

# League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area



# Voice

Founded in 1959

Membership representing 15 suburbs

August, 2006

## Backyard Breakfast - September 20th at 10:00 AM

On Wednesday, September 20th, the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area will hold their annual membership breakfast in Barbara Pasquinelli's backyard in Palos Heights. We will be hearing from two speakers at the breakfast. First up will be Dr. Annalee Ward, Chairperson of the Department of Communication Arts at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights. She will talk about the new Communication Arts Building, which includes a theater, and what it means to the community. We will also be looking for an update on the Old Dunlap's/New Bookstore and Cafe on Navajo Creek. The second speaker will be Liz Gorman, Cook County Commissioner, who will give us an update on the status of the Swallow Cliff toboggan slides, which are in her County district in Palos.

This breakfast is an ideal opportunity to invite friends and neighbors who might be interested in joining our League. We are asking all League members to bring a pot-luck dish to share and a lawn chair. Guests will not be required to provide food but a lawn chair would be appreciated. Please let Barbara Pasquinelli know if you plan to attend, if you will be bringing a guest and what your pot-luck dish will be.

If you have attended the membership breakfast in the past, you know that the food is terrific, the speakers are great and the company is the best you can find this side of the Mississippi River.

Friends, neighbors, sisters, daughters, and mothers are all

welcome to join us for this event. We encourage all genders and ages to help us kick off another great year of League activities. Don't forget to invite that recently retired person you know who might really enjoy the stimulating conversation of a League meeting. Hearing about the toboggan slides might be just what we need during this sizzling summer heat. And an update of the expansion program at Trinity is sure to be interesting.



Please remember that dues for the new membership year are due on July 1st. If you haven't already paid, please do so. The dues are \$50 for individuals, \$75 for two people in one household and \$30 for seniors. LWVPO must pass on dues for our members at the following levels: US League at \$26.30 per member, Illinois League at \$24 per member and the Cook County LWV at \$4.50 per member. As you can see, LWVPO dues doesn't cover that obligation. We also remind everyone that a Founding Sisters Membership Circle donation, which includes your dues for the year, does help your local League. Those donations are: Carrie Chapman Catt donation at \$500; Elizabeth Cady Stanton donation at \$250; and the Alice Paul donation at \$100.

So, check your brunch recipes, invite your neighbor, dig out your lawn chairs and bring your dues check to the backyard breakfast. Call Barbara at 708-389-2888 to RSVP. *See you there!*

### Abby Luncheon

#### Abby Foundation Luncheon

Friday, August 25, 2006  
Tinley Park Convention Center  
Holiday Inn Select

LWVPO will have a display table  
Exhibits open at 9AM / Lunch at Noon

Janet Evans is taking reservations  
for the LWVPO table for lunch.  
Cost is \$30.00 per person

Speaker: Justice Anne Burke  
Newly appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court

### PADS Fundraiser

Public Action to Deliver Shelter presents:

#### "Capitol Steps" Review

Saturday, October 21, 2006  
Governor's State University

Tickets are \$ 89.00 for dinner and show  
Cocktails start at 5:30 PM - Cash Bar

Contact Marcia McConnell for reservations  
Marcia\_McConnell@sbcglobal.net

### Former State Representative Terry Steczo speaks on the Importance of Grassroots Lobbying

On May 17th, at the LWVPO Annual Meeting held at the beautiful emerald green Midlothian Country Club, Terry Steczo shared his thoughts on the importance of grassroots lobbying. Terry was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives for 18 years between 1977 and 1995, serving as Assistant Majority Leader for a year during that time. In 1992 he was named one of five "Unsung Heroes" in a poll taken among Illinois legislators.

From 1995 to 2004 Terry Steczo served as Deputy Assessor for Administration and Taxpayers Services for the Cook County Assessor's office and is a former Bremen Township Democratic Committeeman. He is currently the Senior Partner of a lobbying and consulting firm called Government Strategy Associates. He said trying to get around to talk to all the legislators is sometimes a tough job now.

Terry told us he believes grassroots work is very important. As a paid lobbyist, he hardly ever finds a legislator willing to go against his own constituents. He said legislators are thankful for accurate information and appreciate hearing from people. He also said it was not at all unusual to receive little mail and few calls when he was a legislator.

Importance of contact to legislators is first people from the local district, then lobbyists, and then people from outside the district. He said the League of Women Voters has always been knowledgeable and willing and able to lobby. He also said many people will not follow up when asked to make a call to their legislators. This allows politicians to say an issue is 2 to 1 in support when they hear from just four people. He thanked the League for their good work and for remembering him.

Jewel coupon  
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### Beth Kink receives "Founding Sister" Award at Annual Meeting

At the LWVPO Annual Meeting held on May 17, 2006, longtime League member Beth Kink was recognized for her outstanding service to our local League and to the community. Beth has been one of the most influential members of LWVPO and was a president for two years. She also served as a very capable president of the Cook County LWV for five years.

Beth began her LWV career when she was invited to a LWV party in 1976. She signed up and immediately got involved in League issues including

a campaign to bring single-member districts to the Cook County Commissioner positions and a study of Juvenile Court in Oak Lawn during the 80's. She also worked hard to make sure that the current Cook County Hospital (Stroger) was built.

Beth has been a rabble rouser since she supported the underdog for head cheerleader in high school. She has always been politically active and encourages others to work on finding the best person for elected office. She served as a school board member in Palos School District

118 and most recently worked as a prize winning reporter for the Regional Newspaper. Beth suffered a stroke some months ago and is now rabble rousing in the Lemont Nursing and Rehab Center.

Beth says she learned a lot as a member of League and continues to worry about school funding and Constitutional privacy issues. When asked why people should join League, she answered: *"Democracy is not a spectator sport and patriotism is more than a lump in your throat when they play the national anthem."* Congratulations Beth!

### Membership in the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area

Founded in 1959, the League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area is a non-partisan organization which encourages citizens to play an active role in government at local, state and national levels. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

General Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM with some exceptions

Any person of voting age may join. For membership information, please contact Mary Nebor at 708-479-8309.

The *Voice* is published nine times per year by the League of Women Voters of the Palos Orland Area, P. O. Box 86, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463.  
Co-Presidents: Carol Stefan (cbs6819@comcast.net or 708-448-1148) and Barbara Pasquinelli (MSPasq@aol.com or 708-389-2888)  
*Voice* Editor: Chris Slowik (Chrisscope@aol.com or 708-598-5459)  
League of Women Voters of the Palos-Orland Area: <http://lwvpo.lwvil.org> / League of Women Voters of Illinois: [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org)  
Illinois Student Vote: [www.Illinoisstudentvote.org](http://www.Illinoisstudentvote.org)

## Voice of the Co-President

..... By Barbara Pasquinelli

Dear Members,

Carol and I are excited about the plans for the coming year. I get to write the first column since my last Presidency was long, long ago. Interesting enough, when I first joined the League in 1964 (yikes!) we were interested in school funding. The issues are different now, but far from being resolved.

One thing we're concerned about is the lack of participation on the part of the general membership. I'd like to zero in on some of the reasons for that and see what we can do to fix them. Of course, time is #1. I can't fix that—in fact before my glorious retirement, I spent a few years in League hibernation. That's not a problem if you feel that level of participation is OK for you. Is it the meeting time? We have some interesting general meetings planned on immigration, election analysis, Cook County structure, the state of our villages and city (Orland, Palos Park, Palos Heights), education issues, including funding and more. We meet on Saturday mornings at 10:00, probably at a local library. We're working on a permanent location for the November, February, March and April meetings. Is it the study topics? We're not quite finished with Mental Health. Karen Switalski would be happy to have you join her committee as they put together and disseminate a position paper. We'll be forming a new committee to study immigration issues. This will be a hands-on group, gathering facts and working toward a March 1st report. This is an interesting topic with lots of topical side bars. We also have the need for clerical assistance from time to time when we're doing booklets, reports, etc. If you have an interest in helping in that area it would be appreciated. Call me or email me if you're interested. Janet Evans is organizing the Observer Corps this year with visits to local municipal, school and library boards—something for everyone. Call or email Janet with your ideas. Presumably, we'll be asked to do our part in voter registration projects and candidates forums during the coming months and we'll need people power for that as well.

**Hot off the presses** - Trinity College is offering 3 mini-classes in October in their S. A. L. T. program, Senior Academy of Learning. On October 5, 12, and 19 a series of speakers will focus on the fall elections. Classes meet at 3:30 and are preceded by a mini-concert at 2:45. I participated on one of the series last year and enjoyed it very much. I'm not sure what the rules are for senior status, but I'll bet that a lot of us could fake it! The cost is nominal. Contact Trinity Christian College for more information or check their website: <http://www.trnty.edu/>.

Please help us make our League a vital part of the communities we serve and an important part of your life, too. I really want to hear from you.

*P.S. Don't forget to join us in my backyard for the first meeting of the year. Bring a friend!*

## LWVCC Impressions

.....by Marjy Gilbert

Your Cook County League has been actively studying Cook County government for the past year through the two study committees formed in 2005. The committee studying the structure of Cook County government, which I now chair, has 14 members: 5 from our League, 3 from Homewood-Flossmoor, 2 from Evanston, 1 from LaGrange and 3 from Oak Park. Two additional Leaguers will be helping out as available (1 from Arlington Heights and 1 from Oak Park). The Structure Committee, in conjunction with the Budget Process Committee that is chaired by Cynthia Schilsky, prepared a letter and questionnaire to be sent to all commissioners in the beginning of August. After August 25th (response date), the committees plan on jointly interviewing all commissioners who have been serving for the past year, excepting former President Stroger.

Through the efforts of the two committees, LWVCC will hold three identical informational presentations on Cook County government for the 16 local Leagues in Cook County, and for the public. The first meeting will be in Oak Park on October 15, and will be hosted by the Oak Park League. The Oak Park meeting is a combined kickoff/new member meeting. The second meeting will be Saturday, October 21, and is hosted by our League at the Palos Heights Library. The third meeting will be Saturday, October 28, in Evanston, and will be hosted the Evanston League. If you cannot attend on October 21st in Palos Heights, please plan to attend one of the other meetings. You are also welcome to attend all three to hear the questions the audience poses at each meeting.

You will find the information we present at these meetings to be fascinating - a

look at the structure and budget process behind the compelling headlines we have been following for the last couple of months. While the meetings are purely informational, they should give League members, and the public, sufficient information to have discussions with their commissioners and to evaluate the issues in time for the November 7th election. Depending on the participation and feedback, there is the possibility of following up with consensus questions which will help the League to lobby for nonpartisan good government reforms in the structure and/or budget process of Cook County government. Any follow-up depends on attendance, participation, interest and feedback. Please mark your calendars for this series of important meetings. Here is the schedule again:

**October 15, 2006 - Oak Park**  
**October 21, 2006 - Palos Heights**  
**October 28, 2006 - Evanston**



Summer, 2006

*Membership Backyard Breakfast  
September 20, 2006*

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Postage for this newsletter has been underwritten by



## LWVPO Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendar

Clip and Save 

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|-----------|-----------|--|
| August    | 25        | Abby Luncheon - Tinley Park Convention Center - Exhibits at 9AM / Lunch at noon<br><i>Speaker: Justice Anne Burke, Illinois Supreme Court</i>  |
| September | 20        | Annual New Member Backyard Breakfast - 10:00 AM<br>Barbara Pasquinelli's Home—12210 Cheyenne in Palos Heights - 708-389-2888 to RSVP<br>Bring a guest, pot luck dish to share and your lawn chair - <b>*Guests need not bring food</b><br><b>Guest speakers:</b><br><i>Dr. Annalee Ward from Trinity Christian College to give update on college expansion<br/>and Cook County Commissioner Liz Gorman to give update on Swallow Cliff</i> |
|           | 20        | LWVPO Board Meeting directly following the breakfast<br><b>Board members should plan to stay</b>   |
| October   | 15        | Cook County Structure Committee Presentation - Oak Park  |
|           | 18        | LWVPO Board Meeting at Merna Trotter's Home - 7PM<br>6321 Kimberly Drive in Tinley Park  |
|           | 21        | Cook County Structure Committee Presentation - Palos Heights   |
|           | 21        | <b>"Captiol Steps Review"</b> PADS Event at Governors State University<br>Cocktails at 5:30 PM - Cash Bar / \$89.00 Show and Dinner<br>RSVP to Marcia McConnell at: <a href="mailto:Marcia_McConnell@sbcglobal.net">Marcia_McConnell@sbcglobal.net</a>   |
|           | 23rd - 25 | Jewel Shop N Share Days (see coupon on page 2 )  |

