



Calendar

January

14 – 31 – Early Voting
(see page 4)

16 – Candidate Forum,
State House
Districts 48 & 96

17 – Candidate Forum,
County Board
District 5

24 – State of the State
Luncheon, Chicago,
Featuring Illinois
Attorney General Lisa
Madigan (see
<http://www.lwvil.org/>
for details.

26 – Program Panning
Meeting, 11:00 am
to 2:00 pm

February

5 - General Primary
Election

19 – Soup, Sociability and
the Iraq War

23- LWVIL Issues
Briefing, Loyola U., see
<http://www.lwvil.org/> for
details.

March

5 – State of the Community Dinner,
"Building Green: The
Future is Now," 6:30 p.m.
White Eagle Golf Club

Candidate Forums This Week

The League of Women Voters of Naperville is sponsoring a candidates' forum for the Republican candidates running for the Illinois House of Representatives Districts 48 and 96 on Wednesday 1/16/08 from 7-8:30 pm. Candidates will answer questions posed by the League as well as questions from audience members.

Running for the 48th Representative District are: Michael G. Connelly, Douglas P. "Doug" Krause, and Dave Carlin. Running for the 96th Representative District will be Darlene J. Senger and Michael G. Bowler. Voters in each district will elect one candidate to be the Republican candidate in the general election in November.

The LWV will also sponsor a forum on Thursday 1/17/08 from 7-8 pm for candidates for DuPage County Board District 5. The candidates are Joseph Martin "Joe" Wozniak, Gerald A. "Gerry" Cassioppi, and James D. Healy.

Both forums will take place at the City of Naperville Municipal Center (council chambers), 400 S. Eagle.

Program Planning Meeting

This is our annual all-member event. It's our time to discuss current local and national issues and suggest topics that warrant LWV attention over the coming year. A member survey to help identify your interests is on pp.7-8. See our website, http://www.lwvnet.org/il/naperville/about_action., for a listing of our current local program and plan now to attend this important meeting.

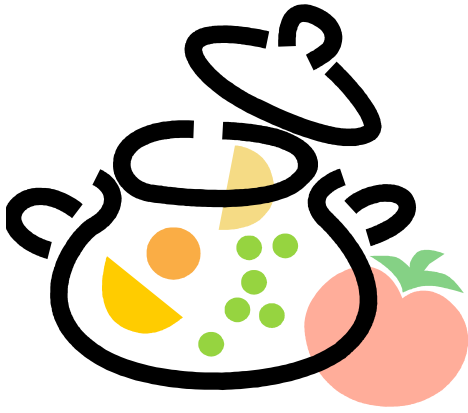
Saturday, January 26

Community United Methodist Church

20 N. Center Street

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass.



SOUP, SOCIABILITY AND SELLING THE IRAQ WAR

Tuesday, February 19
6:30 p.m.

Spend a cozy, not-too-late evening with fellow League members, bring a friend if you'd like, and enjoy a supper of homemade soup while we watch the documentary "Buying the War," a segment of Bill Moyers' Journal, broadcast on April 25, 2007, on PBS. (87 minutes running time) The film raises the issue of "the role of journalists in helping the public sort out fact from propaganda," a timely topic in many contexts.

Home of Bonnie and Dave Olson
7 S 279 Green Acres Drive
Naperville, IL 60540

Please RSVP to 630 820-0255 so we know how much soup to make!
Last minute decisions are also okay.

Great Decisions: Discussion Groups Forming Now

WHAT: Join members of the American Association of University Women and others interested in getting reliable information and discussing the important decisions being made on the national and world policy stage. Come to all or come to the ones that interest you most.

Using the materials from the Foreign Policy Association, groups meet weekly to take up the following 2008 topics

- Iraq: Endgame
- The European Union at 50
- Talking to Our Enemies
- Russia
- U.S. Defense and Security Policy
- Latin America: Shift to the Left?
- U.S.-China Trade Policy
- Private Philanthropy

WHEN: Thursdays from January 24 to March 20, 7:15 p.m.

WHERE: Naper Boulevard Library

HOW: To read each week's material ahead of time, you can order a book at the first meeting (\$18) or contact Jane Barnes (630 820-0255) for copy. A Tuesday morning group is also meeting. Call Jane for details.

From Our President

Dear Friends –

In our most recent voter registration drive the weekend of Jan. 4-6 those of us who worked at the three Naperville libraries noticed the excitement that seems to be growing about the upcoming Presidential election. We were heartened to see the number of college-age students or seniors in high school who were registering for the first time, that age group that traditionally has been underrepresented in elections. Thanks to everyone who helped out registering voters and especially to Annette Smith, who organized the library events. The people who registered on that Friday and Sunday will be able to vote in the primary on super-duper Tuesday, Feb. 5. We'll be registering voters again in the fall before the election. Annette Smith, Jane Barnes, Rita Ibrahim, Karin Snodgrass and I took turns at the Nichols, Naper Blvd., and 95th St. branches. The new state law that allows registrars from any Illinois county to register voters from any other Illinois county has gone into effect and has simplified the process somewhat: at least we are no longer hampered by needing registrars from both counties in all locations. If you are a voter registrar and have not informed Annette, please let her know so she can add you to the list of potential registrars for fall events.

Annette and Jane Barnes have also been working hard to organize two candidate forums that will be held this month at City Council Chambers, 400 S. Eagle. The State Representative Republican Primary forum (five candidates, combining Districts 48 and 96) is Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m., and will last an hour and a half. The DuPage County Board Republican Primary forum (three candidates) will be on Thursday, January 17 at 7 p.m. and is scheduled for one hour. Annette has secured an experienced League moderator and created the debate formats; both will be televised live by the City and then re-broadcast on NCTV. We need volunteers, so please call Annette if you can help out. Please spread the word! These are important to the LWV as we resume our role as providers of political forums in Naperville: although the Homeowners Confederation has provided forums for City Council and Park District candidates for the past several years, Will and DuPage County Board and State Representative races have a different focus and candidates and voters will be happy that the LWV is stepping in to provide this valuable service to the public. Annette Smith also worked on a District 204 School Board forum last year in partnership with the Indian Prairie Parents Council. We hope to provide forums in the early fall also when the primaries have winnowed down the candidates in preparation for the consolidated election. Of course January also means it's time for our Planning Meeting, which Jane Barnes has arranged for Jan. 26. Please check the article in the newsletter for details.

Karin Snodgrass has posted information about the Rosemary Martin award on our website and in this *Voter*. We need nominations! Candidates who were nominated in previous years but did not win are also eligible for nomination.

Mary Wright, a long-time League member who is on the Park District Board, wrote to me after the last newsletter to correct some of the information I had written about the Martin-Mitchell property in my Letter from the President. She notes that it was the City, not the Park District, which identified the stakeholders. The city asked the Park District to respond to questions about uses of the Martin-Mitchell property. In addition, School District 203 hired the consultants who devised various plans, although the consultant cost was shared equally by the City, Park District, and School District. Thanks, Mary, for clarifying that somewhat confusing chronology and the roles of the various entities.

Put March 5 on your calendars: it's the State of the Community Dinner, which will continue the environmental theme begun last year: information appears in this newsletter with details.

We hope to see you at the forums and Planning Meeting!
Judith Brodhead, President

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members:

Robert and Mary Ellen Fieseler
527 Delkir Ct.
Naperville, 60565
Fieseler1@hotmail.com

Voter Service Report

Almost 100 citizens will be eligible to vote in the upcoming election thanks to the efforts of our League's voter registrars. We participated in two voter registration events this election season and registered 97 people. We registered 77 voters at the Naperville Library's three branches, and we registered 20 voters at a statewide LWVIL-sponsored event with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. At the Naperville libraries more than half of those registering were 18-year olds or new citizens welcomed to the US from all over the world. Their excitement and enthusiasm for voting is contagious. And the appreciation expressed by all the registrants of our volunteer efforts makes registering voters and being a League member truly rewarding.

Do you have a couple of hours to give to your community? Do you want to make a difference? Volunteering to register voters or helping with a candidates' forum does make a difference. Just ask the 97 citizens who will vote this year. Just ask the candidates who participate in our forums, because they can trust us to be fair and impartial. And most importantly, ask the many voters who depend on the League for nonpartisan voter information. Voter service activities take only an occasional 2-3 hours. If you are interested in becoming a voter registrar, the training takes only about 30 minutes, but you must go to Wheaton to the Board of Elections for the training. If you want to help with a candidate forum, there are many ways to help. Just before the forums we need help with contacting the candidates, developing the format, and researching and writing the questions. During the forums we need people to hand out and collect cards for audience questions, people to screen the questions for duplicates, to time the candidate responses, and many other small tasks that keep the forums running smoothly. If you are interested in helping, please contact Annette Smith at prspt@aol.com or call (630) 420-2764.

Early Voting for the February 5 Primary Election

Naperville City Hall, 400 S. Eagle Street, Naperville, Meeting Room A
Will County Clerk's Office, 302 N. Chicago Street, Joliet. January 24 – 31, **Mon - Fri:** 8:30AM until 4:30 PM;
Sat: 9AM until noon. **A valid government photo id is required.**

Undecided?

Check out candidate responses in the LWVUS Presidential Primary Voters Guide at <http://www.lwvil.org/PresVoterGuide.pdf>

State of the Community Dinner: March 5, 2008

"Building Green: The Future is Now"

Make plans now to attend our annual State of the Community Dinner. This year, a panel discusses the green revolution in architectural visions and techniques and how cities and individuals are making it happen.

Our panelists will be

Michael Bevis, City of Naperville
Daniel Bulley, LEED AP
Michelle Hickey-Fouts, Seven Generations Ahead



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NAPERVILLE

Celebrating over 50 years in Naperville The Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award

Purpose of the Award

Democracy has flourished in the United States in great part because of the commitment of citizens at the grassroots level. Now more than ever, Americans are aware of the value we place on this system that pairs freedom with responsibility.

The League of Women Voters was formed out of the struggle to extend the rights of democracy and the full stature and power of citizenship. Knowing that rights must be exercised to reach their full value, the League continues to encourage citizens to take an active role in their government at all levels. Therefore, since 2006, the League of Women Voters annually has honored a Naperville area resident, group, organization, or governing body for carrying out an initiative or program that furthers the effective participation of citizens in government.

The award itself honors the memory of Rosemary Martin, a lifelong resident who through sustained personal commitment made a difference in our community. As a long-time leader in the League of Women Voters, Rosemary demonstrated her belief in the principle that people can and should make their voices heard in the public decision-making process, and she set an example with her positive outlook, unquestioned integrity, creativity, intelligence, and sound judgment. The League is happy to recognize her legacy by honoring those who make democracy strong right here in our community.

Eligibility

Individuals or groups nominated for the Democracy in Action Award will have been instrumental in an activity such as one of the following:

- Creating a forum for information -gathering on a public issue of significance to the Naperville area community
- Facilitating and encouraging civic participation through voter registration or some other initiative
- Providing balanced education opportunities to further informed decision-making
- Instituting processes that welcome citizens' involvement and input
- Creating an inclusive climate that encourages civil discourse on public matters

Selection Process

The League solicits nominations from residents in the Naperville area. A review committee composed of League members, and others from time to time, will evaluate the nominations and select the recipient. The award will be announced at the League's annual State of the Community Dinner.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: FEBRUARY 8, 2008

To make a nomination for the Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award, fill out the form attached and return it to:

League of Women Voters
29W300 Iroquois Court
Warrenville, IL 60555

Questions? Call 630-393-0067.

Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominated Individual(s) _____

or Group _____

Address of nominee(s) _____

Or contact name _____

for group

Phone number (day) _____ (evening) _____

Nominator(s) Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number (day) _____ (evening) _____

e-mail _____

Preferred form of contact: Daytime Phone Evening Phone e-mail

Why are you nominating this person or group? (Use another sheet of paper if necessary.)

Please describe the action that fits the eligibility requirements of the Award.

Thank you for your participation in the Democracy in Action Award. A member of the review committee may be contacting you for further information. You may contact us at (630)393-0067. Deadline for submissions: February 8, 2008. Mail to:

LWV
29W300 Iroquois Court
Warrenville, IL 60555

MEMBER SURVEY FOR LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU SEE AS IMPORTANT TO THE NAPERVILLE LEAGUE IN THE UPCOMING YEAR? Please circle the description that best reflects your evaluation.

1. essential 3. good idea 3. not currently important 4. don't know

1 2 3 4 Providing Voter registration events

1 2 3 4 Facilitating Candidates' forums

For what offices? Please rank these, #1 most important

- City Council
- Park District
- School District 203
- School District 204
- College of DuPage Board
- DuPage County Board
- DuPage County Forest Preserve
- State Legislative districts
- State Senate
- Other _____

1 2 3 4 Presenting the Rosemary Martin Democracy in Action Award

1 2 3 4 State of the Community Dinner

1 2 3 4 Advocating/Lobbying for local positions

Which positions? Please rank, #1 most important

- Diversity
- Gifted Education
- Class Size
- Environment (Sportsman's Park)
- Land Use Master Plan
- Transportation Master Plan
- Recycling

1 2 3 4 Advocating/Lobbying for State and National positions

Which positions? Please rank, #1 most important

- Immigration
- Openness in Government
- Global Warming
- Other? _____

1 2 3 4 Adopting a new local study

What topic? _____

1 2 3 4 Providing public/voter education opportunities

Which of these topics would be of interest?

- How local government works
- Electoral process

Running for office
Bill of Rights/Civil liberties issues
Issues in education: special needs, government funding _____
Environmental concerns _____
Other _____

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Could you provide help in any of the following areas in the next few months?

- Voter newsletter mailing
- Publicity
- Program suggestions indicated above
- State of the Community Dinner (March 5)
- Voter registration
- Candidates' information and/or forums
- Outreach to schools for civic education
- Membership outreach
- Rosemary Martin Award
- Program development

Yes no Are you receiving your National Voter?
Yes no Do you know how to access information on the national League website?
Yes no Are you interested in daytime meetings on a regular basis?

Yes no Would you prefer a **regular** meeting schedule on issues of interest?

Thanks for your input! **Please send this information by January 20, if possible, to**
Jane Barnes
1520 Aberdeen Court
Naperville 60564

Or bring it to the Program Planning meeting!

Your name:
Your telephone and email contact: