

MARCH - APRIL, 2022 BULLETIN

Message from the President



Dear Members:

With all of the distractions and challenges we face today, Leagues across the nation have stepped up to find ways and opportunities to bring about positive change. In this upcoming term, our H-F League plans to focus on the issue of voting rights which has come under threat on various fronts. We also plan to promote the Illinois Voter Guide so that our communities are better informed and have the resources they need to exercise their right to vote.

Along with our voter service chair and the rest of the team, I will be attending LWWIL meetings and participating in roundtable discussions. We will be sharing best practices and experiences to learn how we can improve voter turnout and help voters become more informed citizens. The Voter Services Committee has developed a toolkit with valuable resources that will enable our teams to conduct successful community outreach. As many of you are aware, midterm elections will be held this year and, once again, we will be hosting legislator interviews. The legislator interviews may be conducted by Zoom or face-to-face at their respective offices. Watch for announcements that will include complete details for the interviews.

I am delighted to inform our membership that we will hold a face-to-face Annual Meeting this spring at the Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$50.00 per person. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out a reminder that will include additional information about the meeting and what you can expect. Our guest speaker will be announced once we have received confirmation. Some very special members will be honored at the meeting. We are so excited about the prospect of once again gathering in person and connecting with new and returning members! Please send a check or money order for \$50.00 per person to: LWVH-F Area, P.O. Box 801, Flossmoor, IL 60422. Your payment must be received by May 9, 2022, so we can provide an accurate headcount to Idlewild Country Club. To be on the safe side, please make your payment well before May 9th. You may also pay at the door by check or money order, but you must reserve in advance. Contact me to save your seat. Unfortunately, we cannot accept debit or credit card payments at this time.

The Sylvia Tillman Memorial Scholarship awards college scholarships to college-bound high school seniors. This year, students from seven south suburban schools will be applying for a scholarship. The deadline for applicants to apply is Friday, April 22, 2022. The Board will announce the scholarship winners in June. This will be the final year of the Sylvia Tillman Memorial Scholarship program. The League is grateful for the generous contributions we received that made this program

possible.

I'm sad to advise that long-time former member, **Marie King**, made her transition this week. Ruby Marsh provided the following information on Marie's services:

**Wake-Tue. March 29th
2:00- 5:00
Funeral -Wed. Mar.30th
11:00 Am
Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church
1101 Douglas Avenue
Flossmoor, IL**

And lastly, to our local business supporters, we see you! A special thanks to those businesses that supported our League by purchasing advertising space on our website and membership handbook. We greatly appreciate your partnership. We will continue to promote your business and encourage community support.

***Barbara Koger Hayes, President
LWV H-F Area***

Voter Service

The 2022 Election Cycle

***"Here in America, the people rule through the ballot, and their will prevails."
President Joe Biden, January 6, 2022***

2022 is a midterm election year. During this midterm election cycle all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested. *Wikipedia*

Likewise, in **Illinois**, elections will be held for the office of Governor, all State Representatives and Senators, and the statewide constitutional offices listed below. The primary election will be held on June 28. The general election will be held on November 8, 2022.

**GENERAL PRIMARY
JUNE 28, 2022**

(10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1b)

**GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

First Tuesday after first Monday in November
(10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1(a))

OFFICERS NOMINATED AT THE PRIMARY & ELECTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2)	
United States Senator	County Clerks
Governor/Lieutenant Governor	County Treasurers
Attorney General	County Sheriff
Secretary of State	County Assessors
State Comptroller	Members of Boards of Review (in counties with elected Boards, including Cook County)
State Treasurer	Regional Superintendent of Schools
Representatives in Congress: All districts	County Commissioners (not under township organization)
State Senators: All districts	County Board Members (under township organization)
Representatives in the General Assembly: All districts	Sanitary District Commissioners and Trustees
Judges: Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Circuit Court, Resident Circuit Court, Subcircuits, vacancies will be filled if required, all judges seeking retention will appear on the ballot at the General Election, and additional judgeships if required	Board Member, Board of Education

OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE PRIMARY (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(b)(2))	
State Central Committeepersons (Democratic party only, -two committeepersons of different genders per district; Republican State Central Committeepersons are elected at the County Conventions)	
Township Committeepersons (Cook County)	Precinct Committeepersons (all counties except Cook)

ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION	
Municipal Primary (if required): May 17, 2022	Municipal General Election: June 28, 2022
Contact the county clerk, board of election commissioners, or municipal clerk for filing information. (10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(b)(3))	

Membership

Member Spotlight - CHERYL BERGER

In this issue the Spotlight shines on Cheryl Berger, a member



who has actively participated on various committees and represented our League in various capacities. Let's meet Cheryl as she shares with us some of her inspiring pursuits and undertaking.

Several years ago, I saw an article in the Homewood Flossmoor Patch about the League of Women Voters Annual Potluck. That was my first introduction and I was very warmly welcomed. I attended meetings for a while after that and eventually became a member and I am guessing that was about 5 or 6 years ago. I have been on the committees for Voter Registration and the Environmental Committee. Recently with a great loss to the Environmental Committee and to the League, Carol Vance, who headed up the committee for years moved to Michigan and I was asked to chair the committee. I don't feel qualified to fill her shoes, but will do my best.

I was on the committee for the 100th Anniversary which was a very special occasion, and met many outstanding women from other area Leagues. The previous year I attended the Illinois Leagues' biannual meeting as a delegate and really enjoyed meeting and listening to members from all over the state. I have learned so much from the monthly meetings on such topics as voters rights, redistricting / gerrymandering, environmental protection, local charities and more. I have learned from speakers such as our local mayors and both state and federal representatives, and look forward to when we can meet again in person.

Learning is very important in my life. I am an avid reader. I belong to two book discussion groups, one fiction and one non-fiction. I also belong to a Great Decisions group. I have attended the Basic Program through the University of Chicago as well as a number of alumni courses. In the last few years I have been going to Governors State for their lifelong learning programs. I belong to the Saints which is an organization that provides ushers for theaters. I also have a couple of theater subscriptions as well as a CSO series all of which are starting to open up again. When I view my activities, all of which I enjoy, there may be nothing more important than the League. At a critical time in our country's history we provide a really valuable service locally, statewide, and nationally, and I am proud to be a part of it.



Climate Change

Last month we included a link to test your carbon imprint. We are including a test again for those who may have missed it. We would like this column to be interactive and would like all of our members to let us know things you have done or plan on doing to reduce your carbon imprint. We will include these suggestions in future bulletins. If you come across an interesting article on the environment, please forward it to 17304clb@gmail.com. We NEED your input and look forward to hearing from you.

Below is a link that will take you to six important articles on the environment and at the very bottom you can sign up for a subscription for more articles if interested.

[These are the six major environmental stories to follow in 2022 | Euronews](#)

[Women's History Month Program](#)

We want to thank the community for attending our March meeting celebrating Women's History Month. We had nearly 100 attendees for this event!

Our distinguished guest speaker was U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth. Senator Duckworth addressed concerns about the war in Ukraine and its impact on the U.S; gas prices and inflation; student loan payments (whether they will resume in May), and services for veterans. She shared her experience as a woman serving in the reserves and then being called to active duty during the Iraq war. Duckworth was co-piloting a Black Hawk helicopter when it was shot down and left her a double amputee. She also talked about the challenges of life as a working mom.

Senator Duckworth gave a warm and informative presentation. Unfortunately, time did not allow her to respond to every question. However, she has written her memoir, "**Every Day is a Gift**" in which she shares more of her astonishing story. Her book is available online, in bookstores, and in libraries.



[Observer Reports](#)

Homewood Public Schools District 153 Board of Education meeting February 14, 2022

The Board Meeting was called to order. Absent Board Members: Ms. Havighorst, Ms. Marks, and Mr. Zinnerman.

The Board approved the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of January 10, 2022.

Dr. McAlister, Superintendent, announced:

- Presidents' Day – Monday, February 21st – No School
 - Early Dismissal Day Friday, February 25^{*}
 - Pulaski Day Monday, March 7th – No School
 - Early Dismissal Day Thursday, March 17^{*}
- * Staff Improvement Activities

Board Member, Mr. Schmidt, gave a brief report from the Personnel Committee: The committee is developing creative ways to recruit/attract Certificated Staff (including Subs).

Dr. McAlister, Superintendent, reported on the district's COVID mitigation strategies in light of the judge's recent rescinding of Governor Pritzker's Mask mandate. The Board held an emergency meeting on Sunday, February 6. Homewood School District 153 was not a participating school district in the law suit. The Board and Administration are awaiting the appeals court decision which should come at the

end of the week. Dr. McAlister stated that the district's COVID positivity rate is low and he attributed it to the mitigation strategies the district is using.

Board Member, Ms. Bethea commended those staff and volunteers who worked with the band members during the concert over the weekend.

The Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda Items:

- Personnel Report – Subs will now make \$125. per day.
- The March Board of Education meeting will be changed from March 14 to March 21 to accommodate the bid process as packages will be coming in during the week of March 14.
- District Discipline Handbook (Draft is in the Board Members' Packet)
- Payment of the Usual and Customary Bills for March 2022

The Board of Education approved the following Action Agenda Items:

- Second payment of January 2022 Bills and First Payment of February 2022 Bills
- Incentive Pay for New Hire Recommendations: Current staff could earn \$1000. The staff member would get \$500 for recommending a high quality staff member who is hired in the district and earn an additional \$500 if the staff continues for a second year.
- Board Member, Mr. Schmidt, became the secretary of the Board for tonight.
- Funding Bond Resolution –Next step in the construction projects.
- 2022-2023 School Calendar: Starting date – August 22, 2022 and dates of Winter and Spring Breaks are aligned with HF as has been the practice.
- 1 New Hire at Willow School

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss and determine the enrollment status of a student at James Hart. After the Executive Session, the grandmother of the young man in question presented her facts. The Board voted unanimously to disenroll the student.

Ms. Bethea thanked the Tech Department for their assistance in providing staff with needed devices.

**Cheryl Gansauer,
Observer**

Village of Flossmoor Semi-Monthly Board Meeting February 7, 2022

Mayor Michelle Nelson recognized four Flossmoor residents who are also US veterans as part of the Black History Month proclamation. She encourages village residents to engage with one another to learn more and celebrate the contributions made to US society by Black Americans.

Mayor Nelson also read a proclamation honoring Flossmoor resident Juanita Mitchell who is turning 110 years old. Juanita and her companion were present via Zoom.

Jean Miller has been nominated as the newest member of the Flossmoor Art Commission. She was present and said she was looking forward to serving the village in this way.

Jeff Stevenson, a member of the Public Art Commission presented the 2022 sculptures proposal. Some of the sculptures are owned and some are part of a rotational loan program. A rotational program is usually a 3-year contract. The sculptures are insured in case of damage or vandalism. The Commission is self-funded as a charitable organization. The village puts in the concrete pads that any sculptures need. Bruce Neimi's sculpture is leaving and will be replaced by a Verbeek sculpture. Another Verbeek sculpture will be placed near Western Avenue school. The Commission will add two Gregory sculptures in the area, move a Spiczka sculpture from Argyle traffic island to the library, and a move DeBruyne

sculpture from Highlands park to Leavitt Park. There is a developing map that routes an outdoor art walk called "Flossmoor Art Experience." Several village board trustees expressed enthusiasm for this program and commended the Commission for their ongoing work. The Mayor and Trustees Bradley-Scott and Mustafa encourage the Commission to find a replacement soon for the space left in Highlands park near Heather Hill School.

Trustee Updates: Trustees Daggett and Lofton thanked the Public Works for handling the heavy snow event of last week. Trustee Mustafa thanked all those involved with the Lunar New Year celebration, as it was inspiring, educational, well-attended, and fun. Trustee Driscoll is looking forward to Irish music at the upcoming St. Patrick's day festivities. Clerk LoGalbo announced that Flossmoor Baseball and Softball is selling spirit wear, is looking for sponsors and teams, and registration is open. H-F soccer registration is open for the spring season. Village Manager Wachtel reported on a new system that delivers information to residents via a texting app. Mayor Nelson reported on the excellence of a bystander training event which helps people strategically respond when they are in the presence of hate speech or hate activity.

Village of Flossmoor Semi-Monthly Board Meeting

February 21, 2022

This meeting was canceled

Jessica Groen,
Observer

Annual Meeting Notice

***LWV HF Annual Meeting,
Luncheon, and
Officer Elections***

***Sunday, May 15, 2022
2:00 PM***

***Idlewild Country Club
19201 Dixie Highway
Flossmoor, IL***

Tickets: \$50

**Make checks payable to LWV HF and mail to
P.O. Box 801
Flossmoor, IL 60422**

Payment or Special Pay-At-Door arrangement (contact Barb Hayes) due by May 9

**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS AND LET THEM
KNOW YOU'RE A LWV-HOMEWOOD FLOSSMOOR AREA
MEMBER.**

