

ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION THEME...

'Making Democracy Work--Shaping the Future' -- continued

Four convention speakers will help us think about the role of race in our perceptions, our organizational voice, and public policy. Friday Workshop speaker, pioneering environmental epidemiologist **Sylvia Hood Washington**, Ph.D., will be speaking on *Environmental Justice--Past, Present, and Uncertain Future*.

Saturday's lunch speaker, LWVUS Chief Executive Officer, **Wylecia Wiggs Harris**, Ph.D., will address *Diversity in the League*.

Saturday's dinner speaker, **Kyra Kyles**, former Editor-in-Chief of EBONY magazine and immediate past president of the National Association of Black Journalists, will speak on *Changing the Narrative in Discussions of Race*.

A Sunday morning caucus led by **Eileen Heineman**, Director of the Racial Justice Community Engagement initiative at the YWCA Evanston/North Shore, will explore how to have personal and community conversations in *Talking about Race: It's not as hard as We Make It*.

Increased media programming & reporting on race and racial inequities have created greater mainstream awareness of the issues. The time to engage in meaningful discourse on these issues is now. LWVIL has an opportunity to listen and contribute to the dialogue. We look forward to your participation in this critical societal discussion that can help shape the future from an America divided to an America united.

Don't forget to register for the Friday workshops, including the one led by Dr. Washington. As a reminder, here are the other five workshops:

FRIDAY, June 9, 2017 WORKSHOPS

SESSION I: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

_____ **Environmental Justice: Past, Present and Uncertain Future.** The problems of environmental justice have existed as long as industrialization and will continue as long as people and governments fail or choose to ignore the "others" in our society who unfairly bear the human costs of the waste caused by our economic engines and the chemicals we create to improve America. "How did we arrive at environmental inequalities in American and how we can address this issue in Illinois?" will be the focus of the presentation. Sylvia Hood Washington, PhD, is an environmental epidemiologists, engineer and historian who was the first African-American scholar to publish a formal history of environmental injustices in the United States, will present.

_____ **Using Social Media Effectively.** AnnMarie Lawrence (LWV Homewood-Flossmoor Publicity Chair) will demonstrate how to use Facebook to schedule posts, add links, publicize events, obtain followers — and more. Bring your charged cell phone or laptop to this interactive and practical presentation.

_____ **Discussing Controversial Topics.** Barb Laimins (LWV Wheaton, Voter Service Chair) and liaison for the mentoring program and a curriculum trainer with the McCormick Foundation Civics Education program, will, during this session, explore strategies teachers are using to engage students in productive discussions of controversial topics: techniques to serve us well in many settings.

_____ **Engaging New Members & Developing Tomorrow's League Leaders:** In the past few months local leagues have seen an increase in their memberships. How can leagues engage these new members effectively to keep them as members and encourage them to become productive members? What strategies can be used to develop future leaders? Melissa Currence, Ruth Shur National Membership Leadership Development (MLD) coach for LWVIL along with members of local leagues in Illinois, will offer suggestions and strategies to answer these questions.

_____ **Advocacy Through Alliances and Collaboration** —Learn tips, techniques, and tools for community collaboration and empowerment based on the experiences of the LWV of Jo Daviess County. Bonnie Cox, former LWV Jo Daviess President and founding leader of the Upper Mississippi River Region (UMMER) ILO will share her LWV story and the engagement with an ever-widening circle of concerned citizens to address water issues in the Upper Mississippi River Watershed. Kelly Nichols, organizer for Mom's Clean Air Force, will share best practices she has utilized in Illinois, particularly in her work in Lake County with, among others the LWV of Lake County.

_____ **Consolidation of Government Units Local Program Toolbox.** After delegates to the 2015 LWVIL Convention adopted a position on consolidation, the LWVIL Issues Committee formed a sub-committee made up of members from leagues throughout Illinois to study what is happening regionally and legislatively on this hot topic. Members of the sub-committee will share a legislative update and suggest ways to engage, education and advocate locally on the topic. State legislators focused on the issue have been invited to share their insights.