women's History Month Celebration. **The celebration honored Lake County Women Storytellers** at a luncheon in Ingleside, Illinois. The League of Women Voters of Lake County filled three full tables. LWV Lake County and AAUW—Waukegan Area Branch co-sponsored, **Diana Dretske**, Senior Curator and Historian for the Lake County Forest Preserves' Dunn Museum* as an honoree. Jenny Riddle a dramatic book reviewer and story teller, presented "Audition: A Memoir by Barbara Walters". She had me believing I was listening to Barbara Walters telling her real-life story.

The Lake County Women's Coalition (LCWC) is an alliance of business, professional and civic women's organizations in Lake County, Illinois. Organized in 1995 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of women's right to vote, the LCWC continues to bring these groups together to focus on the efforts and accomplishments of women. The Coalition addresses community issues and concerns, particularly those that impact women, and functions as a springboard to communicate information linking member organizations.

The mission of the Lake County Women's Coalition is to continue the pursuit of equality that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment; celebrate the accomplishments of women; and encourage women in their educational endeavors.

The Coalition endows a scholarship at the College of Lake County to encourage women who are returning to school to further their education and careers. I did not note the name of this year's scholarship winner, but she spoke and is definitely a women with many obligations and challenges who deserves financial assistance in her pursuit of a nursing degree.

More information can be found about LCWC [here](#).

I had never visited the Dunn Museum in Libertyville—so we ventured out and it is wonderful. It's a great visit for little people, and adults too!



Submitted by Nancy Goldberg

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

ELECTORAL COLLEGE COMMITTEE

In 2020, the League of Women Voters reaffirmed that the direct popular vote to elect the President and Vice President is the best means of achieving a truly representative government. LWV therefore believes that the Electoral College should be abolished via constitutional amendment.

The Deerfield-Lincolnshire local league formed the Electoral College Committee to work toward that goal. The committee includes members from multiple Chicago-area local leagues (including Highland Park-Highwood), as well as members from Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and California. Several members of the committee developed presentation materials, which LWVUS is currently preparing for a national rollout.

In the meantime, the Electoral College Committee is devoting their monthly meetings to presentations meant to educate committee members about the Electoral College — the history, pros and cons of abolition, etc. These are being recorded and posted to YouTube, where they will be accessible via direct link. They are intended to serve as a training library for future presenters.

The February presentation was given by Ed Spire: "The Risky Electoral College; How it Works, How it Can Be Attacked, How to Defend It." [Here](#) is a recording of the presentation.

The March presentation was given by Alan Moghul, of the organization The National Vote: "Our Obsolete Electoral College — A Racist Relic from a Bygone Era". [Here](#) is a recording of the presentation.

Some upcoming topics:

April 21: speaker (tbd) to address one of the "Myths"

May 19: Texas A & M Professor George C. Edwards III, author of *Why the Electoral College is Bad for America, ed. III*, will address the myth that the electoral college is good for small states. (It's not!).

June 16: Professor Sharon Holt, Pennsylvania State University's Abington College, will discuss the "Founding Fathers."

Submitted by Susan Piro who represents our League on the Electoral College Committee

STATE—LWVIL



LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING 2023 ***LWV Illinois' Annual Day of Briefings on Current Issues*** ***Ways to Advocate for Change: Saturday, Feb 18th***

Issues Briefing topics – Information and recordings are available [here](#).

Our League was represented by Rose Feder and Nancy Goldberg. Below find the agenda for the day and then scroll down for short summaries by Rose and Nancy of three of the sessions.

Schedule of the day:

Opening Plenary: Defending Democracy: Threats to Elections

Morning Breakout Sessions – Attendees could choose one of three sessions:

1. Racism in our Schools
2. Carbon Capture and Sequestration: What Is It and Why Should We Be Concerned?
3. Transforming Juvenile Justice: Good Outcomes for All with Illinois Leading the Way.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions - Attendees could choose one of three sessions:

1. Good Intentions vs. Good Laws: Why Housing Advocacy Matters
2. Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue
3. What's Next for Reproductive Rights in Illinois?

Defending Democracy Threats to Elections and Voting: Opening Plenary attended by Nancy Goldberg

Note: One of the participants, Ami Gandhi, spoke to our League in October 2017 on “Voting Rights – So Many Questions”.

The focus was on threats to democracy and protecting the right to vote. The reality today is that many people who should legally be able to vote are not able to do so. Discussion of racial disparities in voting; voting during pretrial detention (strongly influenced by inability to pay bail); and other obstacles to voting were discussed. The speakers addressed national trends and their strong concerns about groups across the country (including in Illinois) attempting to utilize the existing structure to push a partisan or anti-democratic strategy.

Carbon Capture and Sequestration: Morning Breakout session attended by Rose Feder

There are two approaches to carbon capture - mechanical methods and biological methods.

Mechanically, carbon capture and storage is an attempt to remove carbon dioxide after burning gas, oil, coal or biomass before it enters the atmosphere and then transport it by pipeline to be stored underground. The recently-enacted Inflation and Reduction Act includes incentives for the energy industry to implement carbon capture and storage projects. We have yet to know its impact.

Biologically, carbon capture is the natural ability of life and ecosystems to store carbon. Forests, peat marshes, and coastal wetlands are particularly good at storing carbon. In contrast, this we do know.

STATE—LWVIL

LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING 2023 (continued)

Gun Violence: Afternoon Breakout session attended by Rose Feder

Note: one of the participants, Sara Knizhnik, presented a program to our League in December 2022 on Gun Reform.

The presented approach considered that gun violence in America and Illinois is a public health issue and, as such, demands an urgent, multifaceted, nonpartisan response.

The session presented results from a focus group that mimicked the variety of the Illinois population. The general feeling was that guns that are used in criminal ways are not obtained legally. However support for banning assault-style weapons fell along well-known political lines.

This is a yearly event, held by LWVIL. The February 18th Issues Briefing was a very well organized and informative day.



**Information you need to advocate for change you believe in.
Because our voices are stronger together.**

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV HP-HWD Leadership Team Meeting

When Note: **2nd not 1st Thursday** this month at 3:30 pm
 Where Virtual Meeting on Zoom
 Description Leadership Team Meeting.
 Members are welcome—contact [Nancy Goldberg](#)



LWV Lake County Board Meeting

When **The 3rd Wednesday** of each month at 12:00 pm
 Where Virtual Meeting on Zoom
 Description **Monthly meeting of the LWV Lake County**
 Members are welcome—contact [Marlene Senescu](#)



LWV HP-HWD Book Club

When **The last Tuesday** of each month at 3:30—5:00 pm
 Where Virtual Meeting on Zoom
 Description Monthly Book Club Review
 For April we will be reviewing *“The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton



DATES IN THE PLANNING STAGES:

LWV HP-HWD Program Planning

When **TBD: Late April—or Early May**
 Where **TBD**
 Description **Program Planning**



LWV HP-HWD Annual Meeting

When **June TBD**
 Where
 Description **Annual Members Meeting**



WATCH for our EMAILS

FROM LWVLOCAL@comcast.net

Visit our website and check for calendar updates lwvhp.org