

LWV-LFLB Board Report 2010 - 2011

What a year it has been! We League members should be very proud of all of our work this year in our communities. We are making a difference.

We certainly had a plethora of activities: a parade, voter registration, seven programs/candidate forums, four member events, and a TV interview on Channel 11. Often we worked with other Leagues or other organizations, with many LWV-LFLB members volunteering to help in one or more capacities.

We started with a slow ride through downtown Lake Forest, in the Lake Forest Days parade. The rain had stopped and thousands of people lined the streets. It was great being part of this Lake Forest tradition.

Jan Schnobrich and her 14 League deputy registrars held 4 different voter registration drives in August and September in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. They also worked with Jo-An Sabonjian to expand voter registration in other parts of Lake County, notably Gurnee, North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion.

In September, Tracy Burns and Mary Ritter hosted our Membership/Birthday Bash party at Tracy's house. Five marvelous thespians, elegantly dressed, entertained and educated us by acting out the League's history (as produced by Jane Partridge). We celebrated LWVUS's 90th birthday by eating cake with sparklers and other fabulous desserts while toasting with Champagne. It was a great way to kick off the year.

Then, we geared up for the November elections by co-sponsoring two candidate forums. Ann Hamlin and Ann Grant worked with other Leagues for both the 10th Congressional District candidate forum and the forum covering our local races. Both forums had record attendance. For the April Consolidated General Elections, they tried something new, by producing a Video Voter Guide of the twelve candidates running for the three school boards. The video was shown on both LFTV and our website.

With LWV-Highland Park, in October, we co-sponsored a program about Redistricting and the Recall Referendum. Leagues all over the country continue to advocate for fair reapportionments as set out by the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act. Shortly, both Lake County and Illinois will complete their redistricting processes, with the new boundaries being in effect for the next 10 years. Let's hope the gerrymandering is reduced.

Cindy Morehead and Lisa Dietrich organized a number of programs throughout the year. The first of two that addressed the state's fiscal problems was held in November. John Bouman from the Responsible Budget Coalition, and State Senators Susan Garrett and Terry Link shared their views on the budget crisis and possible solutions. There was a lively discussion on this hot topic.

In December, we enjoyed our Annual Holiday Luncheon at The Grille on Laurel as Barbara Rinella taught us about Claude Monet and his love Camille. The bottom line of this fundraiser

was augmented from the sale of Linda Bartmes' donated centerpieces and from a Lake Forest Book Store donation due to Lisa Dietrich's sales expertise.

We followed up with another annual program in January. Our municipal administrators, Bob Kiely and Drew Irwin updated us on the state of our two towns. According to Bob and Drew, things are looking up, a conclusion that pleased everyone.

At our February event, Grassroots and Goodies, we enjoyed tea and sweets at Abbie Fassnacht's while discussing and deciding the issues we should pursue next year. Program Planning can be fun and tasty!

"Cuba and the U.S., Will They Ever Be Friends?" was our program in March. AAUW and the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Center co-sponsored the event. Dr. Albert Coll provided a fascinating history and outlook for Cuba and its ongoing relationship with the United States. Dr. Coll's presentation was so interesting some of our members would like to visit. Currently only groups, no individuals, can visit Cuba, so Jane Partridge wants to plan a League trip there. Stay tuned.

Also in March, we coordinated with other North Shore Leagues in celebrating Women's History Month with a luncheon in Glenview. Dr. Rachel Bronson, V.P. at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, spoke about the conditions in Afghanistan and other Middle East hot spots. She provided truly stimulating and up-to-date information.

In April, we paired with Mothers Trust Foundation and Gorton Community Center, to hold a second program on the state's fiscal problems. "At Whose Cost? Our Children" was a panel discussion by three noted speakers: Ralph Martire, Kathy Ryg, and Kristi Long. Martire is Ex. Dir. of Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, Ryg is the President of Voices for Illinois Children, and Long is the President of United Way of Lake County. They explained how the dire fiscal problems are affecting our children and our future.

Our advocacy endeavors weaved throughout the year. Kitty Cole and other League members attended and spoke at numerous Lake Forest City Council and Housing Trust Fund meetings about affordable housing. This issue has drawn so much attention, that Jane Partridge was interviewed for Chicago Tonight on Channel 11. We also met with the Lake County Commissioners about the county's redistricting plan. Media outlets published our letters-to-the-editor regarding recycling, affordable housing, and redistricting. We interviewed State Representative Karen May, State Senator Susan Garrett, and Congressman Robert Dold.

Other important work went on behind the scenes. Liz Bradner kept us on the straight and narrow by tracking our income and expenses. Marilyn Shineflug reminded us in her expert minutes what we had done and what we were in the process of doing. Carol Gilbert vigilantly emailed us monthly with witty e-alerts, letting us know what to expect. Nicki Snoblin made our web site very appealing and informative. She imbedded many of our program videos on the web, so if you missed one of them, you probably can view it on our webpage. Nicki also created ads on LFTV for our programs and designed the layouts for our community signs. She and Bev Adamczyk have produced three newsletters, full of pictures and interesting articles. Tracy Burns and Mary

Ritter spent days completing the directory. Judy Grisamore and Phyllis Albrecht organized different aspects of the Holiday Luncheon. Linda Bartmes, liaison for LWV-Lake County, and Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, liaison for Lake Michigan LWV, kept us informed about the activities of our sister Leagues. Numerous members also volunteered with all our endeavors.

And now here we are in May, with our Annual Meeting. While we vote on the budget, nominations, bylaw changes, and program for next year, we can enjoy the camaraderie and feeling of success from doing a good job.

There still is work to be done. Jane is finishing up the history of the LWV-LFLB Area for inclusion in Lake Forest's Legacy Project which celebrates Lake Forest's 150th birthday. Also, June 10-12, LWVIL is holding its bi-annual convention in nearby Skokie. This will afford us a great opportunity to be part of the League at the state level and view our challenging mission from LWVIL's perspective. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

We thank our many donors and volunteers who helped make this year such a success. We look forward to your continued interest and support. Please go to our web site www.lwv-lflb.org to view pictures and videos of many of our programs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews, Co-Presidents