



Area

# VOTER

February 2011

## President's Corner

*Sigi Psimenos*

Just as we can count on the winter thawing and the return of spring, we can look forward to our March candidate forums. We anticipate a great turnout & questions in light of the community's concerns regarding the city's and the school district's direction in these very difficult times.

*Continued on page 2*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**Voter Registrars are needed** for the **Voter Registration Drive** at the Centre on March 5, 2011 from 1-3PM. Contact **Bonnie Schwank** at [blschwank@yahoo.com](mailto:blschwank@yahoo.com)

**League Committee Members are needed** for the **Elgin City Council Study** which will hold their first meeting, with league members only, on Tuesday, March 8th @ 7PM. (We have quite a few community members but need league members.) Contact **Wendy Covich** at [w.covich@dla-ltd.com](mailto:w.covich@dla-ltd.com)

**Greeters, Timers, Ushers, Question Screeners, and Exterior Monitors are needed** for the three **Candidate Forums** at the Gail Borden Public Library for Sunday @ 1:30 PM on March 20th, and at 6PM on Thursday- March 24th & Tuesday -March 29th. Contact **Sigi Psimenos** at [sigiusa@yahoo.com](mailto:sigiusa@yahoo.com)

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Loni Mecum, Kaye Gamble and I attended the **State League Issues Briefing** earlier this month. **Ralph Martire**, Executive Director of the Center for Budget and Tax Accountability, and **Kathy Ryg**, former Illinois state representative and current president of Voices for Illinois Children, spoke about the fiscal crisis and its ramifications. The speakers pointed out that Illinois still, even with the recent tax increase, has lower taxes than any surrounding state except Missouri; that for every \$1 the state spends, \$1.35 comes back because it creates jobs for workers; that our state budget is mean and lean already; that 35% of the budget goes for education, 35% for health care, 21% for human services (mental health, children, etc.), and 5% for public safety; that the “trickle-down theory” has proven not to be true; and that more and more children are growing up in poverty in Illinois (19-20% this year) and as a result there is lower educational achievement, diminished employment prospects, and greater health problems for our children.

The other workshops were on redistricting, health care reform, and pension reform. We will try to keep you informed so that you may pass on the information to friends in our community. One of our major jobs is education on public policy!

On March 19th, is the **Women’s History Month Brunch** at Elgin Community College. Children’s author and storyteller Lynn Rymarz will portray “Nellie Bly, Daredevil Reporter.” (Details on [page 5](#)).

And there is more to come: the **study** on what is the best system for electing members to the Elgin City council, the **annual meeting** in April, and the **State Convention** June 10-12 in Skokie. I hope most of you will try to attend, for our National president, Elisabeth McNamara, will be there and the program should be very informative and inspiring. Conventions are a great way to learn what is happening in Leagues outside our own community.

As a final word, for the first time in our 90-year history there is a serious concern about civility in all of our forums and programs( See our **Letter to the Editor in response to the LWVIL’s neutrality**). Even though we have our partisan views individually, the League must remain nonpartisan and must continue to hold discussions and write articles of information on public policy.

In league,  
Sigi

## LWV of the Elgin Area- Annual Meeting 2011 Proposed Local Programs 2011-2012

- A. What is the best system for electing members of the Elgin City Council.
- B. Continue to monitor and to participate in Elgin's efforts to become a sustainable community via the City of Elgin's Sustainable Master Planning Committees (ESMP) and the Elgin Community Garden Network.
- C. Conduct training workshop on "Running for Public Office" in conjunction with the Elgin YWCA.
- D. Continue to monitor selected mental health issues outlined in the 2007 LWV Kane Countywide Study.



# Upcoming Events

## Mon Feb 28th, 2011

**1:00 pm** Meeting to complete basic plans for Public Meeting on Brunner Forest Preserve

## Sat Mar 5, 2011

**1 pm** Voter Registration Drive  
Where: The Centre of Elgin

## Tue Mar 8, 2011

**7:30 pm** LWVEA Study Group - 1st Meeting  
Where: Sigi Psimenos home

## Wed Mar 9, 2011

**1 pm** Budget Meeting  
Where: Sigi Psimenos home

## Sat Mar 12, 2011

**9 am** Dundee Park District Candidate Forums for School Dist 300 & ECC Dist 509  
Where: Dundee Park District Senior Center

## Tue Mar 15, 2011

**7 pm** Candidate Forum  
Where: East Dundee's Village Hall

## Wed Mar 16, 2011

### **2011 Nominating Slate & Annual Budget Due**

**7 pm** Candidate Forum  
Where: Carpentersville Village Hall

## Thu Mar 17, 2011

**7 pm** Candidate Forum  
Where: Gilberts Village Hall

## Sat Mar 19, 2011

**10:30 am** Women's History Month Brunch: Nellie Bly  
Where: ECC

## Sun Mar 20, 2011

**2 pm** Candidate Forum U-46 and ECC Board Trustees  
Where: GBPL

## Mon Mar 21, 2011

**7 pm** Public meeting on the issue of potential gravel mining at Brunner Forest Preserve  
Where: Carrington Fire Station in West Dundee

## Thu Mar 24, 2011

**6 pm** Candidate Forum Elgin Mayoral & GBPL Board Trustees  
Where: GBPL

## Tue Mar 29, 2011

**6 pm** Candidate Forum, Elgin City Council  
Where: GBPL

## Sat Apr 2, 2011

**1:30 pm** Mental Health Committee Report to membership  
Where: Myra Beckers home

## Tue Apr 5, 2011

### **General Election**

## Thu Apr 28, 2011

**6 pm** 2011 Annual Meeting & Pot Luck  
Where: Tyler Towers Clubhouse

## Fri Jun 10 - Sun Jun 12, 2011

**LWVIL State Convention**  
Where: Holiday Inn North Shore, Skokie, Illinois

## Sat Sep 17, Sep 24, Oct 1, & Oct 15, 2011

**Joint Program:** How to Run for Public Office  
Where: Elgin YWCA





Published in Daily Herald, February 18, 2011, as a follow up to [A Letter to the Editor “What Happened to LWV Neutrality?”](#)

Dear Editor:

The neutrality of the League of Women Voters of Illinois has been questioned because of a letter authored by the Illinois League president in support of the recently enacted income tax increase. This question does not recognize the difference between being “neutral” and being “nonpartisan”.

As a nonpartisan political organization, the League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. The League plays two separate and distinct roles as a nonpartisan political organization. The nonpartisan nature of the League has been the hallmark in both roles.

The League role that is often the most visible to the public is voter service. In this role, the League sponsors voter registration drives and candidate forums and educates and informs voters about the election process. In all of its voter service activities, the League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

An equally important role is the League’s advocacy on important political issues of the day. The decision to advocate for a particular issue is reached after the issue has been carefully studied by League members and those members reach a consensus to take a particular position with regard to that issue. This can be done at the national, state or local level. Again, the League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate while advocating for these issues.

The League has had a strong history of advocating for those who often have not or do not have a voice in the political process: women, children, disabled persons, minorities, and the elderly, to name a few. The perilous state of Illinois’s financial crisis is jeopardizing our children’s future through inadequately funded education and our most vulnerable populations’ daily lives through severe cuts to and elimination of human resource programs. To reduce further damage done by Illinois’s financial crisis, the League advocates for a change in Illinois’s income tax structure. The recent tax increase is a component of the change the League has supported.

These voter service and advocacy roles are compatible but distinct. The League has always been—and will always be—nonpartisan in both of these roles.

Susan S. Russo, President  
League of Women Voters of Central Kane County  
Batavia

Sigi Psimenos, President  
League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area  
Elgin

# Women's History Month Celebration

Altrusa International Club of Elgin, American Association of University Women, Elgin Community College, Elgin Junior Service Board, Elgin Symphony League, Elgin Woman's Club, League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area, Northern Fox Valley Chapter of Women in Management and YWCA Elgin.

**Invite You to Celebrate Women's History Month  
By Attending Our 19th Annual Women's History Month Brunch**

**Saturday, March 19, 2011**

**10:30am Socializing ~ 11:00 - 1:00pm Brunch**

**Elgin Community College ~ Business Center Dining Room**

**Cost: \$15.00**



**“Nellie Bly: Daredevil Reporter”  
Presented By: Lynn Rymarz**

For Nellie Bly, newspaper reporter, nothing was too daring or impossible if she could get a great headlining story. Hear about her life lessons and some of her stories, such as how she got herself committed to an insane asylum, was arrested, danced as a chorus girl, rode an elephant and raced around the world in a record breaking time.



Reservations can be made by calling the YWCA Elgin at 847.742.7930 or  
by mail: YWCA Elgin, 220 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120

**Reservation Deadline: Tues., March 15, 2011 • Please make checks payable to YWCA Elgin**

**For further information, please feel free to contact the YWCA Elgin 847.742.7930**

# League of Women Voters of Illinois hosts event in Elgin

Join League of Women Voters of Illinois and Citizens Advocacy Center for the program “**How To Make Our Elected Officials More Responsive To The Issues About Which We Care.**”

This event is part of series on the upcoming remap drawing process in Illinois as well as within our local communities. There will also be an update on CENSUS 2010.

RSVP: [Mary Schaafsma](#), League of Women Voters of Illinois

312.939.5935 x-39 or [marys@lwvil.org](mailto:marys@lwvil.org)

WHERE: Gail Borden Library, 270 North Grove Avenue, Elgin, Illinois

WHEN: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## Update on Brunner Forest Preserve/Gravel Mining Study

*Carol Grom*

After the last meeting, several study group members attended a meeting on 1-24-11 at the Dundee Township office with Superintendent Sue Harney and KCFP President John Hoscheit to discuss questions about the referendum. Many of the questions from the audience were in regard to potential gravel mining at Brunner. While he stated that there are no formal plans for proceeding with gravel mining at Brunner Forest Preserve, he would not go so far as to say it was off the table, as he could not speak for the entire board. But he did say, based on the stated opposition of the (new) Forest Preserve Commissioners from that area, that he would probably not support gravel mining at Brunner. The Forest Preserve may be interested in purchasing properties that are currently being mined, and continuing to mine them for some time. There was a distinction made in the discussion between mining a current gravel mine site and opening a mine on land already purchased for preservation. The discussion also touched on whether resource extraction was appropriate on land purchased for preservation.

[Carol Grom](#) asked Hoscheit if he would be willing to attend a meeting hosted by the **LWV Brunner Study Group** in March. He agreed, and the meeting has since been set up for 7:00 p.m. on March 21, 2011 at the Carrington Fire Station in West Dundee.

The upcoming meeting will educate the community on the issue, foster community input to the KCFP Commissioners to guide planning for Brunner and other Forest Preserves, and provide a forum for public discussion of gravel mining specifically, and development policies in general for preserved land. President Hoscheit can speak about the April Forest Preserve referendum, address any lingering obstacles to public support from the gravel mining issue, and make his case for voting in favor of the referendum.

In attendance at the February 21st meeting were [Carol Grom](#), [Sue Harney](#), [Kathie Tennis](#), [Rosalie Johnson](#), [Carol Schoengart](#), and [Theresa Peterson](#).

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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through citizen Education and advocacy.

\* \* \*

The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area invites you to Become a member of this active, grass-roots oriented organization. Individual membership is \$60 and \$90 for each additional member at the same address. \$30 student membership. Please send this coupon with your payment payable to:  
LWVEA, 569 Franklin Blvd., Elgin, IL. 60120

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Article to submit for next month's Voter?

E-mail it to Wendy Covich at [w.covich@dla-ltd.com](mailto:w.covich@dla-ltd.com) and include Voter in the subject line.

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**The Elgin Area League thanks our  
2010-2011 Patrons for their support**



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