



The Naperville

VOTER

November 2008

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Calendar

November

18 – DIY Breakfast, 9:00 am,
McDonald's on 75th Street

19 – School Funding Roundtable,
4:00 pm, Bartlett Public Library,
800 South Bartlett Rd., Bartlett

December

1 – Board Meeting. Contact Jane
Barnes for information.

5 – **Member Holiday Party,**
7:00 pm, home of Mary Ellen
and Jack Barry, 1134 Omaha
Court. RSVP, 630-420-8794.

January

31 – LWVIL Issues Briefing

February

2 – 19 – Early Voting for
primary election (if necessary).

March

10 – Last day to register to vote
in Consolidated Election

16 – 4/2 – Early Voting for
Consolidated Election

April

7 – **ELECTION DAY!**

President's Letter

Hello, Everyone!

How did you spend your November 4 evening? Did you make it to Grant Park? Were you among the late-night television audience? If we are entering a new era of American politics, the League needs to be ready to address a greater audience, support the enthusiasm of a new generation of voters, see ourselves in a new way.

At our November board meeting, League directors made the decision not to hold a State of the Community Dinner this year. This was not a decision reached lightly. A tradition for 18 years, the Dinner offered information for the public, publicity for the League, and interesting networking opportunities. However, it has lost its original fundraising capacity and in a familiar situation for many organizations, it would stretch the work of our small number of active members beyond reasonable expectations. Instead, we will focus on the Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award, working to make the discussion of what enhances democracy a more vibrant conversation in Naperville.

The door is still open for reinstating the Dinner in the future, if that seems warranted. But we need to reach out to new people with new ideas, too, and new or re-energized commitment to expanding our mission in the community. If that may describe you, we'd love to hear from you in the upcoming months.

Now, also, we enter the post-election period, celebrating various winter holidays, giving feedback to the state League for the summer convention, and preparing for - yes, it's true! - the LOCAL ELECTIONS! Important races for seats on the City Council, Park Board, and School Districts 203 and 204 lie before us. Where can you make a contribution to informed campaigning and voting? We can raise the level of discussion if we work together toward that end. Consider an early New Year's resolution!

Jane Barnes



You're Invited!

Winter Holiday Party

Friday, December 5

7 p.m.

Home of Mary Ellen and Jack Barry

1134 Omaha Court

Jack And Mary Ellen have generously offered their home as the site of our winter social. Join fellow Leaguers and welcome guests for some relaxing conversation, good food, and the traditional White Elephant gift exchange. We'll also collect non-perishable contributions for Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

The White Elephant wrap-up has generated a number of ongoing jokes over the years, featuring several recurring "gifts" being – uh - unloaded anonymously on unsuspecting revelers until the following year when they get a chance to pass them on to the next lucky person. Of course, one person's junk is another person's treasure, so you could receive an Antiques Roadshow collectible. It's all in good fun and no pressure! After all, we've just been through a two-year political campaign!

Bring an appetizer , snack, or sweet to share, food or paper product for the food pantry, and your early winter taste for a good time.

RSVP appreciated but not required

420-8794 (Mary Ellen and Jack) or 820-0255 (Jane)



**DIY Breakfast Conversation:
Tuesday, November 18, 9 a.m.
McDonald's on 75th just east of Plainfield Rd.**

No general program is scheduled for November, so how about a DO It Yourself gathering? Start your day right with a little food for body, mind, and spirit. Show up at the McDonald's across from the DMV plaza, on the south side of 75th Street east of Plainfield Road.

Order what you want,
stay as long as you like,
bring your morning paper for conversation starters....
Just look for your Prez behind a sausage biscuit and the new Tribune.
Can't find me? Try my cell: 630 253-8210

Voter Service Report

Yahoo!!! The election is over! And what an exciting and busy time it was! We registered about 400 voters during this election cycle. This is the highest total for us since the Motor Voter legislation was enacted. It was a very rewarding time for all the registrars as it is very gratifying to provide such a needed and appreciated service. So with Election 2008 behind us, we are already beginning to plan for the next election this spring. This upcoming election will include the offices of city council, park board, and both school boards. We are hoping to sponsor a traditional candidate forum for each of these races. But we are also looking for other ways to educate and motivate the voters. If you have any "outside the box" ideas, please share them with us. And if you would like to help with any of the voter service activities, just contact Annette Smith: prspt@aol.com or 630 420-2764..

Annette Smith, Voter Service Chair

Coming Attractions: Mark Your 2009 Calendar

Saturday, January 31, 2009: LWVIL Legislative Issues Briefing, Chicago

This fascinating morning and afternoon event features experts who brief us on key issues before the Illinois House and workshops for those who want to take action. A great League member benefit! Details in January Voter.

January through March: **Great Decisions Foreign Policy Association discussion** group with AAUW

June 12-14 **LWVIL Convention:** East Peoria, IL

Education Funding and Quality Reform Roundtable

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
4 P.M.

**Bartlett Public Library
North Meeting Room
800 S. Bartlett Road
Bartlett, IL**

If you are interested in discussing the possibilities of change in how Illinois funds education and the consequences for the quality and equality of our schools, you might like to participate in a discussion among Leagues and others in the Collar Counties. Call Jane for car pooling possibilities: 630 820-0255

Welcome to New and Renewing Members

Thanks to all of you who have paid your League dues for 2008-2009! Welcome again to membership in a historic and unique grassroots organization for citizens. Watch for your League handbook in the mail (if you did not pick one up at the September meeting). We can look forward to seeing each other in the upcoming months!

Please welcome these new members to the League:

Meghan Thorpe-Kavanaugh
1907 Carlsbad Circle #201
Naperville IL 60563

Home – 630/536-8567
Cell – 301/787-5787
Email – prancer44@ntd.net

Kathy Strange
1308 Fireside Ct.
Naperville IL 60564

Home – 420-2278
Cell – 630/344-0456
Email – strange@clarendonhillslibrary.org

Want to check out the results of the National Student/Parent Mock Election? (That's Illinois Students Vote.) Here's the website: www.nationalmockelection.org

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

There you'll find a link to the LWVUS post-election survey. Please respond and ask your friends and family to do so too. Or visit Vote411.org for a link to the survey.

News from LWVUS

The LWVUS Joins the National Coalition on Health Care

The LWVUS Board has voted to join The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC), a coalition of over 70 member organizations, including medical associations, labor unions, businesses, religious groups and health care advocates. The NCHC focuses on five principles in health care reform: health care coverage for all, cost management, improvement of health care quality and safety, equitable financing, and simplified administration.

From the *Washington Post*:

“We like the attitude of Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters. She is more pleased than worried by predictions of a massive turnout, and she aptly observed that the willingness of people to wait in line for this historic vote -- already evident in places where there is early balloting -- is “affirmation our democracy is alive and well.” Obviously, officials need to do all they can to hold a successful election and be willing, as Florida Gov. Charlie Crist (R) was in extending polling hours for early voting, to put voters first. Employers should give workers leeway to vote.

There also are steps voters can take. They should make sure they are registered, find their polling places and study ballots in advance. Particularly helpful is the League of Women Voters' Vote411.org.

More about Vote411.org

(From Mary G. Wilson, President LWVUS) “This election was truly a triumph for voter participation. But, as President-elect Barack Obama noted in his acceptance speech on election night, now the work begins for all of us. And I know that as League members, we all look forward to working together with renewed vigor to advocate to make “change” mirror our deeply held positions on public policy issues.”

But, first, let’s revel in the League’s immediate accomplishments! Our message was loud and clear: “The best thing we can all do is urge Americans to prepare by visiting www.VOTE411.org and, of course, remind everyone that every single vote does make a difference.” And that message was heard by so many, including The Washington Post, The New York Times, C-SPAN and CNN, all of which helped to spread it further on November 3 and 4. VOTE411.org was visited by almost three million voters who looked at more than 10 million pages of information in 2008!”

You can get to Vote411 from our website. Check it out!





League of Women Voters of Naperville
c/o Mary Ellen Barry, Editor
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