



League of Women Voters of Illinois

ENews: January 2012

Website: www.lwvil.org

Meet LWVIL Board Member



Paula Ekstrom
LWV McHenry County

A League member since the early '90's, Paula has been Secretary and President of the McHenry County League. With her local league she worked on Illinois Student Vote and is the data base manager for that project. She has served on the McHenry Elementary School Board and the City of McHenry Planning and Zoning Committee. After graduating from the University of Illinois she lived in Utah for 6 years. Her employment history includes retail, substitute teaching, homebound tutor, bank teller and assistant branch manager. She and husband Lee enjoy time with their children and grandchildren and singing in the church choir.

You will be introduced to all of the 2011-13 LWVIL Board Members in the next year.

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LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING

The deadline for registration is Monday, January 16 for the Annual Issues Briefing and Workshops that will take place on Saturday, January 28th at the University Center, 525 South State Street in Chicago. This year's program will focus on election year issues as well as our studies and Issues Foci. [Here](#) is the full agenda and online registration.

Legislative Interviews

January - March

Early each year, local Leagues are encouraged to meet with their state representatives at their home offices to discuss items of mutual interest. Questions are provided by the LWVIL Issues Specialists to help guide the conversation. We will send out the questions in the State Board Report next week. This is a great opportunity for members - both new and experienced - to get to know the people who represent you in Springfield. To participate, contact your League president.

Sustainable Food & Water study:

If 'you are what you eat,' don't you wonder what goes into your food and water? Be part of the grassroots effort to define /study the food and water issues that impact our daily lives. To find out more, click to contact [Sheri Latash](#), Issues Specialists.

LWVUS Privatization Study

January - April

Local Leagues are encouraged to participate in the LWVUS Privatization Study. Case study papers have been posted on the LWVUS website with additional material to come. Leagues conduct Privatization Study meetings in January through April 2012. The deadline for consensus forms is May 1, 2012.

LWVUS Program Planning

Due March 1, 2012

Leagues are asked to participate in LWVUS Program Planning during January and February. This is your chance to voice your thoughts regarding our positions on the issues. Are there

WEBINARS for

Leaders

Did you know that LWV has a webinar library available to all Leaguers? There are many topics that will be helpful to you whether you are a new leader or an experienced one. Visit the Webinar Library [HERE](#).

issues you think the LWVUS needs to study, review or update? Material was sent to your League president in the 12/15 Leaders' Update and may be found on the LWVUS website.

Membership

Interested in helping LWVIL and its Leagues grow their membership? Want others to know what League is and does? Then the LWVUS' Membership/Leadership Development team can use you. Become a state coach! Training for this important program will be April 13th through 15th, 2012. So mark your calendars and email [Joni Painter](mailto:Joni.Painter@lwv.org) to sign up for this amazing opportunity

Communications

LWVIL Tech Squad:

LWVIL Communications committee is looking for League members willing to serve as mentors/resources for those less knowledgeable in the electronic media. If you have the ability and are willing to be available, please email [Hollis Burgess](mailto:Hollis.Burgess@lwv.org) with the email address and telephone number where Leaguers can contact you. Thanks.

How Many Voters did you register this year?

This year it would be great if leagues would track the number of voters registered. It's easy. Just count your registration forms before you send them to the local election authority, and then report that number on the web site at http://www.lwvil.org/resources_VoterRegReport.asp!

Local League Happenings

Sample of events ... others on [LWVIL](#).

Thursday, January 19. 7-9 p.m., **Gerrymandering: What Happened to Our Election Districts?** Speaker: Jan Dorner, LWVIL President, Elmhurst Public Library, 125 South Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL - sponsored by LWV Elmhurst.

Thursday, January 26. 7-9 p.m., **Priceless** - A screening of the film by Steve Cowan, Discussion will follow documentary on influence of money in government, Palatine Village Hall, 200 E. Wood St., Palatine, IL - sponsored by LWV of Palatine Area.

Wednesday, February 22. 7 p.m. **Fair Housing**, Speaker: John Petruszak, Executive Director, South Suburban Fair Housing Center, will give an update on fair housing efforts in the south suburbs. Park Forest Public Library, 400 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest, IL - sponsored by LWV Park Forest Area.