



The Naperville

VOTER

April 2008

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Calendar

May

28 – Annual Meeting, Jimmy's Char House, 7:00 pm

June

13-18 – National Convention, Portland Oregon

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President's Letter

We are rapidly approaching the date for our Annual Meeting, so we hope you have time to take a close look at the material in this newsletter, and to attend the Annual Meeting itself at 7 p.m. on May 28, which will be held at Jimmy's Charhouse. The price of dinner is \$25. Please remember to RSVP for the Annual Meeting to me by May 22 at 630 637 5276 (my office number with lots of voicemail space) or by email at jabrodhead@noctrl.edu. No need to send any checks: you can pay at the door as long as you let us know you're coming. Thanks to Ellen Burrows for suggesting this year's venue.

At the Annual Meeting, we will vote on (1) next year's budget, (2) officers and members of the board for the next two years, (3) proposed changes to our bylaws, and (4) recommended and non-recommended program items for the coming year. You will see information about all of these in this newsletter; you may want to bring your newsletter with you to the Annual Meeting with your notes and questions. We will have printed packets ready for you to follow the agenda that evening, and will also send the packet electronically.

We are already thinking about next year's programs and have some good ideas for the fall. If you have the time and inclination, please consider taking on one of the rewarding roles the League offers, including chairing the State of the Community Dinner, encouraging membership, fundraising, or working on voter registration and debates during next year's fall and spring election seasons. This is a great opportunity to become active if you haven't been for a while, or to try out a new role: it may have more relevance than you imagine. In my own case, I was encouraged by Stephanie Downs Hughes to work as Vice President for Program Planning in 2002, and a few years later found that my experience in this volunteer role helped prepare me to coordinate the Cultural Events at North Central College.

It's been a great pleasure to have served as President of the League of Women Voters of Naperville for the past four years, and I look forward to working as a member of the board and allowing someone new to take the helm! Thanks to all of you who have served so well as officers and board members over those years. My mother, Doris Pettigrew Brodhead (yes, just like Frances McDormand, she was "Miss Pettigrew"), was president of her local League in Wayne, New Jersey, in her seventies and active in the LWV well into her eighties. (Just last year at age 89 she ran a candidates' forum at the large retirement community where she lives.) I married early and was often homesick as my young family moved around the country, from North Carolina to California to Virginia to New Jersey to Illinois. She told me that I should seek out the League of Women Voters, because it's where I would find the kind of people I would want to spend time with. It took me 30 years to follow her advice, but she was right, and I'm so glad I did.

Judith Brodhead

Calling All Members!

Annual Meeting

Jimmy's Char House, 523 Fairway Drive

Wednesday, May 28, 7:00 pm

Unlike many organizations, the League is truly a grassroots group. As members we determine our own destiny every year at our Annual Meeting. This year, the meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 28, at Jimmy's Charhouse (see below for directions). We will begin dinner at 7 p.m. and proceed with our meeting after that.

At the meeting, members will vote on the following:

- Proposed Program
- Budget – 2008-09
- Bylaws
- Slate of officers – 2008-10

The dinner menu will consist of soup, salad, an entrée, vanilla ice cream for dessert, and soft drinks, tea, and coffee. Alcoholic beverages are available, although not included in the price of dinner, which is \$25, the same price we have charged for the Annual Meeting dinner for several years. On the night of the dinner, you can choose one of the three following entrees: Wood-Roasted Chicken, Charbroiled Pork Chops, or Spaghetini with Shrimp. The pasta can also be prepared as a vegetarian dish if desired.

Please RSVP to Judy Brodhead at jabrodhead@noctrl.edu or 630-637-5276 by May 22. If you think you will need a ride to the Annual Meeting, please let Judy or Jane Barnes (630-820-0255) know and they will secure a ride for you.

Directions to Jimmy's Charhouse: To get to 523 Fairway Drive, take Route 59 to North Aurora Road; go west on North Aurora to Fairway drive; you'll see Jimmy's easily from North Aurora Road. Briefly called Andrew's Open Pit, the restaurant has gone back to the original name.

See you at the Annual Meeting! Make your reservation today.

Constitutional Convention Update

Thanks to all members who participated in our Con-Con consensus meeting. Those who attended the meeting participated in a free-wheeling and provocative discussion of many important issues facing our state. Other members took advantage on our on-line survey option. The board approved our report to the state League and we are waiting to hear the statewide results from them next month. Watch our website, - <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/> - for the announcement. We expect Con-Con to be an important action item next fall, in addition to our usual Voter Service work prior to the November 4 general election!

Mary Ellen Barry and Annette Smith, co-chairs

LOCAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

At the April Board Meeting, the Board approved recommendation of the following items as our League's 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.

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

These items will be moved for adoption and voted upon by membership.

NON-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM ITEMS

The items listed here were suggested but not accepted for 2008-2009 emphases by the Board. Any item listed here is eligible for consideration at the Annual Meeting, as our bylaws stipulate and consideration may be moved. Consideration requires a motion and a majority vote in favor by those present. If consideration is passed, the Annual Meeting will then vote on inclusion of the item in the 2008-2009 program focus.

Review /new study:

- Transportation Master Plan

Advocacy emphases:

- campaign finance
- zoning/housing issues
- library services
- global warming

Provide public information:

- global warming
- how local government works
- civil liberties

Other items not listed here may also be proposed at Annual Meeting provided that the Board is notified in writing two weeks before the Annual Meeting – by May 14, 2008 – of member interest in their consideration.

National Program

Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. The LWVUS Board recommends a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed. The Board also recommends the following proposed concurrence to amend the LWVUS Principles: 'The LWVUS believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.'" These items will be on the national convention agenda in June.

LWV - Naperville
Proposed Budget - April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

	07-08 Actual	07-08 Budget	Proposed
INCOME			
Donations	\$120.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Dues	\$1,980.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,000.00
Education fund	\$260.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
Fundraising (SOC)	\$409.93	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Interest Inc.	\$161.92	\$250.00	\$250.00
Transfer from Reserves (If necessary)	\$807.33	\$2,000.00	\$2,555.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,739.18	\$5,100.00	\$6,105.00
EXPENSES			
TOTAL - Bulletin (Voter)	\$640.07	\$700.00	\$700.00
Delegates and Travel			
1. State/ National Conventions	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
2. Other Meetings	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
TOTAL Delegates & Travel	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,100.00
Financial Support for LWV (PMP)			
1. National PMP (Per Member Payment)	\$991.80	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
2. State PMP (Per Member Payment)	\$924.00	\$925.00	\$925.00
TOTAL - Financial Support for LWV	\$1,915.80	\$1,925.00	\$1,925.00
Operating Costs			
1. Annual Meeting	\$141.89	\$175.00	\$200.00
2. Board Expenses	\$215.68	\$175.00	\$175.00
3. Insurance	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00
4. Membership Expenses	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
5. Presidential Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
TOTAL - Operating Costs	\$652.57	\$745.00	\$770.00
Program Activities			
1. Local Programs	\$212.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
2. Website Hosting	\$235.00	\$230.00	\$160.00
3. Democracy In Action Award(R.Martin)	\$83.74	\$150.00	\$150.00
TOTAL - Program Activities	\$530.74	\$530.00	\$510.00
TOTAL - Voter Service	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,739.18	\$5,100.00	\$6,105.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

Several changes to the bylaws are necessary because of changes to the bylaws of LWVUS. Other changes are needed to clarify specific sections of the bylaws. Proposed deletions are denoted by the use of brackets []. Proposed additions are underlined.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 2. Types of Membership. [The membership of the League of Women Voters of Naperville shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

Voting members:

United States citizens at least 18 years of age who are enrolled in the League at the local level shall be voting members;

Members who have been enrolled in the League for 50 years or more shall be life members and shall not be required to pay annual dues.]

A. Voting Members. U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS;

(1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;

(2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;

(3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

Reason for proposed change: Mandated change to bring this section into congruity with the LWVUS bylaws.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership

B. Associate members [shall be all other members]. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Reason for proposed change: Mandatory change to bring this section into congruity with the LWVUS bylaws.

Article IV

Sec. 5. Meetings. There shall be six or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. [The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call special meetings as necessary. Upon the request of five members of the Board, the President shall call a special meeting of the Board of Directors.]

A) Special meetings: The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call special meetings as necessary. Upon the request of five members of the Board, the President shall call a special meeting of the Board of Directors.

B) Remote meetings: If circumstances make it inconvenient or impossible for the board to meet, they may conduct business by holding a meeting through electronic communications. Such meetings shall be referred to as remote meetings. All materials for considerations at a remote meeting must be distributed to all members of the board. Remote meeting shall not count as any of the six regular board meeting required each year.

Reason for proposed change: Need to update bylaws for provision for remote meetings that are now possible with advances in technology. This change parallels changes in the LWVIL bylaws.

Continued on next page

Bylaws, continued

Article IV

Sec. 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. In the presence of a quorum, a majority of members in attendance at any board meeting shall decide its action. Any one or more members of the board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Reason for proposed change: Need to update bylaws to clarify attendance at meetings with new technology. This change parallels changes in LWVIL bylaws.

Article VI

Sec. 3. Dues for Special Membership Categories.

When two members or more reside at the same address and in a common household, the family dues shall be equal to the dues of a single member plus one-half of the dues of a single member for each additional member of the household.

Dues for citizens age 65 and over shall be equal to the total per member payment due State, National, and County League of Women Voters.

Dues for full-time students shall not be less than the PMP for students which is due[s] to the State and National League of Women Voters.

Reason for change: Adding the word “the” and changing “dues” to “due” clarifies this sentence.

ARTICLE VII

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. [The Annual Meeting shall be held during May.]

Reason for change: This gives the Board more flexibility with scheduling the Annual Meeting.

Annette Smith, Chair

Nominations 2008 - 2010

President
Secretary
Director

Jane Barnes
Pamela Eldridge
Judy Brodhead

Nominating Committee

John Nolan
Bev Parker
Martha Nicosia

John Nolan, Chair



The League’s new voter information website contains critical data from every state. Some details are yet to be added, but it is already a comprehensive source for citizens. The link on our website will take you to it!

LWVUS Immigration Position

Announcing the League's newest position on April 2, national League president Mary G. Wilson stated that "After a lengthy and comprehensive study of this complex issue by our grassroots members, the League's position calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants." The full text of the position follows.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S. In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.



**League of Women Voters of Naperville
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