2020 Member Handbook

Welcome

League of Women Voters Naperville is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government. The League works to influence public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

(630) 277-9582 www.lwvnaperville.org

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Now That You Have Joined – What Next?

We hope that you will use your membership as a chance to become more involved in your community and to meet others who share your interests and concerns. Some of our members just want to stay informed and join us at our variety of events.

Some members are ready to get more involved.

Our Activities and How You Can Get Involved

We have a variety of activities that rely on volunteers’ ongoing commitment. We have other one-time opportunities that might fit your schedule better. Here are some of them.

Voter Registration and Voter Education

What Is Voter Service?
The League’s voter services activities are designed to provide citizens with unbiased, factual information that can be used as a basis for understanding the election process and reaching their own voting decisions.

What Is Voter Education?
The League’s citizen education activities, on the other hand, provide information on public issues, including those on which we have a position, such as the Equal Rights Amendment and the Illinois Fair Tax Amendment.

Voter Registration

Shirley DeCorte, Voter Service Director, lwvnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com
Many of our members are voter registrars and voter registration is a key component of our mission. Typically we hold many registration events throughout the year and you’ll have many opportunities to help out. Contact our Voter Service Director to learn how easy it is to become a registrar and fulfill a key part of our mission.

National Voter Registration Day

League of Women Voters of Naperville is a partner in National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy. First observed in 2012, it has quickly gained momentum ever since. Nearly 3 million voters have registered to vote on the holiday to date.
Celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of September, National Voter Registration Day will next take place on September 22, 2020. The holiday has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and the National Association of Election Officials (The Election Center). For more information about how you can help, contact our Voter Service Director.

Birthday Boxes

Annette Smith, prspt@aol.com
Birthday boxes are distributed to high school students turning 18 in hopes of turning them into life-long voters. The boxes contain important information about how to register, the importance of voting, and how to vote if the student goes away to college or university. They also contain handwritten notes wishing the student a “happy birthday”. Volunteers are needed throughout the year to write notes, assemble the boxes, deliver and distribute the boxes to the schools in Districts 203 and 204, review and generate new ideas for the boxes, and revamp the contents as needed. This on-going effort requests 2-4 hours 3 or 4 times per year. Interested members can contact Annette Smith at prspt@aol.com

VOTE411

Gail Ryan, Voter Service Assistant, Vote411, lwvnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com
VOTE411.org is an online voter guide brought to you by The League of Women Voters Education Fund. It allows you, based on your address, to see what's on your ballot, check your voter registration, and discover upcoming candidate forums in our area. Our Voter Services Assistant enters our local information, contacts candidates, verifies information, works with the website administrator and more. Contact lwvnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com
Candidate Forums and Events

Ann Mathews, Voter Service Programs Director, lwynaperville.programs@gmail.com

Forums are typically held in Naperville City Council chambers where we are able to use the City’s excellent video recording system. Following our mission of being nonpartisan:

- We only use League trained moderators from outside of the district
- League adheres to all LWVUS and FEC regulations; we do not hold ‘empty chair’ debates

Candidate Forums are held during appropriate election cycles. Candidates need to be contacted, questions written, venues booked, moderators scheduled, timers trained, greeters recruited and more.

If you’d like to help out with forums and other candidate events, contact our Voter Service Programs Director.

*Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our events and activities will be held remotely for the foreseeable future.*

Stroll to the Polls

Shirley DeCorte, Voter Service Director, lwynaperville.voterservice@gmail.com

Stroll to the Polls is an award winning get-out-the-vote precinct canvassing project coordinated with Naperville High School teachers and students. It takes place before certain election cycles. We need volunteers to help assemble the packets about a week before the Stroll takes place. Then we generally need 4-6 League members to help on the day of the Stroll to help the teachers distribute materials to the high schools students. If you’d like to help out, contact our Voter Service Director.

Event Programing

Kelly Mahoney, Events Director, lwynaperville.events@gmail.com

Volunteers help plan and produce monthly programs that line up with timely events and reflect LWVN annual program concerns, e.g. Climate Emergency. Other events that require planning help include “fun” membership building events, the Annual Program Planning Meeting, and the Annual League Meeting. Contact our Events Director to help organize.

*Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our events and activities will be held remotely for the foreseeable future.*
Voter Girl Project

Laurie Donahue, laurie_donahue37@gmail.com
Volunteers work together in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana to run a one-day civics education event twice a year for Girl Scouts in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. Committee members work with Girl Scouts to plan event dates, coordinate needed materials, and assign tasks for the day’s events. Voter Girl Project is a great way to encourage the next generation of voters to become informed, active citizens. Contact Laurie at laurie_donahue37@gmail.com

Book Group

Mary Ellen Middleton, mem4books@gmail.com
Book Group is a great way to meet interesting people, be motivated to read good books, and get a feel for LWV Naperville. Join in thoughtful discussions about topical non-fiction. We meet the 3rd Friday of the month, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm at The Pancake Café, 1292 Rickert Drive, #168, Naperville, IL. For more information about the books scheduled for specific dates, contact Mary Ellen at mem4books@gmail.com or go to the League website: http://lwvnaperville.org/lwv-naperville-book-group/

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the book group is meeting by Zoom. Contact Mary Ellen Middleton to be added to the invitation.

Social Media

Social Media Director, Allison Casey lwvnaperville.socialmedia@gmail.com
Social Media includes all types of electronic communication, including the website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Volunteers with interest and expertise in any of these areas are welcome. Volunteers in this position also often help with print media needs.
Membership

Membership Director, Tracie Troester, lwvnaperville.membership@gmail.com

The Membership committee reaches out to new members to welcome them to the League, give them information about involvement opportunities, and provide information about committees and events. Membership also conducts regular and intentional outreach to current and potential members.

Environmental Issues

Terry Quain cclnaperville@gmail.com & Susan Greenwood sgreenw288@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Naperville has a long history of advocating for local environmental issues; from founding curbside recycling in Naperville, to working for cleanup of lead shot at Sportsman’s Park. The environmental committee holds regular events throughout the year.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Tom Craighead tcraighead@gmail.com

The DEI Committee works to bring diversity, equity, and inclusion to LWV Naperville.

The Voter Newsletter

Carolyn Dunn, Newsletter Director thevoterlwvnaperville@gmail.com.

The League newsletter, The Voter, goes out monthly via Mail Chimp. Individuals submit material and The Voter editor assembles the material, designs, completes and schedules the newsletter. Contact the Newsletter Director with comments, questions or to volunteer.
League Essentials

League Calendar

January  Annual Planning meeting/program planning
February  State Issues Briefing, an LWVIL event
Feb/March  Candidate Forums as needed
March  Legislator Interviews
April  Lobby Day in Springfield
May  Annual Meeting
June  Convention (state/national alternate years)
July  Membership renewals, League year begins
July  Legislator luncheon
July  New Board Orientation
September  Candidate Forums

Meet the Board

President  Becky Simon  lwnaperville.president@gmail.com
Vice President  Susan Craighead  lwnaperville.vicepresident@gmail.com
Treasurer  Jeff Knezovich  treasurerforlwvn@gmail.com
Secretary  Linda Mabee  lwnaperville.secretary@gmail.com
Events Director  Kelly Mahoney  lwnaperville.events@gmail.com
Membership Director  Tracie Troester  lwnaperville.membership@gmail.com
Fundraising Director  Karen Peck  lwnaperville.fundraising@gmail.com
Voter Service Director  Shirley DeCorte  lwnaperville.voterservice@gmail.com
Voter Service/VOTE 411  Gail Ryan  lwnaperville.voterservice2@gmail.com
Voter Service Programs Director  Anne Mathews  lwnaperville.programs@gmail.com
The Voter Editor  Carolyn Dunn  thevoterlwnaperville@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair  Julie Niles  lwnaperville.nominating.chair@gmail.com

Board Meetings

League of Women Voters of Naperville meets on the second Monday of the month, 5-7pm. Contact the Board President for more information.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, board meetings will be held remotely for the foreseeable future.
Important League Information

- League is nonpartisan.
- The League of Women Voters of Naperville was founded in 1956. LWVUS was founded in 1920, just prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment. League of Women Voters is the direct modern descendent of the National American Women’s Suffrage Association which fought for and won the right for women to vote.
- **Mission:** Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.
- League is a grassroots organization. The League is not a *top-down* organization.
- We do not endorse or oppose candidates for public office. Ever.
- We partner with other nonpartisan organizations.
- League takes action on issues where we have adopted a position arrived at by study and consensus.
- Membership is open to men (since 1974) and anyone 16 or older.
- Archives are maintained at North Central College.

League Program

League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. League Principles and positions on public policy issues are included in the LWVUS Bylaws.

**LWV Naperville Program**

- Support 2020 Census efforts at the local and county level.
- Commemorate the Centennial of Women’s Suffrage
- Work to support 2020 Elections
  - Produce our online voter guide, VOTE411
  - Conduct fair and open candidate forums in accordance with FEC guidelines
  - Support efforts to pass the Illinois Fair Tax Amendment
  - Conduct efforts and voter registration
- Support local environmental Issues
- Continued advocacy for functional election equipment and systems in DuPage County
- Develop partnerships with other organizations

**Program for 2020-21**

LWVUS Program for 2020-22, The Campaign for Making Democracy Work and its four foci:

- Redistricting
- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Campaign Finance and Money in Politics
• LWVIL Impact on Issues 2018-2020 (2020-22 will be added when it is published)

Online Resources:
LWVUS Impact on Issues 2018-20 (2020-22 coming soon)

Notable League of Women Voters of Naperville members

League of Women Voters of Naperville values and learns from the experience of our members.

Bev Parker: Bev is a former LWV Naperville Board member and a 50-year member of The League.

Judy Brodhead: Judy is a member of Naperville City Council and professor at North Central College.

Mary Ellen Barry: Mary Ellen is a League member, past president of LWVIL and past member of the Board of Directors of LWVUS.

Peg Price: The late mayor of Naperville was our city’s first and so far only female mayor. Peg was also a League member who lived true to League’s mission by being active in civic affairs.

How The League of Women Voters Is Organized

• LWV Naperville is both a 501(c)3 for voter service, and a 501(c)4 for issues advocacy and education.
  ○ LWV Naperville acts as a 501(c)3 when we conduct voter education, such as candidate forums, GOTV efforts. Our funds for this are held by LWVIL in an Education Fund.
  ○ LWV Naperville acts as a 501(c)4 when we advocate for issues where we have a position, such as the Equal Rights Amendment and the Fair Tax Amendment.

• League of Women Voters has organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Your League of Women Voters of Naperville membership also makes you a member of League of Women Voters of Illinois and League of Women Voters of the U.S. Local League’s work on local issues and concerns.

• DuPage Area Leagues: League of Women Voters of Naperville works together with DuPage Area Leagues on areas of common interest. Leaders meet monthly. Aurora Area, Central Kane County, Downers Grove Woodridge Lisle, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Roselle-Bloomingdale, and Wheaton.

• ILO memberships: Inter League Organizations are formal League entities. Naperville belongs to the League of Women Voters of the Upper Mississippi River Region (LWVUMRR) and League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR).

• LWV Naperville Annual Meeting: Every year in late May or early June, LWV Naperville holds an annual meeting to elect new officers and amend bylaws. These meetings are open to all members.

• LWVIL and LWVUS hold biannual conventions in alternating years. LWVUS conventions will be held in even-numbered years: 2022, 2024, etc. LWVIL conventions are held in odd-numbered years: 2021, 2023, etc.
The League of Women Voters Bylaws and Policies

Please go to our website at lwnaperville.org for our bylaws and other policies.