



League of Women Voters LaGrange Area

October 2009

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
THURSDAY Oct 8 th 7 PM	LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEET WITH LEGISLATORS	PARK PLACE 6240 Joliet Rd. Countryside
SATURDAY Oct 17 th 11AM – 3PM	HOW COOL IS YOUR HOME? Environmental Fair	LTHS South Campus <i>Volunteers Needed</i> <i>See Inside for more info</i>
TUESDAY Oct 27 th 7:15 PM	LWV LaGrange Area Board Meeting	Linda Christianson's House 131 S. Edgewood LaGrange
TUESDAY NOV 10 th 11:30AM – 1 PM	LWVCC LUNCH & LEARN COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR JAMES HOULIHAN Demystifying the Property Assessment Process	DePaul Club DePaul University Center 1 E. Jackson, 11 th Floor Chicago
TUESDAY Nov 17 th 7pm-9pm	Illinois Government Issues And What I Can Do About It? or who's going to get us out of this mess!!!!	Western Springs Library 800 Chestnut St. Western Springs

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Charlyn Mawhinney and Mary Joan Coultre of La Grange; Carlene Lutz of Indian Head Park, and Judy McAtee of Westchester. We're delighted to have you with us!

Last summer at New York's Metropolitan Museum I saw a poster that read,

As a child, learn good manners.

As a young person, control your passions.

As an adult, work for justice.

As a senior, share your wisdom.

Die without regret.

Work for justice. Isn't that what our League is all about?

Linda Christianson
President

The LWVLA gratefully acknowledges the law firm of Golan & Christie, LLP and member Barb Yong for their services.

Newsletter Editor: Jean Klotter.....708/846-3912
LWV LaGrange Area website..... <http://lagrangearealwv.org/>

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE “HOW COOL IS YOUR HOME?” ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

We are hosting an environmental fair this October 17 from 11:00 – 3:00 pm. at Lyons Township High School South Campus. The focus of the event is to connect residents with products, services and organizations that are eco-friendly. We have over 30 exhibitors and many donors. We will have door prizes and giveaways. We have a vendor who will be selling food and we plan to have live music. Additionally, one of the exhibitors will be accepting electronics for recycling. Take a look at our website for more details. www.lagrangearealwv.org. We will be publicizing in The Doings, Suburban Life, The Landmark and Mindful Metropolis, on village and library websites, with the schools and the parent-teacher organizations, and posters will be distributed on the storefronts in the surrounding communities. We are expecting a great turn out.

However, we need your help to ensure the success of this event. We need volunteers to 1) Help us out the day of the event and 2) Help us distribute the posters for hanging on the storefront windows. If you have time and are able to help, we would be most appreciative. Please call Pat Rocco at (708)354-8861 or email her at patrocco29@comcast.net.

The Cool Cities Committee

P.S. If you know of a student who would be interested in showcasing his/her musical talent, please refer him/her to Pat Rocco. We would love to have him/her perform in the foyer area where food will be offered for sale.

COOL HOME KIDS ACTIVITIES SUPPLIES NEEDED

I am organizing the kids' activities for the environmental fair and need the following items:

- Empty paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls (for a craft)**
- Paper that has been used on one side but is blank on the other side (for coloring)**
- Decorative paper scraps (for a craft)**

The items should be things you have at home, as I am trying to be green and salvage materials. I am not looking for new materials. If you have these items, please let me know and I will pick them up from your house next Wednesday or Thursday.

Thanks, Rose Naseef
rosemony@sbcglobal.net

THE LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

The Lyons Township Mental Health Commission will host a panel discussion with our legislators concerning the service cuts for persons with mental illness and developmental disabilities. The panel will take place on Thursday, October 8 at 7 p.m. at Park Place, 6240 Joliet Road, Countryside.

The League is not sponsoring this event but does have a position on mental health, which can be read at www.lwvill.org. We encourage our League members to take every opportunity to meet with our legislators.

Be an Election Judge!

From the League of Women Voters of Cook County...

As a result of the Poll Reporting Project held during the last election, the League of Women Voters of Cook County has identified that one of the biggest impediments to having a smooth voting experience is the lack of election judges.

Help make our democracy thrive. Become an election judge in Suburban Cook County for the February 2, 2010 Primary Election. You can sign up by contacting the township committee person of the political party of your choice, or go to www.voterinfo.net to sign up through the Cook County Clerk's office, which is in charge of elections in suburban Cook County. By law, the political parties initially select people to be election judges, and then the Cook County Clerk fills in the remaining vacancies. Chicago residents who want to serve as judges should contact their ward committee person or the Chicago Board of Elections at www.chicagoelections.com. If you know high school juniors or seniors, please let them know there is a special program where they can become election judges, even though they aren't old enough to vote, if they have a 3.0 out of 4.0 GPA. Again go to www.voterinfo.net to find out more information.

You'll be paid \$170 for attending a training class and serving as a judge. There is additional pay if you are a "supply judge" or "equipment manager." You'll probably be asked to help set up the polling place the evening before. On election day, you'll work from 5 am through the close of the polls at 7 pm and then until the results are tabulated and all the equipment is stored securely (usually another 1 to 2 hours). It is a long day, but what a sense of satisfaction you'll get by being part of the process! Training will likely begin in November, so sign up now!

NEWS UPDATE FROM LWVUS

League Urges Copycat Group "League of American Voters" to End Misleading Ads

"Make no mistake: The League of Women Voters believes quality, affordable health care should be available to all Americans." In a hand-delivered letter dated September 3, 2009, the League of Women Voters called on the "League of American Voters" (LAV) to "cease and desist" from using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League's in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform. An entity whose source of funding is unknown, but has enough money to afford network television ads, sprang up overnight and gave itself an intentionally misleading name in order to create a false impression of legitimacy. LWVUS President Mary Wilson asked the anti-reform group to start telling the truth about itself - and health care reform. After commercials bashing healthcare reform, sponsored by the LAV began to show up on TV this summer, the LWVUS complained that the new group was "using a name clearly designed to be confused" with the name-brand group that's been around since 1920.

"The League of American Voters health care ad makes misleading statements in an inflammatory way," President Mary G. Wilson stated in her letter to LAV Executive Director Bob Adams. "Not only does your ad distort the facts on health care reform, it does so using a name that is deceptively similar to the League of Women Voters," Wilson said.

"The League of Women Voters of the United States has more than 150,000 members and supporters nationwide, and we are one of the most trusted non-partisan organizations in the U.S. Our members and the public rely on us to share information responsibly and accurately, because that is what we have done for almost 90 years." She concluded the letter with "The League of American Voters would best serve Americans by telling the truth in their ads. Our democracy depends on honest and open debate among real people, not misinformation from mysterious, inaccessible organizations that get money from unknown sources to create national TV spots in order to block needed health care reform,"

Victory for Voters: Indiana Voter ID Law in Violation of State Constitution

The Indiana Court of Appeals voted unanimously in favor of League of Women Voters of Indiana this week to overturn a state law requiring voters to show government-issued photo identification, citing violation of the state Constitution, and agreeing with the League of Women Voters, plaintiffs in the case. "[We] conclude that the Voter I.D. law violates Indiana Constitution Article 1, Section 23, and must be declared void because it regulates voters in a manner that is not uniform and impartial."

League Urges Senators to Oppose Murkowski Amendment to Interior Bill

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senators on September 24, 2009, urging them to oppose a revised amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill that would delay America's progress towards a clean energy economy. The amendment to the bill would not only block the EPA from curbing carbon dioxide pollution but also block the EPA from implementing the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, a landmark decision (2007) that declared carbon dioxide a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. The ruling, however, has not yet prompted the E.P.A. to act to regulate it.

League Speaks Out on *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission*

The League of Women Voters of the United States and the Constitutional Accountability Center submitted a "friend of the court" brief in this case to help put the case in historical context and to call attention to the pernicious and corrupting effects on American democracy if the Court were to overturn existing federal and state limits on corporate expenditures in candidate elections. "The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* has the potential to be more important than *Bush v. Gore* to American democracy," according to League President Mary G. Wilson. "This case will decide whether corporate wealth will be allowed to dominate our elections in years to come," she said.

For additional information on these and the many other issues our National League is addressing, please visit www.lwv.org.

Time for Action - Campaign Finance

We Want Real Reform Legislation Passed in the October Veto Session

From: Nancy Marcus, President, president@lwvil.org, Kim Reed, Issues Vice President, issues@lwvil.org
Paula Lawson, Campaign Finance Reform Issue Specialist

Contact your State Senator and State Representative today! Tell them it is time for real Campaign Finance Reform legislation to be passed. Ask your legislators to call their legislative leader and insist that good Campaign Finance Reform legislation be available for a vote in the October Veto Session.

A good campaign contributions limits law should include:

- Reasonable limits applied to all individual and PAC contributions to candidates and parties;
- Limits on fund transfers among political committees, as well as coordinated expenditures on behalf of a candidate;
- Limits on contributions to candidates applied by each election cycle, not each calendar year;
- More complete and frequent disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; and
- A strengthened oversight agency with sufficient authority and resources to enforce the law, conduct random audits, and investigate and impose penalties for violations.

Governor Quinn vetoed HB7 at a press conference on August 27th attended by legislative leaders and members of good government groups. The Governor and legislative leaders committed to working together to come up with a stronger bill in the October veto session. The process of negotiations is ongoing but our legislators and their leaders still need pressure from us to get the job done. **The LWVIL has been working on Campaign Finance issues in Illinois since 1995. This is our best chance in over a decade to get meaningful Campaign Finance Reform legislation with contribution limits through the Illinois General Assembly.**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS TODAY!

(Contact information can be found at www.ilga.gov)



HOW COOL IS YOUR HOME?

Environmental Fair

Saturday October 17th

11 am to 3 pm

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

SOUTH CAMPUS

4900 S. Willow Springs Rd., Western Springs

League of Women Voters
of the LaGrange Area
215 S. Brainard Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

