



LEAGUE MATTERS

League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest

Illinois Largest League

March 2010

From the Co-Presidents' Desks

February was short, sweet and productive!

The very early Illinois primary on February 2 put people in gear. Thank you to those of you who volunteer to help make elections run smoothly. A few days later, more than a dozen OPRF League members attended the State Issues Briefing and workshops in Chicago to get informed on a variety of issues.

On Saturday, February 20th we hosted a forum at the OP Library to hear Kathy Nesburg discuss redistricting and the State League's leadership in helping to put the Illinois Fair Map Amendment, a constitutional amendment to alter the procedure by which lines are drawn for state legislative districts, on the November ballot. If you want to give voters a choice on this issue, please help with the petition drive! Details are enclosed.

We also met to discuss program priorities at the national, state and local levels for the next year, and will highlight them at the annual meeting, which has been set for May 26. Please save the date and mark your calendars now! The proposed program will be outlined in next month's bulletin and voted on at the annual meeting.

Those of you who were at the last annual meeting remember Hazel Hanson Award Winner Winx Pozorski's plea to find a Triton observer. Winx had observed this important Board for decades. We are now pleased to say we have found a successor and that we have four new Observers who have come on board in the last few months. Congratulations to all who work on this committee as we depend on our Observers to be our local eyes and ears at government body meetings.

Though spring is not quite in the air, we look forward to a full season.

Ann Courter and Theresa Amato

A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW MEMBERS TO THE LWVOPRF

Welcome to our newest members: Mary Jane Joyce-Byrne; Elaine Allen; Simone Boutet; Martha Middleton; Christina Welter; and Rosemary Dineen.

MARCH CALENDAR

March 3	Executive Board Meeting at Angelika Kuehn's office at 2:00 p.m.
March 3	LWVIL Phonthon at Gloor Realty in Oak Park from 6:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
March 9	Second Tuesday at Thyme & Honey Restaurant, 7525 W. Madison in Forest Park from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Topic: Census and Illinois Fair Map. Special guest resource person: Teresa Powell, Oak Park Village Clerk
March 10	Committee Reports due to Co-Presidents
March 17	Board Meeting at Nancy Clark's home at 644 Linden Avenue in Oak Park, at 4:00 p.m.
March 24	LWVCC Lunch & Learn at DePaul Club in DePaul University Center, 1 E. Jackson, 11 th floor, in Chicago. Topic: Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. Speaker: Earl Dunlap, Transitional Administrator. See article and reservation form within newsletter.

Remember to bring your Fair Map petitions to Angelika Kuehn's office to be notarized and sent to the State League office by the end of March.

DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Illinois League Phonathon

To Our Members:

The LWVIL Phonathon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, from 6:15 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. It will be held at Gloor Realty offices. We are looking for volunteer callers for that evening.

As many of you know, this is an important fundraiser for our State League and when we participate our local League receives a 15% share of what we raise.

If you can come for an hour or two that evening, please contact Carlotta Lucchesi by e@mail at clldonc99@comcast.net or by phone at (708) 771-0496.

It really is fun as we get to talk to lots of great Leaguers. We will have a script for you and treats too! I am hoping for at least 12 volunteers.

Many thanks to Gloor Realty and Marge Greenwald and Sylvia Christmas.

-Submitted by Carlotta Lucchesi

Second Tuesday

At the next meeting of Second Tuesday the spotlight will be on two topics. First, we will discuss the Census. Teresa Powell, Village Clerk of Oak Park, will be our resource person. We will explore the following issues:

Why does the census matter to you and me? If it does matter, how do we increase people responding? Are people aware that this is census week in Oak Park?

Next, we will consider the Illinois Fair Map, the League's redistricting initiative. The League hopes to put the Illinois Fair Map initiative on the November ballot for voter amendment action. We will consider the following questions:

Is the Fair Map a good idea? Is it realistic? What are the problems it addresses? Are there other means of solving them? How have other states handled these problems?

Come and join in the discussion on March 9 at Thyme & Honey Restaurant in Forest Park from 9:30–11 am. Both League members and non-League individuals are welcome.

Who Was She?

This woman was the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first major party African American candidate for President of the United States.
See the next page for the answer...

March 24 Is Next Lunch & Learn with the LWVCC

Earl Dunlap, the Transitional Administrator for the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center ("JTDC"), is the featured speaker at the next Lunch & Learn with the League of Women Voters of Cook County on Wednesday, March 24. This fundraising luncheon will be held from 11:30 to 1 pm at the DePaul Club room on the 11th floor of the DePaul University Center, 1 E. Jackson, on the corner of Jackson and State Street, in downtown Chicago. Cost is \$30 and includes a box lunch.

Mr. Dunlap was appointed by a federal judge in 2007 to oversee the JTDC as a result of lawsuits filed by the ACLU and others complaining of conditions there. Since then, Mr. Dunlap has made a number of changes in both staffing and overall organization within the Temporary Detention Center, many of them not without controversy. Once the court finds sufficient progress has been made, it is expected that the Center will return to oversight by the County. However, as a result of state legislation that has been passed, the Chief Judge, rather than the Cook County President, will oversee the Center.

Come find out what has been happening at the JTDC, what else Mr. Dunlap would like to see happen at the JTDC, and when he expects to be able to step down. Complete the reservation form [in this issue or] sent to you via e-mail from the LWVCC. Any questions may be directed to Betty Rosenblum at 847-498-0350.
-submitted by Pris Mims

She Was ... (cont'd from prior page)

Shirley Anita Chisholm (1924-2005). She was born of immigrant parents in Brooklyn, New York. She worked as a teacher in New York City schools and as a director of New York nursery schools and day care centers. In 1964, she became a member of the New York State Assembly. In 1968, she was elected to Congress as the Democratic representative of the 12th District of New York and served on the Education and Labor Committee. In a controversial move, she visited George Wallace, an ideological opponent, in the hospital after his shooting in 1972. She obtained the support of George Wallace in passing a minimum wage bill for domestic workers. In 1972, she sought the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

Village of Oak Park Regular Board meeting, <http://www.oak-park.us/>

Meeting date: February 2, 2010

Observer: Andrea Kovach

In attendance: Teresa Powell, Glenn Brewer, Colette Lueck, Jon Hale, David Pope, Ray Johnson, Thomas Barwin, Ray Heise

LWV 90th anniversary proclamation was read by David Pope. National African American History month proclamation was read by David Pope.

During non-agenda public comment session, Richard F. spoke of his concern about the new plans for a hotel at Lake and Forest in light of previous remarks from the owners of the Carleton Hotel and the Wright Inn stating that such a hotel would drive them out of business, and in light of the fact that Oak Park is experiencing excess housing capacity and very slow condo sales.

Second reading on the agenda included “an ordinance amending the Code of the Village of Oak Park Adding Chapter 30 Entitled ‘Special Events’.” Joan of the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust spoke against adding this ordinance because she thinks it will overburden organizations such as hers that provide special events, it confuses rather than clarifies an organization’s responsibility regarding whether a proposed event would qualify as a “special event” under the ordinance and the Board inadequately notified relevant organizations that this ordinance was up for a vote and that there was inadequate time for public comment and review. She further stated that the ordinance is a violation of free speech and it fails to address public safety—the purported reason for its enactment.

Thomas Barwin stated that the Board’s intent is to encourage events and make it clearer for everyone involved. He stated that the ordinance is similar to the one implemented in his prior community. He said that such an ordinance allows police/fire to be aware that something special is going on and that it pertains to more “mega-events, such as Oaktobefest.” He further stated that any special event ad needs to be pre-approved because if not, then if the event’s permit gets denied, the event planner would be out of the money spent on advertising.

Teresa Powell gave an example of when the Village received notice of a large event May 10 for an event occurring two days later where buses needed to be re-routed. The ordinance was intended to impose procedure and formality so that this wouldn't happen again.

Colette Lueck indicated that she would like clarity on the definition of "special event" and asked whether a car wash on private property with people standing on sidewalk [public way] advertising would qualify? She did not receive a direct answer. Ms. Lueck also advocated for a checklist for people to know whether their event qualifies as a "special event" under the ordinance. She reiterated that since the intent of the ordinance is to encourage special events, the Board should ensure that it does that.

Teresa Powell gave the history behind why the ordinance is needed. The current protocol is that a paper form request for a special event is received and copies of it are distributed to various agencies for them all to provide feedback to one staff person who then collects the feedback and decides an answer. She stated that there currently isn't one definition of "special event" that everyone is working from—just past custom. She further stated that there is no clear framework as to decide whether an event is beyond the scope of Oak Park's ability to re-route buses, etc.

Village Counsel Ray Heise stated that without a formalized process, the decision is made haphazardly and randomly. Mr. Heise further stated that there should be 60 days advance notice on all special events and 90 days if it involves alcohol and that this will also help with scheduling.

Teresa Powell agreed that it would help with scheduling. She stated that her office has also received a lot of applications for events already this year and she is unsure which process she should use to evaluate them: the current one or the new ordinance. She also stated that she has twice notified the 44 groups that customarily have held special events on the public way regarding the new proposed ordinance. She further stated that people can call her office to describe their proposed event and she can tell them if the ordinance applies.

Ray Johnson stated his concern that there needs to be a clear definition of a "special event" and to possibly include a checklist for people.

David Pope said that this issue would be tabled for further discussion pending obtaining more information and getting business associations to weigh in.

On the Second Reading of Proposed Amendments to Article 2 Titled Oak Park Farmers Market Ordinance of the Village Code and the Rules of Operation as Recommended by the Farmers Market Commission:

Jon Hale stated that he supports the changes because he believes they will increase clarity and support “locally grown.”

Ray Johnson stated he would like local Oak Park merchants to have the opportunity to provide their local products at the Market and he would like the Board to explore a mid-week second market. He stated that he loves the current Farmers Market as well.

There was a discussion as to why Iowa is not included in the Farmers Market Commission slate of local states. Melissa W., Chair of the Farmers Market Commission (who was present at the meeting and stepped to the podium) stated that they are not anti-Iowa and can include Iowa.

David Pope stated that Iowa has been officially added and someone should inform them.

The meeting adjourned.

District 97 Board of Education Meeting www.op97.k12.il.us

Denise Sacks, Observer

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

The meeting began at 7:08 p.m. and took place in the Beye School auditorium. All Board members and the Superintendent were present at the beginning of the meeting. Michelle Harton left during the meeting.

Two parents made public comments expressing concern about the District’s commitment to diversity, especially minority hiring and elimination of the achievement gap.

Brooks Middle School Principal Tom Sindelar presented a proposal developed by the Brooks School Improvement Team (SIT) to change the schedule at Brooks. In order to structure the learning day in a manner that fits with the goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan, the proposal entails adding math to the courses that students take with their team and providing almost 90 minutes of Literature Skills and Language Arts for each student all three years. The proposal was well received by the Board and Mr. Sindelar and the Brooks SIT will be communicating with their school community about this proposal and working toward implementation next year.

Dr. Kevin Anderson, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented the Academic Performance and Discipline Update to the Board. The Update covers the first trimester of this year. Principals and teachers will be using the academic data to help them identify students who are not achieving, especially in preparation for the ISAT tests. The suspension numbers were slightly worse than last year, but there are about 100 more students in the District. There was some discussion about whether the behavior system, PBIS, is helping. Dr. Anderson also provided some information about the academic scores for students who participate in summer school. Participation in the District's summer school does not appear to improve student scores in relation to their peers. The administration is discussing whether the money that is used for the District's three-week summer school program could be used to assist those students during the school year in a manner that would result in improved performance.

The Policy Committee of the Board presented a draft policy for use of security cameras at the middle schools. The Board asked that the Policy Committee determine if Freedom of Information Act issues needed to be addressed within the policy and to consider language that might further limit the use of the cameras for monitoring students. The Committee will report to the Board again and then the administration will need to delineate procedures for the cameras usage based on the policy. Board member Jim Gates reiterated that the purpose of the cameras is to enhance safety for the students and staff and to improve security for the buildings and property.

The meeting ended at 10:40 p.m.

District 97 Board of Education Meeting www.op97.k12.il.us

Kathleen Sheehan, Observer

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Board Members present: Barber, Clauser, Gates, Harton, Reddy, Spatz, and Traczyk

Also Present: Superintendent Collins, Secretary Marinier

Due to the inclement weather, the Board agreed to truncate the agenda and postpone the policies discussion. The primary presentation of this meeting was the Technology Plan Review, presented by Kevin Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Technology Plan Review: Employing 21st Century Learning

The technology review presentation was organized into two parts: Part I, the philosophy guiding the District to where it wants to be as a 21st Century learning environment; and Part II, a presentation on the steps District 97 has taken in the past 10 years to stay current regarding technology equipment and infrastructure, as well as the recommended tools needed to make the changes detailed in Part I, and the costs involved. Part II will be presented at the March 23rd board meeting.

Part I.

Assistant Superintendent Anderson began by pointing out that different types of competencies are going to be needed by the students in the 21st Century, competencies which include, among other things, digital citizenship. It is imperative that the District asks itself what it is doing to purposefully and intentionally provide students with these skills. Children today are showing that they are “wired differently” (i.e. they see things differently, think quickly, are not inclined to sit as long) which implies that a different type of instruction is needed. Now, according to Superintendent Anderson, is the “perfect time” for District 97, for a technological transformation, as there will be a significant staff turnover in the coming year, and new staff will be accustomed to the technology. Anderson points out that it is already outdated to say the District is “preparing” for the 21st Century, considering it is already 10% gone. However, everything the District does

moving forward should be designed to address the capacity of different learning styles.

A brief video was shown asking the simple question, “What are the tools?” In response, we can see that: where there were chalkboards, there are now smartboards; where there were journals, there are blogs; and students who once worked alone are now collaborating in groups. The video concluded with a student saying, “Don’t prepare us for your world. Prepare us for ours.”

Twenty-first Century learning skills will need to prepare students for possibly 3 to 5 careers, unlike the narrow single career path of the past. In addition to being able to read, write and do math, students will need to communicate, collaborate, elaborate and innovate. They will have to demonstrate “digital citizenship” – that is, they will have to use technology appropriately in terms of etiquette, responsibility, access, and security.

The tech vision for District 97 needs to seek to change the environment, not just add “stuff.” In order to achieve the philosophical goals, the District must pursue professional development, the development of a system that promotes safe collaboration and a sound infrastructure supported by consistent funding. The question becomes one of whether or not the District is going to commit to simply modifying or to transforming the learning environment. From the District 97 “digital leaders” featured in the videos, it became clear that in a 21st Century learning environment, teachers see themselves as *facilitators* of access to knowledge, not *holders* of knowledge. Technology can be seen as an equalizer from which everyone can benefit. It represents the access that offers students a greater chance to be an agent of their learning.

The Board responded favorably to this thorough technology presentation, but had a few questions, such as how does this tie into evaluations and how does this change assessment? These and other questions, particularly those regarding the financial end of the equation, will be responded to during the Part II presentation at the Board meeting on March 23rd.

Oak Park Library Board meeting

Megan V. Rose, Observer

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

The January meeting of the Board of Trustees convened at 7:35 p.m. All Board members were present at roll call with the exception of Mila Tellez, who arrived later in the meeting.

Previous meeting minutes were approved: Finance and Budget Committee from (11/09), Regular Meeting from (11/09), Planning Committee Meeting (1/10), Bylaws Committee Meeting (1/10), and Executive Session Minutes (2004-2006).

Disbursements for November and December 2009 were approved.

The Board reviewed 2009 financial reports, which showed the Library finishing the year \$97,000.00 in the black despite a projected deficit of \$300,000.00. This change was attributed to a centralized schedule, maximizing coverage for employees. Additionally, an IT position was not filled, adding to the savings.

The Board approved the 2010 action plan. The Board also approved the Executive Director to sign a website contract with Balance Interactive, which tendered the lowest bid for the teen “virtual branch” project. Approximately 16-20 library employees will be trained to use the new site, expected to “go live” mid-July 2010. The terms of the contract are not final. It is anticipated the terms will include at least two visits to the library for training, and a maintenance contract for troubleshooting.

In new business, the Board approved the service of beer and wine at a Smartypants trivia event to be held at the library March 6, 2010. The Board also received a copy of the new draft of by-laws for Board members, to be reviewed and discussed for approval at the February 2010 meeting. The Board also renewed the Library participation in the state non-resident library card program, distributed self-assessment and evaluation forms for the Executive Director, and advised of an invitation to attend an Intergovernmental Forum on March 6, 2010 in the Village Hall.

Individual reports were brief. The Executive Director reported 2009 circulation up 11% over 2008 and the SWAN program continues to along smoothly. The Assistant Director reported the Library's insurance received notice of a personal injury claim stemming from a fall during a patron's ride in the elevator. Changes to the Freedom of Information Act received some attention, however the Board remains confident it consistently meets requests outside of necessitating a FOIA request.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Oak Park Library Board meeting

Megan V. Rose, Observer

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

The February meeting, held at the Dole Branch, began at 7:30 p.m. Trustees present: Guilette, Fruth, Hart, Johnson, Samuels, and Tellez. Executive Director Brennan and Assistant Director Madigan and Office Manager Rita Earle were also present. Trustee Kelenson was not present.

The Board approved January 19, 2010 meeting minutes and welcomed visitor comments. Visitors Steve Kirshenbaum and Jeff Kulay spoke to the Board regarding Oak Park's annual Book Fair. Mr. Kirshenbaum reported the 2010 Book Fair will not be hosted Oak Park/ River Forest High School for the first time in approximately two decades. The High School is unwilling to accommodate the Book Fair, as Mr. Kirshenbaum learned when he recently submitted his application for use, due to "air condition repairs" that will utilize the south cafeteria (traditionally the site of the Fair) for parts storage during the repairs. Mr. Kirshenbaum shared that in the seventeen years he has worked the Book Fair, the school accommodated the books and crowds through various remodeling projects, including one that involved asbestos removal. Mr. Kirshenbaum and Mr. Dulay expressed serious concerns that a location change would result in confused annual attendees, lost opportunity for foot traffic from patrons of the nearby Farmer's Market, and a decline in book donations for the Fair (traditionally dropped off at the school in the four weeks preceding the Fair). Securing a new location at this date, while meeting those needs, would be difficult, Mr. Kirshenbaum said.

Trustee Hart called the Book Fair a “summer institution” in Oak Park, indicated the school’s refusal to host was “not cooperative,” and questioned whether the cited reason (air conditioning repair) was “masking a political decision as administrative.”

The Board discussed the impact on the proceeds from the Fair, which go toward library events, and agreed to reach out to members of the School Board. Mr. Kirshenbaum and Mr. Duley discussed attending the School Board meeting set for February 25, 2010, to discuss the matter.

The Board next reviewed due dates for the Executive Director evaluations, approved January’s disbursements, and noted that January’s financial reports were under budget.

Lori Pulliam revealed the new floorplan for the Dole Branch, effective mid-April. The rearrangement will utilize more natural light, expand the Young Adult collection, provide more spots for sitting and reading, and bound the larger Children’s area by bookshelves. The change will use all existing fixtures, and accommodate the seven new computers to be received courtesy of a Gates grant.

The Board discussed revisions to the by-laws, including a provision to address Board vacancies and term limits. The final version will be adopted at the March meeting.

Assistant Director Madigan reported changes to the FOIA laws, highlighting the time to respond to a request (down to five days from seven), and that the first fifty pages of a request are free of charge. He also discussed an upcoming meeting with solar consultants to examine the feasibility of adding solar panels to Main Branch while federal money exists to support the project.

Executive Director Brennan suggested further development of the Library’s technology strategy. Use of Twitter and other applications to communicate with patrons continues to be explored.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Oak Park Park District Board meeting www.oakparkparks.com

Marilyn Cantisano, Observer

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Commissioner Gartland, President. Also present were Commissioners Bracco, Bullock and Valentine and Executive Director Gary Balling. Commissioner Graves was not present.

Public comment ---A representative from OP Youth Baseball expressed concern over the location of the dog park at Ridgeland Commons. He felt that it was a health issue for players because of dog waste being left behind so close to the baseball fields. He also felt the location was an obstacle for players and parents, limiting access to the dugout. He suggested the dog park be relocated, instead of renovated. Commissioner Gartland stated a study was done in 2005 to find the best locations for the dog parks. Long term they may find another location, but for the immediate future the park would need to remain at its present location. There will be a new, additional dog park in Maple Park.

Reports and updates were given by Executive Director Balling and Park District staff. Training for Personnel and Master Plans for Scoville and Lindberg Parks are going well. Also he reported that Maple and Euclid Parks will begin construction soon. All departments are gearing up for summer.

There was some discussion with Board members and Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, about snow removal. The commissions implied they would like to see the snow removal improved. Mr. Grandy stated that there are 8.3 miles of sidewalks to be plowed and with the heavy snow and limited equipment it was a difficult job.

Voting was done on the following proposals.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends that the Board accept the Cheney Mansion site Master Plan as proposed by Wolff Landscape Architecture. This proposal has been discussed at previous meeting and was unanimously passed with no additional discussion.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends that the Board accept the bid submitted by Shaefges Bros., Inc. for a total award for contract of \$206,000 for pump, filter and motor for Rehm Pool filter. This proposal was unanimously passed

with no additional discussion.

The Recreation and Facility Program Committee recommends the acceptance of PROS Consulting “Cost of Service/Pricing Policy Review” Study Proposal in the amount of \$19,500. This proposal was unanimously passed with no additional discussion.

The Recreation and Facility Program Committee recommends the Board approve the Affiliate Agreement between Oak Park Festival Theater and the PDOP. Commissioners were concerned that because Festival Theatre has lost a substantial grant from another source that the Company would not have the funds to proceed with their scheduled performances. Festival Theater was requesting additional funding from the Park District. Commissioners decided to allocate \$6,000 to the Theatre—the same amount as 2009 with the thought of possibly allocating more at a later date. This proposal was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Triton College Board of Trustees

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

M.J. Joyce-Byrne, Observer

The regular board meeting started at 6:06 pm and went into closed session from 6:30 to 7:24 p.m.

Present: Chairman Stephens, Mrs. Del Guidice, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Stam, Mr. Vierito. Mr. Gary was absent for roll call but arrived later at 6:22 p.m.

Former Trustee Merrill Becker resigned in December. A special meeting following the regular Board meeting is scheduled for interviews for Mr. Becker’s replacement. Three candidates will be interviewed.

Student Trustee, Aaron Saunders, reported that the TCSA (Triton College Student Association) is working on a voter’s registration drive.

President Patricia Granados reported that student enrollment is up 10%. She is concerned about the budget situation and funding from the State.

Chairman Stephens passionately described his frustration with the State funding situation and referred to it as disastrous. He asked the Board to stay focused on providing ongoing services to students and to maintaining current staff levels. He stated that they will make every effort to avoid employee lay offs. He asked for everyone to work together to manage expenses.

The Board voted on 13 Action Exhibits. Trustee Del Giudice voted “no” on a cost adjustment for Rex Electric and she voted “no” on a Tuition Rate Increase effective summer 2010. The Student Trustee voted on the Tuition Rate increase as well. All other items were passed unanimously and the two above mentioned were passed 5-1.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Special Board Meeting started at 7:36 p.m. with roll call and moved to a closed interviewing session at 7:37 p.m.

Triton College Board of Trustees

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

M.J. Joyce-Byrne, Observer

The regular Board meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. began at 6:23 p.m. The meeting was in closed session from 7:15 until 8:11 p.m.

Present: Chairman Stephens, Mr. Reyes (new trustee), Ms. Peluso, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Stam, Mr. Vierito and Mr. Gary. Mrs. Del Giudice was absent.

Chairman Stephens started the meeting by welcoming the new Trustee, Jesus “Jay” Reyes.

Citizen Participation - Professor Peter Jermihov, Triton Choral Director and Music professor, resident of River Grove advised that he has received notification that his contract would not be renewed despite having fulfilled all terms of his employment including increasing the enrollment in the music program by 18%. Though he understands the fiscal restraints, Professor Jermihov asked the Board to reconsider and reverse the decision.

Reports – A Student Open Forum is scheduled for March 28th. Star students were recognized for achievements.

Dr. Gabe Guzman presented information about a new initiative in the science department to increase interest and hands on experience with lab sciences.

President Patricia Granados stressed that ongoing commitment and collaboration is needed by faculty and Board members to serve the community and students during this challenging time.

Chairman Stephens discussed that the press reports about the discontinuation of adult education were false and that there are no plans to discontinue the adult education program. He continues to try to get answers on funding. He said the local legislators are good advocates for the community college programs and that the problems are in Springfield. He will continue to seek answers regarding the status of the budget. He indicated that we will spend down the reserves to keep as many programs as possible intact. The Board will do the best to minimize disruption to students and faculty but he cannot promise that everyone will be happy. Chairman Stephens said there will be a reception for former Trustee, Mr. Becker, on March 10th.

One Board Policy and ten action exhibits were unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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Oak Park Township Board–www.oakparktownship.org
Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Marge Gockel, Observer

Attending: Supervisor Boulanger, Trustees Davis, Reid & Calloway, Clerk White, Attorney Garofalo, and Manager Morgan. Absent: Trustee Keenan and Collector Taglia. Also present: Township Financial Manager and Desiree Scully, Senior Services Director.

Desiree Scully presented the Senior Services proposed budget for the year ending 2010 amounting to \$1,974,862. It anticipates half the income to come from grants and fees, and the other half from the Township portion of Oak Park property taxes. Federal stimulus funds helped support the Home Delivered Meals program this year. The Dine Out program replaced the Maple Tree with the Cozy Corner restaurant this year. The State of Illinois is behind \$290,000 in payments due to Senior Services programs. The Township will use its general fund balance to cover the severely delayed state support. The State may also eliminate support for the Respite Care and Care Giver Support programs next year.

The Board agreed to retain Sikich accounting firm to perform the Township's annual financial audit at a fee of \$14,920, a 2% increase over last year. They were very helpful in developing the documents that earned the Township the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association the last several years.

The Board reviewed the "Allocation of Township Board Funds Policy" and its current application form "Request for Special Funding of a Community Initiative." A limited amount of funds are set aside by the Township each year to fund initiation of programs fundamental to human welfare and development in Oak Park with an emphasis on proper administration and effective use of resources. Applicant agencies or organizations must document the need for the program and provide measurable goals. The Early Childhood Collaborations and the Walk-In Ministry are among the groups who have benefitted from this policy.

Brief reports were presented by:

Youth Services-Trustee liaison: Calloway. They held a very successful meeting for 25 prospective mentors. Both the Oak Park and the River Forest Youth Services advisory committees will be looking for new members this spring. (River Forest contracts with Oak Park for services for youth.) If you are interested, call the Township at 383-8005.

Community Mental Health Board (CMHB)-Trustee liaison: Reid. Their long time grants administrator is retiring.

Senior Services-Trustee liaison: Keenan and Collector Taglia. Senior Services will also be looking for new Board members this spring. If you are interested, call 383-8005. They are doing a phone survey in Oak Park to determine the need for affordable senior housing.

Supervisor-The Trustee Manual is being revised.

Clerk-The Clerk is participating in FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) training.

Meeting adjourned to executive session concerning property at 8:10 p.m.

League Leaders for 2009-2010

Officers

Co-Presidents – Ann Courter
and Theresa Amato

Vice Presidents – Pauline Koch,
Angelika Kuehn, and Mary Cay Murray

Secretary – Gail Bien

Treasurer – Nancy Clark

Directors

Marcia Ashton, Sylvia Christmas,
Ruth Foley, Marge Gockel, Beverly Graham,
Beverly Kiele, Amy Little,
Melanie Nowacki, Jean Peterman,
Sarah Shirk

Chairs

Advocacy – Sarah Shirk

Archives – Laurie Huget

Children's Issues – Carollina Song

Environment – Amy Little

Fundraising – Carlotta Lucchesi

International Relations – Carolyn DeCoursey
and Ruth Foley

League Matters Editor – Mary Walsh

LWV Cook County Liaison – Beverly Kiele

Membership Development – Pris Mims

Membership Recording – Ann Bolan

Observers – Ruth Foley & Marge Gockel

Publicity – Sarah Meyer Hughes

Second Tuesday – Carol Gaebler
and Marge Gockel

Voter Service – Judy Das Gupta and Lois
Thiessen Love

Administration – Ann Bolan

2010-11 Nominating Committee

Gail Moran, Chair

Judy Das Gupta & Nancy Leavy

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The League of Women Voters, a non-
partisan 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.

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