



Don't miss our calendar of "Upcoming Events" on page 2

Area

# VOTEER

Aug 2011

## President's Corner

*Sigi Psimenos*

Dear Friends,

If you're reading this issue, you've already read the good news! A [modern interactive website](#) was one of the hot topics at the State Convention this year and we're happy to announce that we're one of the first leagues in Illinois to create one courtesy of [Wendy Covich](#).

Some of the highlights of this new site are: when we post updates you'll automatically be notified; we have the option of updating our Facebook page at the same time; we'll now be able to easily upload photos & videos; and we'll also have the capability of doing surveys.

Also, check out the exciting happenings with our upcoming events & programs. You'll notice that we're partnering on quite a few of them with other like-minded groups. Remember this with organizations you're involved with -from time to time there's a right fit for us to be included and partner with you. This not only helps everyone share the work load, but will help reach a broader base of citizens.

So have a great month, and remember "democracy is not a spectator sport".

Yours,  
Sigi

P.S. To our Board Members- our last meeting was one of the best meetings I've had the pleasure of not just presiding over, but attending. Everyone participated with such thoughtful ideas which fostered great questioning, discussion and camaraderie. I'm truly proud to be involved with you!

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# Upcoming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Sunday, September 14, 2011</b>	<b>TBD</b>	TBD	<b>Brunner Forest Preserve/Gravel</b> Study Group meeting to prep for a presentation in January
<b>Tuesday, September 20, 2011</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>South Elgin High School</b> (tentative)	<b>Federal Education Study: Common Core Standards Forum</b> with Dr. Cynthia Campbell of NIU
<b>Wednesday, September 21, 2011</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Tyler Towers Clubhouse</b> 1450 Plymouth Ln, Elgin, IL 60123	<b>Board Meeting.</b> Attend this action-oriented meeting to bring our local programs alive. Key community issues are always discussed in a non-partisan manner.
<b>Saturday, September 24, 2011</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Bike Path</b>	<b>Sierra Club for their <a href="http://350.org">350.org</a> Moving planet</b> celebration
<b>Saturday, October 1, 2011</b>  <b>thru</b>  <b>Saturday, November 5, 2011</b>	<b>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Elgin YWCA,</b> 220 East Chicago Street, Elgin, IL 60120	<b>How to Run for Public Office: A Woman's Focus.</b>  Are you interested in becoming a civic leader? Let us help you. The YWCA Elgin and the LWVEA are offering a workshop that will help participants understand the process of becoming a civic leader and how to achieve this goal.  October 1: <b>Orientation and the Nuts &amp; Bolts Running for Political Office</b> October 15: <b>Building Your Leadership Team, Define Your Message &amp; Public Speaking</b> October 29: <b>Fundraising Activities</b> November 5: <b>Mobilize to Win Election Day</b>  For more information, or to register, visit <a href="http://www.ywcaelgin.org">www.ywcaelgin.org</a> or call the YWCA Elgin at 847.742.7930
<b>Thursday, October 13, 2011</b>	<b>8:30 am – 1:30 pm</b>	<b>DePaul University</b> Naperville Campus	<b>Voices for Illinois Children</b> Kids Count Symposium
<b>Thursday, October 19, 2011</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Batavia Library</b>	<b>Federal Education Study: Funding</b> Forum with Ralph Martire of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
<b>Saturday, October 22, 2011</b>	<b>8:30 am - 1 pm</b>	TBD	<b>Federal Education Study: Consensus Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 14, 2011</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>The Anvil Club, 309 Meier Ave,</b> East Dundee, IL 60118	<b>LWV Annual Holiday Dinner.</b> Join us for the League's annual holiday dinner on Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 at the Anvil Club. Additional details to be provided.

# Run Like You Mean It

*Sigi Psimenos*

As you know, our league together with the Elgin YWCA are combining our efforts in presenting an exciting program titled "**How to Run for Office-A Woman's Focus**". (First let us assure you that although this program is geared to women, men are not excluded, and will likewise be able to benefit greatly from their participation in the 4 sessions.)



It's our intention to teach this course in an effort to induce good people to run for public office by taking the mystery of running a campaign out of the mix. Take a moment of run through this draft, and we'll be in touch shortly with the final product- Diane Robertson, Loni Mecum & Sigi Psimenos.

## *Introductory Session*

**Saturday, October 1, 2011**

### **Orientation and the Nuts and Bolts Running for Political Office - Free to the Public**

**9:00 am to 10:30 am:** Identify Your Call to Service; Know Your Community and the opportunities. Why do you really want to run? Do you have time to do the job? Challenges women face! What if you take care of the one issue that made you run-Will you be willing to tackle the many other issues that will certainly follow?

**Possible Speakers:** Melissa Bean (Former US Rep) , Karen McConnaughay (Kane County Board Chair), Sue Harney (Dundee Township Supervisor), Tish Powell (Elgin Councilwoman) & Anna Moeller (Elgin Councilwoman)

**10:45 am to 12:00 pm:** Know your legal requirements for public office; Find out what paper work and forms need to be filled-out; Rules for filling out and filing petitions in your community.

**Possible Speakers:** (City Clerks-Former & Present) Diane Robertson, Loni Mecum & Kim Dewis

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm:** Strategizing—  
Questions--Answers

## *Session 2*

**Saturday, October 15, 2011**

### **Building Your Leadership Team, Define Your Message & Public Speaking**

(\$25/Session includes work materials)

**9:00 am to 10:30 am:** Build your leadership team; Organizing your inner circle; Organizing the whole campaign committees; Define Your Message; Critical Public Issues; Campaign Literature Endorsements;

**Possible Speakers:** Mayor Dave Kaptain (Elgin), Sue Harney (Dundee Township Supervisor), Sue Moylan (Former Councilwoman & Library Board), Joanne Armenta (Former Council Candidate, Pres. of LULAC, Library Foundation Chair), Sue Olafson (Elgin-Media/Public Information Officer, Sara Evans (Social Media Extraordinaire)

**10:45 am to 12:00 pm:** Voter Contact and Next Steps (Challenges of voter contact for women differ for men. It would be good to have someone present who has some good "war" stories about the campaign trail ; Today what has changed; examples of connecting with people through social networks. Develop your Data Base (book of voters); Targeting Voters; Walking Door to Door.

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm** Strategizing—  
Questions—Answers

*Continued on page 4*

### Session 3

**Saturday, October 29, 2011**

**Fundraising Activities** (\$25/  
Session includes work materials)

**9:00 am to 10:45 am** Why it is different for women and men! Know the rules of giving/legal rules as well as know your audience; asking people for money; Fund Raisers; Appearances at Events.

**Possible Speakers:** Dave Berke, Nick Beggars, Dorothy Miller

**11am to Noon:** Strategizing—Questions—Answers

### Session 4 -Final Session

**Saturday, November 5, 2011**

**Mobilize to Win Election Day** (\$25/  
Session includes work materials)

**9am to Noon** (with breaks): What this session is about: This is the last session and we will do a mock Candidates Forum role playing and have a celebration fest for all the winners who invested in the class and completed. The mock session lead by the LWV. Their will be a constructive critique of all participants.

**Possible Speakers:** Former Elgin Mayor Ed Schock, Sue Harney (Dundee Townership Supervisor), Traci Ellis (Attorney &U-46 School Board) and all program participants Session 3

## Get Moving

*Sandy Kaptain*



Celebrating alternative energy! Did you know a bike gets 984 equivalent miles to the gallon? Please share with your friends!

Anyone who can join us at Wayne (at approximately 15 miles to Villa Park) to meet up with the Sierra Club for their [350.org](http://350.org) **Moving planet celebration**, [let me know](#).

We leave there at 10 AM Sept. 24. Others may bike from Elgin--21 miles! Hope to see environmentally minded people there! CAN SHARE A RIDE ALSO! [More info at ecco-foxvalley.net](http://ecco-foxvalley.net).

## LWVEA Co-Sponsors Kids Count Symposium

*Laurel Bault*

The 2011 Illinois Kids Count data book, published by [Voices for Illinois Children](#), looks at the many factors that prepare children to have the greatest opportunities for learning in school. By the end of third grade, children should be ready to make the shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” – a critical building block for continued success. Much goes into preparing children for this transition, from high-quality early learning opportunities to good health to supportive families and communities. The Kids Count Symposium will provide the opportunity for attendees from Suburban Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties to hear leading experts discuss the importance of the years from birth to 8 and how these years impact life- long learning. Please mark your calendars:

Voices for Illinois Children Kids Count Symposium

Thursday, October 13, 2011

DePaul University - Naperville Campus

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

For more information, [register online by clicking here](#) or contact Laurel Bault at [laurelbault@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelbault@yahoo.com).

# Federal Education Study Underway

*Laurel Bault*

Collaborative work between Elgin and Central Kane Leagues on the Federal Role in Public Education study is going well! The Education Study scope focuses on public education from preK through grade 12, with a focus on (sub-committee 1) Common Core Standards, and (sub-committee 2) Funding and Equity Issues.

The Consensus Process is the backbone of the League of Women Voters. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR** today for Saturday, October 22, 2011 – 8:30 a.m. and join both Leagues in discussion and consensus process for this very important study. The schedule for the day is as follows:

## **October 22, 2011 (Saturday): League Consensus Meeting**

- 8:30-9:30 overview of core standards/assessment
- 9:30-10:30 meet in separate leagues for consensus
- 10:30-11 break
- 11-12 funding and equity overview
- 12-1 meet in separate leagues for consensus.

This schedule will allow League members to participate in both pieces of the process, or a choice of one or the other.

***CORRECTION: Last month's Voter incorrectly identified one of our members. Our apologies to Gretchen Matthews. Thanks for all the work you do.***

*In this photo: LWVEA members Loni Mecum and Gretchen Matthews at the New Citizen Recognition Ceremony in June.*

*Thanks to Andrea Fiebig for the photo.*



*credit: Lawrence Berkeley Nat'l Lab - Roy Kaltschmidt, photographer*

Two other learning opportunities – one on each part (Common Core Standards and Federal Funding) of the Study.

## **September 20, 2011 (Tuesday) – Common Core Standards Forum**

Dr. Cynthia Campbell – NIU will address the new Common Core Standards and our questions. 7 p.m. South Elgin High School – 760 E. Main St. in South Elgin, IL

This is a combined League Meeting **for members only.**

## **October 19, 2011 (Thursday) – Funding Forum**

Ralph Martire – Center for Tax and Budget Accountability will address Federal Funding and our questions. 7 p.m. Batavia Library – 10 South Batavia Ave. (Rt. 31) in Batavia, IL

[More information about the Study](#) can be found on our new League Website – and you can also find the complete set on Consensus questions there. More will be posted in October. League members will get much more out of the consensus process if they come prepared with background information.

For questions, comments, thoughts – please contact Elgin Committee Chair Laurel Bault, at [laurelbault@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelbault@yahoo.com) or 224-587-3611.



# MOVING PLANET

SEPTEMBER 24 2011

**A worldwide day to move beyond fossil fuels.**

Come on bike, on skates, on a board, or on foot. Come with your neighbors and your friends, your family and your co-workers. Come be part of something huge.

It's time to get moving on the climate crisis.

## TIME:

**Elgin bike riders will meet & start at 10 AM at the Prairie Path at Army Trail**  
(31W714 Army Trail Road, Wayne)

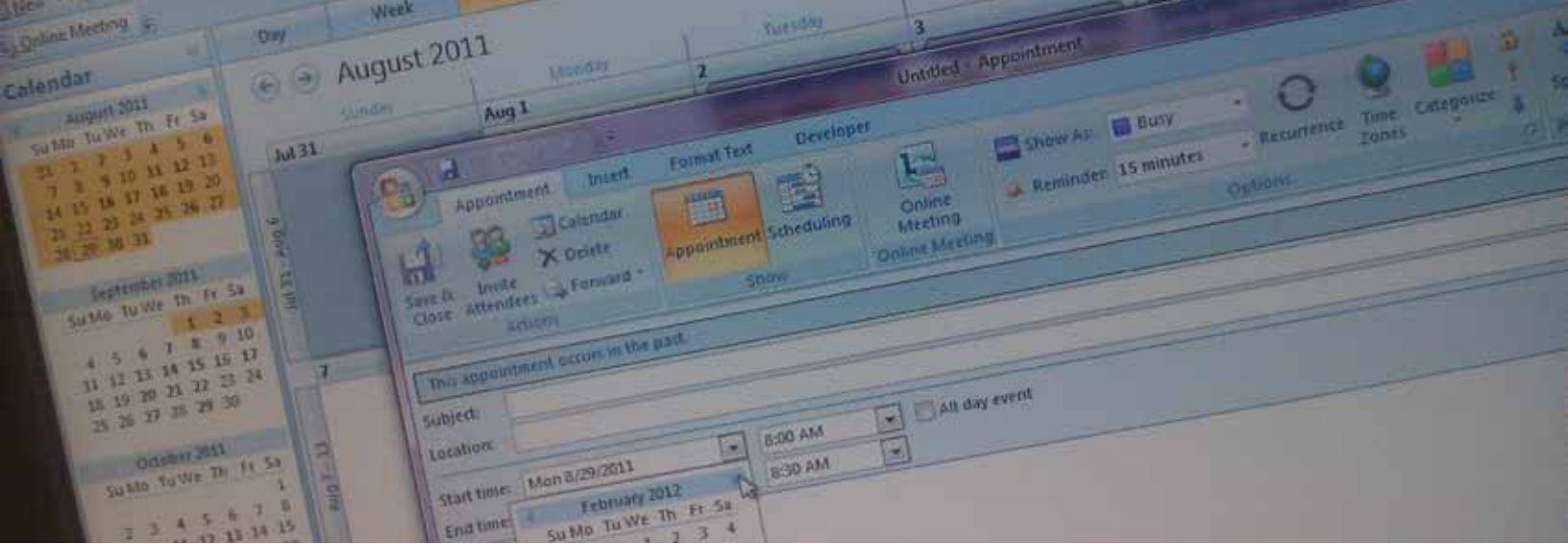
## PLACE:

It's about 17 Miles to our final destination - Ruggard Gazebo(10 West Park Ave.) in Villa Park. Of course, you can start anywhere in Elgin, Dundee, etc. if you have the stamina...or closer if you don't! Riders from Elmhurst, Lombard and further east will join us in Villa Park. (See map on backside)

## DETAILS:

**350 Bike riders** will be converging on the Ruggard Gazebo, Prairie Path at Ardmore Ave, Villa Park at 1:30 PM sharp for a *unique international photo-op*. Festivities include music, food & special speakers to mark this worldwide event. We're also encouraging those that can't ride, to walk or share a ride there. We just want to see you there in support of this effort. (White t-shirts are the preferred attire -ok to have your organization's logo on it & all bikers will get special streamers for their bike handlebars.)

Supported by Elgin Climate Change Organization (ECCO),  
River Prairie Group Sierra Club of Lombard, LWV of the Elgin Area, Moving Planet and 350.org  
**Join us on Facebook at *Moving Planet: Moving Beyond Fossil Fuels* or [www.ecco-foxvalley.net](http://www.ecco-foxvalley.net)**



## A Report from Afghanistan



Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 9, 7:00 PM at Gail Borden Public Library

Program: **The Cost of War, the Price of Peace: A Report Back from Travel to Afghanistan**

[Kathy Kelly](#), a 2003 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and coordinator of [Voices for Creative Nonviolence](#), will recount her perspective developed from five visits to Afghanistan since 2010 where she gained insight from Afghan health care professionals, journalists, agronomists, students, and laborers regarding the cost of the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

This event is Co-Sponsored by AAUW, LWV of the Elgin Area, Fox Valley Citizens for Peace and Justice, and the Gail Borden Public Library. Open to the public.

## Illinois' Budget Crisis, then & now

Learn more on Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 PM at Gail Borden Public Library.

Program: Illinois Tax Policy and Our State Fiscal Crisis

[Dr. Ron Baiman](#) of the [Center for Tax and Budget Accountability](#), a bi-partisan think tank, will explain how ineffective tax policies have contributed to Illinois' current budget crisis and what changes might alleviate education, social services and pension funding issues.

This program is co-sponsored by AAUW, LWV of the Elgin Area and Gail Borden Public Library and is open to the public.





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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 the 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. Membership costs: \$60 Individual; \$90 Household; \$30 Student.

To join, please send this form and your payment payable to: League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area, 569 Franklin Blvd., Elgin, IL 60120

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