



Calendar

June

12-14 Illinois State League Convention in Peoria. Contact Jane Barnes if you want to attend. Complete schedule on p. 6-7

24 – Joint Board Meeting, 7 pm at Jane Barnes’ home, 1520 Aberdeen

President’s Letter

Happy New League Year!

We have much to celebrate as we look back on the past year:

- a website that continues to garner hits, exceeding 2700 per month
- new sources of publicity to increase our visibility
- fabulous coverage of local elections
- a Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award that has gained community prestige
- new members whose ideas can energize all of us

With our Annual Meeting behind us, we begin a new year of exciting opportunities for engaging our community in conversations about issues near to League hearts and minds.

The action focus approved by members on May 27 parallels concerns that are expressed across geographic and party lines: transparency in government, ethical behavior in politics, accurate and comprehensive information to infuse decisions about laws and policy decisions. These are topics that take us deep into our historic core.

Even more basic is the ongoing need for members to step into the arena, not just observe from the sidelines of activity. We have a small but mighty group of - dare we call them? -activists who carry forward the projects, interests, concerns of making democracy work right here in Naperville and Will and DuPage Counties. We need more of you to join in.

Do you feel short of time? Involvement can be tailored to your schedule. We’re a busy group who want to work efficiently.

Do you feel unsure of how to proceed? There are guideposts for study and action that give us tools based on our experienced predecessors and contemporaries.

Do you think that you, as one person, aren’t really needed?

Please know that 1 + 1 = much more than 2. That’s the arithmetic of democracy. Individuals on and off the LWV board have given great service to all of us in setting up candidate forums, arranging programs, handling publicity, hospitality, finances, and the kinds of outreach that have helped to build our League here in Naperville. But they need support and back-up. Won’t you consider activating your grassroots power and volunteer an hour or two to bring our 2009-2010 action focus to life? Only **you** can do it!



Jane Barnes



A Successful Ice Cream Social On June 4!

Due to your hard work and support, we have added slightly over **\$900.00** to the League checking account. (The baked goods must have been delicious and appealing because we sold it all at full price! ☺)

Thank You to all of you who:

planned and purchased - schlepped and shopped - baked and bought - donated money - sliced and packaged - begged, borrowed, loaned - set up and cleaned up - hauled tables, coolers, ice- cooked the coffee, cooled the drinks -- sold our wares - influenced the weatherman - etc., etc., etc. . .

And, a very special thank you goes to Duncan Hughes, Bob Lewis and Dave Olson who cheerfully provided muscle power and stamina in this endeavor.

With heartfelt thanks from our committee,

Caroline Lewis, Bonnie Olson, Gary Smith, Mary Wright

Did You Know?

You can make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of Naperville Education Fund. These monies fund our voter service and citizen education programs and a portion of our financial support (per member payments, or “pmp”s) of the League at the state and national levels. Pass the word!

You can keep abreast of what the League is doing in Washington by logging on to www.lwv.org and clicking on “News and Events.” In May, action took place in Voting rights, Diversity, Health Care, Climate Change, and the Global Democracy Exchange Program. Sign up for regular briefing and action alerts.

New Study of Council Representation System Adopted at Annual Meeting

MEMBERS SOUGHT TO JOIN STUDY GROUP

At our Annual Meeting, the membership voted to restudy the position under local government: *“Support for a change in the system of electing council members from an at-large to a hybrid mix with equal representation from the district and the at-large council members.”*

Rationale: The issue may become a matter for public discussion in the upcoming year. The position was adopted long enough in the past to be unfamiliar to current membership. This would weaken any League action that might be considered under the position in the event of heightened community focus. A new study will better reflect the thinking of the League’s membership in 2009.

When a study is adopted, a committee is formed to review all sides of an issue, gathering information and preparing summary position papers for consideration of the membership at a consensus meeting or through a concurrence process. While an issue is under study, no action may be taken on it in the name of the League.

Ellen Burrows provided materials from our previous study which can provide guidance for setting up the new study. Interested individuals are now gathering to refine the scope and procedure for reviewing this position. To indicate your interest, email vice president Mary Wright: mtwrightnaperville@hotmail.com. You will be contacted for possible meeting times this summer.

Action Focus Endorsed By Membership

Annual Meeting attendees approved the following focuses for education and advocacy:

- Continue to survey financial aspects of voting technologies, the process of early voting, and other election concerns at the County level.
- Review the overlapping relationships of government entities, focusing especially but not exclusively on townships.
- Create opportunities for discussing the role of media coverage and reporting in the functioning of the democratic process.
- Inquire into the relevant ordinances, practices, and training for local elected and appointed bodies with regard to conflict of interest, transparency, and other issues of ethics.

Program development for the new League year begins now as the board meets over the summer to create a calendar of programs and activities. If you have an interest in these topics – and how can you NOT? - get in touch with a board member to express your interest and ideas.

Local Program Support Positions

Adopted For 2009-2010

Diversity in Schools:

- Support for a policy in school districts that works to enhance diversity through hiring practices, curriculum, school personnel training, and community involvement and dialogue on diversity issues. Forms of diversity include but are not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, sexual identity and orientation, age, economic resources, religion/belief, mental and physical capacities, and learning styles.
- Support for adequate budget funding of such a policy.

Education:

- Support for a curriculum that meets the needs of individual students according to their abilities and goals and is uniform throughout each district with facilities adequate to support the curriculum.
- Gifted Education: Support K-12 gifted programs that are comprehensive and provide for diverse ability levels with a variety of programs .
- Class Size: Support for lowering the maximum allowable class size below 35 for Grade levels K-8 with the lowest size in grade K-3.

Environment:

- Support for the discontinuance of the trapshooting program at Sportsman's Park so that this park land may have wider public use.
- Support for non-restricted access by all Naperville residents of the entire Sportsman's Park property.
- Support for the Park District's development of a plan that addresses thoroughly and in a public manner the issues of noise pollution, lead and other contaminants, and responsible financial management of the property.
- Support for a plan addressing the environmental clean-up of the area.

Growth: Support for the development of civic services adequate to serve the Naperville population growth.

Land Use: Support for the development and implementation of a land use Master Plan in the Naperville planning jurisdiction to define the future development of the city.

Library: Support for the development of services adequate to serve the Naperville population needs.

Local government:

- Support for the Council-Manager form of government with the
- mayor elected at large.
- Support for home rule.
- *New study of position on hybrid mix representation on City Council*

Recycling: Support for recycling in Naperville to improve environmental quality and promote conservation of natural resources.

Transportation: Support for planning for transportation needs in Naperville including thoroughfares, parking, and public transit systems.

Zoning/Housing: Support for the development of local zoning policies that allow for a variety of housing options.

Budget For 2009-2010 Adopted May 27, 2009

LWV Naperville Budget, 2009-10

INCOME		
	Donations	\$150.00
	Dues	\$3,000.00
	Education fund	\$1,000.00
	Fundraising	\$1,115.00
	Interest Income.	\$150.00
	Transfer from Reserves (If necessary)	\$500.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$5,915.00
 EXPENSES		
	TOTAL - Bulletin (Voter)	\$350.00
	Delegates and Travel	
	1. State/ National Conventions	\$1,200.00
	2. Other Meetings	\$100.00
	TOTAL Delegates & Travel	\$1,300.00
	Financial Support for LWV (PMP)	
	1. National PMP (Per Member Payment)	\$1,450.00
	2. State PMP (Per Member Payment)	\$1,300.00
	TOTAL - Financial Support for LWV	\$2,750.00
	Operating Costs	
	1. Annual Meeting	\$110.00
	2. Board Expenses	\$200.00
	3. Insurance	\$95.00
	4. Membership Expenses	\$300.00
	5. President's Expense Account	\$200.00
	TOTAL - Operating Costs	\$905.00
	Program Activities	
	1. Local Programs & Advocacy	\$200.00
	2. Website Hosting	\$160.00
	3. Democracy In Action Award(R.Martin)	\$100.00
	TOTAL - Program Activities	\$460.00
	TOTAL-Voter Service&Educ.Programs	\$150.00
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES		 \$5,915.00

Audit Committee Report

To: The Board of the League of Women Voters of Naperville
From: The Audit Committee
Re: Yearly Audit
Date: March 16, 2009

We have completed the audit of the financial records of the League of Women Voters of Naperville for the year ending March 31, 2009. The audit included an examination of the receipts, bank statements, Education Fund reports and Mutual Fund Reports supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

In our opinion, the records have been properly kept and the statement of assets for the organization is a true and accurate record of the financial position of the organization.

Respectfully submitted,
The Audit Committee (signatures on file)
John Nolan
Mary Ellen Barry

NCTV17 Wins 2009 Democracy in Action Award

RMDIA Chair Karin Snodgrass introduced this year's winners at our Annual Meeting. You will find pictures of her presentation on our website <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/> Below is an excerpt of her comments:

....This year's Democracy in Action winner highlights the role technology can play in public access to information about candidates for office and the service community television provides to local voters in choosing their elected officials.

This year, the League received several nominations, which were reviewed by the 2009 Committee, League members Karin Snodgrass and Pamela Eldridge, who was not able to be here tonight, and community representative Dr. Alan Leis, who was also not able to be here tonight.

NCTV17 was chosen for its balanced and broad election coverage, which has been developed and expanded in recent years. Coverage has included pre-election interviews with candidates as well as rebroadcasts of forums in races for Naperville City Council, Naperville Park District Board, and Naperville School District 203, and Indian Prairie School District 204 School Boards. In addition, the station's live coverage of the races for Naperville Mayor and City Council in the spring of 2007 and its February 2008 election night coverage of primary races in the Naperville area, including candidates from the 48th and 96th Legislative Districts, DuPage County Board District 5, and the School District 203 referendum rounded out the election process and provided voters with quick election results....

Welcome to New Members! *Can't wait to get to know you better!*

Connie Burns
Terri Foley
Anne Dralle

Joan Norman
Maria Manhart

New Officers and Directors Form 2009-2010 Board

The following slate of officers and directors was unanimously endorsed at Annual Meeting. Those elected will serve a two year term.

Vice President: Mary Wright mtwrightnaperville@hotmail.com

630 901 4635

Directors: Jeff Knezovich jpknez@sbcglobal.net

630 983 8091

Karin Snodgrass k.Snodgrass@att.net

630 393 0067

Dianne McGuire diannegreenwood@comcast.net

630 420 8502

The terms of the following positions continue until 2010

President - Jane Barnes jbarnes114@ntsource.com

630 820 0255

Secretary - Leslie Hayward lesliehayward@wideopenwest.com

630 569 0174

Having been elected to City Council, Judy Brodhead submitted her resignation from the board, effective immediately. Judy's presence will be missed, but she's not leaving League behind, so we look forward to seeing her throughout the year in League activities.

The Nominating Committee was elected for a one-year term: A fourth member will be appointed from the board as required by our By Laws.

Mary Ellen Barry (Chair)

Connie Burns

Megan Thorpe-Kavanagh

As you may have noticed, the position of Treasurer was not filled as of the Annual Meeting. However, on May 28, Bev Parker stepped forward to offer to take on that tremendously important job for a year. Thank you, Bev!!!!!!

The board will meet on June 24 to make official appointments and begin planning.. Members are always welcome at LWV board meetings. Call the president for date, time, and place.

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE LEAGUE!

As these valuable officers and directors leave their official terms on the board, let's give them a round of applause for their patience, commitment, good humor, great ideas, and terrific work on behalf of all of us in the League!

Hip Hip Hooray! Huzzah! Hurray! Hubba Hubbah!

Bonnie Olson

Jill Versace

Annette Smith

Judy Brodhead

End of Year Reports

Membership, submitted by Judy Brodhead

Membership is an issue the national LWV has been focusing on for several years, since they have seen their membership shrinking steadily. During the last two National Conventions, how to maintain, if not increase, membership was a worry. Clearly the traditional membership base is aging (aren't we all!) and along with similar civic organizations, and the League would like to revitalize its population. It turns out that nationally we have a great reputation, but that it not enough in itself to build the kind of membership that will enable the LWV to succeed in the 21st century.

The workshops on membership I have attended urged local leagues to never ignore an opportunity to attract new people. We have endeavored to encourage membership at our high-profile forums, including the ones at Meiley-Swallow Hall (the Senger/McGuire forum in the fall, and the Park District Forum this spring), as well as all of the remaining election events we sponsored. We think our higher profile since more of our events have been televised has been helpful in encouraging membership. The study commissioned a few years ago by LWV US showed that as much as we would like to widen our membership base and attract less traditional members (men, younger women, students) that the growing pool of retiring baby-boomers is key. They will be looking for meaningful volunteer work that reflects their professional experiences, and that is a group we need to tap into. We know that Naperville residents are less likely to decamp to Florida or Arizona in their active retirement years than had previously been expected; we hope to draw from that group as they "age in place," as the demographers put it.

During the recent campaign cycle I am afraid that the demands on my time prevented me from developing the additional new membership material that we really need: I am hoping that a member or director will be interested in pursuing some of the very good ideas the League has to foster membership. Ask your friends about joining; it's always more fun to be a part of an organization you already have a connection to. Think about the people who energized by the interest in the fall Presidential elections: did that activate a latent interest in the political system (and the ins and outs of voting) that had been dormant? I know that I met people at various events this year whose interest in the political system, and ensuring that it worked fairly, was awakened.

Voter Service, submitted by Annette Smith, Voter Service Chair

The 2008-09 League election year is over, and what an exciting and busy time it was! With interest in the Presidential election running high, we registered about 400 voters in September and October during registration events at several local businesses and at the three Naperville libraries. This is the highest total for us since the Motor Voter legislation was enacted. On September 24, in conjunction with NCTV and NCC, we sponsored a very well-attended forum for the candidates running for representative in the 96th Legislative District. This was our first forum in the new NCC Meilley-Swallow Thrust Theater, and this venue provided an excellent intimate setting. After a brief rest for the holidays, we were back at it in January planning events for candidates running for city council, park board, and both school boards. On March 3, we co-sponsored (with the IPPC) a forum for the 13 candidates running for District 204 school board. On March 16, we sponsored a forum for the 9 candidates running for the Naperville Park District Board and again used the Meilley-Swallow Theater. The forum for the 10 candidates running for District 203 school board and co-sponsored with the Home and School Association was held on March 18. Our last candidate event was a Meet and Greet at the 95th Street Library on March 22 for the 16 candidates running for City Council. In addition we held a voter registration event at the three libraries on Sunday, March 8.

So, to summarize, this League year we registered well over 400 voters and held 5 candidate events involving 50 candidates! What a year! We can always use more help, so if you are interested in registering voters or in helping with forums or other candidate events, just give me a call.

Reports Continue on p. 8

LWVN Website, submitted by Jack and Mary Ellen Barry, Webmasters

Our website, <http://naperville.il.lwv.org/>, has had a growing number of visitors in the past year, due to consistent updating, improved content and greater overall League visibility. From March of 2008 to March of 2009 the “hits” on our website increased 86 percent. Through our website we provided useful information to voters in two exciting elections which increased the number of overall visitors. There was a 34 percent bump in visits from February to March of '09, possibly due to our comprehensive election coverage and candidate information leading up to the April local elections.

The average number of hits per month was 2316, with our 2009 year-to-date monthly average standing at 2787, an increase of 20 percent. Election Day, April 7, was the busiest day this year, while the week of March 1 was the busiest week, followed by the week of April 5 (election week). The following sites referred the most people to our web site:

google.com at 33% of the requests

search.yahoo.com at 10.2% of the requests

positivelynaperville.com at 5.2% of the requests

In descending order, visitors were most likely to access the “What’s New”, “Join”, “Elections” and “Voter” pages.

Perhaps the most significant contribution by our website was the six new members who joined through the web. In addition, we’re saving both money and paper by providing the *Voter* online as soon as it’s ready to any member who prefers that option over paper. So far, about 46 members have taken advantage of the online *Voter*. To further support our members, our website now contains a *Voter* archive so past *Voters* are available for handy reference.

In the coming year we face a challenge of keeping visitor numbers up without a major election until the 2010 Illinois Primary. We will be seeking other ways to maintain interest by providing visitors with different types of relevant and timely information about the League and its programs.

Rosemary Martin Democracy In Action Award 2009, submitted by Karin Snodgrass, Chair, RMDIA Award Committee

The League received 4 nominations for the Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award this year. The review committee included community member Dr. Alan Leis, as well as Pamela Eldridge, a League member, and myself. The committee reviewed all nominations and determined this year’s winner

With no State of the Community Dinner this year, we decided to present the Award at the Annual Meeting Dinner. The recipient, Naperville Community Television, Channel 17, represented by Elizabeth Spencer, was invited to the Dinner, and to say a few words about the role of NCTV in the community after the Award presentation. The winner was announced in the *Voter*, on the website, and via a press release.

The plaque which hangs in the Naperville Municipal Center honoring the Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action winners will soon be updated to include Naperville Community Television, Channel 17 as the 2009 recipient. Previous recipients of the Award include Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP and School District 203: Crosstown Mock Trial in 2006, the Conservation Foundation in 2007, and the Naperville Area Homeowners Confederation in 2008.

Publicity, submitted by Jill Versace

This was an especially busy year for the League. Press releases were sent out announcing the following League activities:

Voter registration

Candidate forum for 96th Representative District

Meeting with Robert Saar, Executive Director of the DuPage County Election Commission

Solicitation for nominations for the Rosemary Martin Democracy inaction Award

District 203 and 204 School Board Candidates Forums

Naperville Park District Board Candidates Forum

City Council "Meet and Greet"

Program on gun violence with Wheaton League

Announcement of the 2009 RMDIA Award Winner, NCTV and Elizabeth Spencer

Several; Naperville League members helped at the Naperville North High School Mock Presidential Election in October of 2008. That event was covered in the local newspapers. The Free Speech forum hosted by Anderson's Book Shop was also covered extensively in the local press. Jane Barnes, the Naperville League president, participated as a panelist.

Small ads were placed in the Naperville Sun and the Daily Herald prior to the last election with information regarding the Naperville LWV.

Copies of the above are contained in a binder for future reference.

Visit Our Website: <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/>

Watch our website for news this summer. The next Voter will be out in August.



League of Women Voters of Naperville
c/o Mary Ellen Barry, Editor
1134 Omaha Court
Naperville, IL 60540

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