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## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST RECEIVES NATIONAL LEAGUE'S PIONEER PROJECT AWARD**

**Atlanta, GA** – The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest was presented the 2010 Pioneer Award by the League of Women Voters of the United States at the organization's 49<sup>th</sup> national Convention in Atlanta, GA. This honor is awarded to one of the organization's more than 800 local and state affiliates for effectively and creatively developing a brand new project.

“This year the League celebrates 90 years of making democracy work. We continue to work with all of our Leagues to create new and unique projects to engage our members and the community,” said outgoing LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson. “The efforts of the LWV of Oak Park and River Forest carry on that tradition and add to our vibrancy as an organization.”

The project—*Roll Out the Rain Barrels*—educated the public about the importance of clean water conservation. The project ran through the summer of 2009, and involved 85 different groups, including all the schools of Oak Park and River Forest. “Participants of the project collaboratively purchased 125 rain barrels that they then turned into educational artwork by painting them all differently and placing them throughout the community in 68 locations,” said Amy Little, who conceived of and spearheaded the project as the chairperson of the League's environmental community. The bright rain barrels included fact sheets that listed ways to conserve water. The League developed a bike route for seeing the barrels and at the end of the summer, several of these artistic rain barrels were auctioned off for charity. One also went on display at the Chicago Field Museum.

Three representatives of the LWV of Oak Park and River Forest—co-presidents Pauline Koch and Theresa Amato, as well as Anne White of the environmental committee—traveled to Atlanta to receive the award on behalf of the OPRF League, Illinois' largest local League. For more information, brochures, and resources see [lwvoprf.org](http://lwvoprf.org).