



Illinois Voter

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ANSWER THE CALL

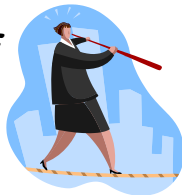


2011
Phonathon
March 1—
April 30

In addition to showers, spring brings the LWVIL annual phonathon fundraiser. So when your phone rings between March 1 and April 30, please pick up, talk to the League member on the other end, and consider making a donation to the LWVIL.

Leagues whose members make phone calls also receive a percentage of those contributions made during their calls and of contributions received in response to the November solicitation mailing. Encourage your local League to make the calls. We really need your support.

2011 LEAGUE ACTIVITIES TO WATCH FOR...



- * Issues Briefing
- * Phonathon
- * Women's History Month Luncheons (local LWVs)
- * State of the State luncheon
- * LWVIL Convention

Check the LWVIL website to see what activities local Leagues are sponsoring that might be of interest.

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing SATURDAY, February 5, 2011

University Center

Conference Chicago • Lake Room • 525 South State Street • Chicago

REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST/NETWORKING Starts at 8:30 a.m.

ISSUES PROGRAM 9:15 a.m. to Noon

New Governor—New Direction?

A political analysis of where Illinois is headed with its deficit, backlog of bills, school funding, health and social services and other important issues.

LUNCHEON: Noon to 1 p.m.

WORKSHOPS: (select one of four) 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- ⇒ *Effective Ways to Lobby Springfield in 2011*
- ⇒ *Redistricting: Where Do We Go From Here and How Do We Get There?*
- ⇒ *Health Care Reform and Its Impact on Illinois*
- ⇒ *Pension Reform: Is It Possible? Probable?*

To register for the Issues Briefing... complete and return the Registration Form on page 3 or register online at www.lwvil.org by January 27, 2011

Directions to the 2011 Issues Briefing: University Center is located on the southeast corner of State Street and Congress Parkway. For location, driving directions, parking and public transportation info:

<http://www.universitycenter.com/conferences/general/location-map.html>

For assistance booking hotel rooms in downtown Chicago, refer to:

www.hotrooms.com (800/468-3500).



FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a crazy election season and I am glad it is over. I am pleased with all of the voter service activities that our Leagues across the state have organized over the past months. From voter registration, candidate forums and voter guide, and the many websites available, *especially VOTE411*, we helped citizens go to the polls as educated voters. I am proud of and awed by all of the work that you do to make sure our citizens are prepared. Thank you!

There is a very disturbing trend the LWVIL and many local Leagues have felt during this year's election. That is the lack of civility. The definition of civility from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary states that *civility* means 'a formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech.' I believe that people of this state have forgotten common courtesy. This should not be tolerated. As we all know, anyone can create a blog, post a comment online or edit a video to further their cause. The League of Women Voters will continue to educate voters of this state and continue with our mission in an impartial and respectful manner.

As we go forward to the Spring 2011 consolidated elections in your town, the LWVIL is working to create guidelines that will help you as you plan for upcoming forums. Hopefully the spring elections will be more uneventful.

The elections may be over, but our work is not done. Please save **Saturday, February 5, 2011** for our annual **Issues Briefing**. Learn about the impact of this election on our state and get an update on our issues. We have planned a wonderful program. Please complete the form included in *Voter* and return it to the League office. If you like, you can also RSVP on our website.

Looking towards 2011, we plan to hold our annual State of the State Luncheon at the end of April. The LWVIL Convention is scheduled for June 10-12 at the North Shore Holiday Inn in Skokie. We are planning wonderful workshops, events and speakers. The Chicago Bar Association will entertain us on Saturday night, and I am pleased to announce that Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the LWVUS, will be joining us.

Wishing all of you a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year, 2011.

Nancy

ILLINOIS WELL REPRESENTED ON NEW LWVUS COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION

At the LWVUS Convention in June 2010, a study of the role of the Federal Government in Education was approved as a prelude to developing a national position on education. Those interested in serving were asked to submit their names and, in October, the study group was appointed. The study materials are expected to be finalized by April, with League study time from May through November. Analysis and the final report are expected to be completed and submitted to the LWVUS board for approval by the end of March 2012.

Four League members from Illinois have been chosen to participate in the new study on the Federal Role in Education: **Jean Pierce**, Central Kane County League, and **Pat Aaron**, Evanston League, for the steering committee; **Sharon Maguire**, Park Forest Area League member, and **Ann Courter**, Oak Park/River Forest League, for two of the subcommittees.

This will be the first time that LWVUS has considered a national position on education - a timely consideration as both the Bush Administration (ESEA/NCLB) and the Obama Administration (Race to the Top) introduced top down legislation affecting schools beyond the school nutrition/lunch program and remedial programs. With a position finally in place, the League will be able to advocate for the best possible national education policies.



Mapping The Future is the theme of the LWVIL 2011 convention scheduled for June 10-12, at the Holiday Inn North Shore, Skokie, IL. Filled with informative workshops and caucuses, convention is where local League representatives approve the LWVIL program for the next two years and elect the state board officers.

In addition to being a delegate, individuals and local Leagues can help in a variety of ways, including:

- ⇒ On site volunteers to help with set up, ushering, distributing information
- ⇒ *Soliciting goods for the silent auction*
- ⇒ Presenting any special items your League had developed for sale in Pubs & Wares

LWVUS president Elisabeth MacNamara will be our special guest at this convention. Entertainment at the Saturday night, June 11, dinner will be the Chicago Bar Associations satirical "Bar Show." Contact your local League president about attending the convention to have fun networking with other League members, learn more about League, and have an impact on LWVIL's program, budget and bylaws.

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Thanks to all local Leagues who were involved in the mock elections using the real equipment in High Schools. It was a hard time getting election authorities and/or schools to commit, but those that did had a rewarding experience, as I am sure local Leaguers did!

Thanks also to all local Leagues and moderators throughout the state who went above and beyond when organizing and presiding over candidate forums. This season produced many that had the theme of incivility. Looking ahead, we will work with LWWUS to help our local Leagues and moderators be better prepared for attacks on our credibility as a trusted, nonpartisan organization.

For those local Leagues that would like to use the VOTE 411 software for the upcoming consolidated elections, we have learned a lot about this online voters guide. It has great potential, but to get the most out of it, you will need to contact your local election authorities and/or county GIS (Geographic Information System) department to have them send you the GIS information for your area. This can then be uploaded to the VOTE 411 software. You can invite your local candidates to answer online questions about their races. Contact Jan Dorner at voterservice@lwvil.org for further information.

**Lake Michigan Leagues Meet...
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The Lake Michigan LWV held its 44th annual meeting in Manitowoc, Wisconsin in October. Lake Michigan advocates from Leagues in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin attended. Judy Johnston, HP League, was elected president.

Activities included tours of Point Beach Energy Center near the Two Rivers Nuclear Power plant, and the Woodland Dunes and Nature Center, 1200 acres of forested ridges and habitat. Keynote speaker, Dr. Phillip Moy, Invasive Species Specialist with the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, covered the history and invasive movement of the Asian Carp. He spoke of the need for more permanent, long-term solutions to the problems of all invasive species in the Great Lakes.

LMLWV areas of emphasis for 2011 include implementing the Great Lakes Restoration bills to restore water quality, prevent and control invasive species, and clean up toxic pollution; supporting efforts to reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; and advocating for water conservation and resource protection. The 2011 annual meeting will be held in Illinois, so let us know your ideas for program and location.

REGISTRATION FORM: Issues Briefing February 5, 2011

Name: _____ League: _____

_____ \$50 per person (includes continental breakfast, lunch, briefing packet and workshop materials)

_____ MORNING Program only: \$35 per person (includes continental breakfast and briefing packet)

_____ AFTERNOON Program only: \$40 per person (includes lunch and workshop materials)

Afternoon Workshops: (Select One)

___ Lobbying ___ Redistricting ___ Health Care Reform ___ Pension Reform

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VEGETARIAN LUNCH PLEASE CALL (312-939-5935 EXT. 37) OR EMAIL (INFO@LWVIL.ORG) THE OFFICE.

Please make checks payable to LWVIL or, to save paper and time, register online at www.lwvil.org

Forward your registration form and fees to:

League of Women Voters of Illinois
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150
Chicago, IL 60604
ATTN: Issues Briefing

**REGISTRATION FORMS DUE
BY JANUARY 27, 2011**

The League accepts **Visa** and **MasterCard** for your convenience. Please indicate which card you are using.

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature (required): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ILLINOIS

332 South Michigan Ave, Suite 1150
Chicago, IL 60604

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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.

League of Women Voters of Illinois

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 Vice President, *Jan Dornier*
 Vice President, *Kim Reed*
 Secretary, *Mary Kubasak*
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Executive Director, Jan Czarnik

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www.lwvil.org ♦ info@lwvil.org

LWVIL ENewsletter

Have you been receiving LWVIL's monthly ENewsletter? If you're not sure, go to http://www.lwvil.org/listmanager/ENews_102309.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.