



Upcoming Events:

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

LWV Lake County Board Meets	3rd Wed
LWV HP-HWD Book Club	Nov 30
LWV HP-HWD Program Marijuana 2022	Jan TBD
Leadership Team Meeting	2nd Thur
Winter Doldrums Program	Feb TBD

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

NATURAL HABITAT PROGRAM

**SUPREME COURT AND WOMEN'S
RIGHTS**

MARIJUANA 2022

VOTER REGISTRATION HPHS

WINTER DOLDRUMS

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT

Our 2021-2022 League Year



Marijuana 2022

**Watch your
emails for the details
on this program.**

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

LEADERSHIP TEAM MESSAGE

Hi Leaguers and Friends,

It is membership time again. Let's make this a 21st century process and do it the simplest and least expensive way. If possible, renew online or at least, begin the the process online and then mail a check. And do it now! Why spend inflated postal prices and the time necessary to send reminder notices by mail?

We hope you will join us at our upcoming programs. There was an excellent Zoom program (November 17th) on Women's Rights and the Supreme Court, co-sponsored by the Deerfield Area League, our League and the AAUW of Deerfield. We are putting finishing touches on an informative program in January when we will hold a panel on Marijuana 2022. Follow our collaboration with Go Green Highland Park regarding the Natural Habitat Program, as described by Candice Dalrymple in this *News/etter*, and join in. Look for activity in our Highwood outreach program. In addition, in lieu of a Holiday Party, the Leadership Team has decided to revive an old tradition -- the Winter Doldrums Party -- in February. (For many years, the HP League combined food and drink and a substantive lecture or entertainment to blow away the Winter Blues.)

In this Newsletter, you will see evidence of ambitious work by some Leaguers. Frankly, we need greater participation by more members. At Program Planning last Spring, members approved a long list of studies and projects. With exceptions, few have volunteered for significant work. League cannot function with just the Leadership Team expected to do most of the work. There are important issues arising in our community, including a sagging enrollment and deficit in District 113, the high school district with Deerfield. If we are to address such issues, we need more members to involve themselves in our organization.

Carole Kohn, Leadership Chair (on behalf of the Leadership Team)

carolekohn@aol.com

★ *Please note we have adopted a rotating chair position this year.*



HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING SOON!

OPENING MEETING

Our League's Opening Meeting, **Marijuana 2022**, will be held in mid-January. (date to be announced). Speakers will address the timeline of legalization and the development of medical to recreational use, including the discussions Highwood and Highland Park had in authorization of sales.

Invited panelists are: Highwood Mayor Charles Pecaro, Highland Park City Manager Ghida Neukirch, and a representative of the Highwood dispensary. We are also in the process of identifying a "specialist" from the medical community to add to the hows and whys of the issue.

Please note that Nancy Rotering, the Highland Park Mayor, is an announced candidate for office. League policy precludes us from inviting her.

By Barbara Lippai, Program Co-Chair



UNDER CONSTRUCTION ... WE ARE PLANNING A FEBRUARY WINTER DOLDRUMS DINNER!

We haven't had one for several years and they always are so much fun! We don't know yet what the topic will be nor the exact date ... but watch your League mailings for the where and when!

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

Climate Change, the League of Women Voters, and the Power of Native Plant Gardening

Highland Park-Highwood League members know that the national League recently strengthened its commitment to climate change mitigation, deeming it an emergency that requires not just analysis and study, but immediate action. The national League has adopted a [position](#) that states that the trajectory of our changing climate represents a serious threat facing our nation and planet; addressing that threat constitutes an emergency.

“The League believes that an international approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.”

Staying up to date on the wide range of climate-related proposals to address climate change can be daunting. Many of us agree with the League’s call for science-based actions to stop or reverse the dangerous repercussions of global warming, yet the scope of climate-related problems can seem beyond any individual’s ability to contribute significantly to solutions. There is mounting evidence, however, that *if we join together* to adopt environment-friendly landscaping around our homes, apartments, businesses, and community organizations, we really can make a difference in at least part of the problem.

Numerous groups of “citizen gardeners” are joining the movement to re-shape our landscape with native plants and strengthen environments that support pollinators. One of those groups is *Wild Ones*, a national organization with numerous local chapters dedicated to promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices that conserve biodiversity through the preservation or restoration of native plant communities. From the Illinois Lake-to-Prairie chapter of *Wild Ones* comes this indictment of current landscape practices and *their contribution to climate demise*:

“Recent headlines about global insect declines, the impending extinction of one million species worldwide, and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth.”



Continued on the next page

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

Climate Change, the League of Women Voters, and the Power of Native Plant Gardening *(continued)*

The loss of biodiversity represents one of the repercussions of unchecked CO2 in our atmosphere; but there are solutions and all of us can help make them a reality. On November 13, the *Wild Ones* Lake-to-Prairie chapter sponsored a half-day conference featuring Dr. Doug Tallamy, a nationally renowned etymologist, researcher, and author. Tallamy gave enthusiastically received presentations based upon two of his New York Times best sellers, *Nature's Best Hope* and *The Nature of Oaks*. He built a strong case for reestablishing particles of land, large and small, with native plants that attract and support the entire ecological food chain, from insects to birds and small animals, in the process contributing to carbon reduction.

Tallamy argued that four basic concepts are the keys to promoting healthy landscaping:

- shrink the amount of land covered by turf, which does not attract or support biodiversity and coupled with chemical weed treatment and leaf blowing, actually attacks wildlife habitats
- replace non-native plants with the local "keystone plants" that provide the food needed by pollinators
- reduce landscape lighting that repels insects away from the plants that sustain them and all living things above them in the food chain
- stop mowing grass and removing leaves that provide natural homes and food for the insects that in turn provide sustenance to birds and animals that keep our environments safe and healthy.

Grass roots efforts to return yards or parts of land parcels to their natural state do not require legislation, regulations, or government policy changes. Please consider the ideas articulated in Tallamy's two books and the many plant-native advocates that are gathering resources, publishing information, and helping individuals and organizations to attack the menace of climate change right now.

Please consider volunteering for the National Wildlife Federation Community Natural Habitat initiative supported by the League of Women Voters Highland Park-Highwood and Go Green Highland Park by contacting Candice Dalrymple at cdalrymple@jhu.edu.



Helpful web sites:

Wild Ones — <https://wildones.org>
 Ecological Landscape Alliance — <https://www.ecolandscaping.org>
 Ecosystem Gardening — <http://www.ecosystemgardening.com>
 Landscaping with Native Plants — <https://www.chicagobotanic.org>
 Friends of the Green Bay Trail — <https://www.gbtrail.org/>

National Wildlife Federation — <https://www.nwf.org/>

The Nature Conservancy (Illinois) — <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/illinois>

Candice Dalrymple

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE



Park District Study

Submitted by Jean Sogin

Barbara Kronish and Jean Sogin met with Scott Coren, Highwood city Manager to talk about two issues:

- Our 90-plus year old League has long had members from Highwood, but only about 10 years ago did we formally become the League of Women Voters of Highland Park and Highwood. Nevertheless, most of our local focus has remained on Highland Park. Is there a way for us to become more involved with Highwood issues and residents?
- The League is undertaking a study of Highland Park's Park District and one of the questions is "should the Park District's boundaries be expanded to include Highwood?"

On the first question, he suggested we talk to the Highwood Historical Society as an entrée to residents who might be interested but pointed out that it is difficult to get time-pressed, young families to get involved in civic activities. The Rotary of Highland Park and Highwood and the High School's Rotary club are also possibilities. Parking is the number 1 issue he hears from residents and the Town has an ongoing parking study. If we wish to learn more about Highwood's special events, which have been so successful, we should talk to the Mayor, Charlie Pecaro.

On the second question, he thought economics would be the driving force for Highwood residents. Their taxes would go up if they were part of the Park District, but they would pay lower fees for programs and access to the beach. For most residents, paying the non-resident fees would be more cost efficient. As an example, a house with a Fair Market Value (FMV) of \$500,000 in Highland Park pays about \$900/year to the Park District, while the \$500,000 house in Highwood pays nothing. Consider a house with a lower FMV where the Park District tax might be only \$500 household where there are young children who want to go to Highland Park summer camps and other programs. At first glance joining the HP Park District might be appealing, but they may decide it's only for a few years and for that time they are better off paying the non-resident fees and keeping their lower tax bill. He suggested our first step should compare the resident/non-resident fees in the wide variety of programs.

Anyone interested in pursuing either of these topics should email LWVHP-HWD.

Openlands Lakeshore Preserve

Since April 2021, both LWV HP-HWD and LWV Lake County have been following the closing of the [Openlands Lakeshore Preserve](#). The Preserve was closed in April after explosives were found on the former military Fort Sheridan property. It is unknown (at least to the public) if the explosives came from the bluff or were washed up from Lake Michigan. The site was used for military target practice during World War II.

The Highland Park-Highwood League did reach out to the City of Highland Park and mentioned the issue during League Legislative Interviews last April and May. Initially there was disappointing finger pointing as to where the responsibility for remediation (if it was to happen) lies. In late August, we became aware of progress. With input from The City of Highland Park, Lake County officials, Senators Durbin, Duckworth and Congressman Schneider, the Navy has engaged in an assessment of the problem at Openlands. There is optimism from our local government and Openlands that the Preserve will be reopened by the summer of 2022.

Submitted by Nancy Goldberg

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE



FOCUS GROUP—RECRUITING HIGHWOOD MEMBERS



A League priority is to increase our presence in Highwood. In order to accomplish that, we will soon initiate a FOCUS GROUP enabling us to discuss the needs of Highwood that League can help meet.

We would welcome your input as a valued League member. Join us and share your ideas, as you expand your own focus! Interested?

Email Co-Chairs: [Elaine Adler](#) or [Barb Kronish](#).

PARK DISTRICT STUDY NEEDS A CO-CHAIR

Jean Sogin has capably begun the process.

We need a co-chair. [Email our League](#) if interested.

See [Page 6](#) for information about this study.



LIBRARY STUDY UPDATE



We need to update our Library Position (last updated in 2003) to better reflect the uses and functionalities of contemporary libraries. Please [email-library-update](#) if you are interested.

VOTER REGISTRATION CHAIR

Interested in coordinating our Voter Registration for our League? Please [email-voter-registration](#) if you are interested.

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As you probably are aware, we have sent out a reminder that Membership Renewal time is occurring **NOW**. We have received 29 membership renewal or new members online and have been told that 3 more are on their way by snail mail. With the busy holiday season upon us, don't forget to **RENEW** your LWV membership. Rejoin for a new year: to help increase Informed, Voter Participation; and to be part of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. You need to renew before the end of January or you won't be fully included into National and Illinois State Leagues. The National deadline is January 31st, 2022 and we need to get your dues prior to that date so that we can properly enroll you.

Your membership in the League of Women Voters of Highland Park-Highwood enrolls you into The Leagues of Lake County, Lake Michigan Region, Upper Mississippi River Region, Illinois and US. Our Program Committee has many interesting programs this year.

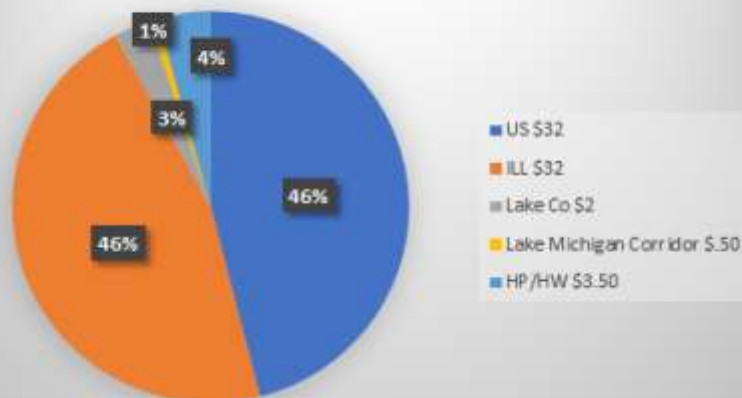
Our League is trying to attract more young and diverse members. With your help, talking up the LWV to friends, neighbors, daughters and sons, we can make our local league even more powerful in our mission.

Since our last Newsletter, we'd like to Welcome Audrey Cohen, our NEWEST MEMBER.

Don't delay ... it's easy to: Join the League OR Renew your Membership on our website, <https://my.lwv.org/illinois/highland-park-highwood/join>.

If you have any questions about membership, please contact me marsenescu@comcast.net. Marlene Senescu, Membership Chair.

Breakdown of Membership Dues



Submitted by Marlene Senescu

HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE:

- Now that cold weather is here, or until protocols change, the Leadership Team Meetings, book club and programs will continue to meet over our League's Zoom account. We do anticipate that our January Program will be hybrid and hope that our future programs will soon be face-to-face meetings.
- Our Website functionality for Join and Donate have been updated. As previously addressed in this Newsletter, please use our website to join or renew your membership. If you have any problems with the Join functionality, please email me at my email address provided below.
- Any Twitter fans out there? We need someone to help us get twitter-friendly. Contact me if you are interested.
- *Make sure you check our Facebook Page, "Like" us and invite your friends to like us as well!*
- *If you would like to help with our [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) contact me:*

Nancy Goldberg jamn148@gmail.com.

Many thanks to our article contributors: Candice Dalrymple, Carole Kohn, Barbara Lippai, Marlene Senescu and Jean Sogin ... NRG

LWV HIGHLAND PARK-HIGHWOOD LEADERSHIP TEAM

Leadership Team 2021—2022:

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

Nominating Committee 2022:

To be determined

Treasurer: Ginger Seff

Webmaster: Nancy Goldberg (NRG)



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VOTER REGISTRATION NEWS

We have 18 Deputy Voter Registrars, authorized by Lake County Director, Voter Registration Services.

Please contact [Nancy Goldberg](#) if you are interested in being sponsored by our League. There are two upcoming training classes being offered: Wednesday, 11/17/2021 3:00 PM, Lake County Court Tower—Sheriff's Training Room; 301 Washington St. FL 1, Waukegan and Wednesday, 12/15/2021 3:00 PM, Public Works Department, 650 W Winchester Rd, Libertyville IL 60048



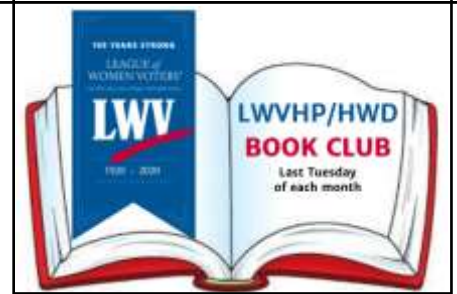
A Voter Registration Event at the Highland Park High School is being planned in January. We are coordinating with Lesa Friedrich at HPHS about pandemic safety precautions to enable a distant but in-person registration event.

Nancy Goldberg, Acting Voter Registration Chair

LWVHP/HWD BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club continues meeting over Zoom the last Tuesday afternoon of each month.

Our readings remain diverse: from a spy like memoir, to fiction with environmental themes, to timeless short stories about racial injustice, to a hilarious robbery/hostage story. Our September book was Tammy Duckworth's Memoir, "Every Day Is a Gift" which was greatly enjoyed by the group. October's book choice was "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell which was described as exquisite writing. The group highly recommends this book about the wife and family of a most famous historic person, who is nameless throughout the book. Our November selection is "You Know When the Men are Gone" by Siobhan Fallon, which welcomes readers into the American army base at Fort Hood, Texas, with short stories about soldiers and their families.



"So many other people, places and subjects we have visited, talked about and critiqued ... it is a continuing adventure; a time for more stimulation. The book group is a time exercising what's left of our minds—and we welcome everyone who is interested to join us on the last Tuesday of every month. Zoom invitations will be emailed to the book club list. If someone is interested in joining us have them email [Nancy Goldberg](#) to be added to the book club notification list." - Barbara Kronish



LWV STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES

ACTIVE LWV NATIONAL, STATE AND COUNTY ISSUES

VOTING RIGHTS

If you've been reading your email from LWVUS, you know that League, as part of a coalition promoting voting rights legislation, has been participating in multiple "No More Excuses: Voting Rights Now" protests and rallies in DC. The last one was this past Wednesday, November 17, where hundreds were arrested. You can read about it here (<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/largest-direct-action-date-voting-rights-activists-arrested-white-house>).

If the United States is to remain a democracy, this could be one of the most critical issues of our lifetime. Please take action to help contact every senator in every state to support abolishing the filibuster and protecting our right to vote. If you go to the LWV.org home page and scroll down to the bottom, you can click on the "Demand that President Biden Protect Our Freedom to Vote" and "Tell Your Senators to Support the John Lewis VRAA" boxes, you will be able to use the League's tool to contact your senators directly. (The "Freedom to Vote" act has failed.) Tell your friends in other states to do the same.

LWVIL and the Brennan Center for Justice recently discussed the progress of voting rights legislation. You may watch it [here \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meql69jXR68&t=132s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meql69jXR68&t=132s). Voting Rights in Illinois was discussed at a LWV Palatine Area program last Wednesday, 11/17, available here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml16hUuc3n4>).

Listen to another excellent program touching on Voting Rights, the Women Power Democracy program, featuring distinguished, female members of Congress, which can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID-1ZwOQAR4&t=1767s>

REDISTRICTING

The final congressional redistricting map presented by the Democrats was passed by the Illinois General Assembly on October 29. No consideration was given to the LWVIL's positions.

Lake County's proposed county redistricting map (for the Lake County Board) is now available for public comment. You can learn more, see the map and comment at <https://reapportionment-lakecountyil.hub.arcgis.com/>

(The League supports these criteria for any redistricting process: Population equity; All districts drawn in compliance with US Voting Rights Act of 1965 and subsequent amendments; Compact and contiguous; Boundaries where towns and cities divided among more than one district be as small as possible, that follow existing political boundaries as much as possible, that do not subdivide any city block, and follow permanent and easily recognized features; No district drawn with intent to favor an incumbent.

Members of the LWV of Lake County, including representatives from our League, are planning to meet to draft a comment on behalf of LWVLC.

OTHER ISSUES

Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice, Gun Violence Prevention, are some of the other issues being followed and acted on.



Submitted by Judy Miller

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

LWV Lake County Board Meeting

When The 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 pm
No meeting in August

Where Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Description ***Monthly meeting of the LWV Lake County***
Virtual meeting
Members are welcome—contact [Marlene Senescu](#) if interested in attending.



LWV HP/HWD Book Club (meets last Tuesday of each month)

When November 30th: 3:30—5:00 pm

Where Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Description ***We will be reviewing "You Know When the Men Are Gone" by Siobahn Fallon***
Zoom invitation will be sent to Book Club friends
The public is invited to participate
A few days before the meeting—note we will skip December



LWV HP/HWD Leadership Team Meetings

When The 2nd Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm

Where Virtual (and in person when possible)

Description Our Leadership Team meets once monthly
All members are welcome to attend



LWV HP/HWD Opening Meeting

When TBD: 7:00 pm

Where In-person and Virtual

Description Marijuana 2022—look for mailing for details



WATCH for our EMAILS

FROM LWVLOCAL@comcast.net

Visit our website lwvhp.org

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

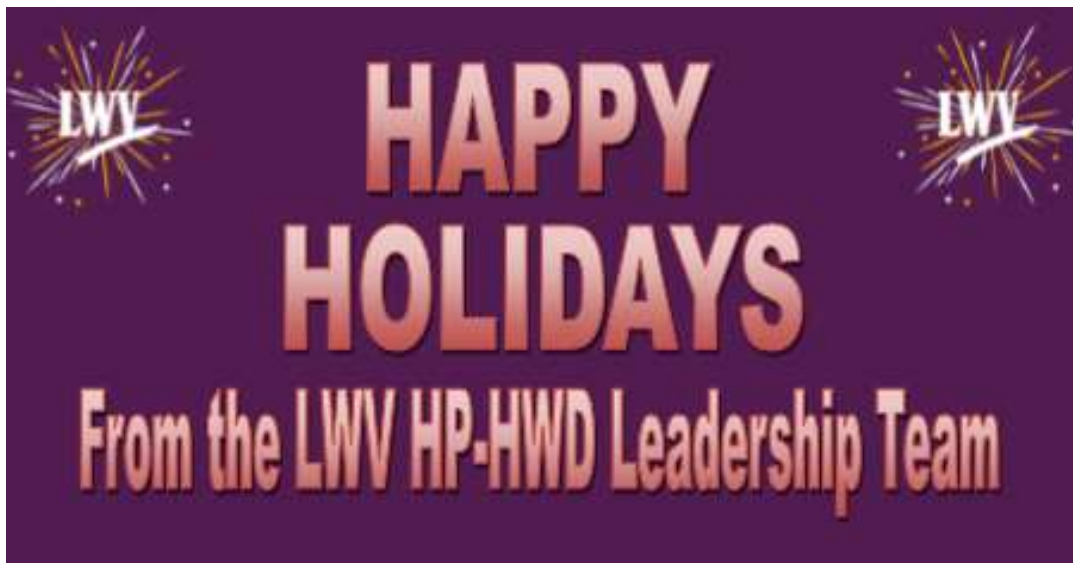
LWV HP-HWD Winter Doldrums Program

When	A Sunday in February (not Superbowl Sunday)
Where	TBD, may be a hybrid event
Description	<i>A chance for members to get together and escape the Winter Doldrums</i>



Don't forget to [Renew](#) your Membership!
**Renewal deadline with the National and State Leagues
is January 31st.**

Our League will only be as strong as our members from our communities who are willing to lend their time and energy to educate, advocate and empower voters.



WATCH for our EMAILS

FROM LWVLOCAL@comcast.net

Visit our website lwvhp.org