LWVIL PRESENTS ITS FIRST
“Flora”
(FLORA S. CHENEY AWARD)
TO
EILEEN SUBAK

We are very pleased to announce long-time League member Eileen Subak as our first Flora Sylvester Cheney Award recipient!

Eileen is an Issues Committee Specialist covering Children's Services and Criminal Justice for the LWVIL. The state board unanimously voted to honor Eileen with this award at the State of the State based on a long list of criteria, including:

- Selfless participation beyond the expected role of an officer or volunteer
- Encouraging and challenging League to move forward
- Actively shares responsibility, authority, enthusiasm, information, vision, and credit
- Honesty - Maintains a fair, straightforward, honorable and open environment
- Integrity - always deals ethically

Eileen truly sees her League work as her vocation and seldom seeks out recognition for what she does. She goes along, wearing her sensible shoes and doing her work, daily and quietly. Eileen is most deserving of this award.

Mapping the Future
Join us! Help us! Have fun...
At LWVIL convention
June 10-12 in Skokie

Convention is a time to network with members from across the state and decide the 2011-2013 LWVIL program. It is your opportunity to meet with the current and incoming State Board members, as well as have an impact on LWVIL’s program, budget and bylaws.

Our special guest is the president of the LWVUS, Elisabeth McNamara. She will speak on Saturday morning and may present one of the workshops.

Friday dinner will feature Mary Ann Ahern, political reporter for NBC5 News as guest speaker. Saturday’s dinner entertainment will be political comedy by the Chicago Bar Association. There will be award presentations at dinner on Friday and Saturday, as well as opportunities to bid on an incredible array of goods and services at our silent auction. Throughout the weekend there are caucuses on issues, workshops, and opportunities to learn about other local League activities. Pubs & Wares feature LWV materials and gifts items, and there is an incredible silent auction of goods and services.

Delegates examine, discuss and vote on current and upcoming LWVIL issues. Local Leagues are allowed one voting delegate for your President plus one for every twenty-five members. Alternates and Members-at-Large are also welcome as non-voting delegates. We encourage members and their guests to buy tickets for either or both dinners and the Friday workshops. Contact your League President about attending the convention to learn more about League and have a good time too. Hope to see you there!

2011 LWVIL FIRST ONLINE AUCTION!

Romantic Dinners...
Wine tastings... Gift certificates...

These are just a few of the items to be found at the LWVIL 2011 Convention auction on the League website. The auction site will be available sometime mid-May so you will be able to view and bid on any of the many wonderful items LWVIL has available. Watch for LWVIL’s special ENewsletter in May announcing the opening of bidding.

Questions? Contact: info@lwvil.org
League members should be very proud of all that we have accomplished over the past few months. On March 9, 2011, Governor Quinn signed Senate Bill 3539 which abolishes the death penalty in Illinois. If you think that you did not make a difference in this, you are wrong. YOU made it possible to accomplish this campaign! First proposed as an LWVIL position and guided by Janet Kittlaus, Cheryl Wollin and the Evanston League, in concert with the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (ICADP), it was your response to our Time For Actions (TFAs) and your phone calls that made the difference. ICADP will be honored at our State of the State Luncheon on April 29, 2011.

Also, thank you for contacting your legislators to ask them to vote for the tax (revenue) increase. Once again, because of your efforts, League was instrumental! While not one of us enjoys paying more in taxes, we know how important it is to pay for the services we receive. Illinois would remain in very dire straits, in danger of slipping into a practically irrecoverable bankruptcy, if the General Assembly had avoided this difficult vote. Illinois is not out of the dark yet, and our work in this area is still ongoing. League continues to ask for responsible means to fund our schools and services critical to the well-being of all Illinois residents.

As you know, League work is never ending. There is still much more to do, especially in the area of campaign finance reform, limiting campaign contributions in the general election by legislative leaders and parties. Our members need to contact their legislators and ask them to oppose concealed carrying of weapons (HB 148 and SB 82). It is good for all of us to remember that although League is a non-partisan organization (meaning we do not support or oppose candidates or political parties), we are a political organization that works to influence public policy. We take positions and act on them.

Additionally, this letter is a reminder that our Phonathon fundraising campaign for LWVIL and LWVILEF is currently being conducted. Participating Leagues receive a portion of those donations and are an essential part in making this campaign a success. In the beginning of May, letters will be sent to all members who have not made a contribution this fiscal year. If every member made a gift, even a small one, we would raise an amount that would go a very long way toward helping us to do the important work we do.

The LWVIL Convention, Mapping the Future, will be held in Skokie, Illinois, June 10-12, 2011. Your participation helps determine the issues LWVIL will address over the next two years as well as the budget to fund this work. It’s also a time to exchange ideas and opinions with other local league representatives and a great opportunity to network, learn, and celebrate our successes.

If you can’t attend the entire convention, consider participating in the workshops on Friday or Saturday afternoon. All have been designed to help League members maximize their talents and expand League opportunities. Can’t make the workshops and plenary sessions? Join us for the Friday and Saturday night dinners. There will be great speakers and entertainment, including an opportunity to meet Elisabeth MacNamara, President LWVUS. There is something for everyone at LWVIL Convention. Make sure you are a part of it.

Finally, my term as president of the LWVIL will end on Sunday, June 12. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President these past two years. You have welcomed me into your Leagues, and I appreciate the time I have spent with you. It has been an honor. As the new president takes office, I hope you will give her the support you have given me during this term. Hope to see you at Convention!

Join Us! Be a part of...

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Nancy

LWVIL needs donations for Convention’s Silent Auction. Please consider a donation by you (or your League as a group). Following are some suggestions:

- Goods, services or gift certificates representative of your community, possibly contributed by local merchants;
- a theme basket of goodies, e.g., wine and cheese
- a handmade or specialty item
- Artwork or crafts,
- a —night on the town, and/or
- weekend stays at hotels and resorts

If you have any questions, please contact Mo Ormiston at the LWVIL office.

Nominated Slate
LWVIL Board for 2011-2013

Officers
President Jan Dorner, Elmhurst
Vice President-Voter Service Missey Wilhelm, Wheaton
Vice President –Membership Joni Painter, Bloomington
Vice President– Issues Laura Kratz, Elmhurst
Vice President-Communications Hollis Burgess, Glencoe
Secretary Anne Logue, Chicago
Treasurer Nancy Clark, Oak Park

Board
Paula Ekstrom McHenry Co.
Mary Kubasak McDonough Co.
Gigi Moore Park Forest Area
Cate Whitcomb Evanston
Cheryl Wollin Evanston

Nominating Committee
Valerie Krejcie, Evanston
Kim Reed, Glen Ellyn
Erin Roeper, Homewood Flossmoor
SUCCESS AT LAST!

ILLINOIS ABOLISHES DEATH PENALTY

To take a life when a life has been lost is revenge, not justice. — Desmond Tutu

Thanks to your efforts— all your calls and emails to your state legislators and the governor - Illinois is now the 16th state without the death penalty. Illinois will no longer risk executing the innocent. Our tax dollars can finally go where they are truly needed, to law enforcement training and services for murder victims’ families. The sentences of those who were on death row have been commuted to life in prison.

The LWVIL adopted its position in support of abolition during its 2001 state convention. This position was arrived at by concurrence with the LWV of Evanston’s position to abolish the death penalty. Since that time, LWVIL has been active on many fronts trying to bring about the end of capital punishment, not only in Illinois but in every state, by supporting adoption of a national abolition policy. This attempt fell short at the 2004 LWVUS convention, but soon after, with a renewed focus on the 2006 convention, LWVIL led what became a multi-League effort. Finally, there was concurrence at the 2006 convention, resulting in the adoption of a LWVUS position to abolish the death penalty. Now, any state League can take action toward ending capital punishment.

Adoption at the LWVUS convention was an amazing example of League at work from the grassroots up, a success story for LWVIL and the Evanston League, especially Janet Kittlaus and Cheryl Wollin. All the hard work is further validated by the actual end of capital punishment in Illinois. We hope other states will see that grassroots efforts can meet with the same success.

As one whose husband and mother-in-law have both died the victims of murder assassination, I stand firmly and unequivocally opposed to the death penalty for those convicted of capital offenses. An evil deed is not redeemed by an evil deed of retaliation. Justice is never advanced in the taking of a human life. Morality is never upheld by legalized murder.

Coretta Scott King

REDISTRIBUTING IN ILLINOIS

This spring, LWVIL has been working, alone and with our coalitions, to present forums and workshops to educate the public on redistricting. As part of the Joyce Foundation grant efforts, we are providing each local League with a copy of a clip from Gerrymandering, the Movie to use for education programs. Additionally, we have been working on redistricting issues as part of a statewide coalition, the Illinois Campaign for Accountable Redistricting. Please check out the website: http://drawthelinemidwest.org/illinois/. We are keeping an eye on what is happening in Springfield!

The Illinois General Assembly is in the process of redrawing district lines for the state. This is an important process and one that merits public involvement. Both the Senate and the House have scheduled hearings throughout Illinois this spring. Many Leagues have been requested, some by their state legislators, to attend or have been offered opportunities to testify. The LWVIL sent information on these hearings to local leagues requesting that they consider at least attending a hearing in their area as an observer or, if interested in testifying, offering written testimony in order that LWVIL speaks with one voice. A template for testimony was made available for interested League members.

♦ The League of Women Voters of Illinois promotes a set of redistricting principles as well as a process that is timely and orderly and includes the following elements: (1) a formal, announced timetable; (2) the availability of information and related data to all who wish to participate in the process; (3) ample opportunities for expert testimony; (4) public reaction and input into the proposed maps; (5) compromise among partisan representatives; (6) avoids partisan stalemate; and (7) produces maps which offer voters a choice of candidates in elections.

♦ The public should be allowed to see and comment on any new maps that are drawn by the Illinois General Assembly at least two weeks before it is voted on by the Senate and House during this session of the General Assembly.

♦ A map is also important after elections. If a map is confusing and cuts up communities of interest, citizens do not know whom to approach with their problems or they may be marginalized by their elected officials. If a map is understandable and keeps communities together, then elected officials and their constituents can build productive, working relationships.

♦ The General Assembly should give as much rationale as possible when describing the decisions that resulted in the final districts drawn.

♦ The League of Women Voters believes that a fair and open redistricting process is one that ensures citizen participation and results in the best public policy for the residents of Illinois. Citizen participation is key to maintaining and strengthening democracy in our state.

Let LWVIL know if you would like to schedule a program on the topic of redistricting.
CONVENTION 2011 WEEKEND IN BRIEF
PLEASE NOTE: ALL VOTING WILL OCCUR ON SUNDAY

REGISTRATION
Friday, starting at Noon for the workshops and 4:00 for Convention
Saturday and Sunday, starting at 7:30 a.m.; closed during plenary sessions

WORKSHOPS
Friday: 1:00—2:30 p.m OR 2:45—4:15 p.m. (See registration form for exact times)
- Illinois Legislative Update
- Crisis Communications
- Web Design with League Easy Web
- Grass Roots Organizing
- How to Lobby
- Running an Effective Meeting
- Marketing Your League with Social Networking
- League Ground Rules
Saturday Lunch Workshops: 12:15—1:45 p.m.
- President’s Lunch: Being an Effective Local League President
- A 360° View for 365 Days
- Streamlining the League
- Roadmap for the Future of League

PLENARY SESSIONS
Saturday Morning
- Roll Call of Leagues
- Keynote: Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President
- Budget, PMP and Bylaws Motions
- Nominating Committee Report
- Discussion and debate begins
Saturday Afternoon
- Recommended program motions
- Introduction and consideration of non-recommended program items
- Introduction of Will of Convention motions
- Discussion and debate continues
Sunday Morning
- Discussion and Votes on all motions
- Election of the 2011-2013 Board
- Directions to the Board

THROUGHOUT THE PLENARY SESSIONS
- Executive Director’s Report, Member Services, Development, Communications, Voter Service and Issues Committee Reports
- President’s Report
- Q&A sessions on recommended and non-recommended items will be scheduled

FUN STUFF
FRIDAY EVENING
- Community Impact Award; Spotlight on League Achievement
- Speaker: Mary Ann Ahern, Political reporter for NBC Chicago

SATURDAY EVENING
- Entertainment: Chicago Bar Association Traveling Show (satirical/comedy)
- Carrie Chapman Catt Leadership Award

SILENT AUCTION
- FRIDAY—SATURDAY EVENING IN DINING ROOM

STATE BOARD HOSPITALITY SUITE NIGHTLY TILL 11:00 P.M.

AND MORE…
TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME DELEGATES
- Friday late afternoon and Saturday morning

MEET WITH OUR PARLIAMENTARIAN
- Friday, Saturday and Sunday

PUBS & WARES
- Daily
Please copy both sides of this form and complete a separate copy for each delegate, alternate and visitor. Return all forms with the appropriate fees for convention registration, meals, and workshops to the state League office by May 18, 2011 to LWVIL 332 S. Michigan, #1150, Chicago, IL 60604.

**Rooms must be booked by May 11, 2011.** Call the Skokie Holiday Inn at 1-866-750-3369 and ask for the block name ‘League of Women Voters LV4.’ The room rate is $95/night/room (single or double occupancy) plus tax. You are responsible for booking your own room.

Name (as you would like it to appear on your nametag):______________________________________________________

Day Phone:___________________________________ E-mail:______________________________________________

Local League:_________________________ Board position or function, if applicable: _____________________

REGISTRATION FEES (check one): Don’t Miss Out!! Convention Registration Deadline is May 18, 2011.

_____ Delegate* $125 (includes convention packet, Saturday workshop and voting credentials; does not include meals)

_____ Alternate* $125 (includes convention packet, Saturday workshop; alternate may sub for voting delegate; does not include meals)

Your League president must sign here if you are a delegate or alternate:___________________________________

_____ Friday Workshops $45 Choose two workshops. (Descriptions on reverse side of this form).

_____ Saturday Visitor $40 (includes convention floor pass, Saturday workshop and lunch).

_____ Sunday Visitor $15 (includes convention floor pass).

MEAL PACKAGES: Sorry, no meal package substitutions

_____ Full Meal Package $125 (Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast)

_____ Saturday/Sunday Package $105 (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner; Sunday breakfast)

_____ Friday Dinner only $ 40 (Mary Ann Ahern, political reporter, NBC Chicago; League Awards)

_____ Saturday Dinner only $ 50 (Chicago Bar Association Show; Carrie Chapman Catt Leadership Award; Silent Auction)

PLEASE DON’T FORGET to Complete Reverse Side of this Form to:

☑ Mark your two Friday workshop choices and add $45 to your total enclosed.

☑ Mark your Saturday workshop choice.

☑ Mark your meal preferences for Friday and Saturday dinners.

$__________ TOTAL ENCLOSED for registration, meals, and workshop fees

***Refunds/Late Charges:
A $25 late charge will be applied to all registrations postmarked after May 18, 2011. No registration changes will be accepted after June 1st.

A $25 processing charge will be deducted from any refund. Any charges incurred by LWVIL because the refund request was received after the hotel deadline cannot be refunded.
Convention 2011 Workshops & Meal Preferences

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS: FRIDAY, June 10 at 1:00—2:30 p.m. and 2:45—4:15 p.m.
(select one from each time period — $45 per person fee covers two (2) workshops)

1:00 p.m. Workshops

____ **Illinois Legislative Update:** Hear about big changes, if any, passed in the 97th General Assembly, as well as what happened on issues relevant to League positions.

____ **Crisis Communications:** Learn strategies from a professional communications consultant on how to respond in stressful situations ranging from losing control of a meeting to public criticism of your League.

____ **Web Design with League Easy Web:** Maximize the impact of your website through good design. Tailored for users of League Easy Web. (Registrants may submit specific questions by 5/27 to lwvilworkshops@gmail.com and presenter will seek answers from LEW administrators.)

____ **Grass Roots Organizing:** Find out about the successful drive to abolish the death penalty in Illinois and gain insights into how to better mobilize and impact issues in your community.

2:45 p.m. Workshops

____ **How to Lobby:** Increase action and member involvement by more actively lobbying your elected officials. Gain tips on how to prepare for a meeting, effectively communicate your message, and hold officials accountable.

____ **Running an Effective Meeting:** Learn how to prevent the glazed looks when you’re the one in charge. This session will cover setting agendas, allocating enough time for discussion, keeping everyone on track, ending on time, and making assignments for the work to be done before the next meeting.

____ **Marketing Your League with Social Networking:** Publicize your events and get your messages out beyond your membership with new communication tools like Facebook. Session will be geared toward beginners.

____ **League Ground Rules:** When you have to make a judgment call, what is the League way? A panel of League leaders will discuss basic guiding principles and how to walk what can sometimes be an unclear line. (Registrants, submit your questions and sticky scenarios by 5/27 for consideration of the panel to lwvilworkshops@gmail.com.)

CONVENTION WORKSHOPS: SATURDAY, June 11 (select one—cost included in registration)

____ **President’s Lunch:** Limited to one League president per League. (If your League has no president, one alternate designated key leader.) Discussion on how to be an effective President; how to run board meetings; and a refresher course on League process and policy.

____ **A 360° View for 365 Days:** LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara will present how to intentionally build your League by effectively planning for action.

____ **Streamlining the League:** Nominating committees rejoice! New, streamlined organizational structures are being implemented in Leagues across the country. Find out about alternative forms of leadership teams and ways to simplify the operation of your League.

____ **Roadmap for the Future of League:** A panel of members from the largest and fastest growing Leagues in Illinois will share their secrets of success in recruiting and retaining members.

DINNER SELECTIONS

**Friday:**
____ Chicken Vesuvio
____ Vegetarian Grill on angel hair pasta

**Saturday:**
____ Fillet of Salmon
____ Chicken Marsala
____ Cheese Ravioli w/marinara sauce

Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs: ____________________________________________________________

Return forms by May 18, 2011 to: LWVIL 332 S. Michigan, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60604
Death Penalty Abolition Bill signed into law March 9 by Gov. Quinn!

Redistricting Bill signed into law March 7 (provides for communities of interest but is weak in calling for an open public hearing process)

We have been watching many bills in the IL General Assembly and sent out the following TFAs to members or letters on the following:

- Feb. 15, 2011-- TFA to request legislators vote yes for SB3 (IL State Budget – borrow $8.7 billion to pay back bills)
- Feb. 23, 2011 -- ENews that included a Take Action portion on asking Governor to sign Death Penalty Abolition Bill and to request legislators support SB 3 in order to pay Illinois’ bills
- Feb. 23, 2011 – permission from LWVUS to sign on to an Environment IL letter going to our US Senators Kirk and Durbin asking them to oppose efforts to undermine Clean Air Act
- Feb. 23, 2011 – permission from LWVUS to sign on to letter from Housing Action Illinois to our Illinois senators requesting them to oppose spending cuts to Federal Housing Programs.
- March 7, 2011 – TFA to contact legislators to support Campaign Contribution Limits for Legislative Leaders and Political Parties in the General Election
- March 9, 2011-- Letter to Editor (Tribune, Sun-Times, Daily Herald, State Journal-Register, and Pioneer Press) in support of the Clean Air Act at the request of LWVUS (signed by Nancy Marcus)
- March 9, 2011 -- ENews to report signing of Death Penalty Abolition Bill and request thank you’s to Governor
- March 10, 2011-- TFA to ask state senators to oppose school voucher bill (SB 1932)
- March 21, 2011—TFA on Health Care to Support H.B. 1501 and S.B. 1619
- March 22, 2011—TFA to oppose HB 148 and SB 82 -- Concealed Carrying of Weapons (CCW)
- April 5, 2011 – Letters to legislators from President Nancy Marcus opposing SB 79 charter schools
- April 12, 2011 – TFA to oppose SB 1932 – School Voucher Bill

Additionally, your issues specialists continue to monitor what is going on in Springfield—following bills and activity on factory farm pollution and water issues, clean air, citizen’s right to know, campaign finance reform, charter schools, reproductive health care, the continued budget crisis and its impact on education and social services in Illinois, and much more.

Thank you to all the local Leagues who met with their state and national legislators and turned in reports! The information will be very useful. Just so you know, President Nancy Marcus, Vice Presidents Jan Dorner and Kim Reed, and Issues Specialist Laura Kratz met with Senators Durbin’s and Kirk’s offices as part of the LWVUS Congressional interviews.

LWVIL Works with the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) to continue addressing the Illinois Fiscal Crisis:

Issues: 1. The RBC is still supporting Business Tax Credit De-Coupling from the Federal “bonus equipment depreciation” rule allowing companies to immediately claim a 100 percent deduction for capital purchases made between Sept. 8, 2010 between Dec. 31, 2011, as well as accelerated depreciation for 2012 purchases. Unless IL decouples from the Federal bonus rule, it will lose $75M in FY 2011 tax revenues and $600M in FY 2012 revenues. With IL struggling to pay its backlog of bills, this loss will only translate into deeper budget cuts for programs already cut to the bone.

2. In addition, the RBC continues to support a restructuring of the state debt (such as SB 3 proposes) so that funds owed to providers can be paid now. Without those payments, cutbacks and program closures continue to be a threat. The debt service will be paid out of the $7B in new tax revenue.

3. Governor Quinn has proposed an additional $2B in borrowing to pay down Medicaid bills. This is a unique type of restructuring that will allow IL to take advantage of the enhanced Medicaid matching under ARRA that will disappear by June. IL stands to lose tens of millions of dollars if it does not take advantage of the enhanced matching. This has been supported in the past in a bi-partisan manner. RBC supports this.

Actions: The RBC held press conferences statewide in late March. The focus was on what was owed to providers in those areas. The LWV helped organize the one in the Rockford area, where over $82M is owed to schools, health organizations, local governments, and social service providers.

Update from the Lake Michigan League:

The Lake Michigan League of Women Voters encourages all Illinois League members state-wide to help keep pharmaceuticals out of our fresh water supplies by participating in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 30, 10am to 2pm.

The old advice to flush unneeded drugs down the drain or dispose of them in landfills permits the pharmaceuticals to enter water supplies. Very low levels of drugs are now found in drinking water across the country and may harm fish and aquatic wildlife, as well as contribute to the development of antibiotic resistant germs. Safe disposal of unused medications also protects children and the elderly from unintentional poisoning.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was started by the US Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). To find a drop-off location near you, please visit the DEA website: http://www.dea.gov and click on the “Got Drugs?” icon.

For more information about the Lake Michigan League, please visit lmlwv.org

Information provided by Issues Specialist Claire McIntyre
LWVIL Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Illinois, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism. The LWVIL recognizes that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and effective decision-making in democratic organizations. LWVIL affirms its commitment to remove barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, color, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin; and to actively be inclusive.

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LWVIL ENewsletter

Have you been receiving LWVIL's monthly ENewsletter? Check out http://www.lwvil.org/listmanager/ENews_033110.html and take a look. If you didn't receive it, we might not have your current email address. Please update our list by sending your correct email address to webmaster@lwvil.org. Also, to avoid having the ENewsletter go to your spam folder, make sure your email program accepts messages from webmaster@lwvil.org. Thanks.