

Leaders Update

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Women's March in Chicago: January 21, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is participating in the January 21st Women's March in Chicago. <http://womens121marchonchicago.org/> You are invited to join members and friends of the League.

Meet on the west side of Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park at 9:30. Look for the LWVIL banner and familiar League faces. Click [HERE](#) for a link to the location of the Buckingham Fountain.

As LWVUS President Chris Carson noted, "this is an opportunity for the League to make our voice heard on our priorities. We march for voting rights. We march to reform money in politics. We march for health care. We march for the environment. These are our core issues, and we want to ensure they are front and center." This is a Women's March, but The League of Women Voters will be advocating for the rights of all people.

An interesting parallel to the 2017 is the March 3, 1913 Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., one day before President Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated.

There are also Illinois marches in Carbondale and Urbana follow this link for more information: <https://www.womensmarch.com/partners/>

Spotlighting a Local League

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is a statewide organization which depends on its thousands of members across Illinois - from Waukegan to Jonesboro from Galena to Lawrence - to carry out essential educational and advocacy efforts.

LWVIL is inviting local leagues to share events and activities with us. We will then post the information

to our website - highlighting several leagues each month.

The following is the 2017 schedule of local leagues by month. In advance of your league's month, please e-mail Mary Schaafsma, LWVIL's Executive Director at marys@lwvil.org, a short article describing an achievement or event of which your league is particularly proud or a project or activity on which your league is currently working.

The website heading will be "Spotlighting an Illinois local league." If your League is assigned a summer month and you don't anticipate being active during June to September, then please send your article and pictures to Mary in May.

February Central Kane County
McDonough County
Rochelle Area
Wilmette

March Palos-Orland Area
Kewanee
Morgan County
Champaign County

April Roselle-Bloomingtondale
Greater Rockford Area
Edwardsville
Palatine

May Naperville
Park Forest Area
Deerfield/Lincolnshire
McLean County

June McHenry County
DeKalb MAL
LaGrange Area
Glenview/Glencoe

July Chicago
Wheaton
Lake Forest/Lake Bluff

Elgin Area
August Oak Park/River Forest
Elmhurst
Coles County
Springfield MAL

September Jo Daviess County
Park Ridge
Greater Peoria
Winnetka/Northfield/ Kenilworth

October Homewood-Flossmoor
Downers Grove/Woodridge/Lisle
Arlington Heights/Mt. Prospect/Buffalo Grove

November Evanston
Glen Ellyn
Highland Park/Highwood

December Adams County
Freeport
Jackson County

Issues Briefing 2017

Follow this link for up-to-date information about the 2017 Issues Briefing on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the University Center, 525 South State Street, Chicago: <http://www.lwvil.org/issuesbriefing.html>



Preparing for CONVENTION 2017: June 10th and 11th

Program Planning

You previously received instructions and guidelines to help you navigate program planning for 2017-18. We are sending it to you again [here](#). The **deadline** for submitting program recommendations to LWVIL is Tuesday, **March 14, 2017**.

Bylaws

Local leagues are invited to make recommendations for amending the League of Women Voters of Illinois Bylaws. The current bylaws may be found [here](#). The LWVIL Board of Directors has appointed a Bylaws Committee to consider your recommendations as well as develop its own. If anyone in your league would like to make a recommendation for an amendment to the Bylaws, the deadline for doing so is Tuesday, March 14, 2017. No specific form is required. Please submit your recommendations to Mary Schaafsma at marys@lwwil.org. Please include your recommendation and include both the *Article* and the *Section* you wish to amend.

Award Nominations

In anticipation of each LWVIL convention, local league members are invited to consider nominations for two awards: the **Carrie Champaign Catt Leadership Award** and the **Community Impact Award**.

In addition local league are encouraged to complete and submit the **2017 Spotlight on League Achievement**. Your submission will be included in the 2017 Convention packet.

To be considered, the nomination forms for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award and the Community Impact Award must be submitted to Mary Schaafsma, Executive Director, marys@lwwil.org no later than **Monday, May 1, 2017**.

Relevant forms can be found by scrolling down [here](#).

2017 Member Appeal and Phonathon

Stay tuned for information about how your local league can participate in and financially benefit from the 2017 Phonathon.

Spring 2017 Consolidated Election Candidate Forums



Many local Leagues have added new members in the wake of the 2016 elections.

As local Leagues gear up to sponsor candidate forums in consolidated elections this spring, an opportunity may be present to involve both current and new members in the planning of forums.

A League member can be a greeter or timekeeper. Depending on the forum format you use, there could be other jobs that do not require knowledge and/or experience. Use the forums as an opportunity to keep the momentum going. Use the opportunity to make attendees aware of the good work your local league is doing.

Roster Updates

Please remind your roster managers to update your league's member info on the LWWUS database -- especially when advised of a member's new email address. We take the information directly from LWWUS to create the distribution list for our regular communications.

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