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## Leader's Update

10/06/2015

This issue contains information regarding the following:

- From Our President
- Budget Impasse
- LWVUS Database
- Local League Redistricting Activities Reporting Request
- Moderator Training
- LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO
- Liability Insurance due October 15
- Membership/MLD
- Communications Committee Update

As you can see, we have much to share -- please be sure to scroll all the way through this update!

### From Our President

We had a great **State of the State** event a few weeks ago. Thanks to EVERYONE who helped plan it, promote it, support it and/or attend it. A special thanks goes to those local leagues who purchased ads for the Program Book.

The State Board wants to make your life easier. Look for information on upcoming moderator training sessions in this newsletter. Candidates meetings will be here before we know it!!

You may have heard of the **Suffragist Memorial** that is being built in northern Virginia at the site of the Occoquan Workhouse (on the National Register) where suffragists were brutally imprisoned. The suffrage story is to be displayed at 19 small plazas commemorating the 19th Amendment. For more information, check out the Turning Point website: [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org)

LWVUS is participating in the monument project, as are several state leagues. Because we will contribute \$1000 as a group, the League of Women Voters of Illinois will be recognized on the Donor Wall. The Illinois, Cook County and Chicago Leagues have all pledged money to support this goal. We would love to have more Leagues participate. If your board (or a member or group of members) agrees to join this effort, please send a check to the state office: 332 S Michigan #525, Chicago IL 60604. It

should be made out to the Ed Fund. We are suggesting \$25 to \$100. Thanks for considering!

-Mary Kubasak, President

## 97 Days...still no State of Illinois Budget

### What you and your league can do to end the impasse

The LWWIL Issues Committee has been working with our partners in the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) to advocate for a budget that not only ends the damaging impasse in Springfield, but also provides adequate revenue to support our citizens. We know you and your Leagues are busy with your programs and the LWWUS studies, but we ask that you please engage your members in the following activities in your community: [READ MORE](#)

## LWWUS Website still under construction...

We understand your frustration and wish we had something to report on progress toward implementation. Sadly, we have no such news.

Meanwhile, we are pleased that our statewide membership is growing, moving, updating new email addresses and continuing to report all sorts of changes to the Local Leagues' membership chairs and roster managers.

To make sure the flow of communication continues, enroll your new and updated members on the distribution lists for LWWIL's *E-news* and *Time for Action emails* by forwarding the **first name, last name, and email address** for any new member, as well as any current member with a new email address, that **your Leagues had not entered into the LWWUS database as of 4/23/15** to [rborrino@lwwil.org](mailto:rborrino@lwwil.org).

LWWIL will hold this data temporarily. Once the LWWUS database is up and running, your local league will have the opportunity to update accordingly.

Thanks for your patience.

## Redistricting Activities

The League of Women Voters of Illinois was recognized as the volunteer of the month by the Independent Map Amendment. Check it out on our [website](#).

Not surprisingly, the League has been and continues to be a major volunteer source of signatures for the Amendment.

The LWWIL would like to know what activities Local Leagues have conducted or are planning around redistricting and who your contact for these efforts is.

Please send information to [issues@lwwil.org](mailto:issues@lwwil.org) on the following:

- Local League contact for redistricting and independent map amendment activities.
- Programs for League members and the public on redistricting
- Locations and times your League will be passing petitions
- Number of petitions that your League has returned to Independent Maps
  - Send notarized petitions to the League of Women Voters of Illinois, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 525, Chicago, Illinois as you gather them.
- Photos taken at programs or while gathering signatures on petitions.

At month's end (October 31st), LWVIL will offer the top-three signature gathering Leagues (or groups of smaller Leagues in a similar geographic area) \$200 for signatures gathered in the month of October. For more information, contact, Mary Schaafsma at [marys@lwvil.org](mailto:marys@lwvil.org)

In addition, please post your meetings and signature gathering locations on the LWVIL website using the submission form found under Events, Events Calendar. If LWVIL receives information about your activities both the League and Independent Maps can publicize them.

Palm Cards to be distributed when passing petitions are now available from Independent Maps.

Email Joshua Roman, [joshua@mapamendment.org](mailto:joshua@mapamendment.org) to request some cards.

If you would like speaker suggestions also contact [issues@lwvil.org](mailto:issues@lwvil.org) or [joshua@mapamendment.org](mailto:joshua@mapamendment.org).

## Moderator Training

Are there members of your League interested in **Moderator Training**? If so, go to this link for information on upcoming trainings in Deerfield (October 17th) and Wheaton (October 24th).

Any League wishing to host a moderator training session can contact Irene Pritzker at [voterservice@lwvil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvil.org). A minimum of 10 participants is required. LWVIL asks a hosting local League to take responsibility for room and snack/lunch arrangements. The training would be open other leagues in the area to ensure sufficient enrollment.

[Click](#) for registration details. **Deadline to sign up for training is October 10 and for Wheaton is October 17.**

## LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO -- aka the Ummer

Inter League Organizations are formal LWV organizations recognized by the League of Women Voters of the US. They operate under the Natural Resources positions of the national LWV. ILOs are established because their members recognize the need to work together at the regional level to most effectively and responsibly solve problems that transcend political boundaries. The natural resource issues facing the **Upper Mississippi River Region** definitely transcend such boundaries.

The LWV- UMRR ILO can increase the clout and effectiveness of the LWV's work on natural resource issues by:

- Developing educational programming to be shared among the ILO's leagues to increase the public's understanding of the natural resource issues in the region.
- Coordinating our advocacy efforts across state lines and in numerous congressional districts to better promote the collective interests of the region before Congress and the federal agencies.
- Monitoring local, state, regional, and federal proposals that affect the interests of the region and then distributing that information and making recommendations to the appropriate state or local LWVs for action.

Click [HERE](#) for information on your League's joining this ILO, as well as attending the inaugural Annual Meeting on October 24.

## Liability Insurance

### GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE OFFERING *Please Respond By October 15, 2015*

Many local leagues have already responded to this offer but want to make sure that all leagues interested take advantage of it. Remember, the deadline for responding is Thursday, October 15th. Go [here](#) for details.

## Membership / MLD

### LWVIL Board to Visit/Make Contact with Local Leagues

Leagues not currently participating in the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) program will soon be receiving some special attention from LWVIL Board Members. As part of a 2-year program beginning this fall, each Board member has "adopted" two or three Leagues which she will be contacting via phone call and/or email to inquire how the State Board can be of assistance to them. In addition, the Board member will arrange to visit the League once during the year - perhaps to attend a local Board meeting, a monthly program, or simply to chat over a cup of coffee at a local Panera. The first contacts will be made during October or November, and we hope you will respond positively to your Board member when she calls.

## From the Communications Committee

**Help Wanted;** Do you have media experience? Do you read the newspaper cover to cover? Do you enjoy surfing websites? Do you know a tweet from a post? The LWVIL Communication Committee is looking for several off-board members to join our group. Meetings are generally held once a month via conference call. Your input on the hour call could be your total commitment or if you have some time and are willing to take on small projects, we would love to help you put your time and talents to good use! Contact Committee Co-Chairs, Susan Kern [skern@lwwil.org](mailto:skern@lwwil.org) or Michelle

Peterson [mpeterson@lwwil.org](mailto:mpeterson@lwwil.org) for more information

**Calendar Events:** Whenever you schedule any local league event, please remember to forward an **Event Submission Form** to share your event on the LWWIL website calendar. From the LWWIL.org home page, click on the big blue Calendar button, and you will be directed to the big blue Event Submission Form button.

**New feature:** Besides the basic event information, you now can **include a flyer**. Look for the Upload File box on the form and hit the Choose File button to locate the file you want to add.

Check the LWWIL website calendar regularly to see what other Leagues are doing!

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