



League of Women Voters
of Illinois

July 2014 State Board Report – Membership

LWVIL's July 2014 E-News featured an article about our MLD Program training on July 11 in Aurora. Participants included members of 12 MLD Leagues throughout the state -- plus 5 additional local Leagues represented by eight LWVIL Board members who attended. Facilitated by LWVUS Membership Director of Field Support, Kelly McFarland Stratman, and Shur Fellow/National Coach Linda Mahan from Colorado, the day was structured to train seven new coaches and members from six new MLD Leagues in the best practices of the Membership & Leadership Development program.

As explained in the July E-News, "MLD is a capacity-building program whose purpose is to help local Leagues recruit more members and at the same time strengthen their cadre of leaders through in-person training sessions and ongoing coaching and advisory support. Its goal is to strengthen local Leagues so that they can have a stronger impact and further democracy in their communities."

Members from continuing MLD Leagues, LWVIL Executive Director Mary Schaafsma, LWV Michigan board member Christina Schlitt, and LWVUS intern Kelsey Greenagel (from Wheaton) also participated in this training which included techniques for growing the skills of emerging community leaders, increasing visibility of the League, growing membership and developing leaders within Leagues.

Responses from the training's on-line evaluations indicate that participants were pleased with their experience. When asked to state what they liked best about the training, attendees reported:

- "Excellent trainers; good discussions"
- "Opportunity to network with new people from other parts of the state"
- "Usable suggestions"
- "This program had depth but did not send me into data overload. I especially liked the focus on taking away a concrete action plan."
- "Hearing about successes other Leagues are having."
- "A regained motivation to grow our League."

If there is sufficient interest from other local Leagues interested in joining MLD, additional training will be offered during the 2015 LWVIL Convention next June. **For more information, contact Erin Roeper, Membership Chair/MLD Coordinator – eroeper@lwwil.org**

The current Cluster System is being "tweaked." Look for more information about that in the fall.