



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

Area

# VOTEER

March 2012

## President's Corner

*Sigi Psimenos*

In case you missed it, the League turned 92 on February 14th and we are still going strong with our core objectives -registering, educating and mobilizing voters. We have good reason to be proud of our organization, so congratulations to us for the many things we've accomplished ...

But as we get ready to start a new League year on April 30th, our work is far from done - voter registration is being suppressed, and yet corporations are voting with their dollars; our forest preserves aren't as protected as we thought they were from gravel mining; to say nothing of our education and health care systems. Then there's gerrymandering..... No, our work is not done-not by a long shot! As we break bread together on the 30th and vote on our annual meeting agenda items, let's all individually recommit to being strong in numbers and influence in this 93rd year of the League of Women Voters.

In league with you,

Sigi

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# Join us for the LWV of the Elgin Area 83rd Annual Meeting

Stop in at 6 pm for the potluck and stay for the meeting, which will get underway at 7. We'll be at the Tyler Towers Clubhouse and we look forward to seeing you.

## AGENDA

- Call To Order
- Adoption of Rules
- Approval of 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Annual Report / Committee Reports
- Annual Report / 2011-2012 Programs
- 2012-2013 Proposed Budget
- Nominating Committee/Slate of Candidates
- Adoption of Programs
- Adjournment

***Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share (don't forget the serving spoon) and a libation of your choice. Plates, cups, etc. will be provided.***



## Upcoming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>April 10, 2012</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	Gail Borden Public Library	<b>Illinois Tax Policy and Our State Fiscal Crisis</b> More "Illinois' Budget Crisis, then & now" on page 4
<b>April 27, 2012</b>	<b>11 am till 5 pm</b>	Holiday Inn Itasca	<b>It's My Vote - I Will Be Heard Training</b> by <a href="#">AAUW Illinois</a> 11 am - 5 pm at Holiday Inn Itasca Samuel Lehman, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator, Washington DC will teach attendees how to mobilize women voters and strengthen the voice of women in the 2012 elections. <a href="#">RSVPs required</a>
<b>April 30, 2012</b>	<b>6 pm Potluck 7 pm Meeting</b>	Tyler Towers Clubhouse 1450 Plymouth Ln, Elgin, IL 60123	<b>Annual Meeting.</b> Attend this action-oriented meeting to bring our local programs alive. <b>Key community issues are always discussed in a non-partisan manner.</b>

# IT'S MY VOTE



Women wield great power in American politics. More than ever before, women are registering to vote and casting ballots in greater numbers and with more consistency than men. We are a powerful and influential bloc of voters.

As we look forward to Election Day 2012, we know that we have to do more: more education, more outreach, more voter registration, and more mobilization. That's why the AAUW Action Fund has launched a high energy, high return nonpartisan campaign which will mobilize women voters, with a focus on young women of the millennial generation. This exciting campaign is nationwide in scope, and your state has been targeted for special effort.

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**You are cordially invited to  
AAUW of Illinois's**

## ***IT'S MY VOTE – I WILL BE HEARD Training***

April 27, 2012  
11:00am – 5:00pm

Holiday Inn Itasca  
860 West Irving Park Road  
Itasca, Illinois, 60143

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**Samuel Lehman, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator, Washington DC**  
will teach us how to mobilize women voters and strengthen the voice of women in  
the 2012 elections. Topics to be covered include:

- **COMPONENTS OF IT'S MY VOTE**
- **DEVELOPING VOTER GUIDES**
- **CAMPAIGN**
- **PLANNING ISSUE & CANDIDATE FORUMS**
- **REACHING MILLENNIAL WOMEN**
- **EFFECTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA**
- **VOTER TURNOUT TECHNIQUES**
- **MARKETING/PUBLICITY**
- **RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS**
- **VOTER EDUCATION AS A MEMBERSHIP**
- **BUILDING COALITIONS**
- **RECRUITMENT TOOL**
- **REGISTERING VOTERS**

Complimentary lunch will be served.

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Register soon for this *free* seminar by filling out the RSVP form at <http://bit.ly/ILtraining>  
If you have any questions, please call Dawn Aldrich at 202/785-7793.

# It's Discrimination Against Women and It's Wrong

*Letter to the Editor submitted to Courier News*

The League of Women Voters was born more than 90 years ago from the long fight to get women the right to vote. Since 1992, when League members studied health care policy, we have worked to ensure access to quality health care for all. The League also has a strong commitment and belief that public policy in a diverse society must affirm the right of individuals to make their own reproductive choices.

That's why the League is so deeply concerned about recent proposals that would allow employers and health plans to block contraceptive services and discriminate against women.

By a narrow margin, the U.S. Senate recently defeated an amendment that would limit access to contraception for women if any employer or insurance plan has an undefined "religious or moral objection" to it. This open-ended invitation to cut back on preventative health care services would turn back the clock for women and for American society.

We understand that not everyone agrees with the League on this subject. But we strongly believe that public institutions, including schools and hospitals that receive substantial federal assistance, should not limit the health care choices available to their employees. Institutions that serve the public at large should not impose their own views but should respect the conscientious decisions of each individual.

The League of Women Voters believes that all persons, regardless of gender, should be eligible for preventive health services. Allowing employers to exclude contraceptive services is discrimination based on sex, and it's wrong.

Sincerely,

Sigi Psimenos, President

LWV of the Elgin Area

## 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.



**LWV of the Elgin Area- Annual Meeting 2012**  
**Local Programs 2012-2013**

**A.** In order to assist the citizens of Elgin in making an informed decision about their options for an expanded city council, the local league will continue to study "What is the best system for electing members of the Elgin City Council?"

- At Large
- Ward System
- Combination At Large/Ward
- Other

**B.** Support the City of Elgin's efforts to become a sustainable community through:

- Continued participation in the Elgin Sustainability Committees
- Continued monitoring of the implementation of Elgin Sustainability Master Plan
- Continue to participate in and support the goals and efforts of the Elgin Community Garden Network

**C.** In order to promote and increase participation in public government, the local league will collaborate with the Elgin YWCA on another educational forum on "Running for Public Office."

**D.** Continue to monitor selected mental health issues outlined in the 2007 LWV Kane Countywide Study.

**F.** As a follow up to the findings from the LWV-Elgin Area study of potential gravel mining on the Brunner Property, Kane County Forest Preserve (KCFP), the local league will look at KCFP policies and practices with regard to:

- The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act (70 ILCS 805);
- Proposed changes in the law (SB 2484)
- The use of forest preserve land for purposes outside of their mission statement, including leases to other entities;
- Transparency issues including compliance with Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act .

**LWVEA Annual Meeting-2012**  
**Nominating Committee – Slate of Candidates**

We, the Nominating Committee, hereby present the following Slate of Candidates to be voted on at the LWV of the Elgin Area Annual Meeting:

President	Sigi Psimenos
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Loni Mecum
Treasurer	Diane Robertson
Board Member	Myra Becker
Board Member	Francine Cella
Board Member	Bonnie Kalaway

Nominating Committee 2013	
Chair	Karen Maki
Member	Donna Askins

Presented By:  
Roberta Nauman, Chair  
Donna Askins  
Carol Grom

## **National League Privatization Study**

The LWVUS is asking local leagues to participate in a **study on privatization** during the winter and spring of 2012. This comes at a good time for the LWVEA because the possibility of privatization has been raised during the current Elgin budget process. Nearby states have engaged in fierce battles over best approaches to providing state and municipal services. Elgin residents would benefit by a League effort to carefully review the proposed goals and potential community impact of transferring government services or functions to the private sector. Materials on the history and regulations related to privatization are available on the LWVUS web site and will be available as LWVEA undertakes this effort. All LWVEA members are encouraged to get involved, and should contact [Myra Becker](#), or any other Board members if you're interested.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ELGIN AREA**

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2012-2013**

<b>ACCT. #</b>	<b>ACCOUNT TITLE</b>	<b>2011-2012 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2012-2013 PROPOSED</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
	<b>REVENUE</b>			
	Membership Dues			
4010	Individual: 48 x \$60	\$2,880.00	\$2,880.00	
4020	Household: 10 x \$90	990.00	\$900.00	
4030	Student: 2 X \$30	30.00	\$60.00	
4040	Honorary: 4 x \$0	\$-	\$-	This category has been added
	<b>TOTAL DUES</b>	<b>\$3,900.00</b>	<b>\$3,840.00</b>	<b>\$3,840.00</b>
	Contributions			
4110	Members - Cash	\$345.00	\$400.00	
4111	Non-members Cash		\$200.00	
	In Kind - see last page notations			
	<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$345.00</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
	Fundraising			
4210	Elections	\$560.00	\$-	
4220	Holiday Dinner	\$1,295.00	\$1,300.00	
4235	Phonathon	\$-	\$-	
4240	Carnival	\$1,190.00	\$2,305.00	See Notations
4290	Other	\$-	\$50.00	
	<b>TOTAL FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>\$3,045.00</b>	<b>\$3,665.00</b>	<b>\$3,655.00</b>
	Other Income			
4800	Newsletter Advertisements	\$300.00	\$400.00	
4900	Interest Earned	\$0.55	\$-	
4901	Misc. Income		\$-	
	<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$300.55</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>\$8,495.00</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>			

ACCT. #	ACCOUNT TITLE	2011-2012 ACTUAL	2012-2013 PROPOSED	NOTES
	Operating Expenses			
6110	President		\$20.00	
6120	Treasurer		\$20.00	
	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
	Committees			
6210	Membership	\$36.67	\$50.00	
6220	Holiday Dinner	\$1,140.00	\$1,300.00	
6250	Programs/Studies/Speakers	\$100.00	\$500.00	
6270	LWVEA/YWCA Running for Public Office	\$200.00	\$200.00	
6295	Miscellaneous	-		
	<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,476.67</b>	<b>\$2,050.00</b>	<b>\$2,050.00</b>
	Other Operating Expenses			
6510	Newsletter		\$-	
6512	Printing	\$52.53	\$100.00	
6513	Postage		\$50.00	
6530	Website		\$30.00	
6570	Other Publications		\$-	
6580	Fund Raising Expenses		\$300.00	
6590	Room Rental	\$220.00	\$220.00	
6700	Insurance	\$85.00	\$85.00	
6800	Annual Audit		\$-	
6900	Miscellaneous	\$25.00	\$25.00	
	<b>TOTAL OTHER OPERATING EXP</b>	<b>\$382.53</b>	<b>\$810.00</b>	<b>\$810.00</b>
	Voter Service Related Activities			
7210	Voter Registration		\$-	
7230	Candidate Forums-Greater Elgin	\$44.00	\$200.00	
7235	Candidate Forums - Dundee/Rutland		\$200.00	
7250	Voters Guide-Greater Elgin		\$-	
7255	Voters Guide - Dundee/Rutland		\$200.00	Online
7260	Mock Elections		\$-	
7290	Miscellaneous		\$50.00	



ACCT. #	ACCOUNT TITLE	2011-2012 ACTUAL	2012-2013 PROPOSED	NOTES
	<b>Total Voter Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$44.00</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
	Convention & Workshops			
7510	State Convention	\$1,250.00	\$-	
7520	National Convention		\$1,000.00	
7550	Workshops		\$350.00	
	<b>Total Convention/WS Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>
	Organizational Obligations			
7710	LWV - IL	\$1,500.00	\$1,720.00	
7730	LWV - US	\$1,650.00	\$1,875.00	
	<b>Total Organizational Obligations</b>	<b>\$3,150.00</b>	<b>\$3,595.00</b>	<b>\$3,595.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,303.00</b>	<b>\$8,495.00</b>	<b>\$8,495.00</b>
	<b>NOTATIONS</b>			
	<b>In Kind (Non Cash) Contributions</b>			
4120	Individuals - In Kind		\$25.00	
4150	Other - In Kind		\$50.00	Super Print (in exchange for printing)
	<b>Carnival Breakdown</b>			
	Total Revenue	\$75,680.00		
	Total Expenses	\$71,731.87		
	Total Profit	\$3,948.13		LWVEA, EPM, YWCA(27NPFs)
	LWVEA Profit	\$1,190.00		4 out of 8 days where weather was good

# Help us put a friendly face on the LWVEA!

We'd like to feature you in an issue of the Voter, our website, and/or our facebook page.

Thanks to Theresa Peterson and Bonnie Kalaway for being our first in this series!

Your participation will not only give the public and prospective members a picture of the diversity of our chapter, but it will also help your fellow members get to know you a little more. Thanks for your time and energy!

*Continued on page 11*



## Member Profile: Theresa Peterson

### *What made you get involved in the LWVEA? (a friend, an issue, etc)*

I attended a meeting to meet a State Representative, Margaret Reid, who was actively working to pass the Illinois constitutional change way back in 1970. It was a good meeting and prompted a few of us to wonder why we did not have a League in our area. Since I belonged to a group that had started the Dundee Historical Society and the Great Books Group, I suggested that we might also start a League group. Their answer: good idea: see what you can do with it. In those days it was pretty easy to get news into the local newspapers, and a notice that an organizational meeting for the League of Women Voters was planned brought out quite a number of interested women. Two years

later, our group was a Provisional League and so began the Carpentersville-Dundee Area of the League. Years later, when our numbers were dwindling seriously, I was happy to find a place with the Elgin Area League, along with some of the same members who had worked so long together.

### *What town do you live in?*

Originally a South Dakotan and Minnesotan, I have lived in Illinois since graduating from college, the last 45 years in Sleepy Hollow.

### *What do you do most often when you are bored?*

I don't believe you can be bored if you have an active mind. I love to read and will read anything - from texts to menus and labels if that is all that is available! While in Florida the past two weeks I have read two good books - not new but good: John Grisham's "The Confession" and Dick Francis' "Comeback" and am part way through Steve Perry's "The Charlemagne Pursuit".

### *What was the last film you saw at the movie theater?*

Though I see few movies in a year, I have seen three here because of the rain and fog and because a local small theater has had "The Iron Lady", "The Descendants" and "The Artist", so I am caught up with all the Oscar nominees! I enjoyed them all for different reasons, hard to choose the "best".

### *Tell us about a recent LWVEA project/activity that you enjoyed participating in:*

I enjoyed participating in the **study on Education** the past year; on reflection I find issue with some of our conclusions. I will be watching to see how these ideas affect the future of education. My most favorite activity in the League is the **candidate meeting**. Early on I discovered how revealing these could be and how beneficial it was to see the candidates in action before you went to the polling booth to make a choice!

Here are some questions you can answer to help us develop your profile

(feel free to answer as many or few as you like):

- What made you get involved in the LWVEA? (a friend, an issue, etc)
- Tell us about a recent LWVEA project/activity that you enjoyed participating in:
- What town do you live in?
- Write a 20-line poem (rhyming or non-rhyming) dedicated to your favorite aspect of the LWVEA (could be a project, a position, a "League Way", another member, etc.).
- What was the last film you saw at the movie theater?
- What do you do most often when you are bored?
- What artist shows up most on your playlist?
- What was the last book you read?
- What is your favorite play or musical?
- Other than English, what languages can you speak?
- If you could have any super power, what would it be and why would you want that one?
- If you could morph into anyone (alive, dead, fictional, etc.), who would it be and why?
- If you had to choose between yesterday and tomorrow, which would you pick and why?
- Finish this sentence: I'm thankful for the LWVEA because ...



## Member Profile: Bonnie Kalaway

*What made you get involved in the LWVEA? (a friend, an issue, etc)*

I got involved in the LWV - Carpentersville-Dundee area - around 1975, as I was interested in what was going on in our local area.

I was the **Observer at the Sleepy Hollow board meetings** - and confusing as that was, I eventually ran for and was elected Village Clerk in 1977 - and served through June, 1986. I've been on the board of the C-D LWV, and now the LWVEA, almost every year since I joined.

*Tell us about a recent LWVEA project/activity that you enjoyed participating in:*

I've worked on the **Candidates' Forums** in the Dundee/Gilberts/Carpentersville area for most of my years as a League member, and served as Moderator for the Barrington LWV. Since a survey of the C-D LWV members some years ago indicated that our prime focus should be **voter education**, I've felt that was an important part of my activities. I am currently on the **Brunner Gravel Mining Committee**.

*What town do you live in?*

I currently live in West Dundee, after many years in Sleepy Hollow, East Dundee and Barrington Hills. I moved to this area in 1973.

*What was the last film you saw at the movie theater?*

Movie: "Seeking Justice" - scary and not very good. The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" - scary, disturbing, but well acted. Janet Evanovich's "One For The Money" - funny, silly, but loved it.

*What do you do most often when you are bored?*

I read, take my dog for a walk, maybe watch TV, or clean my house.

*What is your favorite play or musical?*

I love opera, Gilbert and Sullivan light opera, and any Broadway musical; but coming to appreciate classical music, since I've had a subscription to the Elgin Symphony Orchestra concerts.

*Finish this sentence: I'm thankful for the LWVEA because ...*

I've made a lot of good friends and have come to appreciate the dedication of the League members and also those who have run for and served in public office. Discussions with league members are always interesting, challenging, inspiring, educational, and fun!



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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, c/o Sigi Psimenos, 1450 Plymouth Lane, Elgin, IL 60123

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Did you know?

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. This is the organization's mission statement.

The LWV is organized to parallel the three levels of government: local, state and national. In some areas, local Leagues have formed Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) to address regional concerns. At each level, the League is governed by a volunteer president and board of directors.

Women—and men (since 1974)—who are citizens and at least 18 years old may join the League as voting members. Associate (non-voting) membership is available for younger people and non-citizens. Joining at any level of the organization automatically confers membership at every level, and with that membership comes the opportunity to make an impact on local, state, regional and national public policy issues. (from LWVUS League Basics)

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# Political Yet Nonpartisan

Soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.

To ensure the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, each League's board of directors is responsible for drafting and carrying out its own nonpartisan policy and for seeing that both its members and the public understand the League's nonpartisan role.

Leagues should also have a conflict of interest policy related to board members' paid employment, service on other boards (including League boards at other levels), personal lobbying, etc. (from LWVUS League Basics)

## STEFFEN, KELLY & STEFFEN

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[www.villaverone.net](http://www.villaverone.net)**

*The Elgin Area League thanks our 2011 - 2012 Patrons for their support.*



League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area  
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