

56th Annual Meeting
May 19, 2011



League of Women Voters
of Wheaton

PROGRAM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING MAY 19, 2011

WELCOME	MISSEY WILHELM
SPEAKER.....	JEANETTE NEAGU
DINNER	
CALL TO ORDER OF 55TH ANNUAL MEETING.....	MISSEY WILHELM
QUORUM ESTABLISHED	
ADOPTION OF RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING	MISSEY WILHELM
MINUTES OF 56TH ANNUAL MEETING	LIZ QUIGG
MARGET HAMILTON AWARD PRESENTATION	MISSEY WILHELM AND BARB PAPE
PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET	ROBERTA JACOBSON
BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT	MARTHA BARMANTJE
CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL PROGRAM.....	DENISE CURTIS
NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	JAN KAY
INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD.....	MISSEY WILHELM
DIRECTION TO BOARD.....	LEAGUE MEMBERS
ADJOURNMENT	
SECRETARY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING	LIZ QUIGG
PARLIAMENTARIAN.....	ALLENE HARDING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROGRAM	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2011.....	3
COMMITTEES AND OBSERVER CORPS	4
PROPOSED RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING.....	5
MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING MAY 20, 2010	6
MARGET HAMILTON AWARD – MAY 2011	7
<i>Recipients of the Marget Hamilton Award:</i>	7
LWV WHEATON PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-12	8
LWV WHEATON PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-12: REVENUE	9
BY- LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT	10
LOCAL PROGRAM 2010-2011	11
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE	13
NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2012	13
PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011	14
MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2010- 2011.....	15
FINANCE DRIVE 2010-11.....	16
VOTER SERVICE - CANDIDATE FORUMS 2010-2011 & ILLINOIS STUDENT VOTE 2010.....	16
VOTER SERVICE - REGISTRATION	17
ACTION ITEMS FOR 2010-2011	17
SPECIAL PROJECTS 2010-11	18
PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2011	19
<i>State Program Planning</i>	19
<i>Local Planning</i>	20
<i>Program Planning Update – Fiscal Policies Expenditure Study</i>	20
PUBLICATIONS	20
WEBMASTER.....	21
REPORT OF ACTION COMMITTEES	21
<i>DIVERSITY</i>	21
<i>EDUCATION</i>	21
<i>ENVIRONMENT / HEALTH CARE</i>	22
<i>HOUSING GROUP</i>	23
<i>VIABLE DOWNTOWN WHEATON</i>	24
LEAGUE OF VOTERS	25

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2011

OFFICERS

Missey Wilhelm	President	Voter Service/ Candidate Forum & Illinois Student Vote
Roberta Jacobson	Vice President	Action, Database
Denise Niesman	Vice President	VOTER, Membership
Liz Quigg	Secretary	Webmaster
Olga Rammer	Treasurer	

BOARD MEMBERS

Denise Curtis	Programs
Frank Goetz	Diversity
Joan Fefferman	Education, Special Projects
Allene Harding	Voter Service/ Voter Registration
Shannon Burns	At Large
Diane Niesman	Environment and Health Care
Beth O'Malley	Finance Drive

COMMITTEES AND OBSERVER CORPS

Listed below are local action and study committees, the chair people and members. Also included is the observer corps for public meetings.

Diversity	Frank Goetz, Chair Kay Goetz Liz Quigg Mary Wachter Ruth Riha	Observer Corps	City Council – Jan Kay Park District – Jane Hodgkinson School Board – Joan Fefferman
Education	Joan Fefferman, Chair Helen White Roberta Jacobson Missey Wilhelm Louise Florian Carol Elias	Programs	Denise Curtis, Chair Beth O'Malley Frank Goetz
Environment and Healthcare	Diane Niesman, Chair Environment Healthcare Jane Taylor Pat Duhey Betty Bradshaw Missey Wilhelm Allene Harding	Publications	Open, Chair Everything is online.
Housing	Jan Kay, Chair Helen White Kathy Kregor Barb Deli Denise Curtis Susannah Levine, Research associate, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest	Viable Downtown Businesses	Open Chair Betty Hamilton Deb Gray Mary Wachter Barb Deli Betty Welker Jan Kay
Finance Drive	Beth O'Malley, Chair Missey Wilhelm, Past Chair Roberta Jacobson, Data Denise Niesman, Printing Olga Rammer, Treasurer	Voter Service	Voter Registration – Allene Harding, Chair Registrars Candidate Forums – Missey Wilhelm, Chair
Membership	Denise Niesman, Chair Martha Barmantje Mary Shuemaker Roberta Jacobson, Data Olga Rammer, Treasurer	Technology (NEW)	Chair, none Missey Wilhelm Denise Curtis Beryl Jacobson Liz Quigg
Nominating	Jan Kay, Chair Barb Pape Joan Fefferman Denise Niesman Charlotte Murphy	Budget	Roberta Jacobson, Chair Beth O'Malley Olga Rammer, Treasurer Joan Fefferman

PROPOSED RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Parliamentary procedures are tools to expedite fair, full and orderly considerations of business before the annual meeting. These procedures are contained in our by-laws, the Order of Business, and Rules Adopted at the Meeting, and, where applicable, Robert's Rules of Order, revised. Rules of the Meeting are adopted by a majority vote, but may be changed by a two-thirds vote.

VOTING

Only members of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton may make motions and vote. The chair will decide which method of voting should be used.

ADMISSION

No member may be admitted to the meeting during the time a motion is being presented, debated, or acted upon. This rule is made so that no member may vote on an issue on which he/she has heard only one part of the discussion.

DEBATE

Debate from the floor shall be limited to three minutes. No one shall speak more than once to a question until all who desire the privilege of the floor shall have spoken. The speaker will give his/her name and will state whether he/she speaks for or against the motion.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

The recommended program items will be presented and each will be separately moved and seconded for adoption. No vote will be taken until all recommended and non-recommended items have been presented. Questions will be asked for clarification only; there will be no debate at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF NON-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

Non-recommended* items shall be presented immediately after the presentation of the recommended items. After the motion has been moved and seconded, the member requesting consideration may make a statement limited for five minutes in explanation of the reason for asking consideration. Only questions for clarification may be asked. Then the vote to consider is taken, a majority is required to pass.

If a non-recommended item is voted consideration by the Annual Meeting, the board shall be allowed five minutes to explain its reason for not recommending the item.

DISCUSSION

There will be discussion and debate on the recommended and non-recommended items, which have been voted consideration. Amendments may be proposed and voted on at this time. Final action on program items will be taken once each item has been discussed.

ADOPTION OF ITEMS

The vote will be taken on each item in the order presented. Recommended program items require a majority vote; non-recommended items require a two-thirds majority vote for adoption.

*Our by-laws state that, Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

May 20, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:40 P.M. by President Missey Wilhelm.
2. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the rules of the annual meeting. The motion carried.
3. A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes from the 54rd Annual Meeting and approve the minutes. The motion carried.

4. Carol Honeywell presented the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget and reviewed various changes that were made in expenditures and revenues. Included in the budget was a proposed increase in annual dues to \$65 per person and \$97.50 per household. The League expects to save money by putting more information on the web. The national PMP went up while the state PMP is staying the same leaving \$8.80 of the dues to pay for local activities. Missey emphasized that the League has money to help people who might not be able to afford the higher dues.

Mary Wachter voiced a concern that by going electronic with the Voter and its ads of the businesses, we are not giving the businesses as much free advertising. Missey pointed out that the feedback from the businesses is good and they like the fact that they can have live links to their businesses on the web. Mary reiterated her concern about giving the businesses proper exposure in exchange for their donations. Missey and Lori mentioned the ad we will have in the Chamber of Commerce Business Directory and the new capability to put our events on the calendar on the Chamber's website. The City of Wheaton puts candidates nights on the city calendar as well. Mary hopes that we will make an effort to cover West Chicago, Winfield and Carol Stream in the same way.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. The motion carried.

6. Martha Barmantje presented the by-laws committee's recommendation that no changes be made to the by-laws.
7. Beth O'Malley noted the local program will be the same this year.
8. Barb Pape presented the following candidates for two-year terms on the Board of Directors. The motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees. The motion passed.

For Vice-President *Denise Niesman*
 For Treasurer *Olga Rammer*

The following Director positions are for two-year terms:

Denise Curtis
Frank Goetz
Beth O'Malley

The following are nominees for the 2011 Nominating Committee:

Jan Kay, Chair
Charlotte Murphy
Barb Pape

9. Missey Wilhelm recognized the members of the current Board and thanked them for their

service.

10. Missey Wilhelm recognized the new Board and made some comments.

11. Missey summarized the major areas covered this year and mentioned the following as major activities for next year:

- Mock Elections
- Candidates Forums with the Chamber of Commerce and the Glen Ellyn LWV
- Voter Registration
- Death Penalty Issue
- Healthcare Reform
- Campaign Finance Reform on the National Level

Missey noted that the presidents of the leagues that would comprise the DuPage Interleague were still waiting for the State and National to provide feedback on their proposal for working together. Currently the five presidents meet to discuss issues of common interest, draft letters to the editor and publish them once the individual leagues approve them.

12. Missey asked those in attendance to provide direction for the 2010-11 Board.

Roberta Jacobson mentioned the immigration issue will be important. Darlene Ruscitti noted that it is important to educate the public on this issue without making it political.

13. The Annual Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Submitted by: Liz Quigg, Secretary

MARGET HAMILTON AWARD – MAY 2011

In 2008, the League of Women Voters of Wheaton established its SERVICE TO THE WHEATON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AWARD. The name of the award is the MARGET HAMILTON AWARD in honor of the founder of the Wheaton League Unit in 1955.

Margy has had a very long and distinguished career in public service on many levels and served as the first woman Mayor of Wheaton. After moving to this area in the early '50's, she discovered there was no League here in Wheaton and soon after joining the Glen Ellyn League with her mother-in-law, Nell, she embarked on the procedural work to establish the Wheaton League of Women Voters. Margy embodies every part of what the League is all about and we are pleased to name this award in her honor.

Recipients of the Marget Hamilton Award:

2008	Betty Hamilton	Joined the Wheaton LWV under the leadership of Marget Hamilton.
2009	Helen White	Contributed enormously to the League keeping it true to its reason for being, acting as a major resource in education and other league work.

LWV WHEATON PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-12

EXPENSES	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Budget	Notes
Affiliations			
Great Wheaton Chamber	175.00	125.00	based on actual
LWVIL per Member Payment	2,339.00	2,200.00	fewer members
LWVUS per Member Payment	2,587.00	2,400.00	fewer members
Lake Michigan LWV	25.00	25.00	
Delegates and Travel			
National or State Conventions	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Workshops or Regional meetings	200.00	200.00	
General Administration			
Board Tools	100.00	100.00	
LWV President	300.00	100.00	based on actual
Operating Costs			
Bank Charge & office expense	0.00	160.00	based on actual
Cost of Finance Drive	300.00	350.00	based on actual
Insurance	125.00	95.00	fewer members
Postage Expense	500.00	300.00	based on actual
Printing Expense	1,500.00	750.00	based on actual
Website fee	160.00	200.00	increased fee
Programs and Activities			
Action	75.00	0.00	unused 2010-11
Annual Dinner Expense	200.00	0.00	tracks deposit
Event Rental	100.00	0.00	unused 2010-11
General Meetings & Programs	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Member recruitment & retention	0.00	200.00	projected need
Publications	100.00	100.00	
Special Events	100.00	200.00	projected need
Voter Service	200.00	200.00	
Total Expenditures	\$12,586.00	\$11,205.00	\$405 > income

LWV WHEATON PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-12: REVENUE

INCOME			
Contingency Income	0.00	400.00	Annual Dinner
Fund Raisers	700.00	500.00	Lower results
Interest Income	0.00	0.00	
LWV Dues	5,818.00	5,200.00	fewer members
Member Contributions	1,500.00	1,400.00	fewer contributions
Non-Member Contributions	3,000.00	2,900.00	fewer contributions
September Meeting	0.00	400.00	September Dinner
Total Income	\$11,018.00	\$10,800.00	

Note: 2010-11 budget used "carryover revenue" of \$1568 to balance budget

2011-12 budget eliminates use of carryover; total of expense versus income is clearer.

ASSETS			
LWVIL Education Fund		358.61	as of 3/2011
Certificate of Deposit		7,099.94	as of 3/29/2011
Checking		5,057.02	as of 3/29/2011
Savings		2,512.49	as of 3/29/2011
Total Assets		15,253.79	as of 3/29/2011
Liabilities		0.00	as of 3/29/2011
Equity		15,253.79	
Total Liabilities & Equity		\$15,253.79	

Assets are ample to cover expenses greater than income for this year.

PMP based on Membership report on 1/11/2011

		2011-2012
Local Individual L1	53	PMP for LWVIL 27/\$40.50; for LWVUS \$29.80/\$44.70;
1st Household L2 R2	18	Total PMP \$56.80/\$85.20 per household of 2 people.
2nd Household L3 R3	18	Wheaton LWV dues \$65 for one, \$97.50 per household.
National N1 N2 N3 N4	0	Wheaton LWV nets \$8.20 of individual dues
Honorary L4 R4	2	Members = 91 as of Jan 2011;
Student	0	53 @ \$65 = \$3445, 18 @ \$97.50 = \$1755.00 (2 honorary)
Total Members 2011	91	TOTAL 2012 dues are \$5200 based on 91 Members

2011 Budget Committee: Roberta Jacobson, Beth O'Malley, Olga Rammer, Missej Wilhelm

BY- LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

ARTICLE III Membership

Section 1. Types of Membership.

- (a) Voting members shall be citizens at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Associate members shall be all other members.
- (c) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

Proposed:

ARTICLE III Membership

Section 1. Types of Membership.

- (a) Voting members shall be citizens at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Associate members shall be all other members.
- (c) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be ~~honorary~~ life members excused from the payment of dues.

This revision will make our by-laws conform to a change made by the LWVIL at the State Convention last June.

Respectfully submitted by the By-laws Committee
Martha Barmantje
Denise Niesman
Ellen Noth

LOCAL PROGRAM 2010-2011

Local Government

Local Government Bodies:

Support of Council-Manager government with no fewer than six councilpersons and one Mayor. Four councilpersons should be elected from districts and two councilpersons and one mayor should be elected at large. In drawing district boundaries, the League of Women Voters of Wheaton agrees with present State Statute which stipulates: "The city council shall divide the city, whenever necessary thereafter, into districts which shall be of as compact and contiguous territory as practicable of approximately equal population."

Home Rule:

Support Home Rule for the City of Wheaton and DuPage County.

Zoning and Annexation:

Support for professional planning to balance the city's residential and commercial development with substantial open space; the maintenance of a viable central business district and, where compatible, expansion of the city's tax base.

Cable TV:

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton supports:

- The City of Wheaton maintaining its public educational and governmental channels as part of the Cable TV franchise agreement.
- Broad-based citizen participation in the Community Media Commission.
- Participation in Cable TV by public institutions serving Wheaton.
- Provisions for non-commercial cable TV programming produced by public institutions.
- The continuation of public access television programming produced and/or sponsored by individuals.
- All of the positions above even as communication technology evolve.

Social Policies

Housing:

- Support of Open Housing Ordinance for Wheaton.
- Support of additional housing units and housing assistance for low and moderate income families, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Recreation:

Park District Programs and Facilities:

- The League of Women Voters believes the current programs are meeting most of the needs of the community. However, improved programming for junior high age and teenage young people should receive the District's attention.
- The League of Women Voters believes the Park District Board has the responsibility to provide what the community wants; however, the resources must be managed responsibly. The League has some concerns about the appropriateness of subsidizing out-of-community participants in senior citizen activities.
- The League of Women Voters believes criteria should be developed by the Park Board to meet the on-going needs of citizens who cannot otherwise participate in the programs. We support increasing the awareness of scholarship programs through community resources who can make referrals as well as through the media.
- The League of Women Voters supports the use of a Master Plan to bring cohesiveness to the work of the Park District. We support continued input by the public into the planning.

We support an annual review of the Master Plan by the Board of the Park District.

Transportation:

The League supports and encourages bicycling for transportation and recreation wherever and whenever possible. Whenever city streets are upgraded, Wheaton planners should evaluate ways to make cycling safer and implement bike lanes where feasible. Planners at the municipal and county level should coordinate bicycle path routes in order to enable cyclists to travel to different areas, for both transportation and recreation.

The League supports a bus system for Wheaton and encourages the coordination of the Wheaton system with systems throughout the region, rather than owned and operated by Wheaton. Ridership might be increased by publishing routes, times and destinations at bus stops or in the local newspaper, newsletter, etc. Pullover lanes might be added on heavily traveled roads, so as not to hinder traffic flow.

Health Care:

Support for improved access to health care in our community and for improved coordination of preventive health service.

Education:

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton reaffirms its support of quality education in Wheaton-Warrenville District 200. Quality education should be sufficiently diverse to meet the needs of all students. Public education should provide a foundation for lifelong learning, which includes critical thinking and communication skills, as well as fundamental knowledge to function independently in society.

Some of the ways to achieve these goals include:

- reasonable and appropriate class size
- teachers and administrators who meet high professional standards
- teachers and administrators maintained in positions for which they are trained
- quality and equity throughout the system of physical plant, program and materials
- mutual trust and communication between the community and school system

Adequate resources are necessary to accomplish these goals, and they should include sufficient constitutionally-mandated state funding and exploration of alternative sources of funding. We support a balanced budget, but not at the expense of quality education.

It is in the interest of the entire community to invest in and support public education. Moreover, the League firmly believes it is also the obligation of the citizens of a participatory democracy to support public education to foster an informed electorate.

AREAS FOR EMPHASIS – 2010-2011

Areas for emphasis include the following issues and will be carried out through the Working Groups in place.

- Diversity
- Education
- Environment
- Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Viable Downtown
- Fiscal Policy / School Funding

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee places the following candidates in nomination for two-year terms on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton:

Officers

TBA	President
Liz Quigg (2013)	Vice President
Di Niesman (2013)	Secretary

The following Director positions are for two years:

Allene Harding
Jane Hodgkinson
Shannon Burns
Barb Deli

The following are nominees for the 2012 Nominating Committee:

Charlotte Murphy, Chair
Nancy Bielawski
Carol Honeywell

Respectfully Submitted,
2011 Nominating Committee
Jan Kay, Chair
Barb Pape
Charlotte Murphy
Joan Fefferman
Denise Niesman

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2012

with year term ends

OFFICERS

President	Unfilled (2013)
Vice President	Liz Quigg (2013)
Vice President	Denise Niesman (2012)
Secretary	Diane Niesman (2013)
Treasurer	Olga Rammer (2012)

BOARD MEMBERS

Shannon Burns (2013)	Allene Harding (2013)
Denise Curtis (2012)	Jane Hodgekinson (2013)
Barb Deli (2013)	Beth O'Malley (2012)
Frank Goetz (2012)	

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

As in the past, this year continued to offer opportunities for civic engagement, advocacy and education for the League of Women Voters of Wheaton. When a president looks back on a year it's easy to think not much was accomplished, until you look at each Voter, notes from meeting, the calendar and action items for the year requested by LWVIL and LWVUS. It was a very full year indeed. The year also presented some personal challenges for me but with the support of excellent officers and the board of directors I was able to navigate through it all. Thank you all for that much needed and appreciated support.

The Wheaton League of Women Voters partnered with the LWV Glen Ellyn, the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, Community High School of West Chicago and the Carol Stream & Winfield Women's Clubs to presented 7 Candidate Forums bringing **73 candidates** to meet directly with approximately **800 citizens** and reaching 4 communities in our service area. We are really good at candidate forums and should continue to reach out to other organizations in our service for opportunities to get candidates in front of voters. Look for more detail in the Voter Service/Candidate Forum report. We also participated in the **2010 Illinois Student Vote**, supporting the mock elections on Oct 5th, 6th and 7th at 4 local high schools.

We welcomed the new CUSD 200 Superintendant, Dr. Brian Harris, who discussed challenges in managing under the current Illinois fiscal crisis, current budget issues facing CUSD 200 and the good news for our district. Assistant Superintendent for curriculum, Dr. Margo Sorrick, presented Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as the No Child Left Behind Act and the Race to the Top including the Common Curriculum Standards widely accepted among the States and the possible effects on our District. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) [The Education Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education](#) touches on these concepts and we are grateful for Dr. Sorrick providing a local perspective.

The Illinois Fiscal Crisis remained a constant concern. The League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) asked local leagues to participate in a survey that would provide good insight as to the effects of the fiscal crisis on our community. The Annual State of the Community provided a unique opportunity to ask Wheaton's Mayor Gresk, CUSD 200 President, Andy Johnson, and Wheaton Park District President, Ray Morrill, to answer the survey questions as part of their presentations. The event was televised for rebroadcast for the community.

We joined other leagues to conduct legislative interviews with Congressman Peter Roskam who was asked about priorities for the 112th Congress, civil civic discourse, the Affordable Care Act, and the Clean Air Act. Questions for State representatives Franco Coladipietro, Mike Fortner, and State Senator Carol Pankau related to the Illinois fiscal crisis, redistricting, abolition of the death penalty, climate change, immigration and criminal justice. Look for results in the 2011 January and February Voters.

On May 9th Governor Quinn signed the bill banning the Death Penalty in Illinois effective July 1st, 2011. I like to think we played some part in the passage of this bill.

The Environment Committee, in partnership with A Rocha, the Wheaton College chapter of an international conservation organization, presented TAR CREEK, a film about a superfund site and a panel discussion of a better outcome with community involvement. The discussion related to the 4 superfund sites in West Chicago and included the representative from the EPA and a West Chicago city councilman who was on the community action group (TAG) at the time. Excellent program.

Membership recruitment will always be a goal for the league and by partnering with other organizations in our service areas, as we did this year for candidate forums and other activities; we broaden our reach and the potential for new members. The idea of a new committee to look at how to use electronic and social media outlets to attract and keep members, as many other leagues do, was unfortunately not fulfilled this year.

Finally, thank you for a great two years and for letting me serve the league as president. While there were challenges, the best part was making new friends and sharing experiences with so many intelligent and committed individuals.

Missey Wilhelm
President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2010- 2011

We ended the 2010-2011 program year with 91 members, a number that is down from last year. Several members moved out of the area. The economy or family issues forced several others to leave. We welcomed 4 new members this year.

Over half our members, 53, are individuals, and we have 18 household memberships. We still have plenty of room to grow, so please keep up the recruiting efforts and keep bringing guests to our events. Once again, we started our year by encouraging folks to invite friends and family to the first meeting of the year, the Fall Feast. Several members brought guests and we did get new members as a result.

We have worked hard at increasing our visibility by publicizing our meetings. We actively recruit visitors at the programs. Candidate forums and highly visible programs have generated the bulk of our "new recruits."

The League Membership Booklet was updated and posted on our web page. Generating the booklet electronically reduces the initial cost and allows us to update as needed. This is particularly handy after elections, when the Political directory needs to be revised. The Member Directory is not posted to the website, but is delivered electronically, via email. Again this allows for more timely updates.

Membership brochures were updated and made available at our meetings and at other public events. Members can contact the Membership chair for a supply of brochures to distribute, as appropriate. There is also a version that can be printed from our website. Members are encouraged to have a copy of the membership brochure or the website (<http://wheatonlwvil.org/join.html>) handy to share with anyone who might be interested.

In an effort to better distinguish dues collection from various League funding drives, all dues notices were mailed in August. Members were also asked to make their "finance drive" contributions at that time, rather than sending them a separate mailing. We implemented a new dues rule this year, requiring only ½ year dues from new members who join after January. Dues cover membership for the program year.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Niesman
Membership Chair

FINANCE DRIVE 2010-11

Every fall the Wheaton LWV asks businesses and professionals in the community to help support our work. League members, along with our Citizens Advisory Committee, contact local businesses for contributions. We raised \$3,120 to enable us to continue our community programs. Although less than the year before, we were pleased with the continued support so many businesses were able to give us despite the trying economic times. An updated list of contributors can be found at the end of the Voter. In addition, thank you to all members to who assisted in the finance drive this fall.

Beth O'Malley
Finance Drive

VOTER SERVICE - CANDIDATE FORUMS 2010-2011 & ILLINOIS STUDENT VOTE 2010

The Wheaton League of Women Voters partnered with the LWLV Glen Ellyn, the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, Community High School of West Chicago and the Carol Stream & Winfield Women's Clubs to present 7 Candidate Forums bringing **73 candidates** to meet directly with approximately **800 citizens** and reaching 4 communities in our service area.

- ❖ **Community High School of West Chicago Oct. 4th**
 - General Assembly races for Districts 55 & 95
 - State Senator race for District 28
- ❖ **Candidate Forums on Oct. 20th & 21st**
 - County Board Chairman and County Members from Districts 4 & 6
 - General Assembly races for Districts 42/45/48/95
 - Forest Preserve Chairman and Forest Preserve Members for District 4 & 6
- ❖ **Candidate Forums on March 15th & 17th**
 - Wheaton Mayor
 - Wheaton City Council
 - Wheaton Park District
 - CUSD 200 Board of Education
- ❖ **Candidate Forums on March 24th**
 - Carol Stream Mayor and Village Trustees
 - Carol Stream Library Trustee candidates
 - Carol Stream Fire Trustees & Park Trustees
- ❖ **Candidate Forum on March 21st**
 - Winfield Village Board of Trustees

The Wheaton Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee (Steve Johnson and Kerry

O'Brien) continues to be an excellent partner for the local forums. Chamber members, Minuteman Press, provided all the printed material and I Have A Bean, who provided coffee for 4 of the events, for which we are very grateful. The league received an in kind donation from Allied Buying Corporation and Snape Drape International worth about \$500 for table skirting, cloths and bunting for candidate tables that add a very professional look to the forums.

The Glen Ellyn League Voter Service Chair, Julie Nolan, provided leadership and volunteers from the LWV Glen Ellyn, who also arranged to stream video for 2 of the October forums. Volunteers included moderators (Robin LaBedz, Gloria French, Mary Lou Lowery, Krista Grimm, Lori Miller, and Roberta Jacobson) the students from the League of Voters at Wheaton North High School, the Social Studies teachers and students from Community High School of West Chicago and league members from Wheaton and Glen Ellyn who helped make these events possible.

The LWV Wheaton also participated in the **2010 Illinois Student Vote**, supporting the mock elections on Oct 5th, 6th and 7th at Glenbard North, Community High School of West Chicago, Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South High Schools. Students and teachers were very enthusiastic about the elections and having access to mock ups of real ballots and voting equipment provided by the DuPage Elections Commission.

Missey Wilhelm,
Voter Service Chair for Candidate Forums

VOTER SERVICE - REGISTRATION

Registering voters continues to be an important League of Women Voters service, in spite of the availability of more opportunities for registration, e.g. on-line, by mail, or in connection with driver's license renewal. This year there was no presidential election so there was less interest than in previous years in registration drives as such. We did do a few at local high schools, registering the students who were turning 18, as well as a few faculty and staff.

We continue to provide an opportunity for registration at the Wheaton Public Library the first Tuesday of each month. This is an easy way to keep the League's name before the public, even if only a handful of registrations are done. I have had people come up and thank me for offering the service, and several people have asked questions about the voting process and/or registration. It might be worth looking into offering a similar service at other libraries next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Allene Harding
Voter Service

ACTION ITEMS FOR 2010-2011

Reminders, announcements of LWV meetings and special events, community events and local news of interest were sent by email to LWV Wheaton members often during the year. And we had many requests for action during the 2010-11 year. A number of those are listed below.

LWVUS

- Mar 2011 **Clean Air Act** Lobby against bills in US Senate and House that would destroy or limit the effectiveness of laws against polluters.
- Feb 2011 **Presidential public financing** in danger; support it.

	Affordable Care Act Ask the Senate not to repeal it.
Jan 2011	Presidential public financing Support it
Dec 2010	Dream Act Pass it
Nov 2010	Ratify START Urge your Senators to ratify. DISCLOSE Act Contact senators to support the disclosure of donations by special interests and anonymous donors:
LWVIL	
Jan 2011	Letter to the editor in favor of the increase in revenue in Illinois Responsible Budget Coalition - support the new revenues needed to end the budget disaster, fund schools and essential services, create jobs and pay the state's bills. Death Penalty Abolition Bill, SB 3539, passed in the IL House and Senate -- thanks to your calls and emails! In March, the Governor signed it. During the year, several TFA's were sent on this issue.
Mar 2011	Oppose School Vouchers SB 1932 -- A bill to provide a pilot voucher program in Chicago Limit contributions Contact state legislators to co-sponsor and pass bills to limit contributions by legislative leaders and parties.
Miscellaneous	
Mar 2011	Death penalty reinstatement Asked members to share opinion on MySuburbanLife.com
Jan 2011	WATER as an LWV priority Asked members to consider sending an email message in support, to Judy Duffy, LWV US, by the Lake Michigan LWV Watershed President, Cheryl Chapman.
Dec 2010	Transit plan for DuPage county Gave members information to participate in survey.
Nov 2010	Debate in the Age of Anger Shared announcement of forum, sponsored by LWV of LaGrange area
Oct 2010	DuPage transit planning Gave news of open house
Sep 2010	"Green Fair" Gave news of event at Cantigny. Literacy DuPage Gave news of event in downtown Wheaton.
Aug 2010	Recent rainfall Gave news related to rain events
Jul 2010	Flood damage Gave news regarding garbage collection
Jun 2010	DuPage county budget Gave information on online survey.

SPECIAL PROJECTS 2010-11

We began the year with a Fall Feast at the Gary United Methodist Church at 224 N. Main St. in Wheaton for the opening meeting of the year on September 16th. The Feast was entitled "Thai in the League" to encourage membership growth and participation as well as enjoy a delicious catered dinner by My Thai a local Wheaton restaurant. We are grateful to the church for letting us use their facility free of charge including use of the kitchen. The dinner was followed by an informative session on the work of our standing committees and our planned work for the year.

The holidays were celebrated with a morning brunch, Saturday December 18, in which the board members brought delicious treats to share with the membership. This was held at Mary and Phil Suess' home. All enjoyed this event and the League would like once again to thank the Suesses for their extreme generosity and hospitality. Their home welcomed us with holiday cheer and elegance. This is the second year that Phil and Mary have graciously opened their home.

After the holidays, the program-planning meeting on January 20 was held at the Gary Methodist Church. This was a potluck dinner and was very successful. The church again gave us the facility free of charge. Due to the church's hospitality and our home baked cooking everyone had a

wonderful evening. Thank you to all of you who brought parts of the dinner. The church allowed me to set up starting at 3pm, which made our evening stress free.

March brought our Phone-a-thon board meeting, March 3, at Barb Pape's home. The board participated in calling members state wide for contributions to the State League's education fund. Barb coordinated and ran this event for the board and we are very thankful for her efforts and for her warm and generous hospitality. Dinner was provided by Barb was enjoyed by all.

The ending celebration and dinner meeting will be held at the Carol Stream Holiday Inn and Banquet Halls on May 19, 2011. The social part of the evening will begin at 6:30pm with the talk starting at 7:00pm and the dinner starting at 7:30pm. The dinner will include a buffet of soup, salad, lasagna, pork, chicken, green beans, potatoes, and sweets. We will enjoy a talk given by Jeanette Neagu who will tell us about the Great Lakes and the work of the Lake Michigan LWV. We will close this year's events with Missey Wilhelm, our president, leading the League in a meeting after dinner. This will close our activity for this year. We are thankful for the participation of the entire League on the before mentioned events. We look forward to next year's events and activities.

Respectively submitted,
Joan Fefferman

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2011

Our Wheaton LWV Program Planning Meeting was held on January 20th. We reviewed State as well as Local positions.

State Program Planning

There was a consensus to retain all current LWVIL positions.

We noted that term limits on legislative leaders and recall of elected officials had been controversial at past conventions. The current LWVIL position supports recall of elected judges only and opposes term limits for the general assembly. There was discussion that recall of judges could be used to punish judges when their opinions are unpopular. In addition, the use of money in elections and control of legislative leaders caused our members concern. However, in light of all the challenges facing our State, there was a consensus that this is not the area we would want the LWVIL to focus at this time.

We reviewed an action focus on Natural Resources – Large Scale Livestock Facilities. Our understanding is that the Glenview League stands ready to provide the leadership and man power for this effort. Although, we share many on the environmental concerns, our WLWV members would not be interest in taking action in this area at this time. In addition, we would not want to see State resources directed in this effort. Again, we feel there are other State priorities that should our focus. However, if other Leagues would like to take action and can do so without the use of LWVIL resources, we applaud their efforts.

We discussed both the Fiscal Policies Expenditure Study Proposal put forth by our board as well as a Proposal to Study Pension Problems put forth by the LWVIL State Issues Committee. There was a consensus that the fiscal challenges facing our State should be the key focus of our LWVIL. We recognize that pensions are one area of concern. However, our League felt it was one symptom of a larger disease. We ultimately would like a position that will give us broader latitude to comment on fiscal waste and/or irresponsibility. We had 10 volunteers at our meeting of roughly 20 that were interested in working on an Expenditure Study. Missey will research how

we can best move forward proposing our study and gathering support throughout the State. In addition, members are checking their calendars to try to be at the State Convention in Skokie on June 10,11,12 to caucus with other League members.

Local Planning

All current positions were retained.

The Fiscal Policies/ School Funding is no longer a separate working group.

Although not currently meeting as a working group, we retained an emphasis on a Viable Downtown, given community discussions that continue regarding the Wheaton Theater and old Hubble Property.

The Diversity Committee is no longer meeting. We recognized that we want a continued emphasis on diversity. Rather than a separate working committee, we should search for opportunities to reach out and work with other community groups as part of our ongoing program and community efforts.

Program Planning Update – Fiscal Policies Expenditure Study

Our understanding, in discussions with State, is that there is interest across the State Leagues for the Pension Study Proposal. This study will take considerable resources to complete. In addition, our study proposal came late in the program planning process. We have been unable to organize quickly enough to generate the interest and resources that would be necessary to aim for a study as part of the 2011 convention. Finally, we must consider the current stretch in local leadership. One of the challenges of being a great local league is that are members are often sought by the State and other projects. Given the above, the Board has recommended that a committee be formed to further scope out the Fiscal Policies Expenditure Study, reach out to other Leagues to generate support and prepare for a study proposal for 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth O'Malley

PUBLICATIONS

This committee was established to encourage members to know the policies and positions of the state and federal League of Women Voters. All of this material is online now so there is no longer a need for a Publications Chair.

WEBMASTER

We continue to use EasyWeb for our website. The California State League of Women Voters developed EasyWeb to support authoring of websites by leagues all over the country. We are putting more of our important content on the website. For example, members can download the Handbook for Members, which previously was given out to members at the first meeting in the fall. We try to put relevant news on the "What's New" page. We plan to honor the winners of the Marget Hamilton award with web pages.

Our website is www.wheatonlwvil.org.

We currently have three emails associated with our site.

president@wheatonlwvil.org goes to Missey Wilhelm
 membership@wheatonlwvil.org goes to Denise Niesman
 dbmaster@wheatonlwvil.org goes to Roberta Jacobson, database manager
 wm@wheatonlwvil.org goes to Liz Quigg, webmaster
 league@wheatonlwvil.org goes to Missey, Denise and Liz Quigg.

Liz Quigg, Wheaton LWV Webmaster

REPORT OF ACTION COMMITTEES

DIVERSITY

The Diversity team did not meet. After the summer break efforts will be renewed to engage a diverse group of people in League activities. We are looking for additional people to help us in this creative endeavor.

Respectively submitted,
 Frank Goetz

EDUCATION

We have enjoyed an active and profitable year on the committee. As of date, the committee enjoys the work and participation of Carol Elias, Joan Fefferman, Louise Florian, Roberta Jacobson, Helen White, and Missey Wilhelm.

We started the year by participating in the September 16th opening dinner conversation by advertising and describing the education committee. We invited League members to join us and to participate in the work of the District helping our students pursue an education and obtain a successful future. Everyone is welcomed to participate in our committee.

Fall was a busy time for us to prepare for our February Unit meeting on education. We met at Joan Fefferman's home several times to understand and cement the direction for the upcoming unit meeting.

We decided to invite Dr. Brian Harris, the new District 200 Superintendent, to come and speak. We directed him to speak on the Common Educational Standards that President Obama successfully put into place for most of the States. Dr. Harris would concentrate on the effects on our District from the shortages in funding from the State. He also should address the effects of combining districts that the State is enforcing. (Note due to our large-sized district we should not feel effect from combining districts. Smaller districts will endure effects from being administered from one central site.) We are very much interested in his goals and plans for the future of District 200. He also should address any budget cuts that need to be done in the spring.

We also invited Dr. Margo Sorrick, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services (retiring June 30, 2011) who will speak about the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which incorporates renewal of the No Child Left Behind Act, Race to the Top, including the Common Curriculum Standards.

Winter brought the final plans for the event. Our February 17 Unit meeting turned out to be successful and informative. All enjoyed the evening and both participants gave outstanding talks and answers to our questions. We are very thankful to the speakers for coming and informing us on a host of educational issues. Our questions and comments centered on consolation of the districts in Illinois, charter schools, availability of counseling, and the continual struggle of the disposition of the Hubble Middle School land owned by the school district. Joan Fefferman introduced the speakers and also gave background on education in connection to the Federal Government. This speech was planned to lay the groundwork for the Education Study that will take place this summer and fall (see February Voter for the overview of issues for the study). Dr. Sorrick's talk also helped us to understand the issues that will be studied in this spring to fall national study. Dr. Sorrick connected the Blueprint for education reform, which is a part of the ESEA Reauthorization and renewal to improvements in the NCLB act. Dr. Harris also addressed the million-dollar cut to the budget needing to be implemented before next year in order to balance the budget. He said that with the retirement of 27 teachers and 2 administrators (combining these positions into one) we should be able to achieve these cuts without too many changes to the classrooms or stress on the teachers or the children.

Spring has brought us looking forward to the proposed national study. The study is to address the role of the Federal Government in pre-K through 12 public education. It is to be limited to issues of equity, funding, and standards/assessment. The final part of the study is to address the Common Core Standards and subsequent assessment issues. At a meeting in the fall, we will try to reach a consensus on our positions on the study issues.

We are very thankful for a successful year and for the participation of the League in learning about current issues. Dr. Harris and Dr. Sorrick were the crowning touch to our unit meeting. Come and join us next year for the study and for more district watching and facilitating.

Submitted by the Education Committee
Joan Fefferman, chair

ENVIRONMENT / HEALTH CARE

This year the two committees were combined. The Health Committee held no meetings, as we had no programs scheduled. However, Roberta Jacobson and I did attend a meeting of the Well Woman Coalition at the DuPage County Health Department on 4/5/11. The coalition meets a few times a year, and LWV's continued participation is likely.

The Environment Committee members are Shannon Burns, Jane Taylor, Allene Harding and Jane Hodgkinson. We started planning our April 16, 2011 program, TAR CREEK, in August 2010. We collaborated with a student group, A Rocha, from Wheaton College and held the program at Barrows Auditorium in the Billy Graham Center. The program included screening of the film about an environmental disaster in Oklahoma, a NIMBY presentation by Jim Smith, who is an

original member of TAG (Thorium Action Group) which spurred the Superfund cleanup in West Chicago, and a Q & A session with Jim and Tim Fischer from the US EPA. The program was informative and engaging, and members of the audience seemed pleased with the outcome. Unfortunately, despite a massive publicity campaign, the attendance was sparse. Fortunately, of the 25 people, a third were either college or high school age, and that, at least, bodes well for the future of our environment.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Niesman
Chair of Health/Environment Committee

HOUSING GROUP

Committee Members

Helen White, Barb Deli, Denise Curtis, Kathy Kregor, Jan Kay, chair
Susannah Levine, Research associate, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

When one reads the LWVUS positions under "Meeting Basic Human Needs," we see League has advocated for quality availability of housing for all our citizens of low income and moderate family or individual income levels for decades. We have advocated for compensation for the failure of meeting the housing needs through many mechanisms including building, financing, renting and home sales to these individuals and families. We have advocated for federal action taken against communities that do not encourage such supply in a mixed neighborhood for all. We advocated for the supply of housing to include provision of good public services for the families, such as good neighborhood schools and other provisions of importance for good family stability.

We have believed in non-racial and economic practices.

LWVIL positions as well promote the provision for planning to continue an adequate supply of housing for low and moderate-income individuals and families. This is addressed under the Land Use position where again we support mixed income housing throughout the local areas that might well be subsidized federally and through the state.

Locally the Wheaton League position supports open housing to be continued and supports additional housing assistance for the wide spectrum of housing needs, senior, family and individuals.

Given these well studied positions at all levels, the Housing Workgroup met several times as well as communicated via phone and email memos throughout the year as we attempted to understand what housing issues arose in Wheaton. We found that given the economic stresses in our City, the Council's priority for increasing the supply of affordable housing was taken off the table for work this past year and will await the will of the newly elected public officials during the next year. The League will continue to advocate for keeping affordable housing measures on the City's agenda for the coming year. We will continue to monitor issues such as development policies, zoning policies and open housing policies throughout the year.

We have had the opportunity in our membership in DuPage Housing Action Coalition to advocate for many State housing initiatives, including budget provisions which at times are on the Federal level as well. We saw the Condo bill of last spring come into reality that in specific cases allows condo rentals where associations have made rules for only owner-occupied units. We have asked for restoration in Homeless Prevention Funds that had been cut severely and the supply of stimulus funds is depleted. We are presently advocating for measures to help those who have

foreclosure issues, whether renters or formerly homeowners. We have participated in legislative meetings with our Senators and Representatives along with the DHAC organization. It has been good to meet with our public officials on these housing needs.

The Chair of the Workgroup serves as an individual on the Wheaton Housing Commission, which financially supports many senior citizens in Wheaton of very low income. Through that work it is a way to monitor the special housing needs of senior citizens and communicate these needs to the Workgroup as they arise. Another Workgroup member is co-chair of DHAC and others have various responsibilities such as refugee work, which again brings an awareness for that special population. We are in touch with the work of the homeless individual and family needs.

The latest census information tells us that DuPage County is changing. It has a changing economy; there is a rise in low-income families, homelessness and limited resources. Lower wage service sector jobs have grown more than 3 times the rate of higher paying manufacturing jobs in the County. In fact, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the highest growth of lower wage service sector jobs is DuPage out of the 9 county region.

A full time worker in DuPage needs to earn \$19.52 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rate of \$1015. According to the studies, a minimum wage worker would have to work 98 hours per week or 2.4 full time jobs in order to pay for the housing needs.

The Housing Workgroup intends to continue our much-needed advocacy to carry out our positions at all levels of the League of Women Voters.

Submitted by Jan Kay, Chair

VIABLE DOWNTOWN WHEATON

The League's Viable Downtown Business Workgroup has met several times throughout the year. We have had good discussions regarding ways the league can be promoting our position to "maintain a viable central business district and expand the city's tax base".

This position is part of our Local Government position and falls under "Zoning and Annexation" section of that position. In addition, the position states we "support professional planning to balance the city's residential and commercial development with substantial open space".

The four main issues we have discussed regarding the central business viability have been:

The need for a food market and pharmacy in the central area, given the high number of condo and apartment residents close by.

The various proposals for the Grand Theater property.

The redevelopment of the former Hubble school property.

Recruitment of businesses to fill the spaces of the central business region.

Some of our workgroup have observed City Council meetings and planning sessions where the league can understand the planning opportunities for the business development. Others have been keeping up with the work around the theater proposals and also the school property sale activities and possibilities for redevelopment. We are pleased the City is retaining a position for the recruiting of businesses for the downtown area in the coming year.

In the coming year, the league may well have opportunities for advocacy on any one of these issues as well as being aware of other issues which will affect our business development in the center of our town.

Barb Deli, Mary Wachter, Jan Kay

LEAGUE OF VOTERS

WHEATON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AFFILIATE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON

The League of Voters at Wheaton North High School focuses primarily on the involvement of youth in politics. During the 2010-11 school year we have discussed elections, attended several forums on various topics, and hosted political guest speakers. We started our year by choosing an issue that we would pursue as a central theme for the year. After discussing everything from unhealthy school lunches to class rank, we decided we would try to look into the economic future and viability of revitalizing the Wheaton Grand Theater. We began by getting Mr. Derek Bromstead to speak to us about the renovation of the Wheaton Grand Theater. The club worked in conjunction with members of The Downtown Wheaton Association to create awareness about the possible reopening of the theater. Although the referendum was turned down, it was good experience for the members of the club. We passed out flyers, attended meetings, and helped out at fundraisers.

Along the way, members have also assisted at forums hosted by the League of Women Voters. In addition, we attended a showing of the film Tar Creek in order to advance our understanding of environmental issues. Currently, we are looking into the Hubble site and seeing what we can do to get involved. On April 14th we are attending a rally for the homeless. With the help of the club faculty sponsor, Mr. Tim McEvelly, and our liaison with the local League of Women Voters, Mrs. Jan Kay, the Wheaton North League of Voters has accomplished several endeavors that have helped each member gain political knowledge and experience.

Submitted by Marie Fefferman