



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

**Serving the people of Homewood, Flossmoor, Glenwood, Hazel
Crest, Olympia Fields, Matteson, Chicago Heights, Lansing, Harvey,
South Holland, Country Club Hills and Frankfort ILLINOIS**



**January 2018
E-Bulletin
Volume XLVII Issue 4**



*Presidents' Message 2018
Mary Emily Grant & Erin
Roeper— Co Presidents*

The Holiday Party at the beautiful home of Beth and Rich Bongard on December 4th was a wonderful success. The party was attended by over thirty-five members and guests who enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, good food and a delightful guest speaker, Geni Cutler, Executive Director of Suburban Access and Open Access. Geni spoke to the group about her agency that works with about 5,000 families each year and thanked the LWV H-F for their generosity. We also want to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause.

Thank you again to Richard and Beth Bongard for opening their lovely home to us for this annual event and thank you to all the hostesses and everyone who brought tasty treats! The change of time (5-7 p.m.) which enables our working members to attend this event seems to be a positive change. The event also brought a couple of new members to our league.

Our Voter Services Committee will be asking for your help with any candidate forums that may occur in 2018, and we hope that you will be generous in volunteering your time as a greeter, timer, question screener or anything else that is needed to provide smooth-running forums. Registering voters is an ongoing service which we'll continue in the new year, so we'll need your help with that, too.

The LWVUS 2018 Convention is Thursday, June 28 to Sunday, July 1, at the Hilton Chicago. The LWVIL is hosting the convention and will be looking for many volunteers to make this convention a success. We hope you will support this event by marking your calendars and planning to attend and/or volunteer so that our League will be well represented.

Erin and I are encouraging all of you to consider serving on the H-F Area Board. We have many new members who are already volunteering their time to our League. If you are approached by a member of the Nominating Committee this spring to serve on the board, please say "yes!" All board meetings are listed in your Membership Handbook and are open to all members. We encourage you to attend one of them and learn what the board does.

Have a healthy and happy 2018!

Erin and Mary Emily





PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING
Saturday, January 27, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Home of Sylvia Tillman
18253 Perth Avenue Homewood IL

The Program Planning meeting gives local League members the opportunity to review the National and Local League programs, have substantive discussion about the issues content and make recommendations to the LWVUS and LWVH-F whether they should be retained, restudied or dropped. The results of these discussions will be submitted to LWVUS and be considered at the national convention in Chicago, June 28-July 1. You can find our National and Local League positions in summary form listed on pages 15-20 of our LWVH-F Area 2017-18 Membership Handbook.

We start the morning by serving breakfast and lots of coffee and tea, and then follow with our review and discussion of the League’s National and Local programs. If you have questions, contact Sylvia at syvia_tillman@comcast.net.

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Program and Event Reminders

Monday, **January 8, 2017**, 6:30 p.m. – H-F Area Board Meeting
 Home of Sandra Slayton

Saturday, **January 13, 2018**, 10:00 am --Homewood Disposal Conference Room.
 RSVP Carol Vance

Saturday, **January 27, 2018**, 9:30 a.m. – Program Planning
 Home of Sylvia Tillman

Monday, **February 5, 2018**, 6:30 p.m. – H-F Area Board Meeting
 Home of Annie Lawrence

Saturday, **February 10, 2018**, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - LWVIL Issues Briefing
 University Center, Chicago

Wednesday, **February 21, 2018**, 7:00 p.m. – Criminal Justice
 Homewood Library

Monday, **March 5, 2018**, 6:30 p.m. – H-F Area Board Meeting
 Home of Mary Emily Grant

Wednesday, **March 21, 2018**, 7:00 p.m. – Women Employed
 Homewood Library

Monday, **April 2, 2018**, 6:30 p.m. – H-F Area Board Meeting
 Home of Glenda Townsend

Wednesday, **April 18, 2018**, 7:00 p.m. – TBA
 Homewood Library

Saturday, **May 19, 2018**, 10:00 a.m. to noon – Annual Meeting
 Calumet Country Club, Homewood

Thursday, **June 28** – Sunday, **July 1, 2018** – LWVUS 2018 Convention
 Hilton Chicago - 720 S. Michigan Ave.

2018

SPONSORSHIP
SPOTLIGHT!!!!



Service – Stewardship –
Community – Family.
These are four of the
words that describe what
we do, as well as who we
are, as a full-service refuse
hauling and recycling
company.

Since 1956, Homewood Disposal has continued building its business on the values of founder Wendell (Wendy) E. Yonker. His loyalty and integrity inspire our ongoing commitment to provide “the kind of service others only promise.” Homewood Disposal provides residential, commercial, industrial, special hauling, sweeping, recycling, and portable restroom services to thousands of residential customers and 12,500 commercial customers in 80 communities.

SAVE-THE-DATE

WOMEN’S MARCH TO THE POLLS

The Women’s March Chicago – March to the Polls will take place on **Saturday, January 20, 2018**. The rally and march will be at the same location as last year: at the intersection of East Congress Parkway and South Columbus Drive in Grant Park.

See the LWVIL January E-News for more information regarding meeting times, ideas for signs (our League won’t be providing them this year), and other pertinent details.

Issues Briefing 2018

Bridging Divides: *Cultivating Common Ground for Action*

February 10, 2018

University Center, [525 South State Street, Chicago](#)

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Voter Services Report

The LWV-HF has wrapped up its fall voter registration drive, adding 44 new voters to the rolls. Registration was conducted at the Homewood Farmers Markets; Bloom, Marian Catholic, and Homewood-Flossmoor High Schools; Flossmoor Fest; Waterford Estates; Brookdale Senior Living Center; and the Markham Courthouse. Many thanks go out to the volunteer registrars and assistants who helped with the voter registration drive.

While registering voters at the Markham Courthouse we heard from several individuals attending court that they believed they were not allowed to register to vote because they had been convicted of a felony at some point in their lives. ***This is incorrect.*** The State of Illinois does not impose any voting restrictions on individuals with felony convictions ***except*** during the time of their incarceration. Once released from incarceration, their voting rights are automatically restored. Like anyone else, they should re-register to vote if their precinct has changed. And yes, people on parole or probation may also *vote*.

Voting laws vary from state to state, adding to confusion on this issue. Unfortunately, some states such as South Carolina and Utah have stricter regulations that permanently prohibit felons from voting even after they have served their time. Illinois is one of the more progressive states when it comes to voter rights.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming new members Emily and David Wiegand of Flossmoor! The couple moved to the south suburbs just over 2 years ago, having previously lived in Chicago. Emily does public policy research at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and Dave is a consultant at Truqua in Chicago.

The couple just recently joined the League this fall after becoming aware of the HF-area chapter and its contributions to the community during last spring’s local elections, through the candidate forums. Emily then found our booth at the Farmer’s Market and decided to join at that time. She and Dave opted to join together.

Emily and Dave keep very busy with their 14-month-old toddler. In their free time, they enjoy playing ultimate Frisbee and disc golf. Dave also is into gardening.





Holiday Party an Enjoyable Event

More than thirty-five members and guests dressed in festive attire attended our December 4 Holiday Party, held in the lovely Olympia Fields home of members Beth and Richard Bongard. Those in attendance tasted a wide variety of delicious appetizers, sandwiches and desserts provided by Beth and many of those who attended. Long-time members engaged in conversation with newer members as well as several guests who indicated they plan to join our League.



Our guest speaker for the evening, Geni Cutler, Executive Director of Suburban Access and Open Access, shared information about her agency which works with about 5,000 families each year to connect individuals and families with services and needed items. Ms. Cutler expressed her thanks to those who brought many donations of children's hats, gloves, and gently worn coats which will help stock the agency's clothes closets this winter.

Thank you, Beth and Rich, for hosting this lovely evening and bringing such joy to those who attended.



LWVUS 2018 Convention to be Held in Chicago

Save these dates -- Thursday, June 28 through Sunday, July 1, 2018 – and plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders for LWVUS's biennial national gathering to be held at the Chicago Hilton and Towers on South Michigan Avenue.

LWVIL and Chicago-area Leagues are beginning to work on plans to make this one of the best national conventions ever! Board members from the LWV Homewood-Flossmoor Area will be attending this convention as voting delegates, but all interested members of our League are invited to register to attend one or more days of the convention. Log on to lwv.org to read more information about the convention.

Many volunteers will be needed to help make the convention run smoothly, and we hope many of our members will volunteer for at least one or two-time slots during the four days of convention. Some of the areas requiring volunteer help include Registration & Credentials, Hospitality and Information Desk, Volunteer Office, Fundraiser Ticket Sales, along with ushers, greeters, timekeepers, and microphone monitors during the Plenary sessions. Consider how you can help and when the call for volunteers appears in LWVIL's February and/or March E-News, please respond. Let's show what an involved and active League the H-F Area is!



Back to Basics recycling 101 continued.

From: DoSomething.org

Why do we recycle? Recycling helps protect the environment by reducing the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials. All these create substantial air & water pollution. Recycling saves energy, reducing greenhouse gas and helps to tackle climate change.

FACTS: *The average person generates over 4 lbs of trash every day and about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year. *The EPA estimates that 75% of the American waste stream is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.

Recycling Glossary:

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill its needs. In ecology: sustainability is the property of biological systems to remain diverse and productive indefinitely. For recycling, sustainability means materials, and products that can be in a continuous pattern of reuse.



Climate Change Committee Book Review by Doris Pierce

Climate of Hope How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet

By: Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope.

This book comes at a fortunate time; hope is needed today more than ever. The US has been a leader in the world. However, the President rejects the scientific evidence and declares global warming a hoax. He rejects the Paris Agreement thus surrendering the US leadership in reducing global warming. The national government has turned its back on the U.N. and a large number of nations. The President and Congress refuse to believe that global warming is real. The latest evidence shows this rate of global warming has not been seen in the last 100,000 years.

Human behavior is a factor. The heavy reliance upon fossil fuel for automobiles makes a huge contribution. Global warming is not something in the future; it is now. The consequences are happening now. The oceans are warming. This has an effect upon our weather and makes extreme weather frequent. We have seen this in the hurricanes this year.

Bloomberg and Pope draw upon their experience. Bloomberg as mayor of New York City and Pope as a committed advocate for the environment and reducing the carbon footprint. Pope is a long-time leader in the environment and was former Director and Chairman of the Sierra Club.



Before developing a plan to reduce the carbon footprint in NYC, it was necessary to analyze its source. The loss of energy from older buildings was a major source of carbon dioxide emission. Remolding old buildings to make them more energy efficient was the place to start, passing building laws to require strict standards for energy savings.

Urban areas do not contribute as much as you might think to global warming. Houses in urban areas are smaller and residents are more likely to live in apartments that are smaller than houses. This density in urban areas makes mass transit feasible.

Urban and local governments tend to be more aware of the consequences of global warming. They must deal with everyday problems of traffic congestion, potholes and local flooding. The economics of scale help cities deal with some of the consequences of global warming.

Leaders of local movements have cooperated and shared ideas. They have also created organizations, both local, national, and international, that are involved in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. Bloomberg has participated in these as well as served as a leader. They are a source of hope.

There are various ways these local governments can deal with greenhouse emissions. For example: California set mileage standards. It has also joined six states and a province in Canada to adopt a tax and trade system.

States that have embraced green energy have created jobs; the cost of green energy is down and is now competitive with other fuels.

The future for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases is hopeful if the actions of state and local government is considered.



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I of The Needle



Linda Tyson

