



Annual Meeting

May 20

League of Women Voters
of Evanston

2020

To receive Zoom login information, RSVP to lwvevanston@gmail.com by May 18, 2020

Log-in and technical assistance available beginning at 6:45 PM

Business Meeting at 7:00 PM



May 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As Spring emerges in Evanston, we are facing immense challenges, unique in our lifetimes. Challenges to us as individuals, as Evanston residents, and as League members. As we hunker down in our homes, concerned for the health and safety of our families and our community, we are trying to determine how to move forward in responsible ways.

And move forward we must. Spring is a busy time for Leagues with monthly programs, legislative lobbying, program planning and annual meetings. LWVE scheduled program planning for mid-March, yet had to cancel when stay-at-home orders were issued. We rescheduled for April 18, meeting on-line to review our current year program and set directions for 2020-2021. These plans, presented on page 13 of this meeting packet, respond to local, state and national needs. We look forward to engaging large numbers of you in efforts to address these issues, issues growing out of community needs and our long-standing League mission.

Both LWV Cook County and LWVE planned annual meetings in May. Meeting in person is not possible in May, so both Leagues have planned virtual meetings using the Zoom platform. Few of us had used Zoom before this spring; increasingly we are joining family, work associates, and our League colleagues in this way. Materials for the LWVE annual meeting accompany this letter. We are asking you to review these materials and join us to conduct the important business of our League. We have a strong slate of officers and board members, both experienced and newer members. You will be able to hear the presentation of the proposed budget and proposed program, and to express your questions or suggestions through this technology.

Similarly, LWVIL usually schedules lobbying and meeting with legislators at this time of year. While meeting in person is not possible, LWVIL has scheduled a series of on-line meetings with our Springfield representatives to hear their views and convey our priorities. Not as good as face-to-face meetings, perhaps, but an important vehicle to remind them that they represent us, and they need to hear our views.

League officers at every level know it is important to learn new ways to engage our members as we shelter in place. The work of the League is to increase citizen participation in the election process, to enhance citizen participation in political decisions at every level, and to take action to advance public policies consistent with League positions. This work is more important than ever in this election year. Registering voters, getting out the vote, and stimulating informed discussion inspires us to keep the institutional structure of the League strong.

2020 is the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, the founding of the League of Women Voters, and a century of activism. Please join our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm as we engage in the next 100 years of working to strengthen our community.

Julianne Dieterich, Betty Hayford, Mary Kelly, Lois Taft

Executive Committee

AGENDA for the ANNUAL MEETING
May 20, 2020

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Rules of the Annual Meeting
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Finance Committee Presents 2020-21 Budget
6. Local Program Report
 - a. Report of 2019-20 program
 - b. Proposed program for consideration
7. Nominating and Elections
 - a. Presentation of the Proposed Nominations
 - b. Nominations from the Floor
 - c. Election of Officers and Directors for 2020-2021
8. Announcements
9. Executive Committee Message
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EVANSTON

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 23, 2019

Three Crowns Park

Call to order: Co-President Casey Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:15, and introduced our civic scholarship winner, Phoebe Liccardo, who was able to join us this evening. An outstanding student from ETHS, and student representative on the District 219 School Board, Phoebe will be attending Western Michigan University in the fall.

Casey declared a quorum was present and asked for a motion to adopt the rules of the Annual Meeting. Unanimous voice vote approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Joan Lakebrink moved, and Betty Hayford seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Casey announced that Judy Hoffman and Katie O'Neil agreed to read and form this year's approval committee.

Treasurer's Report: Betty Brugger, treasurer, reported that the Evanston League was financially strong. She explained that there are two separate funds: operating and the education fund (501c3). Membership dues/renewals and fundraising provide much of the revenue, and the expenses include our dues to state and national LWV, office space, voter service activities, and the scholarship fund. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Finance Report for 2019-2020 Budget: Judy Elsass reported that this was basically a status quo budget. We have approximately 170 members, and 50 of those are seniors at reduced rate dues. We also have 10 lifetime members (over 50 years) who pay no dues. (Judy mentioned that she would be joining that group this year!) Rent for the office space goes up 2% each year. The Education Fund Dinner would be held in the fall. There were no questions from the floor. The proposed budgets of \$23,655 (operating fund) and \$39,275 (education fund) were approved unanimously.

Local Program Report: Co-President Julianne Dieterich outlined (on page 10 of the annual packet) the actions and efforts this year to address our goals. They include:

- 1) Hosting programs and partnerships on climate change and carbon pricing.
- 2) Working with city staff on board mergers and commissions.
- 3) Observing Equity and Empowerment Commission meetings.
- 4) Completing review and research on the role of City Clerk.
- 5) Supporting state league action on gun control, budget and tax policy.

Julianne then introduced Candice Dalrymple who had led the local program planning meeting on March 14, 2019, where members reached a **consensus** on the following goals for the 2019-2020 year.

1. LWVE will back state and national League of Women Voters climate action priorities and will support the City of Evanston in implementing its Climate Action and Resilience Plan.

Moved, seconded by Joan Lakebrink.

2. Continue analysis of current Boards, Committees, and Commissions to develop a model that best balances important missions for BCC's with efficient use of city and citizen personnel.
Moved, seconded by Betty Hayford
3. Use the 100th anniversary of women suffrage, the founding of the League of Women Voters, and the election of 2020 as outreach focal points to engage our membership and recruit new members.
Moved, seconded by Cate Whitcomb
4. Investigate reasons for low voter turnout, especially among young people (18-30) in local elections. Based on the results, develop and implement a plan to increase voter turnout in future elections.
Moved, seconded by Jennifer O'Neil

All program planning goals being approved, the 2019-2020 Program Plan was adopted.

Nominating Committee Report:

Mary Keefe Kelly reported on the work of the Nominating Committee which consisted of Mary, Helen Gagel, and Casey Christensen. She thanked outgoing board members for their service. Despite diligent and persuasive work, the committee could not put forward a name for President. The leadership will fall upon the Executive Committee of the Board (four officers: two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and the Secretary). There was one other change to the printed slate. Kathy Tate-Bradish has withdrawn her name from nomination. Therefore, the proposed slate of Officers for 2019-20 are:

Vice-President, Communications	Julianne Dieterich
Vice-President, Membership	Mary Keefe Kelly
Secretary	Lois Taft
Treasurer	Betty Hayford
Local Government, Observers	Jessie Feldman
Development	Karen Hunt
Monthly Events	Joan Lakebrink
Communications	Katie O'Neil
Member-at-Large	Candice Dalrymple
Member-at-Large	Mark Tendam

2019-2020 Nominating Committee:

Chair Jennifer O'Neil
 Gerri Sizemore
 A third member will be appointed from the Board of Directors.

Nominations from the floor were solicited. There were none.

Gloria Callaci moved to accept the slate as proposed. Cheryl Wollin seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

2018-19 Co-President Julianne Dieterich continued to thank the outgoing board members for their dedication and service to the League: Ruth Belzer, Betty Brugger, Gloria Callaci, Casey Christensen, Kate Julian, Jennifer O'Neil, Cate Whitcomb and Cheryl Wollin. The board is also grateful to the office manager, Mary Morris, and the volunteers who serve there. Thank you to Mark Tendam for agreeing to edit **The**

Intercom. She introduced new board members, and reminded members that short biographies were in the annual packet.

Direction to the Board:

Pat Aaron asked if the directory could list the addresses of elected officials, so that members could more easily contact them. The reply was that since they change so often, it was decided to list them only on the website.

Eleanor Revelle had two issues to present. The first was a Climate Emergency Resolution that would be taken to City Council, and also to the state League Convention in June. She asked for LWVE support for both situations. The Evanston delegates would endorse and encourage it at the convention. Copies were distributed at the tables. Joan Taylor seconded Eleanor’s motion, and it was approved unanimously. Eleanor noted that 17 cities had already endorsed it.

Candice asked how many leagues were in IL, but no one had the immediate answer.

Eleanor’s second issue involved the attention of the league to a potential “Proposal to study and develop a position on a voter initiative process for City ordinances”. The process, although unclear, would provide for mandatory referendum to be placed on the ballot. The Council would then act on the issue involved. The City Clerk would draft the wording of the referendum. Currently, the law department does that. This does not require a motion as it is only a direction advising the local league to monitor the situation.

Another issue of importance to the league, that is heard in discussion in the community, is challenging the City-Manager form of government. We do have a position supporting that form of government. These are issues to pay attention to, even though no immediate action is needed.

Announcements:

Casey announced that there would be a “Drinks and Dialogue” session on June 25 at 6:00 at the Celtic Knot. Everyone was invited to join in the discussion of issues.

Cheryl Wollin, on behalf of the Benefit Committee, was delighted to announce that Jill Wine-Banks would be our speaker at the fall Education Fund Dinner. Jill was a young prosecutor during the Watergate trial, and is now a legal analyst on MSNBC. The dinner will be held at the Evanston Golf Club on September 14th. Please bring your family and friends to make this a successful event!

Adjournment:

The business meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Program Speakers:

Rosemary Heileman (LWV Deerfield) and Karen Glennemeir (LWV Wilmette) presented the program on “The Need to Abolish the Electoral College”. A power point and written materials were used in their presentation.

League of Women Voters of Evanston – Proposed Budget 2020-21						
	Evanston Operating Fund			Evanston Education Fund		
REVENUE	Year-to-date	FY 2020	FY 2021	Year-to-date	FY 2020	FY 2021
	3/31/2020	Adopted	Proposed	3/31/2020	Adopted	Proposed
A. Dues						
Members	\$11,162	\$12,000	\$12,000	-	-	-
B. Contributions						
Members	\$2,225	\$2,400	\$1,900	\$400	\$500	\$300
Restricted Scholarship Fund - Ed.Fund	-	-	-	\$565	\$1,000	\$1,000
C. Publications						
This is Evanston (Ed Fund)	-	-	-	\$0	\$150	\$150
D. Fundraising						
Progressive Dinner	-	-	\$2,500	-	-	-
Major Fundraiser - Ed Fund - 2022	-	-	-	\$27,066	\$20,000	-
Holiday gift wrapping	\$174	\$150	\$150	-	-	-
E. Programs & Meetings						
Monthly Programs/Events	\$1,100	\$3,000	\$2,500	-	-	-
Annual Meeting	\$0	\$850	\$850	-	-	-
Legislative Luncheon	\$1,000	\$800	\$800	-	-	-
F. Interest	\$54	\$200	\$50	-	-	-
G. Reimbursement from Ed Fund	\$0	\$2,345	\$2,065	-	-	-
(Office expense/publications)						
H. Transfer from Reserves	\$0	\$1,910	\$0	-	-	-
Sub-total in Ed. Fund:	-	-	-	\$28,031	\$21,650	\$1,450
I. Carryover in Ed Fund to start FY 21	-	-	-	\$0	\$17,625	\$30,405
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,715	\$23,655	\$22,815	\$28,031	\$39,275	\$31,855

League of Women Voters of Evanston – Proposed Budget 2020--21 (continued)						
EXPENSES	Evanston Operating Fund			Evanston Education Fund		
	Year-to-date	FY 2020	FY 2021	Year-to-date	FY 2020	FY 2021
	3/31/2020	Adopted	Proposed	3/31/2020	Adopted	Proposed
A. Operating Costs						
Supplies	\$810	\$300	\$500			
Postage	\$0	\$50	\$50			
Insurance	\$115	\$150	\$125			
Rent	\$2,178	\$2,905	\$2,930			
Copying	\$470	\$200	\$200			
Website Maintenance	\$0	\$270	\$615			
Equipment/software	\$743	\$300	\$300			
Sub-total	\$4,316	\$4,175	\$4,720	\$0	\$1,045	\$1,180
B. President & Board	\$0	\$150	\$150	-	\$0	-
C. State or National Conventions	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,000	-	\$0	-
D. Financial Support						
National PMP (\$32) *	\$4,188	\$2,790	\$2,740	\$0	\$2,790	\$2,740
State PMP (\$32) *	\$2,840	\$4,190	\$4,105	\$2,840	\$1,395	\$1,370
Cook County PMP (\$2)	\$0	\$0	\$340	-	-	-
ILO Dues- Lake Mich. & Miss.Watershed	\$75	\$50	\$75	-	-	-
Sub-total	\$7,103	\$7,030	\$7,260	\$2,840	\$4,185	\$4,110
E. Publications						
Intercom Production	\$1,636	\$2,400	\$2,000	-	\$0	-
Intercom Postage/Printing	\$1,035	\$2,200	\$800	-	\$0	-
Directory	\$722	\$600	\$750	-	\$0	-
Sub-total	\$3,393	\$5,200	\$3,550	\$0	\$1,300	\$885
F. This is Evanston	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0
G. Programs and Meetings						
Monthly Programs/Events	\$894	\$2,000	\$2,500	-	\$0	-
Drinks & Dialogues	\$237	\$750	\$1,000	-	\$0	-
Annual Meeting	\$0	\$850	\$850	-	\$0	-
Legislative Luncheon	\$660	\$800	\$800	-	\$0	-
Studies	\$0	\$100	\$185	\$1,007	\$0	-
Co-sponsoring events	\$100	\$200	\$100		\$0	-
Membership Program	\$0	\$400	\$400		\$0	-
Sub-total	\$1,891	\$5,100	\$5,835	\$1,007	\$0	\$0
H. Fundraising						
Major Fundraiser - Ed Fund Benefit/2020	-	-	-	\$9,410	\$10,000	-
Progressive Dinner	-	-	\$300	-	-	-
Sub-total	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$9,410	\$10,000	\$0

League of Women Voters of Evanston – Proposed Budget 2020--21 (continued)						
I. Voters Service (Ed Fund)						
Forums	-	-	-	\$981	\$1,500	\$1,500
Election Materials	-	-	-	\$0	\$450	\$500
Sub-total	-	-	-	\$981	\$1,950	\$2,000
J. Scholarship Fund (Ed. Fund)	-	-	-	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Sub-total in Ed.Fund:	-	-	-	\$15,238	\$19,480	\$9,175
K. Carryover in Ed.Fund to FY 2022	-	-	-	\$0	\$19,795	\$22,680
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$16,703	\$23,655	\$22,815	\$15,238	\$39,275	\$31,855

LWV EVANSTON BUDGET NOTES - FY 2021

Revenues

- A. Dues: Estimate based on a projected membership of 117 individuals @ \$70/member, 16 households @ \$35/household, & 50 @ \$65/senior rate. We have 9 life members who pay no dues. Total: 175 pro-rated members; total: 192.
- B. Contributions: Members are encouraged to make contributions in addition to their dues payments at the time of membership renewal. Ed. Fund - the Board has established a restricted Scholarship Fund to honor an ETHS student annually; members can contribute to this Fund as a tax-deduction.
- C. Publications: In EF we have *This is Evanston* available to sell; projecting sales of 30 @ \$5.00.
- D. Fundraising: Fundraising for Operating Fund: Holiday Gift Wrapping & Progressive Dinner. No Ed. Fund Benefit in 2021.
- E. Programs, Events & Meetings: Estimated revenues realized from various monthly programs & events, the Annual Meeting, & the Legislative Luncheon; offset by Expenses G.
- F. Interest: Annual interest based on current low interest rates.
- G. Reimbursement from Ed. Fund: Reimbursement of 25% of Operating Costs and Publications expenses from Ed. Fund. (See Ed. Fund expenses A & E).
- H. Carryover in Ed. Fund: Ed. Fund balance at end of FY 20 to start FY 21.
- I. Transfer from Reserves: Not needed in 2021

Expenses

- A. Operating Costs: Based on current usage in most line items. Rent based on increase to \$244/month. Website Maintenance contracts have increased. All Operating & Publications expenses are shown as gross expenses. The Ed. Fund reimburses Operating Fund for 25% of these expenses; income is shown on Revenue G in the Operating Fund.
- B. President & Board: For out-of-pocket expenses of co-presidents & Board members.
- C. **State** or National Conventions: Budgeted amount allows for delegates to attend the 2021 State Convention in northern IL.
- D. Financial Support to other levels of the League: Total Per-Member-Payments: National - \$5,472.(\$32); State - \$5,472.(\$32); Cook County – (\$2). Ed. Fund pays 25% of State and 50% of National Per-Member-Payments. Based on a billable membership count of 171 as reported in January 2020.
- E. Publications: For Intercom, combined production and postage costs for five editions; lower from 2020 due to more people receiving Intercom online. Ed. Fund reimburses for 25% of these expenses (part of Revenue G).
- F. *This is Evanston*: No expense planned in 2021.
- G. Programs, Events & Meetings: *Monthly Programs & Events, Annual Meeting, & Legislative Luncheon* offset by Revenue E. Expenses for Drinks & Dialogues events, Membership Program, and possible local, state or national studies.
- H. Fundraising: Expenses for Progressive Dinner. No Ed. Fund Benefit in 2021.
- I. Voters Service: Forums & election materials – National & local elections. All activity in Ed. Fund.
- J. Scholarship Fund: Fund established in the Ed. Fund to honor an ETHS student for outstanding civic engagement study.
- K. Carryover to FY 2022: Ed. Fund balance anticipated at end of FY 2021.

Report of LWVE Program for 2019-2020

LWVE members approved the following Local Program for the 2019-2020 League year. A summary of the results of LWVE's efforts in each area follows:

The League of Women Voters of Evanston will take appropriate action or collaborate with and support like-minded organizations and coalitions in Evanston and other northern suburban communities, to advocate for issues consistent with League positions. The four main focus areas are listed.

1. LWVE will back state and national League of Women Voters climate action priorities and will support the City of Evanston in implementing its Climate Action and Resilience Plan.

Key activities:

- New, continuing Climate Corner column introduced to *Intercom*
- Supported ETHS students in Student Climate Strike on Sept 20; publicized event to membership; arranged for voter registration during strike
- Luncheon Meeting on the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) after one year with speaker Kumar Jensen, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer at City of Evanston
- LWVE advocacy letters of support for:
 - LWWUS climate emergency goal for upcoming Program Plan
 - Evanston Environment Board's initiative to secure written support for embedding into Evanston staff hiring process (including new City Manager) requirements that CARP priorities be written into staff goal and objectives and be part of annual evaluation.
- Participated in CARP Coordinators Group to explore opportunities for LWVE to collaborate with other climate emergency-concerned groups

2. Continue analysis of current Boards, Committees and Commissions to develop a model that best balances important missions for BCC's with efficient use of city and citizen personnel.

Key activities:

The Local Government group continued to monitor this issue, but City Staff and City Council discontinued their announced efforts to restructure, so no further work was needed.

3. Use the 100th anniversary of women suffrage, the founding of the League of Women Voters, and the election of 2020 as outreach focal points to engage our membership and recruit new members.

Key activities:

LWVE was an active participant in the working group planning and publicizing events to commemorate past achievements in political rights for women and call attention to continuing factors compromising voting rights. LWVE worked with other groups to sponsor an extensive set of activities, culminating in a Voting Rights Symposium and Suffrage Rally in Fountain Square in August. Due to COVID-19 many of these activities had to be cancelled.

4. Investigate reasons for low voter turn-out, especially among young people (18-30) in local elections. Based on the results, develop and implement a plan to increase voter turn-out. To the extent possible, use measurable goals and evaluate outcomes of the plan.

Key activities:

A review of the literature was conducted to determine best practices to increase the youth vote. Focus group discussions with young people were held in order to help meet this goal. Contacts at community and educational organizations helped identify potential participants.

- The following recommendations were made by the committee based on the focus groups and literature review:
 - Actively work to support the schools' civics programs and explore ways that we can actively participate in the portion of the curriculum relating to local government. Provide input and support in the development of the middle school civics curriculum.
 - Integrate community engagement in civics curriculum.
 - Increase education on the local level of government in the curriculum.
 - Continue to support activities that increase voter participation, including but not limited to the following:
 - Create a series of fact sheets or Frequently Asked Questions/FAQs to provide more information on the registration and voting process and include links to reliable informational sources.
 - Revive active collaboration with other organizations to register voters and increase voter turnout through the Voter Participation and Action Coalition/VPAC.
 - Expand voter registration opportunities at events and venues that have the potential to increase voter turnout among all ages and with a greater focus on information about local government and issues.
 - Advocate for expanded preregistration and easy access to polling stations, including on-campus voting at college campuses.
 - Advocate against legislation and other measures that suppress the vote.

LWVE Proposed Local Program for 2020-2021

Sixteen League members participated in the April 18 program planning meeting, which took place via ZOOM due to shelter-in-place requirements. Attendees heard reviews of study and action on the 2019-20 program, discussed proposals for the coming year, and came to consensus on five program priorities to present to members at the annual meeting.

1. **Affordable Housing:** LWVE will engage in study and action to support and amplify local efforts to identify and remove barriers to housing affordability through changes to municipal ordinances, regulations, and processes.
2. **Climate Action:** LWVE will back state and national League of Women Voters climate action priorities and will support the City of Evanston in implementing its Climate Action and Resilience Plan.
3. **Criminal Justice:** LWVE will respond to a request from LWWIL to review LWWIL proposal to revise Criminal Justice position(s). LWVE will convene one or several discussion sessions on revised positions and supporting materials from LWWIL and will hold consensus meeting in January (or before) to report to LWWIL.
4. **Fair Tax Amendment:** LWVE Evanston will be an active member of the LWWIL effort, in concert with the Responsible Budget Coalition, to adopt the Fair Tax Amendment at the time of the November 2020 election. This amendment would abolish the current flat tax in favor of a graduated tax which--like the federal graduated rate income tax--would allow higher taxation of higher wage earners and lower taxation of lower wage earners.
5. **Voter Turnout:** LWVE will develop and implement a plan to increase voter turnout in future elections, with a focus on youth and local elections, in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the Voter Turnout Initiative project conducted in 2019-2020.

**League of Women Voters of Evanston
Nominating Committee Report**

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors, 2020-2021

Officers	
President	Jennifer O'Neil
Vice President, Voter Services	Mary Keefe Kelly
Vice President, Membership	Valerie Krejcie
Secretary	Linda LaBuda
Treasurer	Lois Taft
Elected Directors	
Local Government/Observer Corps	Elizabeth Hayford
Voter Services, Forums	Judy Hoffman
Development	Karen Hunt
Monthly Events	Joan Lakebrink
Communications	Katie O'Neil
Member-at-Large (Environment)	Elizabeth Kinney
Member-at-Large (Membership)	Kathleen O'Malley
Member-at-Large (Voter Services)	Mary Rothschild
Member-at-Large (Special Initiative)	Mark Tendam
2018-2019 Nominating Committee	
Chair	Sue Calder Birch Burghardt (As stipulated in our by-laws, a third member will be appointed from the board of directors)

Respectfully submitted,

2020 Nominating Committee: Jennifer O'Neil, Gerri Sizemore, Karen Hunt

Board Member Biographies 2020-2021

Elizabeth Hayford

I joined the League in 2006 after retiring as President of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest for 25 years. It was a wonderful job with lots of engagement in a wide range of higher education issues - curriculum development, faculty development, higher education policy, and especially study abroad, with consortia! programs in Europe, Asia and Africa. I was invited to serve on the board in 2007, where I have done stints as Secretary, V.P. for local Program when we worked on City of Evanston budget process, TIFs in Evanston, Homeless Children in District 65 schools, and other interesting issues, Treasurer, and Co-President. I have also worked on the planning committee for Monthly Programs, the Voting Rights Forum, the Observer Corps., and the 100 Years of Voting activities. I serve on the Board of the Cook County LWV, which has become engaged and visible in the past decade, and which welcomes all LWVE members. For several years I taught in the Master's Program in Higher Education at Northwestern. My husband and I have lived in Asia for several years and have two children, currently living in Ohio.

Judy Hoffman

I have been a member of the League since 2004, and I served as LWVE Voter Service chair 2005-2007 and 2008-2010. My primary activities with the LWVE continue to be voter services, most often coordinating candidate forums. In addition, I am active as a League candidate forum moderator. On the professional side, I have worked in the library field for 30 years, primarily in marketing and communications. Since 2013, I have been Outreach Coordinator for the Deerfield Public Library. Previously, I also held positions in the satellite communications and advertising industries. I have a B.A. from the University of Illinois. In 2018, after living in Evanston for 22 years, I moved west, to Skokie.

Karen Hunt

I serve on the LWVE Board as the chair of the Development Committee. Previously I have been president and vice president for membership along with working on many other League programs. I am a Managing Director at First Bank & Trust in Evanston (now Byline Bank) and have worked in commercial lending for over 30 years. I am active in the Evanston community and have served on various boards and committees. In addition to the league, I currently serve on the board of the Evanston Art Center. At the State University of New York, I earned a B.A. in English and have an MBA in finance and marketing from Indiana University. Originally from upstate New York, I have lived in Evanston with my husband for many years.

Mary Keefe Kelly

Though I have been a long-term admirer of the LWV, I did not formally join the LWVE until 2017. I had met many veteran members of the League in another organization and I was totally impressed with their expressions of commitment and respect for the League and its values. Since joining, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of these established members, especially in the Voter Services arena, as well as attending a substantial number of luncheons, presentations and social gatherings. I also was able to attend and work at the 2018 National LWV Convention in Chicago. My professional background includes 30+ years of executive administration positions in professional service firms (including both national law and accounting firms) as well as spending several years working full time with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (where my friend Juancho Donahue was the E.D.). My husband John and I were both teachers in our early professional lives - and are of the belief that one never stops "teaching" (or "learning" for that matter).

Elizabeth Kinney

I moved to Evanston from the Washington, D.C. area in 1989 to serve as Regional Director of the Chicago Regional Office of the National Labor Relations Board. I joined the League shortly after my arrival and have held a number of Board positions, including vice president and co-president. I have also chaired the monthly events committee and worked on a number of League programs, such as the ETHS scholarship, the Voting Rights Forum and the successful effort to ban the use of coal tar sealants in Evanston. After I retired from the NLRB in 2001, I became a labor arbitrator and continue to enjoy the work. I graduated from Wellesley College and the University of Michigan Law School. I am fortunate to have my daughter, son-in-law, and my three grandchildren living in the house across the alley from mine.

Valerie Krejcie

Valerie has lived in Skokie since 1985. She joined the Evanston League when her two sons were in elementary school and has been a member since the early 1990's. She has served on LWVE board, LWV Cook County league board, LWVE president 2002-05 and LWVIL board 2007 to 2011. Valerie moved to the Midwest for grad school (M.S. Cartography, UW Madison) and has been researching and editing maps for educational publishers as well as teaching geography at Oakton Community College.

Linda LaBuda

I am new to LWVE and look forward to learning about the organization, participating in its work and meeting members. I have lived in Evanston on and off since 1975. My two children attended local public schools where I was active. Five years ago I retired from a career in education having taught in Evanston, the Chicago area, as well as in Vienna, Austria and Saigon, Vietnam. Since retirement, I have been fortunate to be able to continue traveling extensively. Here at home I am a member of Dining for Women, NU Circle and various cultural and nature organizations. I earned my BA in English from UI Champaign-Urbana and a M.Ed. in Educational Therapy from National-Louis University.

Joan Lakebrink

I became engaged in LWV work when I lived in Wisconsin. My bachelor's degree was earned in social sciences and English, my master's degree in history and my PhD in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I served on the faculty of DePaul University, and have also served as teacher and/or principal of K-12 schools. I enjoy traveling and cultural events in the Chicago area.

Kathleen O'Malley

I joined the LWVE early 2020. I moved to Skokie in June 2019 after living and owning a house in Forest Park for the last 11 years. I have in the past been involved in numerous women's organizations and I was looking for an organization to fill my need to contribute to my community again and found LWVE. I grew up in Evanston, one of seven children, and attended St Nicholas, St. Scholastica, Loyola University (BA English) and Nova Southeastern (MBA Finance). As well as Illinois, I have lived in Iowa, Ireland and Australia. I have worked as a Business Manager and Financial Analyst my entire career and retired three years ago and love my new life! I enjoy reading, travel and meeting people from other countries.

Jennifer O'Neil

I joined the LWV in the 1980's in Canton, Massachusetts, chairing membership, then voter services and eventually serving as president of the local League. When my family moved to Evanston in 1995, I

immediately joined the LWVE and participated in voter registration efforts, an up-date of the affordable housing position, the holiday wrapping project and other activities. Recently I chaired voter services for several years. I retired in 2014 after more than 40 years in the fair and affordable housing industry including property development and management and the administration of subsidy programs. I am originally from Ohio and received a BA degree from Indiana University.

Katie O'Neil

I joined and became active in the League in 2016. In addition to voter services activities with the League, I have previously served as an election judge. Evanston has been my home base since my family moved here in 1995 but I have also spent time in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Louisiana. I graduated from DePaul in 2011. I enjoy gardening and hikes with my dog Crow.

Mary Rothschild

I am a long time Evanstonian. My father's parents ran businesses in the city at the turn of the 20th century and my Dad worked for the city of Evanston for many years. I went to schools in Evanston and stayed in the area for college. My husband and I raised our two children here. I became an educator and quickly involved myself in different organizations that furthered my knowledge and skills. I was involved locally in the National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the regional/national level of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). I presented at many of the conferences these organizations held to present activities development for my school and classroom. Later in my career I became more active in my teacher association IEA/NEA. This allowed me to advocate for children and fellow educators through political activities. After retirement, I participated in political activities that focused on voter rights and suppression, meeting the needs of disadvantaged neighborhoods and senior issues. My experiences of living in North Carolina, Virginia and California further encouraged my activism. My desire to be a part of the League of Women Voters further allows more opportunities to explore ways to help in the community I love and beyond.

Lois Taft

I first lived in Evanston when I was a Northwestern student in the late 1960s. After changing my career plans to nursing, I graduated from the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1974. My nursing career included clinical positions in hospital and home health settings and teaching positions in community college and university settings. I retired from my position as Department Chair and Professor of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2009 and returned to Evanston. I'm active in the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Northwestern University, serving as Chair of the Communications Committee for the Evanston campus from 2010 to 2015. I joined the League in 2015 and served as Secretary and member of the Executive Committee in 2019-2020.

Mark Tendam

I served two terms on the Evanston City Council, representing the 6th Ward. Other community leadership positions include the boards of Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV) and the McGaw YMCA. My city council work included leadership roles in transitioning the city's library to a state-sanctioned fund model with an independent board; amending the affordable housing ordinance with more incentives for builders; focusing city and private efforts for a downtown performing arts center; and reorganizing the Evanston Animal Shelter and animal control program. I am a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a B.S. Degree in Design. I practiced graphic design for 35 years at several firms including Hill & Knowlton and Burson-Marsteller, and for 30 years ran my own business with clients including Brach's Candy, First Chicago, and Chicago-Kent College of Law.