



The Naperville

VOTER

September 2008

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Calendar

September

16 – Reconnect with the League
7:00 pm, Community United
Methodist Church, 20 North Center
Street

24 – Forum for candidates for
Illinois House District 96.
7 p.m. in Meilley-Swallow
Hall's new Thrust Theater, 31 S.
Ellsworth.

25 – First day to request an
absentee ballot

26 – Presidential Debate

October

2 – Vice Presidential Debate

7 – Presidential Debate; Last day
to register to vote with deputy
registrar

12 – 13th Congressional Forum,
2:00 pm, Downers Grove South
H.S. (Tentative)

14 – Start of early voting

15 - Presidential Debate

TBA – Meeting on “Voting in a
Technological Age”

30 – End of early voting.

November 4 – Election Day!

President's Letter

I hope your “last fling” was great and you are ready for an interesting and challenging fall! The board is also hoping that you have your local LWV in mind and that our opening meeting of the year will invite you in for conversation, reconnection, and a sense of purpose to build the democracy we all are committed to.

We are making an attempt to schedule regular meetings in the third week of each month around topics of interest to members and open to the public. It's our hope that this greater regularity will help you get involved, even in a small way. After all, it's YOUR organization! Your boards at local, state, and national levels are trying to put your interests and concerns into action.

As dues become due this month, we recognize the value of financial support from longtime members! The League in Naperville couldn't exist without that! It's also important to remember from time to time that you can make your support have an impact in your own life as well. As a grassroots organization, we rely on each other to identify issues, ask questions, and raise the level of citizen engagement with government. In the process, we get a sense of personal satisfaction and insight – and it turns out to be fun! Please consider how you might be involved in some way this year – big or small.

You are always welcome to come to a board meeting or contact one of your board members. Call me for the location, which sometimes changes at the last minute.

And check out our website, which has assumed an informative and professional character through the efforts of Mary Ellen and Jack Barry!

I'm hoping to see some new and some familiar faces on September 16! Here's to an exciting year!

Jane Barnes

**September Kick-Off Meeting
Bring A Friend! Reconnect With The League!**

Tuesday, September 16 (Note Correct Date)

7 P.M.

Community United Methodist Church

20 N. Center Street

Check out the roots and taste some of the new fruit of this dynamic organization that has been at the forefront of participatory democracy for 88 years!

September has traditionally been a time to talk among ourselves about the hot topics of the day. This year, we'll continue that tradition by

surveying what's on your mind
and reminding ourselves of
our historic ground in the women's suffrage movement
our unique development of study and consensus
and
the tools that can work to strengthen 21st century democracy

We'll make light work of this agenda with **dessert, conversation, and even prizes**, along with plenty of opportunity to get informed and involved. It's a night of fun and looking to the future as we enter our 52nd year in Naperville!



September is Annual Dues Paying Month for our League.

Single Membership is \$60.00

Household Membership is \$90.00

“Grandfathered” Senior Membership Rate” - \$30.00

(Note: Senior membership available only to those who paid half price dues prior to 2006-07.)

The above amounts include PMP (per member payment) assessed by the state and national organizations of LWV.

Watch for a Dues Invoice to be mailed to your home soon.

Candidates Forum

September 24, 7:00 p.m.

Meiley-Swallow Hall, 31 S. Ellsworth (corner of Ellsworth and VanBuren)

The League of Women Voters of Naperville, North Central College, and Naperville Community Television will co-sponsor a forum for the 96th Representative District candidates of the Illinois Legislature on Wednesday, September 24, at 7 p.m. in Meiley-Swallow Hall's new Thrust Theater, 31 S. Ellsworth (the corner of Ellsworth and Van Buren). Democrat Dianne McGuire and Republican Darlene Senger will face off in a forum moderated and organized by the LWV. The 96th District NCTV will provide live television coverage and rebroadcast the forum in the weeks leading up to the general election on Tuesday, November 4. Meiley-Swallow is the old Grace Evangelical Church, located on the corner of Van Buren and Ellsworth. The newly opened Meiley-Swallow Thrust Theater has seating for 225. Meiley-Swallow backs onto Central Park, near the Bandshell, which features public parking spaces.

This building has historic significance both for North Central College and the LWV of Naperville. Rev. Wilmert Wolf, who was the pastor of Grace Evangelical from 1943 to 1963, is the grandfather of longtime Naperville LWV member Karin Snodgrass. Rev. Wolf is also connected to the history of the League of Women Voters of Naperville, since he was one of the progressive residents interviewed by representatives of the Illinois League of Women Voters in 1956 to see if Naperville was an area that would be receptive to a local chapter of the League. Naperville began a provisional chapter in 1956 and became a full-fledged LWV chapter in 1957.

The forum is free of charge and open to the public. Candidates will be provided with general questions two weeks prior to the debate, but attendees will also be able to submit questions during the forum. Contact Judy Brodhead at 630 637 5276, jabrodhead@noctrl.edu or Annette Smith, prspt@aol.com for additional information.

Coming In October:

Voting In a Technological Age

What technologies have replaced the paper and pencil ballot? What early security concerns have been borne out in actual election experiences? How have the Internet and early voting changed the face of campaigns? Can you be sure your vote will count?

Questions like these will be addressed by our speaker/panel and participating audience as we move toward the November election. Controversies abound, and arrangements with a local media specialist should be finalized as soon as the Party Conventions are over.

Watch for the exact date and place in the week of October 20.

Help Wanted

Two Naperville League Volunteers Needed For Mock Election

Naperville North High School has been selected as a participant in a grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Through this grant, twelve high schools in DuPage County will be given actual voting equipment to use in a mock election in early October. The measure was designed to encourage student interest in voting, to give them a more “real” experience, and to stimulate interest in students volunteering to be election judges, as allowed by Illinois law. The grant was secured through LWVIL.

League volunteers would need to go through a one-hour training session in September and be available on the selected day at NNHS to help in the voting process.

If you are interested in working on this, give Jane a call at 630 820-0255. The specific dates for training and the exact day of the vote (either October 7 or October 8) are not determined at the time of Voter writing.

League Members Meet With Park District President and Staff

On August 20, Jane Barnes, Jean McCollum, John Nolan, Bonnie Olson, Karin Snodgrass, and Jill Versace met with planning director Eric Shutes, project manager for the Park District Master Plan Mary Gardocki, and Board President Suzanne Hart to discuss details of the newly adopted Master Plan that involve Sportsman’s Park.

The Plan makes no changes to programming at that site, nor does it acknowledge any issue of lead remediation that might be required in the future. It was our impression that details of the IEPA permit were not fully grasped. The continuing discussion among several public and private bodies about the use of Caroline Martin Mitchell’s land was noted by Staff as influencing the omission of any alternative uses for that site. We were also informed of the presentation at the City Council’s meeting on August 19 of a “final draft” for use that property which was being circulated for comment from previously identified stakeholders. A subsequent review of that draft revealed continued assumptions about the trapshooting program which we have objected to in the past in our communication with the Park District. In addition, there did not seem to be any opportunity scheduled for PUBLIC comment, as distinct from solicited input from the groups currently using the land, including Sportsman’s Club.

We were provided in the week following our meeting with the most recent statistics regarding fees and usage for the trapshooting. We expect to review them in light of past information. Mr. Shutes also said that no allocation for lead remediation was recognized in the budget. It had in the past been implied that such a “fund” might exist, but in the August 20 conversation it was clear that there was no plan to get estimates for clean-up and no such move was thought to be necessary.

It was the consensus of League members at the meeting that our efforts to resolve our concerns about the financial, environmental, and community-compatible aspects of this site should be directed more seriously toward the City Council rather than the Park District Board.

If you have an interest in working on this ad hoc committee, please call Jane (630 820-0255.). The Park District Open Space and Recreation Master Plan can be viewed at www.napervilleparks.org. The new draft of the Caroline Martin Mitchell proposal is available at the City’s website: www.Naperville.il.us. In the “search” box, type in “Mitchell”. This will lead you directly to the location of the CMM update.

2008 LOCAL PROGRAM

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, members voted to approve the following items as program focus for 2008-2009.

Advocacy emphasis:

- Continue to advocate for action regarding lead clean-up at Sportsman's Park.
- Monitor and speak out on open government issues, encouraging transparency and solicitation of public input on the part of elected government bodies in their decision making process.
- Support and monitor City efforts to assess climate change (global warming) footprint

Public Information emphasis:

- State government funding of education
- DuPage County Election Commission policies and procedures, e.g., policy on destruction of records and the merits of paper ballot v. automated voting systems in maintaining secure and accurate vote count

Watch for more information and programs on these issues in the coming months. If you are interested in working on any of them yourself or have suggestions for how we might implement them, please contact Jane Barnes.

Contact Your Board! We're Here To Serve You!

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Jill Versace	630-416-7624	jillversace@comcast.net

Off Board membership: Adelaide Coyle 630 978-0575 adelaidecoyle@sbcglobal.net

Voter Now Available Electronically

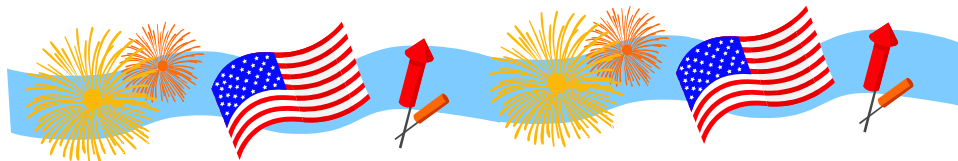
For several months, our *Voters* have been archived on our website <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/>. We saw this as a convenience for those who want to look back over past editions. Recently, some members have asked to be notified by email when the *Voter* is posted. This would save the money spent on postage and paper, and you will receive your newsletter earlier. We'd like to start that program this month on a trial basis for those members who want to participate. We will continue to send everyone a paper copy in the U.S. Mail during this trial program, whether you have email or not.

Here's how it will work:

For this month and next, when the *Voter* is ready to go to "press," we'll send an email to members for whom we have email addresses with a link that will take them to the current *Voter* on our website. When you click on the link, the *Voter* will appear as a pdf file. You will be able to print the copy if you would prefer to read it on paper or you can simply refer to the online version at your convenience.

If you are already receiving email notices from the Naperville League, you'll get a message from us telling you to go the website to see this month's *Voter*. If you haven't received the message by the time you get your *Voter*, then we don't have a current email for you. In that case, just send a request to our excellent list-managers, Dave and Bonnie Olson, bdolson@ntsource.com or call 630-355-4417 and they'll make sure your email address is added to our email announcement list. Of course, members who want to continue to receive the *Voter* in the mail should let them know that too. After October, we'll stop sending hard copies of our *Voter* to members who are receiving the email notices, unless we've heard from them to the contrary. If you don't have access to email, you'll keep getting the *Voter* in the mail as you have in the past.

As always, while you're reading our *Voter*, either on-line or on paper, we hope you'll have your calendar nearby, so you can add the dates of all of our important and interesting fall activities in this most historic election year!



POLITICAL PARTY!!

Presidential Debate watching party, that is.

LWVUS has all the resources you need to make your party the talk of Naperville's social – and political – season. Visit the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org and search for the Debate Watching Toolkit. Features of the comprehensive kit include tips, a media advisory template, sign-in sheet, the LWV debate discussion guide, a printable debate watchers' notebook (good for our own candidate forums too), recipes and a playlist. Even if you don't have a party, the notebook and the "Patriotic Punch" might enhance your own enjoyment of the Presidential Debates this year. See the calendar on p. 1 for dates of the debates.



League of Women Voters of Naperville
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