



League of Women Voters LaGrange Area

April 2011

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<i>SATURDAY April 9TH 6 PM</i>	<u>LWVLGA</u> <i>Respond NOW!!!</i>	Bob & Mary Klonowski
<i>TUESDAY April 19TH 7:15-8:45 PM</i>	<u>LWVLGA MEETING</u> Human Trafficking in Cook County	La Grange Public Library 10 W. Cossitt
<i>WEDNESDAY April 20th 10 AM</i>	<u>LWVLGA at the COOK COUNTY BOARD MEETING</u> Reservations by 4/15 see inside for details	County Building 118 N. Clark Chicago
<i>FRIDAY April 29th Noon</i>	<u>LWVIL State of the State Luncheon</u> Keynote Speaker: Charles Thomas <i>Info at www.lwvil.org</i>	Union League Club of Chicago
<i>MONDAY May 16th</i>	<u>LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING</u> <i>save the date</i>	Chicago
<i>TUESDAY May 24th 6 PM</i>	<u>LWVLGA Annual Meeting</u>	Acacia Club House Indian Head Park

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN COOK COUNTY

Join us on **Tuesday, April 19** to learn about the Cook County Sheriff's Office approach to stop human trafficking in Cook County by ending demand and offering services to the victims.

We'll hear from representatives for the Department of Women's Justice Programs, who provide support to victims of trafficking, as well as officers from the vice unit, who do the arresting and investigations into trafficking. They'll discuss the dimensions of the human trafficking problem in Cook County, what steps are being taken to curtail it, and share what citizen education and support is needed to assist with putting a stop to this pervasive criminal activity.

The program will take place from 7:15- 8:45 p.m. at the LaGrange Public Library (Dierkes Room), 10 West Cossitt Avenue, LaGrange, IL.

Dear Leaguer,

How much fairness and transparency can we anticipate as our legislative districts are being redrawn? It's our job, now, to keep an eye on this. As you know party leaders have their own agenda, which is why we lost out on our amendment efforts last year. Stay on top of this at www.ilsenateredistricting.com, where you'll find dates and locations of scheduled hearings, U.S. census data, mapping resources, and a list of the Senate Redistricting Committee members.

Just a few quick reminders:

- It's not too late to send in your reservation for Mary and Bob's always-delicious **Tapas party on April 9**.
- Mark your calendar for our excellent program on **Human Trafficking** coming up on Tuesday evening, **April 19** at the La Grange Library.
- You should have received your invitation to the **State of the State luncheon**, coming up on Friday, **April 29** featuring ABC political reporter Charles Thomas.
- Please **save the agenda and budget in this issue** for our upcoming annual meeting on Tuesday evening, May 24.

Linda Christianson
President

7 Successful Candidate Forums

"Well organized. Moderators were so professional, poised and articulate. This really helped me to decide how to vote. Thank you for this great service to the community. The questions were helpful and you didn't back down on the tough ones."

These were among the many compliments our League received at the seven forums we agreed to host or support in March. Attendance ranged from 50+ to almost 100 at six of the forums which were open to the public. In addition, five of the forums were taped for future airings until election day. A vast number of advance questions for the forums were sent to our gmail account. Our moderators and question sorters did a magnificent job of balancing those with questions from the audience at the forums, not an easy task.

Our League didn't hesitate when citizens in 7 different election jurisdictions approached us to sponsor the forums. We knew our members would step up to the challenge and they did unhesitatingly. We are so proud of our superb moderators who generated many accolades: Cynthia Schilsky, Gloria French, Mary Lou Lowrey and Jean Klotter, some of whom did double duty. Our question sorters rewrite, consolidate, sort for duplication and walk on water because this has to be done in seconds: Linda Christianson, Jeanine Jasica, Kathi Graffam, Aileen Henkel and Cynthia Schilsky. Our timers are much more than clockers because they also have to stare down voluble candidates: Sally Mitchell, Emily Friel, Cheryl Chapman, Char Mawhinney and Bob Klonowski.

Our sincere appreciation to our forum crews who are so generous with their time and commitment to these events. The mission of the League is alive and well in our La Grange Area.

JOIN LWVLGA MEMBERS AT THE COOK COUNTY BOARD MEETING

The League of Women Voters of Cook County, in our goal to increase all League members' knowledge of Cook County government and see your county board commissioners in action, have scheduled a series of "guided" visits to the board meetings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. These meetings are held twice a month, most months. Leagues are being invited throughout the year.

We would like to invite the League members from the LaGrange Area, to the **Wednesday, April 20th meeting at 10:00 am**. Cynthia Schilsky, President of the LVWCC, will meet your members at the County Building, explain the proceedings, and provide agendas, seating charts, vote tally sheets and an introduction to the commissioners from your area.

This is a great opportunity to witness how your county government works (or in some cases doesn't). Remember that we now have a new County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle, who operates quite differently from the previous president; also three new commissioners are on the board.

Here are the particulars: At 9:45 am, we will meet on the 5th floor of the County Building (the old building, bordered by Washington, Randolph and Clark Sts.--west of the Daley Center. When you get to the 5th floor, go through security (near Toni Preckwinkle's office) and we will assemble by the doors of the board room. We will have agendas, seating charts, vote tally sheets, etc. to make following the meeting easier. Public transportation is the best way to get there.

Please contact Karin Hribar (khribar@comcast.net or 847.818.0206) by April 15th if you plan to attend.

League of Women Voters of Cook County **Cook County Sheriff Explains the Workings of His Office**

“The Cook County Jail is the largest mental health institution in the State,” said Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart at the March 3 Lunch & Learn with the League event sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Cook County.

Sheriff Dart explained that because the State has so significantly reduced facilities and services for the mentally ill, the jails have become the place to temporarily house them. He estimates that over 3,000 of the 10,000 people regularly housed in Cook County Jail have serious mental health issues. And this portion of the jail population takes up a lot of time, energy and money. Sheriff Dart explained that the average cost to house someone at the jail is \$135/day. But for those prisoners who are mentally ill, the actual costs are 4 or 5 times that. Sheriff Dart said that he is trying to build bridges in the community so that appropriate groups which can offer services and support can be contacted by his office when these people are released from the jail.

Sheriff Dart explained that the Cook County Jail, the largest single site jail in the country, mainly houses those who have been accused of a crime, the state prisons being for those who have been convicted. All but 500-600 of the prisoners are men. The Sheriff is quite proud of the programs available for women prisoners, including the day care center so they can spend time with their children.

Three Functions

Overseeing the Cook County Jail and the 3,000 corrections officers who staff it is just one of three major functions for which the Sheriff is responsible. Sheriff Dart also has 550 sheriff deputies who serve as the police for unincorporated sections of Cook County that are scattered all over the County. He also has narcotics, gang, graffiti, bomb, and hostage units that assist other suburban Cook County police departments. In addition, several years ago the town of Ford Heights fired its police department due to lack of funds and the Sheriff, much to his dismay, had to step into the breach. While he knows that other towns would love him to take over their police functions, too, he does not have the manpower or budget to do so.

The third major group he oversees is the 1200 court deputies who make service of process, enforce evictions, and provide security for the Cook County courthouses. This number is down from 1600 deputies he had just 6 years ago. Sheriff Dart said that often he only has 1 deputy available for each floor of the Daley Center, which has 8 courtrooms per floor. But budget constraints (due in part to Federal Court orders requiring the hiring of more correctional officers for the jail) have meant that he has not been able to hire a new court deputy in 6 years.

Ideas to Reduce Costs

Sheriff Dart has raised several ways that other Cook County costs could be reduced with the Cook County Board. He is exploring whether there would be significant cost savings if the Sheriff's department took over patrolling the Cook County Forest Preserves, which currently has its own security force. He has also recommended that the suburban court houses be closed on the weekend (so his deputies wouldn't have to staff those buildings), which would mean that bond hearings for those arrested on the weekend would be held only at the Criminal Courthouse located in Chicago. Thus far, the Chief Judge has refused to consider this, telling the Board during recent budget hearings that he was concerned that the suburban police departments would not transport the prisoners to the Chicago courthouse. Sheriff Dart has also sought to eliminate the need to have his deputies transport defendants from the Jail over to the Criminal Court building for routine status calls on cases by utilizing video conferencing between the Jail and the courtroom. Again, thus far, the Chief Judge has refused to allow this.

Upcoming Cook County League Events

This was the 6th Lunch & Learn event, which was designed to educate people about the workings of Cook County government and to raise necessary funds to operate the Cook County League. The next one will be held this summer and should be announced at the League's upcoming Annual Meeting on May 16 which, following the business meeting, will feature Cook County Commissioners Bridget Gainer and Timothy Schneider answering questions and providing their city and suburban and Democratic and Republican perspectives. All members of Leagues in Cook County are invited to these events. Look for more information shortly.

[Lake Michigan Leaguers Make a Big Splash at Great Lakes Lobby Day!](#)

Be inspired by our LMLWV members who attended Great Lakes Lobby Days this March in D.C. Become informed at the Great Lakes Restoration website <http://lakemichiganlww.wordpress.com/>. Go to “Find a Project.” You'll see an amazing number of projects – some probably in your neighborhood. Your legislators in Washington may be unaware that there are projects going on in your district! Let them know! Feel free to educate them about the history of GLRI, started in 2004 by President Bush. We hope at least \$300 million will be budgeted this year to continue the projects. Our LMLW members were pleased to take our concerns regarding Lake Michigan's issues to Congress: 1.Support Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding; 2.Pass Great Lakes restoration legislation; 3. Ask the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite its study of the Chicago Waterway System in its Great Lakes-Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) If you'd like to educate yourself to better educate your legislators, click on any of the links at the [Healthy Lakes Healthy Lives](#) website.

LaGrange Park Arbor Day Recognition Program

The LWVLGA Board nominated Patty Rocco for this recognition. Following is a copy of what was submitted:

Patty Rocco has demonstrated her leadership as an environmentalist not only in La Grange Park, but in our La Grange Area League of Women Voters which represents seven area communities. In 2008 Patty gathered a team of us "Leaguers" to look at ways we might create cleaner, greener, more energy-efficient communities. Together we developed the first "Cool Villages" event held at the north campus of Lyons Township High School in May of 2008, gathering representatives of Environment Illinois, the Sierra Club, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, and the towns of Evanston and Northbrook, already active in lowering carbon emissions, to help us all understand what steps we might take to improve our local environment. Patty also led us in gathering "green" vendors in our area - providing nutrition, cosmetics, automotive products - who displayed their wares to attendees.

The following year Patty organized How Cool Is Your Home?, an eco-fair sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education fund and the Township of Lyons. The Eco-Fair gathered 39 eco-friendly vendors, environmental organizations, and service providers at the LTHS South Campus gym - landscapers, geothermal plumbing and heating, local sourced caterers; water conditioning; solar energy providers; personal care products; bicycling ; rain barrels; hybrid vehicles; "green" HVAC systems. The fair included story hours and eco-friendly activities for children. Several hundred attendees came away better informed about "green" options for nutrition, recreation, and home maintenance and improvement.

Since then, as many La Grange Parkers know, Patty has headed the LGP Cool Villages team, and has, herself, tabulated carbon emissions in the Village, using the tools provided by ICLEI, an international organization supporting communities in monitoring energy outputs.

Patty seems a natural recipient of the honor of the Arbor Day Recognition Program. I believe she would choose an evergreen or an oak - hardy and beautiful.

LWVIL CARRIE CHAPMAN AWARD

The LWVLGA Board nominated Mary Klonowski for this recognition. Following is a copy of what was submitted:

As our Voters Service chair Mary has demonstrated consistent enthusiasm and responsibility, overseeing SEVEN candidate forums this year alone. This was a huge, challenging task - identifying sites, moderators, timers, question monitors; distributing and receiving info from candidates; fielding candidate questions; developing question sheets; clarifying roles and responsibilities; making sure spaces were set up properly; and attending each forum to make sure there were no slip-ups. This year some forums were contentious and might have gone off the rails if not for Mary's cool, consistent, experienced leadership. Mary also hosted an "after forum gathering" to elicit concerns and issues for future candidate forums. We came away realizing that these forums, taken together, drew several hundred people to well-planned events where they learned, in a civil, well-organized way, what issues were most important to the citizens of their communities, and how specific candidates might address these issues. Participants experienced democracy at its best!

Mary has also led the way on our VOTE411 efforts, again with enthusiasm and persistence. She helped educate us all on how to manage and keep current the VOTE411 system, and Mary has promised to stay on this task so that our La Grange Area LWV can continue to participate.

Most important, Mary has been a clear, consistent voice in our LWV, using her years of experience to guide us all. She has an unflinching sense of what needs to be done to move our LWV agenda forward - who to contact at the local level, what strategies are likely to succeed, what pitfalls we might encounter and how to offset them, how to make sure we keep our message clear and understandable. Her 32 years as a La Grange resident, her years as an LTHS math teacher, her many years of participation in our community and as a member of our LWV give her the depth and wisdom that serves us all.

Without hesitation our LWV of the La Grange Area strongly recommends Mary for the honor of the Carrie Chapman Catt Leadership Award.

Newsletter Editor: Jean Klotter.....	708/846-3912
LWV LaGrange Area website.....	http://lagrangearealwv.org/

Be a part of one of the most effective and respected organizations in the country!

Looking for a way to make our communities and country better places to live? Want to meet interesting engaged fellow citizens who are studying the issues and working to make improvements?

Then join us! We are grassroots and non-partisan. The League of Women Voters: Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Here is a partial list of what we do:

- Register millions to vote
- Monitor government activities at local, county, state and national levels.
- Educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities
- Sponsor candidate debates and public issues forums
- Lobby and testify on issues that you care about and help put laws on the books

What your dues include:

- Membership in the League on all levels: local, Cook County, State of Illinois and National League.
- League publications, in-depth information on the issues, and Action Alerts
- Participation in our monthly programs, study, and discussion groups.
- The intangibles: rewarding friendships and working together with terrific people to make our communities strong and give everyone a voice in government.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LAGRANGE AREA!

(Already a member? Consider giving the gift of membership to a friend.)

Fill out this form and return it with your check to LWVLGA, P.O. Box 542, La Grange, IL 60525.

Select membership category: <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$32.50 Add 2 nd member same household <input type="checkbox"/> \$32.50 Student Member
Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email address:

For additional information about the League and how to get started, please contact our Membership Chair, Carolyn Norris, at carolynnorris@hotmail.com or 708-328-6177. We look forward to welcoming you to the League!

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA GRANGE AREA
ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011**

AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER 7:15
- ANNOUNCEMENTS 7:16
- SECRETARY'S REPORT (Janice) 7:20
- TREASURER'S REPORT (Cynthia) 7:25
- BYLAWS (Judy) 7:40
- BUDGET (Velaine) 7:50
- PROGRAM 8:10
 - Continuing: Cool Villages (Patty)
 - New: Illinois Fiscal Policy (Mary Lou)
- NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (Judy) 8:30
- RECOGNITION 8:50
- FURTHER BUSINESS 9:00
- ADJOURNMENT 9:10

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
as of MARCH 31, 2011**

The following nominations for the stated offices are proposed by the 2010-2011 Nominating Committee:

- PRESIDENT
- 2nd V-P: Membership Chair Laurie Sinden
- Treasurer Jean Klotter
- Elected Director: Voter Service Jo Day
- Elected Director at Large Linda Lauterbach
- Nominating Committee Chair Jeanine Jasica
- Nominating Committee (off Board) Sally Mitchell
- Nominating Committee (on Board) Janice Miller

LWVLGA Proposed Budget for 2011-12 For Approval at Annual Meeting on 5/24/11

Checking Account Balance (OF)		\$ 5,400.00 (est)	
Legacy Fund Balance		\$ 4,495.75	
Ed Fund Balance		\$ 1,827.23	
Operating Fund (OF)			
	2010-11 Budget Approved 5/10	Projected Year End R&E for 2010-11	2011-12 Budget Proposed
Revenue			
Member Dues	\$ 4,582.50	\$ 4,615.00	\$ 4582.50
Member Contributions	\$ 700.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Auction	\$ 565.00	\$ 728.00	\$ 700.00
Fundraising	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 943.25
Annual Brunch	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 1200.00
Rebates and Cosponsor Fees	\$ 300.00	\$ 379.50	\$ 300.00
Investment Income	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.00	delete
Total Revenue	\$ 8,352.50	\$ 8,494.50	\$ 8325.75
Expenses			
Administrative			
Community Action	\$ 100.00	-	delete
General Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 11.64	\$ 40.00
Postage	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00
Printing	\$ 400.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Insurance	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 100.00
Memorial Contributions	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Website	\$ 200.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 220.00
Committee Expense			
Board	\$ 200.00	-	\$ 100.00
Fundraising	\$ 200.00	-	delete
Membership	\$ 100.00	-	delete
Program	\$ 250.00	-	\$ 150.00
Annual Brunch	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 793.63	\$ 1000.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Voters Service	\$ 200.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,880.27	\$ 2360.00
Financial Support (PMP)			
LWVUS (\$29.80/member)	\$ 2,100.90	\$ 2,093.85	\$ 2115.00
LWVIL (\$27/member)	\$ 1,903.50	\$ 1,903.50	\$ 1903.50
LWVCC (\$4.50/member)	\$ 317.25	\$ 317.25	\$ 317.25
Lake Michigan ILO	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Subtotal	\$ 4,346.65	\$ 4,339.60	\$ 4360.75
Conventions			
LWVUS	\$ -		\$ 1400.00
LWVIL	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	-
LWVCC Annual Meeting	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 105.00
Other meetings	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 1605.00
Total Expense	\$ 9,421.65	\$ 7,894.87	\$ 8325.75
Revenue Less Expense	\$ (1,069.15)	\$ 599.63	0

See inside for details

SATURDAY, April 9th 6 PM

TAPAS PARTY

Bob & Mary Klonowski's

Watch for your invite in the mail

RSVP required!

TUESDAY, April 19TH 7:15 PM

LWVLGA MEETING

Human Trafficking in Cook County

LaGrange Public Library

10 W. Cossitt, LaGrange

**League of Women Voters
of the LaGrange Area
215 S. Brainard Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525**

