

# **Annual Meeting**

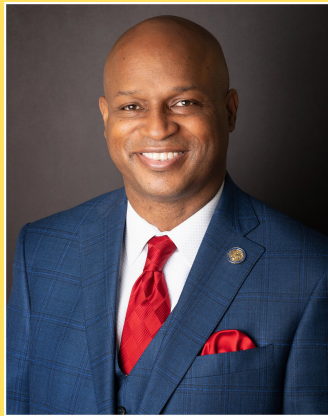
League of Women Voters  
Oak Park & River Forest  
June 3, 2021

**6:00 PM Virtual Meeting**

# 2021

**League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest  
96th Annual Meeting  
Thursday, June 3, 2021**

**Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, Emanuel Chris Welch, will be our guest speaker BEFORE the Annual Business Meeting**



## **Business Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order

Beverly Graham

Disposition of the Minutes of 2020  
Annual Meeting

Mary Ann Porucznik

President's Report

Beverly Graham

Treasurer's Report	Pauline Koch
Budget Proposal 2021-22	Pauline Koch
Bylaws Committee Report	Jane Hastings
Local Program Report	Joan Petertil
Presentation of Program Efforts 2020-2021	
Nominations and Elections	Leslie Lauderdale
Presentations and Proposed Nominations	
Nominations from the floor	
Elections of Officers and Directors	
Recognition of Past Presidents, Lifetime Members and Past Hazel Hanson Award Recipients	Joan Petertil
Presentation of Hazel Hanson Award	Michelle Fitz-Henry
Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments	Michelle Fitz-Henry
Meeting Adjournment	Beverly Graham

## **Proposed Rules of 2021 Annual Meeting**

1. Only members of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest may vote.
2. Only voting members may address the meeting. A member wishing to speak can raise their hand during the Zoom meeting, be recognized by the chair, and give her or his name and League position, if held.
3. During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have been heard. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to one minute for each speaker.
4. No announcements shall be made which do not relate to the business of the meeting or the welfare of the members.
5. Procedure for adoption of local program shall be:
  - a. Recommended items shall be moved for adoption by the Vice President or the Co-President.
  - b. Motion for consideration of any non-recommended items shall be made (majority vote).
  - c. Debate on recommended and non-recommended items shall then be held (items may be amended at this time).
  - d. Recommended items shall be voted upon in their entirety (majority vote).
  - e. Non-recommended items shall be voted on individually (two-thirds vote required).
6. Business of the Annual Meeting shall be further governed by those procedures outlined in *Simplified Parliamentary Procedure* based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
7. These rules may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.

**LWVOPRF Budget and Treasurer's Report for Annual Meeting June 2021**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>4-30-2021</b>
Byline Bank CD 0.15% Interest Rate Maturity Date 9-28-2021	<b>\$25,067.82</b>
Byline Bank Checking Account	<b>\$14,182.60</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$39,250.42</b>

<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>2020-21</b> Actual as of 4/30/2021	<b>2021-22</b> <b>Proposed</b> <b>Budget</b>
Annual Dues (\$70 individual, \$100 household of 2, \$30 student/scholarship)	10,819	12,000
Member Contributions	3,355	3,000
Great Decisions Book Sales	0	900
Fundraisers	1,886	4,000
Interest from CD	59	60
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>16,119</b>	<b>19,960</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising	600	600
Annual Meeting	0	500
Communications-League Matters/Week-in-Preview	214	500
Communications-Website/Facebook/Zoom	193	700
Delegate Fees- Cook County	0	150
Delegate Fees- State Issues Briefing	0	200
Delegate Fees- Inter League Organizations	0	200
Delegate Fees- State or National Convention	0	500
Committee Projects- Advocacy	0	200
Committee Projects- Children/Youth/MOFP	0	150
Committee Projects- Environment	150	500
Committee Projects- Great Decisions	0	900
Committee Projects- Observers	0	50
Committee Projects- Second Tuesday	250	300

Committee Projects- Speaker fees or gifts	50	250
Committee Projects- Memorials/Museum Projects	200	400
Committee Projects- Voter Services	94	500
Room Rental	0	500
Videographer Fees	0	500
Member Services-Directory	188	400
Events- Fall Kick-Off	100	100
Events- Holiday Social	100	1,000
Events- New Member Breakfast & Outreach	0	300
Events- Hazel Hanson Award	0	100
Events- Drinks & Dialogue	0	500
Board Training	0	500
Computer Expenses	0	120
Treasurer Expenses	122	300
Dues Subsidy- Scholarship/Sliding scale	70	70
Insurance	185	186
Meeting Room Rental & Refreshments	0	200
PayPal or Square Transaction Fees	219	200
Miscellaneous	230	100
Phone-Voicemail	0	0
Printing + Photocopies	225	600
Postage + Post Office Box	121	250
Supplies-letterhead/envelopes	0	400
Collaboration for Early Childhood	500	1000
Other Business Expense "Fundraising"	580	500
Membership dues for ILO (LMR, UMRR)	78	100
PMP LWV Cook County	0	0
PMP LWVIL	5,504	5,504
PMP LWVUS 1/2	5,504	5,504
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>15,477</b>	<b>21,984</b>

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## By-Laws Committee Report

The recommended 2021-22 changes to the By-Laws were sent via separate email to all members. They were also posted on our website lwvoprf.org.

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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST 2020-2021 PROGRAMS

### Focus/Priority

- *Improve local League website, electronic, and media communications to serve as a resource to foster transparency and participation in government.*
  - Recorded all membership information in local and US databases.
  - Continued publication of weekly email and monthly newsletters to members.
  - Continued weekly updates to website with calendar, observer reports, upcoming events and photos.
  - Had above industry average open rate of 46% of weekly emails and newsletters.
  - Had a 35% use of links within emails and newsletters with a spike of 45% before the November election.
  - Encouraged members to use digital version of League directory.
  - Generated 830 followers on Facebook while promoting all virtual events on our social media platforms.
  
- *Develop programs/speakers on timely issues as suggested by the Board of Directors or other members. Due to the pandemic, many committee programs were either canceled or done virtually*
  - Great Discussions groups was canceled because of attendance restrictions.
  - Monthly Drinks and Dialogue events were canceled because of attendance restrictions.
  - The Fall Kickoff was a virtual panel discussion on “Reimagining Community Policing: Constructive Community Solutions” with local leaders.
  - Criminal Justice Committee held meetings to review consensus questions and prepare presentation for members in January.
  - Presented speakers and encouraged discussion through the Second Tuesday program. The issues included November voting procedures, consensus presentations, housing/food in the pandemic, LWV Lake Michigan mission, and voting reforms
  - A Fair Tax Work Group of 16 members advocated for passage of the Fair Tax Amendment through advocacy and education. To advocate for the passage of the amendment they collected endorsements/validator signatures, they made presentations to local community and church groups, they purchased and distributed 1000 palm cards in support of the amendment, and they made a presentation to the State League Fair Tax Committee.
  
- *Continue our voter service efforts to register and provide information to voters.*
  - Organized and presented five virtual programs on voting procedures for the 2020 November election.

- Distributed door hangers with QR codes for voter registration to recent Oak Park and River Forest graduates.
- Distributed flyers with QR codes with voter registration information to businesses/restaurants in Oak Park, River Forest, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, and Berwyn.
- Held and recorded 12 candidate forums for the municipal 2021 elections in Oak Park and River Forest in partnership with the Oak Park and River Forest Public Libraries. Over 3,400 views of the forums both live and recorded, with recorded links posted on LWV OPRF website and YouTube Channel.
- *Expand membership and encourage participation in League activities through social media and informal social gatherings.*
  - Due to the pandemic no new member activities were held.
  - Membership numbers held steady for the year.
  - Sent a Welcome Packet to all new members that included membership directory and an opportunity to indicate their interests. This was followed up by contact by the appropriate resource person and/or committee chair.
- *Encourage participation and engage all members in League advocacy and priorities.*
  - Met with Rep. Lilly, Rep. Ford, Rep. Welch, Sen. Lightford and Sen. Harmon virtually to discuss League positions.
  - Partnered with the Forest Park Library for the viewing of the film “Line in the Street” followed by a discussion about redistricting.
- *Partner with other community organizations to accomplish shared goals and to increase League visibility.*
  - Partnered with local libraries for events and candidate forums.
  - Sponsored Mother and Others for Peace May bookmark event at the Oak Park Library
  - Virtual “Tea for Three” performance fundraiser by Elaine Bromka during Women’s History Month
  - Held plant sale fundraiser with Good Earth Greenhouse.

### **Continuous/ Revised**

- *Promote LWVIL tax and school finance positions within our communities and convene studies and discussions of local economic issues as needed.*
- *Provide support for the environment including sustainability and attention to water as a precious resource.*
  - Environment Committee continued work to eliminate single use plastics in local restaurants.
  - Rewarded top ten local restaurants with window sticker acknowledging their work in reducing plastic waste.
- *Continue to be the eyes and ears of our communities by strengthening our Observers Corps.*
  - Received reports on work of LWVCC.
  - Need to recruit more observers of local municipal boards.
- *Maintain our involvement in coalitions to improve well-being of youth.*

- *Support archival development and oral history.*
  - Supported archival development and oral history.
- *Encourage and educate women on how to run for elected office.*

**PROGRAM POSITIONS ARE LISTED IN OUR DIRECTORY**

**League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest  
Proposed Nominations for 2021-22**

**OFFICERS:**

CO-PRESIDENTS	Jane Hastings/Joan Petertil	2021-2023
VICE PRESIDENTS:	Judith McDevitt	2021-2023
	Michelle Fitz-Henry	2020-2022
TREASURER	Pauline Koch	2020-2022
SECRETARY	Mary Ann Porucznik	2020-2022
DIRECTORS:	Beverly Graham	2021-2023
	Belinda Lutz-Hamel	2021-2023
	Judith Crown	2020-2022
	Tina Birnbaum	2021-2023
	Mary Cay Murray	2021-2023
	Linda Valentine	2021-2023

**Committee Chairs:**

- ADMINISTRATION: Peggy Kell
- ADVOCACY: Diane Moses
- ARCHIVES: Mary Ann Porucznik
- CHILDREN & YOUTH: Cleraine Camper
- COMMUNICATIONS: Peggy Kell & Leslie Lauderdale
- DRINKS & DIALOGUE: Kathy Balk & Beverly Graham
- ENVIRONMENT: Marsha Borders & Beverly Graham
- FUNDRAISING: 2021-22 Beverly Graham & Judith Crown
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Alex Matthews
- LEAGUE MATTERS EDITOR: Peggy Kell

LWVCC LIAISON: Leslie Lauderdale

LWV LAKE MICHIGAN LIAISON: Sarah Shirk

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Mary Haley

MEMBERSHIP RECORDING: Suzanne Isaacson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Tina Birnbaum & Judith Crown

OBSERVERS: Cleraime Camper

SECOND TUESDAY: Michael Chimis & Jane Hastings

VOTER SERVICE: Peggy Kell

Standing Committees to be appointed by the Board of Directors: Bylaws, Financial Review, and Political Activity Policy

HAZEL HANSON AWARD: Beverly Graham



**Beverly Graham  
2021 Hazel Hanson  
Award Winner**

I was born at West Suburban Hospital, which was the last time I resided in Oak Park until 1994, when I moved here from Chicago with my husband, Keith, and our son, Zack, age 4. I was delighted to return here at last, and we still live in the same house.

At the time, I was working for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Social Service Department, in the Maywood Court Building. I started out as a Spanish teacher at South Shore High School where my involvement with the students led me to the social work field and a Master's Degree at Northeastern Illinois University. High School counseling jobs were scarce, so I took a position as a bi-lingual caseworker with the Court. There, I did 7 years of direct service at the Branch Courts at Belmont and Western and Grand and Central. Over my 25-year career there, and at 26<sup>th</sup> and California, I was promoted to Supervisor and District Supervisor. While at Grand and Central, I would drive around Oak Park on my lunch hour, just to lift my spirits, and hoped that someday I would live here. My career with the criminal justice system was the genesis of my interest in the field.

One Saturday afternoon, I went to a League Brunch and met then President, Louise Gates. She told me about the organization, and I decided that after retirement I would investigate it further. I was able to retire early due to a buy-out package, but was looking for something to do in town. I did a short stint volunteering at the Oak Park Conservatory and then on the Farmer's Market Commission. Shortly afterward, I joined the

League Book Club and then the League. Marilyn Thomas nominated me for the Board, and I've been active ever since. I have served on the Board, co-chaired the Nominating and Environmental Committees, served as Co-President and Vice President, and co-chaired the Charter School Study.

At an LWV Cook County Annual Meeting several years later, I met Jan Goldberg, Chair of the Criminal Justice Interest Group. I joined on the spot, and have been a member ever since. This led to my work on the State Criminal Justice Reform Study, which we completed this year after 5 years of work. I am most proud of this accomplishment.

The relationships I have built in the League are some of the most meaningful I have known. To work together on important issues, and to be part of a politically active community of caring and capable women (and a few men) have brought me fulfillment and enriched my life immeasurably.

I thank you for recognizing my contributions and for this important award.





