



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF EVANSTON

# THE INTERCOM

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2015

## HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

*TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE FINALS AND ALL THROUGH NU...*

– by Michelle Jordan

On Sunday December 7, more than 50 people wound their way through the catacombs of Parkes Hall at Northwestern to attend a forum hosted by the Leagues of Women Voters of Illinois, Evanston and Wilmette, the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, The Democratic Party of Evanston, The Committee for Economic Development and the Northwestern University College Democrats. The event was entitled "Campaign Finance Reform: Citizens Uniting to Resuscitate Democracy".



Daniel Biss, Beth Coulson and Cindi Canary are united on the issue of campaign finance reform.

Starting out, former LWWIL and ICPR Executive Director Cindi Canary gave a brief history of campaign finance legislation in the US and Illinois and then turned the floor over to two people who had been political rivals and who have always been on opposite sides of the aisle. What took place next left many in the room dumbfounded. State Senator Daniel Biss, a Democrat, and his political rival, Beth Coulson, a former Republican member of the Illinois House, described their fundraising frustrations. They often punctuated their remarks with compliments to the other for helping them to be a better candidate. It was truly a bipartisan exchange of ideas. Moreover, many in the room commented about the astonishing and refreshing tone of humor, respect and candor that permeated their remarks. Together they painted a picture that we have all suspected is true: money is corroding our political system.

David Melton of ICPR noted that money is not necessarily the real problem. The problem is that when politicians have to depend on a few very wealthy donors to win their elections, they become accountable to the people who paid their bills, not the people who cast the votes. Sixty percent of total giving in 2010 congressional elections came from about .000032% of the electorate (approx. 100 people). In the Illinois Governor's race over 85% of contributions came from donors giving more than \$1000.

David presented a tool that has been successful in many other municipalities--the "Small Donor Match System"-- that is being discussed for Evanston. These systems require candidates to raise money from ordinary citizens, rather than relying on a few wealthy donors and they allow the public, media, and policymakers to see just who is financing policy proposals

and campaigns. Together, these reforms boost accountability, curb corruption, and increase the voice of ordinary citizens. According to David: "The problem is where the money increasingly comes from (a tiny slice of special interests and super-wealthy individuals) and what we make politicians do to raise the increasing amounts of money necessary to run successful campaigns in a complex society."

Evanston and Oak Park have been selected as possible Illinois pilot projects for these match systems.

And, if they are as successful here as they have been in other places, perhaps Evanston can be the model for a larger system. If you would like more information about the small donor match systems visit [tinyurl.com/qc4p8y](http://tinyurl.com/qc4p8y).

The League of Women Voters of Evanston needs YOU!



Don't wait to be recruited! Nominate yourself to serve on the Evanston LWW Board! Our community needs a vibrant, hard-working board of dedicated League members to design and implement our strategy to promote civic engagement. We'll find a position for your expertise, ideas, and energy. The board meets monthly. If you feel that you can contribute, please contact a member of the nominating committee:

Cheryl Wollin  
Elizabeth Hayford  
Sue Calder

[cherylwollin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cherylwollin@sbcglobal.net)  
[ehayford@gmail.com](mailto:ehayford@gmail.com)  
[sbcalder@gmail.com](mailto:sbcalder@gmail.com)

**Thank you for considering this role in your local League of Women Voters!**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Friends,

It is the holiday season once again and at least we are not threatened with the "polar vortex" that we suffered through last year. It's also a time for looking back on the year just ended and forward to the New Year. Our December holiday party featured Kathy Tate-Bradish, past LWVE president and holder of many board positions, and her mother, Mary Ann Tate, a League member in Park Ridge. They talked with us about their experience as a League mother-daughter team. They have been involved in many activities and causes over the years. Mary Ann was a Cook County observer for several years and most recently Kathy worked on the attempt to put the graduated rate income tax initiative on the ballot.

As we turn the calendar to 2015, it is time once again to make our program plans for the coming year. That process brings to mind our dedicated League members who with their skill and passion have taken a topic and made it one that changed things in Evanston, in Illinois and in the nation. For example, Cheryl Wollin and Janet Kittlaus took their passion for abolishing the death penalty all the way to the national LWV and it is now the official position of the League. Eleanor Revelle has worked tirelessly on issues related to the environment and climate change, presenting workshops and forums. Now Michelle Jordan has begun the task of informing us about the "Small Donor Campaign Finance" initiative that can bring much needed changes to the campaign finance process. I personally support the idea and look forward to working with Michelle and others to make this a reality in Evanston.

The input of our members is essential to creating an action-oriented program designed to move the League of Women Voters forward in its effort to influence public policy outcomes in Illinois consistent with

### WHERE WE STAND.

[www.lwvil.org/where-we-stand.html](http://www.lwvil.org/where-we-stand.html)

All of this relates to program planning, because it is up to us to determine what programs and League positions we want to study, bring forward and educate our fellow citizens about. It is how we form our public policy agenda for this and coming years.

Program planning is in preparation for the biennial state LWV convention that will take place in June in Naperville. We are asked to review LWVIL positions (look at the full document **Where We Stand** on line), and decide if:

- the goals addressed by the position have been met
- there is still member interest, understanding and agreement on the item
- the position is still relevant

Next we are asked to decide to 1) retain, 2) re-study/update or 3) drop the position. Lastly we have the opportunity to make recommendations for a new study or a new action focus item. As we make these decisions it is important to remember that studies require time, commitment and resources. There are excellent, clear documents to guide us through this process on the LWVIL website which can be found at [tinyurl.com/mp5yk6n](http://tinyurl.com/mp5yk6n). The deadline for us to submit our program plan is March 9. If you would like to serve on the committee to work on this plan please send me an email [lwvepresident@gmail.com](mailto:lwvepresident@gmail.com).

All the best wishes for a very happy, healthy, and politically savvy 2015! Stay involved!

*Cate*

## League of Women Voters® of Evanston

2100 Ridge Ave Evanston, IL 60201

847-859-7883

e-mail: [LWVEvanston@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEvanston@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.lwve.org](http://www.lwve.org)

### 2014-2015 ELECTED OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Cate Whitcomb
<b>VP Membership</b>	Casey Christensen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Betty Hayford
<b>Secretary</b>	Joan Lakebrink

### 2014-2015 ELECTED DIRECTORS

#### Local Government – Observer Corps

Jessie Feldman

#### Voter Service – Registration

Mary Morris

#### Voter Service – Forums

Jennifer O'Neil

#### Development Chair

Karen Hunt

#### Members at Large

Gloria Callaci Ellen Browne

#### Nominating Committee Chair

Cheryl Wollin

#### Off-Board Appointments

**Webmaster** Mary Lewis

#### Intercom Newsletter

Helen Gagel Julie Winsberg

#### Office Coordinator

Katy Compere Pendleton

### THE INTERCOM

January - February 2015

THE INTERCOM is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Evanston

### LWVIL BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 5 – 7, 2015

Hilton Lisle-Naperville

Mark your calendar!



LIKE LWVE  
ON FACEBOOK

# NEW PROCEDURES EASE REGISTRATION & VOTING PROCESS

– by Sue Brenner & Cheryl Wollin

**Several new changes were implemented for the November 2014 election, with the goal of making it easier for people to vote in Illinois.**

**NEW FORMS, VENUES AND REGISTRARS:** No longer did you have to be an “official” deputy registrar to hold registration events. Consequently many groups initiated such efforts including ETHS, YMCA Child Care Center, Erie Health Clinic, Family Focus, and several local churches. Our League’s team of 15 registrars enrolled voters at a number of locations, including the Evanston Public Library, the McGaw YMCA, The Merion, The Mather, Three Crowns Park, Roycemore School, Robert Crown Produce Day, and Hillside Free Methodist Pantry. Some registrars brought their laptops because you could easily help people register online. All new registrations are then checked by the Secretary of State’s office to verify citizenship and other information.

**ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION:** This was the biggest change. For the first time ever, Illinois citizens could register on Election Day! Limited sites had been identified for this process, and the Evanston Civic Center was one. Evanston had the largest “same day-register-and vote” turnout of any of the 18 locations offering this option, 430 new voters, many of them Northwestern students. As part of their “NU Votes” campaign, free vans left campus every 20 minutes, from 10 am - 7 pm to drive students to the Civic Center. The city was understaffed to handle this unexpected crowd, and some late arrivals waited two hours to register and vote. Better coordination in the future is definitely needed—between the city, the university, and the League.

**RESULTS:** Evanston’s turnout was 55%, or 23,402 ballots cast. 5,000 of these were cast in early voting, which is double the number of early ballots cast in 2010. Longer periods of early voting were introduced in many parts of Illinois (*contrary to more restrictive laws in other states*).

## VOTING IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Think of all the ways you have voted over the years: punch cards; connecting arrows with a special pen (surprise they aren’t really special); or pulling a lever to vote are a few of those you may have experienced. Several years ago Illinois added electronic touch screens to the voting experience. They are easy to use, easy to correct if you mark the wrong choice, and make it easier for the election judges to do their reporting after the polls close. There is a jump drive in each machine that records the votes and is then downloaded and consolidated with the other drives from all the machines, as well as the scanner for paper votes. The vote count is sent electronically to the County Clerk’s office. Unfortunately there are not enough machines to have more than two at a precinct and so often voters must wait or use paper ballots. (*After every election, judges fill out a survey and ask for additional touch screens, but so far to no avail.*)

## NEW THIS YEAR

This year Evanston participated in the use of “Electronic Poll Books”. Other parts of the state began using them in 2012. Electronic poll books or e-poll books are digital lists that replace the traditional paper books formerly used to check in voters. Each precinct had two computers with label printers that contained the information for all applications. Gone was the manual numbering of those applications, gone was trying to figure out if the voter was in the right precinct or ward. Voters saw very little difference in their experience.

Electronic poll books save time, improve the accuracy of voting records, and save paper in these ways:

- Labels are printed solely for those voters who turn out to vote instead of printing applications for all potential voters and then shredding most of them after the election.
- Poll workers can look up voters from the entire county. This can reduce time spent checking in voters, one of the bottlenecks in the voting process.
- Poll workers can easily redirect voters in the wrong location to the correct polling place.
- The e-poll book notifies the poll worker if a voter already voted absentee or during the early voting period.
- The e-poll book generates turnout numbers.

The voting process and election laws are in the League’s bailiwick. We don’t know what may be on tap for future elections, but the League will keep you posted!

**Thanks to Mary Morris for providing this calendar for the April 7, 2015 Consolidated Election:**



<b>Thurs, February 26</b>	First day to apply for mail ballot
<b>Tues, March 10</b>	Last day to register to vote
<b>Wed, March 11</b>	First day grace period registration & voting
<b>Mon, March 23</b>	First day early voting
<b>Thursday, April 2</b>	Last day to request a mail ballot including military and overseas voters
<b>Sat, April 4</b>	Last day: early voting
<b>Sat, April 4</b>	Last day: grace period registration & voting
<b>Tue, April 7</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>

## OFFICES ON THE BALLOT:

- District 65 Board of Education** (3 seats open)
- District 202 School Board** (3 seats open)
- Oakton Community College Trustees** (2 seats)

## ☞ REMEMBERING TWO STRONG WOMEN ☞

– by Helen Gagel

### **The Evanston League mourns the recent loss of two long-time members and local activists.**



#### **Former LWV president Sue Brady died December 14 at age 77.**

Karen Telser described her as “A pillar of Evanston, who has been a hero to me since the early 1970s. Sue knew how to do things properly, thoroughly and fairly, and she never wavered from her personal standards and values. She is one of the main reasons that Evanston

has as good a government as it does today, and her efforts extended to the state and nation. She was an exemplary role model, teacher, and inspiration to the many who learned from her example, passion, intelligence, wisdom, and courage.”

Patrick Keenan-Devlin referred to Sue as “Evanston’s matriarch. She knew what needed to get done, how to get it done, and how to invite others to join her. I am proud to count myself among those who were mentored by Sue, and I believe that she inspired so many young people because she saw the value of empowering the next generation to ‘take charge.’ She was one of my heroes, and I will truly miss her.”

Like Karen, I first met Sue in the 1970s. Working with her was a lesson in sound, unselfish leadership. Sue focused on the tasks, the strategies and the outcomes, not on who would get the credit. As chair of the League’s Housing Committee, Sue was a major force in enacting progressive local legislation to oversee and regulate tenant-landlord relations, condominium conversions, and housing rehabilitation, among others. She served as League President from 1975-77.

While strictly abiding by the nonpartisan nature of her League work, Sue was very much involved in electoral politics. She was a volunteer and local strategist for the campaigns of Abner Mikva, and served on his district staff during his tenure as 10th District Congressman (1974-79).

When Cong. Mikva moved on to the federal judiciary, Sue took on a new challenge as director of the Housing Resource Center at Hull House, which was contracted by the CHA to manage scattered-site public housing, a new concept at the time. Alexander Polikoff, former director of Business and Professional People in the Public Interest, and a champion of housing justice, termed Sue a “trailblazer” in a Dec. 29 *Tribune* obituary. Janice Byron, who worked with Sue at HRC, told the *Tribune*: “[Sue] was about helping people to be empowered to help themselves.”

While serving as HRC director, Sue took on another demanding role, that of alderman of Evanston’s Third Ward for two terms, from 1985-93. After retiring from both of those jobs she turned

her labors to civic engagement, serving on a number of local boards and renewing her League involvement as a member and chair of the Local Government Committee. And of course her political activity continued unabated. What a thrill it was to witness Sue’s yeoman efforts on behalf of the candidacy of Barack Obama, first for US Senate, then the presidency.

Sue Brady leaves a lasting legacy of public service and advocacy. But she would be the first to say that her family was the center of her universe. Her five children and 17 grandchildren are following in her footsteps, as was very much in evidence at a prayer service (which she, characteristically, had planned!) in her honor on December 17. This familiar quote, cited in the program, sums it up very well: “When through one woman a little more love and goodness, a little more light and truth come into the world – then that woman’s life has had meaning.”

And a final word from Abner Mikva, as quoted in the *Tribune*: “A wonderful woman,” Mikva said. “She lived her religion — she wasn’t saving souls, she was saving people from whatever their problems were.”

Read Sue’s complete obituary at: [tinyurl.com/pwetftm](http://tinyurl.com/pwetftm)

#### **Frances (Fran) Seidman died in November at the age of 88.**

“She made her voice heard,” recalled former Evanston City Clerk Mary Morris. “Plain-spoken, she articulated her thoughts on policy issues with clarity.”



#### **Cheryl Wollin remembers Fran as “A Character with Character”:**

I met Fran many years ago through our travels with Art Encounter. On a trip to Italy, as our hardier friends hiked the Cinque Terra, Fran and I found a wonderful restaurant that jutted out over the sea, and shared ideas. We both enjoyed meeting local artists, visiting their studios and asking questions. That’s what Fran excelled at—asking questions. Good questions, analytical questions, probing questions. So it was no surprise when I discovered her political bent.

Fran frequently observed City Council meetings, and wrote thoughtful letters to the editor. During my service on the Council, Fran would call me with carefully worded, critical analyses of what Council was doing/studying/spending. Sometimes she came across as a curmudgeon, but her ideas were realistic and to-the-point, and her heart was generous. She devoted several hours a week to the Library Book Volunteers, sorting and organizing for the big book sales. When I was on the Library Board, she reminded me of the necessary revenue that the book sales (and volunteers) provided. She was right!

*continued on page 7*

# LAUGH ALONG WITH THE LEAGUE at the LWV Education Fund Dinner

As proclaimed in our Mission Statement, "The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government and to increase understanding of major public policy issues." Bringing that lofty language down to earth: In recent years the LWVEF has been a major player in challenging legislative assaults on voting rights, as well as such critical issues as climate change, immigration reform and gun safety.

Every two years the LWV of Evanston hosts a dinner to benefit the Education Fund. As a serious organization with a serious purpose, our dinners have typically featured a speaker or panel addressing a subject of current and weighty interest to the policy junkies we all freely admit to being.

For the 2015 dinner, we're taking a different tack by looking at the lighter side of civic engagement. Join us for an evening of good food and good fun with:

- **ILLINOIS SENATE PRESIDENT JOHN CULLERTON** Yes, he presides over the Senate, but he also does a wicked stand-up routine.
- **Mee-OW** Northwestern's acclaimed student improv group, whose alumni include Seth Meyers, Julia

SAVE THE DATE  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**  
UNITARIAN CHURCH of Evanston  
6:00 PM Reception  
6:45 PM Dinner & Entertainment

**2015 Ed Fund Dinner Committee:**  
Ellen Browne, Gloria Callaci, Judy Elsass, Kira Foken, Kim Hoopingarner, Karen Hunt, Jennifer O'Neil, Cheryl Wollin.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

Louis-Dreyfus, and Dermot Mulroney, will poke fun at the state of political discourse

- **MUDLARK THEATER COMPANY** The kids are tapping the League's Observer Corps for material that doesn't get reported in the Intercom.

Plan to join us for a fun evening in support of the League's nonpartisan voter service and educational activity and help us meet or exceed our fundraising goal of \$17,000. This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend or family member to the League, and we are offering an incentive to do that: the regular ticket price is \$125, but guest tickets (for non-League members) are priced at \$100. Invitations will be in the mail at the end of February.

Would you like to help? Contact co-chairs:

Helen Gagel, [hcgagel@comcast.net](mailto:hcgagel@comcast.net) or  
Patrick Keenan-Devlin, [keenan.devlin@gmail.com](mailto:keenan.devlin@gmail.com)

## HOLIDAY PARTY FEATURES MOTHER-DAUGHTER LEAGUE TEAM

by Casey Christiansen

On December 4th about 30 League members gathered at the John Evans Alumni Center for our annual holiday party. It was a wonderful evening filled with stories and laughter. The Alumni Center was all decked out for the holidays as were our members!

After enjoying wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres we settled down to hear reflections from Kathy Tate-Bradish (right) and her mother Mary Ann Tate (left). They spoke about what drew them to the League, experiences they've had in the League, and ways in which we can all become involved in the League. We then opened up the room for further reflections. What wonderful stories! I was not a member of the League when Cheryl Wollin and her group fought so successfully to bring about a national LWV position against the death penalty. What dedication and perseverance they showed!

In addition to our festivities I had asked if people would bring a donation of towels or personal hygiene products to donate to the women's shelter at our local YWCA. We had such an abundance of donations that the back seat of my car was overflowing! In addition some members who could not be at the party made donations which Cate Whitcomb graciously picked



up. I brought our donations to the YWCA the next morning. They were very grateful and asked that I pass along their thanks.



## MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## LWVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19 ~ 11:45 AM**

**JANUARY LUNCHEON** with Jim Kenney

Details in article right column.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 ~ 11:45 AM**

**Tim Edward Rhoze; Community Theater in Evanston**

Details in article right column.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11 ~ 5:00 – 9:00 PM**

**EDUCATION FUND DINNER**

Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge, Evanston. Tickets \$125

Details on page 5.

**MONDAY MAY 5** (time & location TBA)

**LWV COOK COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY MAY 21 ~ 5:45 PM**

**LWV EVANSTON ANNUAL MEETING**

King Home, 1555 Oak, Evanston, Dinner \$25

**JUNE 7, 8 & 9**

**LWV-ILLINOIS BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Hilton Hotel, Lisle/Naperville

More information 847-859-7883

or [www.lwve.org](http://www.lwve.org) and click on link to **Calendar**

## ON THE MENU: LWV LUNCHEONS

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19 ~ 11:45 AM**

**THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE** with **JIM KENNEY**

Crystal Ballroom at The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston

The fee for this luncheon is \$20 and can be paid at the door.

Before the polls closed on the 2014 mid-term election, pundits and politicians were already speculating on what the results would mean for the 2016 presidential election. Jim Kenney will join us to share his take on **The Political Landscape - 2015**. He is the co-founder and executive director of Common Ground, and has been recognized as a leader in the global movement for intercultural understanding. Jim has lectured widely on political, social, religious and cultural issues, and is the author of *Thriving in the Crosscurrent*, an exploration of how human societies adapt to a changing world. Jim Kenney is always a big draw, so be sure to make your reservation by January 13.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 ~ 11:45 AM**

**TIM EDWARD RHOZE; COMMUNITY THEATER IN EVANSTON**

King Home, 1555 Oak Avenue, Lunch fee is \$20.

Reservation deadline is February 14.

Tim Edward Rhoze will speak to LWVE on his work as Artistic Director of the Fleetwood-Jourdain Theater and its evolution as a community theater in Evanston. Rhoze has directed numerous productions at Fleetwood-Jourdain over the past four seasons and also is an accomplished actor, appearing this winter in the Steppenwolf Theater production of *Airline Highway*.

**Event reservations: [LWVEvanston@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEvanston@gmail.com) or 847-859-7883**

## DOWNTOWN EVANSTON CONTRIBUTES TO EVANSTON LIVABILITY

by Betty Hayford

**Evanston regularly receives awards for "livability."** On November 13, Annie Coakley, Executive Director of Downtown Evanston, explained to LWVE members how her organization contributes to making Evanston an attractive place to live. She described the structure and activities of Downtown Evanston, and demonstrated the enthusiasm and energy that makes it work.

Downtown Evanston provides marketing and management services to the businesses of the downtown district, guided by a Board of 23 members representing the Chamber of Commerce, the largest taxpayers, business owners, residents, and representatives of the City. Coakley promotes an ambitious set of goals including maintaining and extending retail business; supporting the arts; strengthening the relationship with Northwestern; enhancing the public space; and partnering with the city. Business in the downtown area is heavily weighted towards restaurants and personal care salons, serving residents from around the city and Northwestern students.

Landscaping, seasonal plantings and decorations, and annual events such as "Thursday, Let's Dance" in the summer and the



Holiday Bash and Tree Lighting in winter draw shoppers and make Evanston an attractive area for new businesses. Coakley explained that retailers view Evanston as a good site for business because of its prosperity, the lakefront, and active students; the main negative is the high rents for available space. The Gift Card program was launched in 2010 to enhance promotional opportunities and encourage return visits for retail, restaurants and service businesses, and local entertainment

opportunities are announced on the Downtown Evanston web site and in its e-newsletter.

Coakley works closely with the City of Evanston's Economic Development staff; she has contacts with potential businesses, and city staff can provide incentives and assistance in meeting regulations. Her organization receives some direct city support as well as receiving tax revenue from the Special Services Area levy created in the downtown area in 1986.

The presentation provided insights into an important Evanston public/private partnership for all League members and a useful perspective to members of the Local Government group who are working for a broader understanding of city economic development activities.

# COOK COUNTY LWV UPDATE

– by Betty Hayford

Fall was a busy time for LWV of Cook County with elections of county officials, and presentation and approval of a FY 2015 budget. In addition, LWVCC interest groups continued their focus on two key areas of county government: the Health and Hospitals System, and the criminal justice system, in particular overcrowding at Cook County jail and the pre-trial procedures that are a contributing factor.

The LWVCC Voters Service Committee prepared a Voter's Guide for the November election. Although all County Commissioners were on the ballot, only four were contested elections. No incumbent was defeated, but the board will have two new Commissioners due to resignations. All five county-wide officials, including President Toni Preckwinkle, were re-elected in uncontested elections. New Illinois laws facilitated registration procedures and the use of technology on Election Day. (See the report on Page 3.) LWVCC members will meet with the County Clerk to review the impact of the changes.

President Preckwinkle presented – and the board adopted with few changes – a balanced budget for 2015 with no tax increases. Several Commissioners, and Preckwinkle, pointed out that next year's budget will face new fiscal obligations and preparing a balanced budget will be difficult.

LWVCC is looking at pre-trial procedures in Cook County courts to gain an understanding of whether better collaboration among county officials might lead to better outcomes. More than a year ago, President Preckwinkle asked the Illinois Supreme Court to review the matter. This resulted in a substantial report with 40 recommendations for reforms, and ongoing meetings involving the Sheriff, the Chief Judge, the State's Attorney, and others. The LWVCC committee plans to develop a report highlighting important aspects of the pre-trial and bond hearing process that might be improved by drawing on models from other parts of the country and better coordination and cooperation among county offices.

The League has been observing the Cook County Health and Hospitals System board of directors since its inception. This group has become knowledgeable about Board efforts to improve the quality of care and the business practices of the system, and adapt to the expansion of the medical insurance environment created by the Affordable Care Act. As with other aspects of LWVCC work, the sustained effort to follow this unit of county government has been noticed and appreciated by the hardworking county officials.

All members of LWV Evanston are also members of the Cook County League and are welcome to become involved in these and future efforts. The Annual Meeting of LWVCC on May 5, is an opportunity to hear more about these activities. Betty Hayford, [ehayford@gmail.com](mailto:ehayford@gmail.com) and Karen Hunt [khunt@firstbt.com](mailto:khunt@firstbt.com) are members of the LWVCC Board, and would be glad to provide more information about ongoing projects.

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## REMEMBERANCE *continued from page 4*

Recently, as a member of North Shore Village, I connected once again to Fran's energy and mindful presence. Even as health problems slowed her down, she continued to show up at events, luncheons, and forums. You could always count on Fran to ask those insightful questions. . .and write those letters to the editor. She was an inspiration for her tenacity and liberalism.

Read Fran's published obituary with information about memorial donations at: [tinyurl.com/o4nhzuz](http://tinyurl.com/o4nhzuz)



### Home. Community. Friendships.

Where we live, how we live and who we share our lives with - they are all a matter of choice. Is there any reason to give up those choices as we get older?

Keep your options open with North Shore Village, a member-driven organization for older adults who want to "age in place."

Join us at an informal coffee to learn more.



Tommi Ferguson, Executive Director

847-721-1413

[www.NorthShore-Village.org](http://www.NorthShore-Village.org)

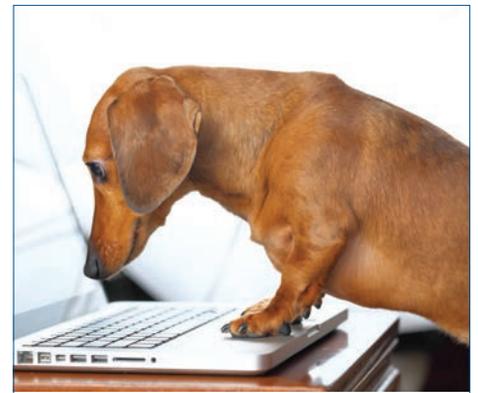


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## HELP EVANSTON LEAGUE CONSERVE RESOURCES

If you would prefer to receive the **INTERCOM** only on the internet, as a link to our LWVE website, please email [LWVEPresident@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEPresident@gmail.com) or call the League office at 847-859-7883 and leave a message telling us to stop sending you a printed copy. It will help us be more eco-friendly and reduce printing and mailing costs!



## League of Women Voters® of Evanston

2100 Ridge Avenue in Evanston, IL 60201

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# Community Banking At Its Best



Just like members of a family, your bankers should be supportive and dependable—building lifetime relationships and caring about the well-being of the community.

First Bank & Trust is locally owned and managed by people who make their homes in the community. We know the area and how special it is.

Our promise to you is to bring back community banking to your neighborhood. So, come home—to First Bank & Trust.

## FIRST BANK & TRUST

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