



Join/Support

January 2021

The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Greetings!

As we compose this letter, the images of Wednesday January 6 are still etched in our mind. This was a very heartbreaking day for us and a dark day for America.

The League of Women Voters released a statement quickly, condemning the domestic terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol. Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President stated, "What happened today in our nation's Capitol is not a partisan issue. It is a democracy issue." We followed suit with our local message through our social media. The actions incited by President Trump and followed through by the violent mob are unacceptable. They should be held accountable for this heinous attack on our Capitol.



We are proud to be a part of an organization that stands strong for democracy. And, as a country, we will move forward now with a new administration in Washington. When we participate, our participation will reflect our choices—we will choose kindness and patience; justice, equity and inclusion; education and social action.

And, we will continue to do the important work of the League: to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on

selected government issues.

Glen Ellyn has a **local election** on **April 6**. Local elections are as important, if not more important than State and Federal elections. Who we choose to represent us in our Village affects us on so many levels: School districts, Library board, Park District and our Village Board. The officials we elect can fight for more funding, and be advocates for citizens, business leaders, teachers' and students' safety during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In March, LWVGE will host candidate forums for contested races in School District's 87, 89, 41, Village Trustees, Village President, Milton Township and The College of DuPage Board of Trustees. Co-voter Services Chairs, Shawn Fasules and Bernie Laszewski, (who did an outstanding job adapting to the new technology last Fall with our State Candidate Forums) will be organizing the local forums. All forums will be held virtually.

Other **upcoming events** include the Annual Program Planning Meeting to be held Saturday February 6, 8:30-11:00 am. It's an opportunity to listen and learn about the State and Local League Positions and how League reviews its public policy positions. Go the website lwvge.org "Events" tab and scroll to the February 6 Program Planning information to register. Dress comfortably—a "chair yoga" session will be offered half-way through the meeting.

On February 18, the Community Meeting "*Local Elections and You: Fighting Voter Apathy*" will feature a panel of experts on this timely subject matter. On March 18, Alix Darrow, Director of Natural Resources and Environment, is organizing a diverse panel of speakers to address "**Environmental Justice.**" Please check LWVGE.org for details.

In closing, we express our sincere gratitude to the LWVGE Board and our members for their dedication and continuing commitment to our League. This past year has been very unusual and we would like to recognize Karin Daly, VP Communications, and her team for their support. Some days it has been 24/7 in keeping abreast of all the events happening around us. A round of applause goes to Michelle Peterson, Sarah Allen and Nicole DeJoris. We could not have done our job without your support.

Take good care and we will "see" you on Zoom.

Warmest regards,

Kristin B. Malone and Erica Nelson
Co-presidents, LWVGE

**Visit Our
Website**

League Issues

Based on prior Socio-Economic Consensus Studies by the League (most recently in 2019) our position states that affordable housing is important in fostering an inclusive, stable, diverse and vibrant community.

The League advocates for the inclusion of affordable housing units in new residential development specifically in the downtown area. It specifically called on the staff and trustees of the Village to include it in the redevelopment negotiations for the former McChesney property.

In December, Holladay Properties secured Village approval for the five-story 86-unit Glenbard Station, encompassing a mix of retail space as well as luxury, workforce and several affordable housing units.

The Redevelopment Agreement included providing two affordable housing units for households making less than 80% of the median income. The Village will cover the difference every year for 10 years between the market and affordable rates. The \$250,000 the Village will use to reimburse the developers will come from the taxes generated from the property's redevelopment.

This is definitely a first step in helping to provide a variety of housing stock at a variety of price points for present and future residents. The Village is to be commended on their attempt to find ways to provide housing at more affordable price points especially in the downtown area.

Submitted by Joyce Hothan, League Issues Director



Holiday Celebration 2020

Thank you to the Ten Thousand Villages for supporting our annual December Holiday Fundraiser. It was a busy shopping night— 24 League members participated and LWVGE raised over \$430.

After members shopped in the store and online, there was a holiday "Toast " on Zoom. In addition, League members were gifted with one of "Lilly's Cute Cookies," donated by Karin Daly and handmade by Lilly Carroll, a freshman at Glenbard West. A sweet deal!

Submitted by Kristin Malone, Co-president

Holiday togetherness, Covid style!



Member Information for You

Membership

Today we stand strong with 190 members. A dozen new ones this time. Exciting and encouraging! Please help welcome our latest members:

Sonja Melton
100 Newton Avenue
Glen Ellyn
773-988-5584
meltons79@gmail.com

Rachel MacEntee
90 Sunset Avenue
Glen Ellyn
913-710-2972
rachelmacentee@gmail.com

Liza and Casey Sury
148 N. Main Street
Glen Ellyn
630-818-7057
lizasury@gmail.com

Emily and Chloe Lobdell
158 Exmoor Avenue
Glen Ellyn
312-925-2518
emilylobdell@gmail.com

Clara Hughes
310 Hawthorne Blvd
Glen Ellyn
630-699-6970
clara.marie.hughes@gmail.com

Julie Spiller
925 Newton Avenue
Glen Ellyn
630-512-7622
juliespiller@sbcglobal.net

Julie, Dave and Miles Evans
554 N. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-545-9666
Jdnmevans@yahoo.com
cycle.dbe@gmail.com
5280evans@gmail.com

Mary Fetter
410 Melrose Ave.
Apt. 201
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
m.t.fetter@gmail.com
Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

Local Government

The Glen Ellyn Plan Commission conducted public hearings on the draft of the Village of Glen Ellyn's Comprehensive Plan on December 10, 2020 and on January 7, 2021.

A third public hearing with the Plan Commission will occur on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. During this meeting the finalized Comprehensive Plan will be presented which incorporates any feedback received from the Plan Commission and the public from the prior open house meetings (held in November 2020) and public hearings (held in December 2020 and January of 2021). The finalized plan will go before the Village Board at a Workshop scheduled tentatively for March and again at a future Board meeting.

The Last Comprehensive Plan for the Village was adopted close to two decades ago. Since this is an important document which serves as a long-term guide for planning land use decisions and policy formation, it is important for League members and all residents to review it. A copy of the most up-to-date draft of the Comprehensive Plan can be found on the Village website with directions on how to give feedback.

Written by Joyce Hothan for Carrie Burrows

AAUW January Meeting

On January 6 the AAUW of Wheaton and Glen Ellyn invited LWVGE members to a Zoom happening with the author Linda Hirshman, Esq. Hirshman has written several books including *Reckoning: The Epic Battle Against Sexual Abuse and Harassment* and *Get to Work: A Manifesto for Women of the World*. This evening's several attendees and Hirshman discussed *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*.

In her 2015 book, *Sisters in Law*, she revealed "stories of how these two trailblazing women

fought for recognition in a male-dominated profession - battles that would ultimately affect every American woman." These women were from opposite political parties, different religions, cultures, and were from different regions of the country, yet they became friends as they listened to controversial court cases and helped create change in America which would make women equal under the law. Furthermore, these two justices "shaped the legal framework of modern feminism, setting precedent in cases dealing with employment discrimination, abortion, affirmative action, sexual harassment, and many other issues crucial to women's lives." The lives of men were changed as well.

The event, AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn January Branch Meeting, was open to non-members. Check out their website at <https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/> for information about the AAUW and future events.

Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club

Legislative Liaison News

The lame duck session of Ill Gen Assembly ended before action could be taken on a bill providing funding for mail-in ballot drop boxes. The legislation that provided for those was temporary, in response to the pandemic for the November 3 election. The pandemic continues, but no action was taken on the bill to extend. The session did pass the huge Criminal Justice bill sent to Governor Pritzker's desk. That bill requires body cameras on police by 2025 and an end to cash bail by 2023, among other things.

Illinois Rep Deb Conroy, Ill 46, will be part of Speaker Welch's leadership team of caucus whips, representing the women's caucus.

Some things to watch: **Taxi Access Program.** This is an ADA program that subsidizes the cost of taxi rides for disabled persons. PACE, which runs the program in the suburbs, is offering free taxi rides during the pandemic. Fewer taxis are on the streets due to pandemic and Uber and Lift.

Case in front of Supreme Court: Whether the FTC, Federal Trade Commission, has the legal authority to use a court injunction to recover money for wronged consumers, not even for victims who deserve it. Ill Attorney General Kwame Raoul is one of 30 AG's arguing that getting refunds for wronged consumers is critical to combating unfair and deceptive practices.

Submitted by Rita Doyle, Legislative Liaison

Next Book Club

Michelle and I will be hosting another book club via Zoom. We will be meeting on February 27 at 9:00 am. I will send out a Zoom invite to anyone who is on the book club list. Email me

(fasules@sbcglobal.net) if you want to be on the list or if you are not sure. I will check out the book copies when they become available at the end of the month and will get them to interested readers. The book we are reading is: *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash* by Edward Humes

Waste is America's leading product and largest export. The epic waste embedded

"Garbology is [Humes's] attempt to make sense of our historically unprecedented readiness to throw things away. . . . Food for thought, and more." —THE ECONOMIST



GARBOLGY

Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash



in our daily lives not only leads the world, it drives many of the era's greatest crises in energy, climate, pollution, security and the economy. It is something that each of us can do something about. See you on February 27!

Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club

LWVIL Criminal Justice Study Update and Consensus Meeting

Six LWVGE members served on the CJS Update committee partnering with Roselle/Bloomington League members: Nancy Bell, Tamara Fay, Jennifer Larrabee, Erica Nelson, Donna Jean Simon, Michelle Thorsell.

At the 2017 LWVIL State Convention, delegates approved a study to update its position on criminal justice. LWVIL's current position on criminal justice was last revised in 1995.

Since 1995, much has changed in the criminal justice system. Our current League criminal justice position fails to address some important aspects of the complex criminal justice system and the changes that are happening or that are being proposed. The LWVIL Update Study Committee examined the current position and proposed additions to or modification of the existing position. Fourteen Study Questions were presented during two informational meetings in November and December 2020. The CJS Update Consensus meeting on January 26, 2021 completed the update study process. Our League submitted the Consensus Meeting Response Form to the LWVIL. All local League study responses are being reviewed, summarized into one LWVIL document with the revised position sent back to all local Leagues. The new position will be reviewed by delegates at the June 2021 LWVIL State Convention.

Thank you to our study committee members for the hours of review and preparation and to our League members who participated in the informational meetings and the consensus meeting.

Submitted by Erica Nelson, Co-President



From Our Friends at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society

Women's Suffrage was recently on display at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, including this celebration of the first recorded women's vote in Glen Ellyn in 1908- pre-dating the 19th Amendment by a dozen years!

State of the Village and Call to Action!

Our first community meeting of 2021, the annual January "State of the Village" meeting was very well attended, with 77 members of the LWVGE and community members in attendance. Village Manager Mark Franz updated us on many current and upcoming developments and projects in Glen Ellyn. (The Zoom meeting was recorded and is available for viewing on our website LWVGE.org.)

At the end of the meeting, Gary Fasules, Acting Village President, posed a challenge to our audience. After we asked how the LWVGE could best support engagement with the Village, Gary suggested that our community engage personally by connecting with him and village trustees to provide direct feedback to the Village Board: "How are we as a Village Board doing and how do you feel about your community? How can we improve?" He closed saying, "We want to keep the Board focused on the North Star."

Gary (who is also a LWVGE member) and the trustees are always looking for our input on village business and also community views on how the board works together and operates as village leadership. In addition, Gary encouraged our members and community members to consider applying for positions on the various local commissions. There are currently 85 volunteers on the Village of Glen Ellyn Board commissions and openings are posted on the [village website](#).

You may reach Gary and Village Trustees via the Village of Glen Ellyn website and this link to the Trustees: <https://www.glenellyn.org/300/Board-of-Trustees>

Contact:

trustee.fasules@gmail.com

mfranz@glenellyn.org

Other trustees can be found at

<https://www.glenellyn.org/300/Board-of-Trustees>

New League Committee Begins: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) are at the core of all that the League does. However, the need for focused attention and effort became

apparent this past summer. A group began discussing the issues and possible ways to move forward. The result: a new committee! It's early days, but the initial mission is:

· *Action-oriented*

· *Initially start with 2 areas of focus:*

1. Community Engagement

Build list of groups to engage with and learn from.
Establish link and build rapport with groups active in this space.

Publicize Voter Registration Service to these groups.

Participate and support "partner" events.

2. Fair Housing, as an initial policy target

Connect with local groups

LWVGE Subject Matter Expert: Joyce Hothan

· *Expand depending on community issues and committee member ideas/passions.*

Currently we are surveying the activities of the local landscape and charting our course. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please contact Gail Bernstein (fgbernstein@hotmail.com) or Molly McGinnis (mollymcginnis@knapke.net).

Submitted by Molly McGinnis, DEI Committee

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Injustice anywhere
is a threat to justice
everywhere.

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

LWV

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CALENDAR

February 6- LWVGE Program Planning, 8:30 to 11:00 am via Zoom

February 11- LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm via Zoom

February 18- Community Meeting, 7:00 pm, "Local Elections and You: Fighting Voter Apathy" via Zoom

February 25- Glenbard Parent Series co-sponsored by LWVGE, Dr. Tyrone Howard on "Uplifting All Children to Cultivate Critical Wellness: Race and Culture Matter"

<https://www.cod.edu/GPS>

March 11- LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm via Zoom

March 18- Environmental Justice Community Meeting, 7:00 pm via Zoom

April 6- Consolidated Local Election

Questions about League events? Get details here:

www.lwvge.org/upcoming-events

Please visit our website for the most current information.

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