

SPOTLIGHT on LEAGUE ACHIEVEMENT, 2009

recognized June 12th at convention

Category: Community Collaboration/Outreach

LWV Arlington Heights-Mount Prospect-Buffalo Grove Area, Cathy Douba, V.P. & Program Chair.
Tribute to Rep. Carolyn Krause for 35+ years of public service, March 17, 2009, co-sponsored by the Village of Mount Prospect

***LWV Cook County**, Cynthia Schilsky, President.

Performed a two-year intense analysis of the budget and human resource practices of Cook County government and produced a 156-page publication explicating the allocation of employees and expenditures. This product was shared with the elected officials, the public and the local Leagues in an effort to alert the public and improve government in this county.

***LWV Jackson County**, Gayle Klam, Treasurer & Project Coordinator.

Hosted a Global Warming Forum in 2008 after applying for and receiving a grant from LWVUS Global Warming Awareness Project. Over a two-year period built a community coalition around the topic by inviting the Sierra Club, the UN Society and the SIU Student Environmental Council to participate. Prior to the three-hour conference held on the SIU Campus, they publicized the event by holding a series of films on global warming in local coffee shops and other locations. More than 200 people attended the conference, signed up to work with other organizations in the future, registered voters and, hopefully, inspired continued involvement in this important issue.

LWV LaGrange Area, Krista Grimm, President.

Held a "Cool Villages Day" to educate local village officials and residents about the amount of carbon emissions produced, their impact and ways to reduce the level of emissions. The event included a breakfast for elected officials, a Resource Fair and a Symposium with speakers. Follow-up meetings with participating groups have continued the work started.

Category: Advocacy

LWV LaGrange Area, Krista Grimm, President.

The LaGrange Con Con Committee campaigned actively for a NO vote on the calling of a Constitutional Convention in the November 2008 election. They wrote letters to the editor, put a link on their website, printed and distributed over 104 yard signs, printed and distributed 2000 bookmarks, and distributed fact sheets to libraries, churches, businesses. They also spoke to numerous organizations and distributed flyers to commuters at the local train stations. Lyons Township (where LaGrange is located) had the highest percentage of NO votes in all of Cook County.

Category: Voter Service

LWV Cook County, Cynthia Schilsky, President.

Sponsored Poll Reporting Projects for the 2008 primary (319 polling places surveyed) and general election (407 polling places surveyed) that involved 13 local leagues each time. Results were compiled, reported to the Clerk of Cook County and to all local Cook County leagues. The process involved many

members (benefit to the League) and the County Clerk has identified action that his office has taken as a result of the project (benefit to the community and the election process).

LWV Evanston, Judy Hoffman, Chair, Voter Service.

The Evanston League partnered with EVMark, which manages downtown Evanston, to stage VoterPalooza, a voter registration “festival” on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Registration took place at eleven non-traditional settings that included a fitness center, bank, barbershop, retail stores and fast food restaurants. Co-sponsors: Evanston NAACP and YWCA.

***LWV Geneva-St. Charles and LWV Batavia**, Janet Safanda, Chair, Voter Service.

Mega Candidates’ Forum for the 14th Congressional District held 1/8/2008. When Congressman Dennis Hastert resigned early our Leagues decided to tap into the high interest of an open seat. We located a larger, impressive forum venue. Our stretch goal: 150. Astonishingly, the overflow crowd was close to 600. And our event kept on giving through public access TV and over-the-top publicity.

LWV Geneva- St. Charles and LWV Batavia, Mary Ann Naas, Vice-president membership.

Working in partnership with AAUW and the Kane County Clerk’s Office provided electronic (e-slate) voter education for senior citizens in the community. The volunteers brought the new equipment to senior centers and living complexes to familiarize the seniors with it and to encourage the seniors to vote early. Voter registration was also provided at each site; more than 300 seniors were served.

LWV Highland Park, Lila Trotsky, Co-president.

Educated and informed the community prior to the 2009 consolidated election by mailing Voter’s Guides to each household in Highland Park and Highwood. Each candidate submitted answers to three questions which were included in the Guide. Two candidate forums were also sponsored in this effort to educate and stimulate informed voting in this election.

LWV McLean County, Laurie Bergner, V. P. Program.

Developed and implemented a Voter Guide for Judicial Elections for the 2008 election. Six judges were running for election or retention. The Guide provided biographical information, responses to essay questions and results of surveys sent to more than 55 attorneys in the district. Guide was well publicized, distributed in the region and placed on the League web site.

Category: Website/Communication

LWV Cook County, Krista Grimm, V.P.

Observer Reports have been moved to a blog (www.cookcountyobserver.blogspot.com) The nature of reports, periodic, timely news stories, are very well suited to this 21st century means of communication. Efficiency is also gained, as observer volunteers are able to post their reports directly, allowing for much more timely availability of reports.

LWV Elmhurst, Jeanne Davik, Webmaster.

Prior to the 4/7/09 election, the LWV Elmhurst website (www.lwvelmhurst.org) featured both an embedded video of our four-hour Candidate Forum and a comprehensive Voters’ Guide. The Guide included answers to League-formulated questions from 42 candidates in 14 races. This resource brought a spike in website hits and positive feedback for the League.