



Calendar 2009-May/June

May 20, Wed. 7:00 PM Environmental Committee. For more information contact environmental@lwvgenstc.org

May 21, Thurs., 7:00 PM. Board meeting. For more info, contact president@lwvgenstc@yahoo.com

June 10, Wed., 7:00 PM Board Meeting

June 26, Fri. 4:00 PM Merger Meeting regarding the Merger of LWV of Geneva/St. Charles and Batavia.

June 12-14. LWVIL Convention. East Peoria, IL.

Presidents' letter

The Annual Dinner Meeting on April 28 gave us a good start on the new League year with a Social Hour, new Plan and Budget, and a Program that featured local talent and accomplishment. "The League at Work" was an apt title.

Check out the LWV Geneva-St. Charles Plan and Goals 2009/10 on the next page. If you are not currently on a Committee, all welcome new members. While we don't have a general monthly meeting, the web site calendar has other opportunities for getting acquainted and involved. www.lwvgenstc.org

Watch for Action Alerts from LWVIL. Information on League Lobby Day, May 15 in Springfield is at www.lwvil.org. The emphasis is on State Fiscal Policy, Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform and other pending legislation.

Locally, this year, we look forward to completing the merger process with LWV Batavia. We anticipate not just an enlarged membership and geographic area for the new League but an expanded community presence.

Keep in touch during this season of celebrations: watch your inbox and our website!

Janet Craft & Kimberley Haag, Co-Presidents

Dues are Due!!

Don't forget! Yearly dues are due now.

- \$60 one-year **Individual Membership**
- \$90 one-year **Household Membership** for two members who share address
- \$25 one-year **Student Membership**

Make check out to League of Women Voters of Geneva/ St. Charles.
Send to: PO BOX 824, St. Charles, IL 60175.

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

Pay by PayPal

Pay your dues with Pay Pal. Go to our website <http://www.lwvgenstc.org/join.html> Go to the bottom of the page and click the amount you wish to pay. This is for both new and renewal memberships. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to utilize PayPal.

**A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO
DARLENE BAKK
FOR HER HARD WORK AND MANY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Outgoing President Darlene has both initiated and enhanced many of our local League's programs and activities. Through her initiative, our League, in coalition with the other Leagues in Kane County as well as other Kane County organizations, conducted a two-year study on the state of services for persons with mental illness and developmental disabilities in Kane County. This informative study and subsequent policy formation has led to positive action in the area of affordable housing resources for persons with disabilities in Kane County.

Currently, Darlene is leading a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Audit through a LWVUS Education Fund grant to the Leagues in Kane County. This project is one of 12 funded in the country. The Audit, the League Observer Corps and the observance of "Sunshine Week," all were spearheaded by Darlene.

Darlene set up and will also continue to maintain our website: www.lwvgenstc.org, a vital link to our members and the community.

Annual Meeting-April 28, 2009

Our annual meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28 at Le Berry Bistro in Geneva, Illinois. Twenty-six of us attended the meeting, including four members from the Batavia League of Women Voters and one guest from Elgin Area League.

We had an excellent meal and had a wonderful time getting to know some of our newer members and catching up with others.

During our business meeting we went over the proposed goals and budget that were sent to you last month. Both the goals and the budget were passed. We also voted on new officers. The list of Officers and Board members are listed on this page.

Darlene Bakk was thanked for doing an excellent job as President, an office that she has held twice.

During our program, several committee chairs discussed ways their committees have worked in conjunction with other Leagues and/or organizations to accomplish goals. This kind of collaboration with other organizations is not only beneficial; it also reaches a broader audience and enriches all involved groups.

LWV Geneva/St. Charles

Officers and Board for 2009-2010

Co-Presidents:	Janet Craft Kimberley Haag
Vice-President:	Mary Ann Naas
Secretary:	Linda Robertson
Treasurer:	Christine Pakan
Directors:	Maureen McKeough Carrie Carter Janet Safanda Tara Schwab Martha Ryan

**Nominating Committee Chair 2009-2010
Julie Miller-Longo**

LWV Geneva-St. Charles Plan and Goals 2009/2010

Voter Service and Education

Review and refine Empty Chair Policy.

- Co-sponsor forum for 2010 spring elections with LWV Batavia.
- Develop a poll-watching tool for League election assistants.
- Evaluate and refine procedures for online Voter's Guide.
- Extend e-slate training to MIDD.
- Seek opportunities to help promote LWVIL's judicial evaluation project.

Membership

- Increase membership by 10%. Increase number of web links to www.lwvgenstc.org.
- Distribute and maintain a supply of LWV Geneva/St. Charles brochures at selected municipal, county and public facilities.
- Evaluate and, if necessary, update new member processes.

Local Issues and Advocacy

Mental Illness/Developmental Disability Housing Action Group (Kane County-wide)

Continue to advocate for more safe, affordable, accessible housing for persons with mental illness and persons with developmental disabilities

Citizen Initiative for Transparency

Conduct a Public Documents Audit per our LWVUS education grant award with LWV Elgin Area and LWV Batavia.

Environmental Committee

-Continue exploration of environmental issues at local level and expand community education regarding those issues.

Local Action

-Expand participation of league's legislative interviews.

LWV Geneva/St. Charles and Batavia Merger

Continue merger process with LWV Batavia.

Visibility

Maintain website and keep information updated.

Fundraising

Organize at least one fundraiser.

For comments or questions about this newsletter, please contact Kimberley Haag at editor@lwvgenstc.org

**Environmental Committee
By Linda Robertson, Chair**

The Environmental Committee held a Community Education Event on April 22 in the Geneva public library. The speaker was Dr. Chuck Brown, Fermi lab scientist and Geneva Alderman. The topic, *Energy and the Environment* covered basic concepts in energy, the possible consequences of our demand for huge amounts of energy and factors in this uncontrolled energy experiment the world is currently conducting. The talk was followed by a discussion of steps citizens could take to influence energy policy. For copies of the PowerPoint presentation presented by Chuck Brown and for more information on the Environmental Committee please contact Linda Robertson at environmental@lwvgenstc.org

Transparency Project

By Darlene Bakk

As earlier reported, the Leagues in Kane County were awarded a grant from the LWVUS to take part in a transparency project. There are currently 13 people taking part in this project, not only from the Kane County Leagues, but non-Leaguers as well. As of May 7 we will have had three meetings. For more information on this project and about the grant we were awarded from LWVUS please see the press release that was sent to you several weeks ago:

<http://www.lwvgenstc.org/News.html>

More updates will be available, as we get further on in the project.

Thanks to Chris Pakan, Kim Haag, Suzanne Kolomyjec, and Susan Secondi for being the representatives from LWV Geneva-St. Charles.

Web Statistics

From Webmaster Darlene Bakk

We continue to have many hits on our website. The most requests for pages (Busiest Month) were in October 2008 with 5,877 hits. The next busiest month was January 2009 with 5072 hits. The busiest week was the week of October 26, 2008 with 1,582 hits. The next busiest week was November 2, 2008 with 1541 hits. Most requests for the busiest day were October 28, 2008 with 344 hits. The next busiest day was April 24, 2009 with 332 hits.

MI/DD Housing Action Group

Darlene Bakk, Chair

The MI/DD Housing Action Group continues to meet regarding advocating for housing needs for persons with mental illness and developmental disabilities. We recently made public comment on the Community Development Block Grant allocations. We continue to monitor the funds from this program as well as the HOME, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and the new stimulus/recovery funds flowing through the county.