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**LWVGE September 2023 The Voter - Latest News for Members**

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**League of Women Voters Glen Ellyn** <lwvgevoter@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: lwvgevoter@gmail.com  
To: jacdreiss@gmail.com

Fri, Sep 1, 2023 at 10:11 AM



Join/Support

September 2023

## *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Dear Jacquelyn,

### **A Letter from the NEW Co-Presidents**

Transitioning into our new roles as co-presidents, Judy and I are very appreciative of the help and support of Sarah Allen and Michelle Thorsell and our new Board.

The summer was surprisingly busy. The League attended a Village Board meeting and expressed its support to the Village Trustees for development of affordable housing in Glen Ellyn on the Roosevelt/Taft site. In spite of the scorching heat, we marched strong in the July 4th parade. Thank you, Cleo



### **Letter from Our Co-Presidents**

Burtis, for organizing us. The crowd was very supportive and appreciative and clapped for us throughout the route.

On August 17th, the LWVGE Kick-Off event was held at the Glen Ellyn Boathouse. It was a wonderful time to reconnect and to welcome NEW members. Thanks to Judy Gervase, Membership Director for a great new member orientation, to the Glen Ellyn Park District for making the Boathouse available to us, and to Candy Purdom, VP Programs, and the many volunteers for coordinating and making the kick-off meeting a big success.

We were especially honored to have Becky Simon, President League of Women Voters Illinois, share with us the initiatives the state league is working on, specific to reaching more voters!

### **What is ahead for the LWVGE?**

With the election next year, Voter Services will be busy registering voters and preparing candidate forums. Programs is preparing community meetings on a wide range of topics. Mark your calendars for September 28th, where we will have an opportunity to hear from our local school superintendents, and October 26th, for an informative program focused on ways members can get more involved in LWVGE.

In addition, the Membership Engagement committee is planning monthly "Defending Democracy Drop-Ins" at the Glen Ellyn Public Library starting October 17th and on-going the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Holiday Social, December 7th**

Over the years we have relied on and been thankful for support from our business community. This year, we want to give back and support our businesses, especially those downtown that have been impacted by the construction. The LWVGE will hold a progressive store crawl downtown, so you can start your holiday shopping. The social will be held at Park & Oak, and if you show a purchase receipt you can enter a drawing for a big prize! Stay tuned for more details, but put December 7th in your calendar!

We hope you are as excited about the coming year as we are. We encourage all of you to engage and participate in all the various activities, committees, and initiatives the LWVGE has to offer. If something specific interests you, let us know and we can introduce you to others who share the same interest.

There is much work to be done, but with all of you, our dedicated, talented and supportive members we will continue registering voters, providing voter education and advocating on League issues.

Working to Empower Voters,  
Barbara Kwiatkowsky and Judy Kinn, Co-Presidents

[Visit Our Website](#)





League Members participating in the Glen Ellyn 4th of July Parade!

## LWVGE Programs

### Celebrating League at the "Vote House!"

Smiles and hugs, new friends and old joined together on a sparkling night for League of Women Voters at the Glen Ellyn Boathouse (turned VOTEhouse) on the evening of August 17. How lucky we were with our great turnout of 65 members! Thank you all. It was a treat to see so many faces and reconnect as we begin our new 2023-24 season of League.

Membership Director, Judy Gervase, gathered the new members for an orientation meeting as the event began. The session on the Boathouse patio was well-attended and the enthusiasm was obvious. We welcome our new members and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you!



The kick-off included favorite *old* standards, like signing up to participate in our many democracy-forward activities. But also, we tried something *new* this year: **minding our green footprint!** A "party kit" to be reused at League events was launched with the purchase of wine glasses. We also used the beautiful vintage plates Carrie Burrows loaned us for the evening. Beverages and treats were served with an eye toward eliminating any individual wrappers, plastic cups, plates and bottles.

Co-presidents Barbara Kwiatkowsky and Judy Kinn addressed the group and shared exciting upcoming plans for the year in terms of programming and focus. The impact of the League of Women Voters is so significant as we turn towards elections in the not-too-distant future! Dave Evans and Deb Hornell also shared their important work as Voter Services Directors and sought out volunteers. Registering and encouraging voting is the heart and soul of what we do. Please help Voter Services if you are able!

Featured speaker Becky Simon, the new president of the LWV of Illinois, offered a statewide view of how League is targeting issues and driving voting using more streamlined and efficient methods. President Simon urged us all to bring our “A game” to the task at hand. The time is now. We were grateful to have her join us with this important message.

Our annual basket gift raffle closed out the evening. Celebratory baskets were presented to the winners of our drawings: Erica Nelson, (Liberty for All, including a framed print of the winning Glenbard West submission to our spring Democracy Challenge), Virginia Larsen (Cheers! The wine basket), Joyce Hothan (Tea Time: a Suffragist Tradition), John Toth (Construction Special: supporting Glen Ellyn Retailers). Congratulations to our winners!



Manette McReynolds, Carrie Burrows, Michelle Peterson, Joyce Beck, Shawn Fasules, Rita Doyle



Donna Jean Simon, Barbara Kwiatkowski, and Candy Purdom helping keep our event GREEN with reusable glasses!



Karen Gorz, Patti Landry, and Sandy Loudenslagel enjoying time together at the VOTE house



Members Dave Evans, Jacquelyn Casazza, Margaret DeLaRosa, Patti Denney and Miles Evans



Shawn Fasules, Amy Hohulin, and Michelle Peterson

We were so honored to hear from new LWVIL President Becky Simon as our guest speaker. She was inspiring and motivating!



### 2023-24 Programs: Save the Dates

The year ahead ushers in new programs on issues significant to our community, state and nation as we continue to stand with Democracy! Please find the highlighted events schedule adjacent to this brief.

The popular Civic Awareness Series continues in collaboration with our sister DuPage County Leagues. Generally these special events are set for the second Thursday of every month. Wheaton's Cantigny Park has been home to the CAS, although the location may be in flux this year. Please confirm the location before attending. Those interested, but unable to join these events in person, may also attend via Zoom. Registration is required and details may be found at our website, [lwgge.org](http://lwgge.org).

As always, our very own Glen Ellyn LWV hosts timely Community Meetings at locations in the village. Most months these sessions take place on the fourth Thursday of the month. Participation in our local Community Meetings, member meetings and social events strengthens our League and attendance is widely encouraged. The educational aspect, issue awareness, and social bonds knit us together and strengthen our League.

Be sure to check [lwgge.org](http://lwgge.org) for more information about our events.

Upcoming Community Meeting topics:

**September:** Our area's state of education featuring local school superintendents

**October:** Member engagement as we strive to expand opportunities for participation.

### Upcoming Programs for Fall 2023:

September 21, 2023

#### ***Racial and Economic Injustice***

(Civic Awareness Series Program)

Cantigny Park - 7pm

This is a hybrid program. **Registration is required to attend virtually AND in person.** You will need to note you are attending the Civic Awareness Series program when you arrive to park at Cantigny, and the \$5 parking fee will be waived. Registration details are forthcoming. If you are interested in carpooling to this event, email Candy at [lwggeprogram@gmail.com](mailto:lwggeprogram@gmail.com)

September 28, 2023

#### ***Community Meeting, "Welcome to the New Year: Spotlight on Schools with Superintendents"***

Hadley Jr. High - 7pm

October 26, 2023

#### ***Community Meeting, "DemocraSee What You Can Do: Member Engagement"***

Glen Ellyn Police Department - 7pm

November 9, 2023

#### ***Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul***

(Civic Awareness Series Program)

Cantigny Park - 7pm;  
registration details forthcoming

Look for updates and additional information on all LWVGE programs and social events on our website [lwgge.org](http://lwgge.org), and in emails to our members.

**Late Fall and winter programs** will include our annual Holiday Social with a new format this year, the popular State of the Village presentation in January and program planning in early February.

But that's not all! Our friends at the Glenbard Parents Series (GPS) host influential speakers on a variety of topics of interest to our members as well. Programs are focused on navigating healthy families and are offered both in person and online. The group's dense and amazing lineup may be found at [glenbardgps.org/upcoming-speakers/](https://glenbardgps.org/upcoming-speakers/).

Submitted by Candy Purdom, VP Programs

## National and Illinois League News



### Recap of LWVIL 2023 State Convention

The biennial LWVIL State Convention took place on June 10-11, 2023. Delegates from all over the state met virtually to vote on officers, approve the budget, and adopt the program for 2023-2025. LWVGE delegates were Barbara Kwiatkowsky; Judy Kinn; Michelle Thorsell; Sarah Allen; Erica Nelson; Kim Reed; Brit Murphy; and Maria Metz.

Items of note that passed were to keep the dues at \$32 per member for the next two years, to adopt the three pillars of Action Foci, which are: Voting Rights and Election Processes; Environment/Climate Crisis; and Equitably Meeting Basic Human Needs; and to undertake a study to update the LWVIL Gun Violence Prevention policy.

Becky Simon, our featured speaker at the August Kick-off meeting, was elected as LWVIL President, and our very own members, Michelle Thorsell, was elected as LWVIL Secretary, and Erica Nelson was elected to the LWVIL Nominating Committee. We will also have two of our members serving as

Issues Specialists for 2023-2025, Jacquelyn Casazza (Environment/Waste) and Kim Reed (Immigration). We are very thankful that several of our own Glen Ellyn members have stepped up to take these leadership roles at the state level.

## Gun Violence Prevention Study

As mentioned above, the LWVIL is undertaking a study to update the current LWVIL Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) policy. The LWVUS position on GVP, last updated in 1998, supports strong federal measures to regulate the ownership of handguns and assault weapons. The LWVIL position, last updated in 1989, additionally supports a ban on the manufacture and sale of handguns, assault weapons and their ammunition.

Much has changed in the ensuing years, gun ownership has skyrocketed, mass shootings happen all too frequently, and untraceable guns can be made on 3D printers. The LWVIL Issues & Advocacy committee reviewed the position and determined that to advocate effectively for gun violence prevention the policy needs to be studied and possibly updated.

As Becky mentioned at our meeting, LWVIL is looking for volunteers for the core study group which will meet virtually. In addition, LWVIL is asking each local league to form a group to provide feedback on the work of the core group. If you are interested in volunteering for the core study group or if you would like to volunteer at the local level, please contact Judy Kinn at [president@lwvge.org](mailto:president@lwvge.org).

Submitted by Judy Kinn, Co-President

## Voter Services



LWVGE member Ivy Toth registering to vote!

### Get Out the Vote Events in August!

On August 4, a team converged on the Glen Ellyn Metra Station to talk to passengers about voting and voter registration. We chose this date to coincide with Lollapalooza Friday and were able to get our message out to about 75, mostly youngish, passengers over the course of two hours. We emphasized on-line registration and communicated information about next year's elections. Each person we interacted with also got a pack of Smarties. It was a lot of fun. **Thanks to Jo Turner, Judy Kinn, Deb Hornell and Dave Evans for working this event.**

A week later on August 11, another team hosted an information table at the Monarch Festival in Glendale Heights. The Monarch Festival is an annual Hispanic cultural event featuring music and dance as well as celebrating the monarch butterfly. The festival is staged by Immigrant Solidarity DuPage. We interacted with 50-75



Voter services co-chair Dave Evans helping with new voter registration at the Monarch Festival



These two future voters are a little young, but we need help with volunteer registrars at Glenbard High Schools! Contact Voter Services to find out how you can help.

attendees about registering to vote. Two citizens were registered via a paper form. We shared many Smarties rolls and “Future Voter” stickers with attendees of all ages. Many of us enjoyed the food vendor service and we all enjoyed the music and the people. **Thanks to Joyce Beck, Paula McGowen, Patti Denney, Karin Daly and Dave Evans for working this event.**

Looking ahead, we are planning on hosting registration tables at College of DuPage and the Glen Ellyn Public Library on September 19 to coincide with National Voter Registration Day. Later in the fall, we plan to host events at Glenbard high schools. We will be looking for volunteer registrars to staff these events. If you’re interested in becoming a league registrar, please email [voterservices.lwvge@gmail.com](mailto:voterservices.lwvge@gmail.com) and our voter registration team will get back to you.

Submitted by Dave Evans, Voter Services Co-Chair

## LWVGE Community Issues

### Affordable Housing Update



*“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”*

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg,





These social justice issues are numerous and include Equal Rights for Women. The Illinois General Assembly recently passed (with LWVIL lobbying) HJR20, a resolution affirming that the Equal Rights Amendment is fully ratified and calling on the White House to publish the ERA as our 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment. LWV continues to support the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and advocates for basic human needs, such as fair housing. As reported in the article above, fair housing is a current focus of LWVGE advocacy efforts. League lobbied for curbing violence in our communities and legislation that regulates firearms in a responsible manner. LWVIL also lobbied in support of HB2789 Right to Read, imposing fines for banning books.

The LWVGE Social Justice/ Issues & Advocacy Mission is *To educate LWVGE members and community voters to increase awareness of social justice issues and their impact on our community and to engage voters to become advocates for social justice.* We are currently working on a Social Justice Bill of Rights, updating the League Website, and a 2024 Program on Immigration. We are always looking for new members to join us! **Our next meeting is Saturday Sept 16, 2023 8am-10am at Sarah Allen's home, 822 Abbey Drive GE. All are welcome!** Questions or thoughts email me [Sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com).

Submitted by Sarah Allen, Director Social Justice

## Membership Update

The League stands today at 165 members. This includes seven new members - help me welcome:

**Kristin Brandt**  
**Karen Evans**  
**Virginia and John Larsen**  
**Christine Liubicich**  
**Blake Noble**  
**Rachel Wright**

These members, along with 6 other newer members and a few prospects who wanted to see what we are all about, attended the New Member Orientation held just prior to the August 17 Kick-off. It was great to see everyone who was there.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, it is not too late! You can renew online (\$78) or by sending a check for \$75 made out to LWVGE, to 274 Forest Avenue GE. First, please contact Judy Gervase at 630-291-0269 to be sure about whether you already renewed.

On a sadder note, we lost a member, Helen McNaney. I will share an email I received from our longtime member, Julie Nolan, who knew Helen well:

*"Thank you for reaching out to me about my friend, Helen. She passed away in March after a brief illness. I have known Helen for about 12 years. We actually met in yoga class and became good friends.*

*She was born and raised in Chicago and after college she was recruited by AT&T to join their first management training class for women. She certainly had some interesting stories about that experience.*

*Helen stayed home briefly after she married and had children. She then returned to AT&T and had an impressive career in management working in Albuquerque, Denver, London and Chicago.*

*She joined the league in 2012. She was a strong supporter of the League's work as one of our supporting members."*

I expressed our condolences to Helen's family on behalf of the League.

Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

## Charlotte Swett Walter Award Winners



The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn (LWVGE) announced the winners of the inaugural 2023 Glenbard Democracy Challenge: Angie Abraham, a sophomore at Glenbard West and Emily Puchalski, a junior at Glenbard South. Both students were awarded a \$500 cash prize for their efforts at the LWVGE's annual meeting on April 27th. This year's theme was "In Defense of Democracy." The challenge asked students to portray the theme through music, photography, dance, creative writing, art, video, etc.

The Glenbard Democracy Challenge is named for longtime Glen Ellyn resident and League member Charlotte Swett Walter, whose estate bequeathed funds to support LWVGE educational efforts. A League committee developed the award and worked with GBW and GBS government teachers to help communicate the new award. Entries were judged on creativity, originality, execution and how well the submission captured the theme "***In Defense of Democracy.***"



## 2023 LWVGE Annual Awards Recipients!

One of the most anticipated components of the League's Annual Meeting is the presentation of the prestigious annual awards to League members. We are so proud of our members who received these awards at our annual meeting on April 27, 2023:

### **Susan B Anthony Voter Service Award**

Someone who has worked diligently to register voters and inform voters on candidates & issues, was jointly awarded to Erica Nelson and Dave Evans

**Outstanding New League Members Service Award** New member who has been actively involved and has taken a leadership role, was awarded to Brit Murphy

### **Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award**

Someone who has been exceptionally active in League and an activist in the community, was jointly awarded to Jacquelyn Casazza and Karin Daly, for their environmental advocacy work with Go Green Glen Ellyn

We also wish to recognize our retiring Board members for their tremendous contributions over the last two years



Judy Kinn and Shawn Fasules with Susan B. Anthony Award winners Dave Evans and Erica Nelson



Outstanding New League Member Brit Murphy

(pictured below) : Donna Jean Simon, Social Justice; Ann Robison, Secretary; Rita Doyle, Legislative Issues; Bernie Laszewski-VP Programs, and Erica Nelson, Voter Services.

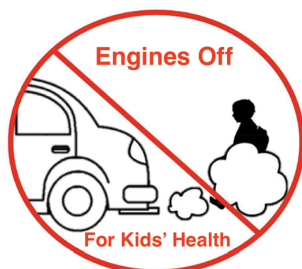
Submitted by Jacquelyn Casazza, Voter Editor



Phyllis Renfro Community Action award winners Karin Daly and Jacquelyn Casazza



## Environmental Issues



### Environmental News and Volunteer Opportunity

At the January 2023 LWVGE State of the Village meeting, a question was raised about pick-up lines at schools. The lines are extensive, and cars are leaving their engines on/idling and polluting the air for the nearby residents and children.

According to the "Idle-Free Schools Presentation" on [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov), "Idling engines produce thousands of tons of toxic pollution per year" and "children's developing lungs have a smaller

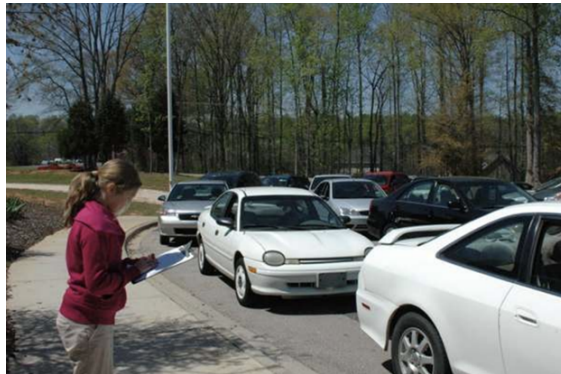
surface area and a higher inhalation rate, which means greater exposure and potentially permanent damage to lung function”.

The League sparked into action! An anti-idling committee has been meeting since March to work on an anti-idling campaign, guided by our position statement:

***“The LWV of Illinois advocates...for the protection of the air, land, and water, to promote healthy ecosystems, biodiversity and a clean and healthful environment.”***

WE NEED YOU! We are going to start observing traffic patterns at area schools for a couple of weeks 9/11-9/29. It will take approximately 45 minutes on two/three afternoons and you'll be partnered with 4-5 other League members. Please contact Sonja Faulkner if you are able to help: [jtf-slf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtf-slf@sbcglobal.net) or 630-947-4444.

Submitted by Jennifer Greenwalt, Director, Environment



**League Members "Doing What They Do!"**

**Our members making a difference in the community**



LWVGE Members Sarah Allen, Rita Doyle and Bernie Laszewski joined Leaguers from around the state for Lobby Day in Springfield on April 24. Thank you for taking the time to meet with our elected officials!

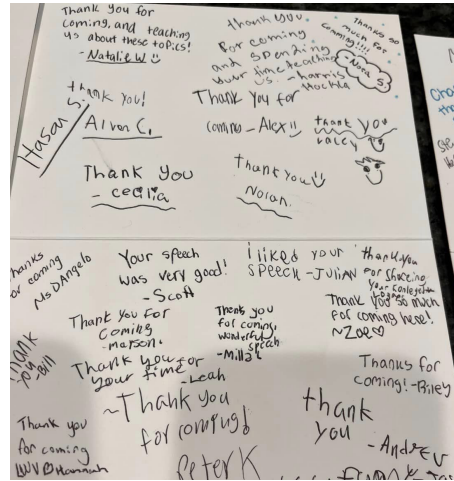
### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GLEN ELLYN PRESENT TO 6TH GRADERS

League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn presented to Hadley sixth graders as part of student research on social issues. League members gave examples of their advocacy work including environmental advocacy, idling cars campaigns, mental health resources, as well as ways to maintain local prairie paths. Thank you to the Glen Ellyn League for sharing real life examples of advocacy with students at Hadley!



League members visited Hadley Junior High School in May to talk about the importance of community involvement, and that one person can make a difference.

The League was recognized by the District for our time and efforts, as well as by the over 300 students we spoke to who filled out 10 "thank you" cards!



Thank you to League members who shared their personal stories of advocacy - Carrie Burrows, suffragette Sarah Allen, Kim Reed, Julie Evans, Jacquelyn Casazza, Jennifer Greenwalt, and not pictured, Karin Daly, Ginger Wheeler and Erica Nelson.



League Member Erica Nelson was honored with the Transforming Lives Award at the Bridge Communities annual Celebrating Women, Transforming Lives luncheon on June 16th. A large contingent of Leaguers were there to cheer her on during this uplifting event that supports such a worthwhile cause. Congratulations, Erica!





Of course, League attended and marched in the Glen Ellyn July 4th parade in style again! Members wore white and reminded residents to use your voice and your vote to make a difference in our community.

Thank you to all of those members who marched!



## Legislative Issues

No report for this issue -

Submitted by Erica Nelson, Legislative Issues

## Media Relations

No report for this issue -

Submitted by Karin Daly, Communications

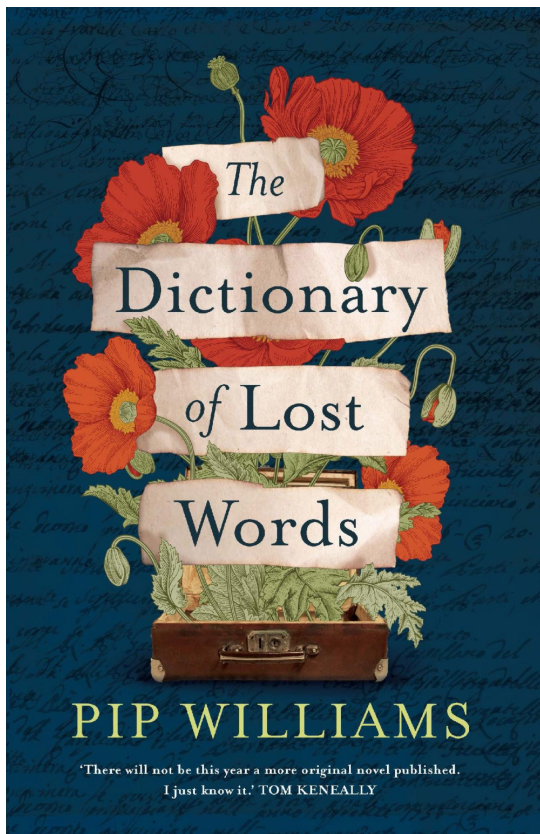
## Observer Corps: Promoting Transparency in Government



The League of Women Voters has been a champion of openness in government throughout its history. We believe that government bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public record accessible.

The League's Observer Corp functions as the eyes and ears of the league. We ensure that members are aware of the decisions that impact their communities, and they promote government transparency and accountability. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Observer Corps or would like more information regarding the duties, please contact Carrie Burrows at [carrieb131@gmail.com](mailto:carrieb131@gmail.com) or call me at 630-263-9245. A one-hour training session is periodically offered by the state league to help explain the role of an observer. The next one-hour session is Saturday, October 9 at 10:00 AM. Contact me if you would like to attend. Our goal is to have all public bodies covered, and you can help make this happen!

Submitted by Carrie Burrows, Observer Corps



## Next Book Club

Our next book club selection is "**The Dictionary of Lost Words**" by Pip Williams. Inspired by actual events, set during the height of the women's suffrage movement and with The Great War looming, the book reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. The Dictionary of Lost Words is a delightful, lyrical and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the powers of language to shape the world.

The book will be available from the Glen Ellyn Public Library beginning September 2. Audio versions are available but not reserved. Our meeting is **Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 9:00am at the home of Shawn Fasules, 755 Chidester.**

Please join us for coffee or tea, scones by Michelle, and a lively discussion. If you have questions, comments, reach out to Shawn Fasules or Michelle Peterson.

Also I want to recommend an event I am going to at COD. The author of an earlier and very popular selection, **Kate Moore, the author of The Woman They Could Not Silence, will be speaking at the McAninch Arts Center on October 24 at 7pm.** The tickets are \$20. Maybe we will see you there.

Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club

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## **CALENDAR**

Cantigny Awareness Series (CAS) noted in red

LWVGE Community Meetings noted in blue

Candidate Forums are highlighted

**September 20, 2023** - Board Meeting 7 pm, Hadley Jr. High Library

**September 21, 2023** - Civic Awareness Series, "Racial and Economic Justice" with Audra Wilson, President and CEO of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law 7 pm, Cantigny and hybrid

**September 28, 2023** - Community Meeting, "Welcome to the New Year: Spotlight on Schools with Superintendents Melissa Kaczowski (D. 41), Doug Eccarius (D. 89), David Larson (D. 87) and Amber Quirk (DuPage County Regional Superintendent) with moderator, Pam Zimmerman, 7 pm, Hadley Jr. High Library

**September 30, 2023** - Book Club: "The Dictionary of Lost Words"

**October 19, 2023** - Board Meeting, 7 pm, Civic Center

**October 26, 2023**- Community Meeting, "DemocraSee What You Can Do: Member Engagement," 7 pm, Glen Ellyn Police Department

**November 9, 2023** - Civic Awareness Series, Illinois Attorney General, Kwame Raoul, 7 pm, Cantigny and hybrid

**November 16, 2023** - Board Meeting, 7 pm, Civic Center

**December 7, 2023** - Holiday Member Social, 7 pm, Park & Oak, Glen Ellyn Details to Come!

Plans for events are subject to change. To avoid disappointment, please check the LWVGE website for final details.

Questions about League events? Get details here:

[www.lwvge.org](http://www.lwvge.org)

**Please visit our website for the most current information**

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