



Message from the President

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Year!

Our League is delighted to have you join us at the Annual Fall Potluck Dinner as we kick-off our new season! This event will be located at the Marie Irwin Center, 18120 Highland Ave, Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm. We will honor our 50-Year members and hear from mayors from surrounding communities: Hazel Crest, Homewood, Glenwood, Flossmoor, and Country Club Hills. For more information, please contact Carol Vance or Lorea Farley.

The Flossmoor Fest is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2019 in Downtown Flossmoor at 1:00 pm. Our League will have a booth (LWV H-F Area) on the Sterling side of the street.

Please Save the Dates:

Observer Training

The next Observer Training will be on Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 10:15 am to 1:15 pm, at the LaGrange Public Library. During the training, observers will learn what actions to take and what to report. Please contact LWVIL Jan Dorner for more information.

February 14, 2020 ~ 100th Anniversary Commemorative Event (with a giant cake)

September 24, 2020 ~ 100th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon - fundraiser, friendraiser, reflection, and kick-off to the next 100 years of LWVIL Making Democracy Work.

LWVUS Convention 2020

The 2020 Convention will be held in Washington, DC, on June 25-28. The official first call will be published in October, and we anticipate registration and hotel reservations to be open in late January of 2020.

Luncheon SOLD OUT

The 2019 LWVIL Annual Luncheon was a SOLD OUT event. *Rhetoric vs. Reality: Why the Time is Now for Equal Pay* was a roaring success raising close to \$50,000 in ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and program ads. Featured speaker, Laurel Bellows, spoke to a sold out crowd of 250 League members, legislators, and community supporters about what we can do to make equal pay happen now. We applauded the work of Barb Kong, the founder of Equal Pay Day Chicago and a LWV La Grange member, with the inaugural Sapphire Award for her dedication and commitment to creating equal pay for all. A big thank you to Luncheon Event Chair, Heidi Graham,

and the event committee: Barb Laimins, **Erin Roeper**, and Becky Simon.

LWV H-F Area was well-represented at the luncheon with board and non-board members alike in attendance, including Barbara Hayes, League President, Sandra Slayton, Vice President, and, Laura DeBolt, Treasurer; Erin Roeper, Alesia Young, Sylvia Tillman, Carol Cosentino, Lillian Bacon, Pat Jackson, Lorea Farley, Nala King, Deborah Hampton, and Roxie Williams. Check out pictures from the Event on the LWVIL website or Social Media.

League Expresses Support for Removal of ERA Ratification Deadline.

In a letter to the U.S. Senate and U.S. House, the League expressed support for concurrent joint resolutions that would remove the timeline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). In the U.S. Senate, S.J. Res.6 is cosponsored by Senators Murkowski and Cardin. The letter to these Senators included rationale for the removal of the deadline which is consistent with past Congressional actions and Supreme Court decisions.

Barbara A. Hayes, President
LWV H-F Area
barbkhayes@yahoo.com



LWV H-F 50 Year Members

Peg Boivin
Marie Grant
Barbara Gordon
Maureen Milford
Patricia Paulsen
Mary Woodland

These six LWV H-F members have been recognized by the LWVUS for their 50-Year membership in the League of Women Voters and will be awarded Certificates of Appreciation signed by LWVUS President, Chris Carson. The presentations will be made at our September 9th Annual Pot Luck dinner and meeting. We hope that these committed leaders and role models will be present so that we may personally honor them.



In Loving Memory of our Members

We pay our respects to the long-standing members of our league that have passed away in the last year. Some of you may not have known them, but there are many among us who remember them with awesome respect for their dedication to the league. They were active in many community projects such as the founding of H-F High School, PADS, Recycling, the pursuit of the Equal Rights Amendment, and many others while participating in and serving our league. It is on their shoulders that we stand today to continue serving our community, inspiring faith in citizenship and encouraging good government.

We honor and thank you. Rest in peace.

Beverly Atkins
Jennifer Artis
Donna Moore
Ann Dickett

Finance Committee

Carol Vance, Chair

Eighteen ads have been sold for a total of \$900. The ads have been mounted, scanned and sent to Ann Lawrence for the ebulletin.

Twenty-eight bulletins will need to be mailed through the USPS (18 sponsors and 10 members). Once the new LWV H-F website is up, sponsors' Internet information can be added with a link to their website as we've done in the past. This will result in a decrease in the number of bulletins going through post office mail.

Chris Schmitt assisted with phone calls to last year's sponsors. Many continued their support and renewed their ads for this year. One member, Diane Kessler, provided three referrals after I sent out a broad membership appeal for leads. One, Art Corner Frames of Homewood, became a new sponsor.

Three ads for social service organizations were member-sponsored. South Suburban Family Shelter (SSFS), South Suburban PADS, and Izaak Walton. Thank you letters were sent out to all sponsors.



Membership

We welcome [Yvonne Johnson](#) to the League of Women Voters Homewood-Flossmoor area. Yvonne and her family have been residents of Olympia Fields for twenty-three years. She has been married for twenty-two years and is the proud mother of a rising junior at the University of Chicago in the Biological Sciences Department.

Yvonne worked in HR management for over twenty years with organizations such as Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Ingersoll-Rand, IIT Research Institute, Alion Science and Technology, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. She possesses bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Illinois University, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Governors State University in Business Administration, Psychology and Teaching, respectively. Motivated by the education gap in the United States, she decided to take action and became an elementary school teacher seven years ago. She also assists students with homework after school as a Certified Teacher in the Library for the



Climate Change

Chair: Carol Vance

Committee: Betty Baker, Lucy Kokal, Peg Boivin, Penny Thomas, Cheryl Berger and New interest from Deb Hampton, Carolyn Consentino, Lorea Farley, Sharon Holland The Committee met once over the summer, shared articles from various publications, and discussed climate change related events attended by members, including LWVIL convention workshops and the Climate Emergency Disaster Resolution.

Committee will help prepare for and take down the Potluck Dining Room. The goal is "No plastic or Styrofoam" to be used in serving. We will provide flatware, cloth napkins, cloth tablecloths, and glass pitchers for ice water and iced tea.

Committee meets monthly, shares insights and articles, writes bulletin articles, networks with others in the community, and seeks speakers for our public meetings. We also assist the Hospitality Committee Chair in serving refreshments at public meetings in a manner that supports the League's sustainability goals.

Chicago Library Foundation.
Yvonne is very enthusiastic about the important work performed by the League and is excited to be a new member. We will enjoy working with Yvonne on future projects.



Annual Potluck Dinner and Meeting

The annual LWV H-F potluck dinner and meeting will take place at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, September 9, 2019 at the Irwin Center, 18120 Highland Ave, Homewood. Year after Year the potluck meeting has proved to be a very popular event among League members and guests alike. All are welcome to participate. In an effort to balance the food choices, we would like to include dishes from each of the following categories: Appetizers, Salads, Entrees, Side Dishes, Desserts

The Committee would greatly appreciate an immediate response to let us know the name of the dish you plan to bring. Please respond to Lorea Farley at (708) 566-0975 (C), or (708) 957-4392 (H), loreafarley60430@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you at the potluck.

VOTER SERVICES

Deputy Registrar Training

Deputy Registrar Training was hosted by Governors State University for the LWV H-F on Friday, August 2, 2019. The LWV H-F had ten trainees proudly sworn in as Deputy Registrars, eight LWV members and two non-members. All are ready and willing to register voters for our upcoming season. CONGRATULATIONS to members, Janice Horne, Glenda Townsend, Mary Griffin, Roxie Williams, Lucy Kokal, Shaunta Gray, Yvonne Johnson, and to non-members, Barbara Donaldson and Deborah Henderson. A big Thank You to Mr. Lester Moody from Governors State University for coordinating the training, and to Mr. Jerry Jones from the Cook County Clerk's office for conducting the class.

The Cook County Clerk's office provided the report of expired Registrar Commissions as of November 30, 2018. I will send each expired registrar a Deputy Voter Registrar Oath to fill out and return. All Board Members will be given an oath to complete at the August 19th meeting. It is important for our upcoming season to have many registrars available to register voters.

H-F Area League of Women Voter Summer Event

With the help of our Co- Chair, Lillian Bacon, we staffed a table to answer questions and provide information about the League and voting at the following events:

Bremen Township Picnic on Saturday, 6/22/2019

Hazel Crest Festival on Saturday 8/3/2019 (One New Voter Registered)

We are scheduled to attend The Flossmoor Fest on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

Homewood Farmers Market

The Farmers Market continues to be a great opportunity for the League to register voters and provide more detailed voting information. The LWV H-F is committed to hosting a monthly booth at the Market in the months of June, July, and August under the leadership of Sharon Cooper. Thanks to all the members who have volunteered their time to serve our community.

LWV H-F Area Participated in the Homewood 4th of July Parade

The League of Women Voters H-F Area proudly marched in the Annual Homewood July 4th Parade. League members, accompanied by their children and grandchildren, walked the two-mile route sharing plenty of candy with the children along the way. Lillian Bacon and Joan Strohm drove several members in their League-decorated cars.

A cheering crowd welcomed the League by calling out, “thank you!”, as we passed. Our message of political access for all was a hit with parade watchers.

Voter Registration Month: National Voter registration day is Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

During the month of September, the committee will host several registration drives at local high schools, colleges, and senior living centers. The sooner we start educating our youth about the election and voting systems, the more empowered they will be to make their voices heard.

As we go through the process of confirming dates for each facility, we will put a schedule together for volunteers to sign-up.

Observer Report: Country Club Hills

The Village of Country Club Hills hosted a Census 2020 Community Briefing presented by U.S. Congresswoman, Robin Kelly on July 10, 2019. Valuable information regarding the upcoming census was shared. In addition to Congresswoman Kelly, the speakers were Cory J. Stevenson, U.S. Census Partnership Specialist, representing the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Bryan Zarou, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at Forefront. We were reminded that the census is mandated by the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the census helps determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funding to States and local communities. Mr. Stevenson advised that Illinois lost one U.S. House of Representatives seat as a result of the 2010 Census, reducing our representation to 18 seats. The funds distributed by the federal government based on the census goes towards such services such as education, healthcare, law enforcement and infrastructure. Congresswoman Kelly stressed that the information obtained in the census is strictly confidential and not shared with any other agency such as the F.B.I. or Immigration, and is used only for purposes as outlined in the Constitution. She further stated that the previously proposed “citizenship” question will not be on the questionnaire which should result in a more accurate count.

Handouts were distributed on census data confidentiality as well as Census Bureau employment opportunities ([2020census.gov/jobs](https://www.census.gov/jobs)). Speakers stressed the urgency of accurately responding to the census questionnaire. Residents were given an opportunity to ask questions on the data collection process. Residents wanted to know the process for counting the homeless, nursing home residents, apartment dwellers, undocumented immigrants, and other hard-to-count populations. We were advised that working with community partners, census takers are assigned to go wherever there is population, i.e., homes, apartment buildings, tent cities, shelters, etc. to ensure that, to the extent possible, the entire population is counted.



LWVIL State Convention June 7-9, 2019 Champaign, IL

The LWV H-F was well-represented at this year's LWV State Convention in Champaign. Board members, Barbara Hayes, Sandra Slayton, Laura DeBolt, Lorea Farley, Cheryl Berger, Glenda Townsend, and Carol Vance attended and came away inspired by the work of the League. The Issues and Advocacy Group reported that sixteen of the issues the league worked on over the last year have already been signed by the governor, or are headed to his office for signature. It was exciting to hear that the LWV in Illinois has grown over 30% over the last few years.

DEI– Diversity, Equity and Inclusion remain a priority for the Illinois League which is underrepresented in Millennials as well as Gen-Xers. Statistically, in Illinois the League is 93% White and 60% college-educated.

Plenary Sessions included updates on League Action Focus Items for 2017-2019 – Automatic Voter Registration; Redistricting; Climate Change: Air Quality & Energy; Climate Change-Water; Equal Rights Amendment; Fiscal Policy; Education Funding; Social Policies (including the Fair Tax in Illinois); Gun Violence Prevention; Healthcare; and Immigration.

LWVIL is a dual non-profit entity with separate articles of incorporation and separate records. LWV has established a goal to convert the organization from a 501c4/501c3 combination to a single 501c3 entity. One major difference is that c3 funds are tax deductible; c4 funds are not. C3 is for advocacy, e.g., voter education, public forums, voter registration. C4 allows both advocacy and lobbying. C3 allows minimal lobbying as long as it is insubstantial in relation to its overall mission. Converting to 501c3 will allow donations to be tax deductible to the extent allowed by IRS. Advocacy activities by a 501c3 must be carefully monitored to ensure that they fall within the permissible restrictions. (IRS Rev. Rule 2007-41.) The delegates voted to make the goal of converting to 501c3 a priority.

The League will be celebrating its **100th Anniversary in 2020** and is accepting volunteers to work on its celebration committee. Our own LWV H-F member, Erin Roeper, will have an integral role in the Anniversary planning.

Funding: The League has implemented a fundraising strategy for Illinois that includes cultivating non-member donors and solicitation of grants. State Director, Audra Wilson, expressed that we have value. We provide a service to society and there's no reason why our value should not be monetized by fund raising. "We work for people we will never know, but it's the work that is important."

There was much discussion about the upcoming **2020 census** and why an accurate count is so important. States stand to lose on average \$1,800 per person, per year for each person who goes uncounted. Illinois has received \$49 million for census outreach efforts. The 2020 census will be the first "high Tech" census in that much of the data will be collected electronically. This poses cyber security risks and there is a digital divide problem. The census period will be elongated this year.

Climate Emergency Resolution: A delegation of local leagues called upon the LWVIL Board, the LWVIL Issues and Advocacy Committee and Illinois local Leagues to advocate for "Climate Emergency Declarations" and urgent relevant action by state, county and local governments. Delegates voted unanimously to approve this resolution.

Call to Action: All League members should have in their phone contacts, the names and contact information for our federal and state representatives, so that we can easily contact them on issues the League is supporting.

Programs Report

The Programs Co-Chairs are excited to announce this year's lineup of topics. The board has discussed the issues affecting the Homewood-

Flossmoor area and has chosen subjects that pertain to the entire community.

The month of October will focus on the upcoming U.S. Census. There are growing concerns about population loss and how that affects our legislature, as well as concerns about the citizenship question that was included in earlier drafts of the census. Come and learn the facts on October 9th at the Grande Prairie Library, 3479 183rd St, Hazel Crest.



In November, we will be covering the issue of marijuana legalization in Illinois. How does this affect you? How will law enforcement handle the changes? What are the repercussions and tax benefits for our state? Bring your questions to the Grande Prairie Library on November 13th.



We take a break from programs in the months of December and January, but be ready for a full schedule in February, March, and April for Black History Month, Women's History Month, and programming from our Green Committee. Location and speakers for these programs are in the works.

If you have an idea for a topic or speaker you would like to see at a program meeting or for a special program reach out to the Programs Co-Chairs, Annie Lawrence and Glenda Townsend.



Our Sponsors and Community Services

For 2019-2020

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