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**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS**

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

**In This Issue**

**DONNA**

**BRAZILE** speaks in Rockford on October 19.

The Taus, Inc. announced their fund raiser dinner and invites LWV members to attend a hear Ms. Brazile in person.

The dinner is at Cliffbreakers on Friday, October 19. Tickets cost \$75 each.

Ann Powell is organizing a table of 10. Please email her to reserve your spot and send her the money.

Ms. Brazile is an on air contributor for CNN and ABC, a columnist of O, The Oprah Magazine, an adjunct professor at Gerogetown University and a best-selling author of "Cooking with Grease: A Memoir"

We can recommend her intelligent and thought provoking commentary of the events and issues of our day.

# Rockford VOTER

September 2012

## Local Government Events

Please plan to attend the events sponsored by the Local Government Committee:

Winnebago County Forest Preserve Candidate Forum

September 7th at 2 p.m.

Klehm Arboretum 2715 South Main Street

Jerry Paulson will moderate

Free admission and there will be a plant sale going on outside all afternoon

Co sponsored by LWV Environmental Committee, RUM and Klehm

State Senator and Representative Candidate Forum focusing on

human services

A panel of representative from the seven human services sectors will present their most crucial

Issues and ask candidatse questions on their views and proposals

October 1st Rockford College Burpee Center 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Moderator - Mike Robinson

Cosponsored by Access Services of Northern Illinois

*Save the date: October 23, 2012, for a presentation by Joel Cowen on the Affordable care Act. More info coming.*

## **MEETINGS FOR June**

VOTER SERVICE  
COMMITTEE:

LWVGR BOARD  
MEETING: the  
second Monday,  
North Suburban  
Library, 5:00.

HEALTH CARE  
COMMITTEE: third  
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.  
P.A.Peterson

IR COMMITTEE:

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT:

EDUCATION:

ENVIRONMENTAL

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Jonathan Kozol Best Selling Author, Educator, and Social Justice Activist to Speak at DeKalbHigh SchoolAuditorium

For nearly fifty years Jonathan Kozol has dedicated his life to addressing the increasingly complex and urgent issues that face public education, including the challenge of providing equal opportunities to every child, regardless of racial origin or economic status. He is among the most respected and eloquent writers and speakers on public education. He has had numerous books on multiple best seller lists and has been the recipient of many national awards including the National Book Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and numerous others. He will speak Wednesday September 26 at 7pm in the auditorium of DeKalb High School. The title of his talk is "Fire In the Ashes: The Deepening Crisis in Our Public Schools- Victims and Survivors." The presentation is free and open to all.

Kozol is currently the most widely read and highly honored education writer in Americaand was called "today's most eloquent spokesman for America's disenfranchised" by the Chicago Sun-Times.

His first book, Death At an Early Age,a description of his first year as a teacher in one of the poorest of Boston's public schools, was published in 1967 and received the 1968 National Book Award in Science,

## ISSUES:

Philosophy, and Religion. This book is regarded as a classic by educators and has sold more than two million copies in the U.S. and Europe.

Now, Jonathan Kozol's newest book, *Fire in the Ashes*, released at the end of August, is a powerful and culminating work about a group of inner-city children he has known for many years. Kozol returns to the scene of his prize-winning books *Savage Inequalities*, *The Shame of a Nation*, and *Amazing Grace*, and to the children he so vividly portrayed, to share with us their fascinating journeys and unexpected victories as they grow up into adulthood. He tells the stories of young men and women who have come of age in one of the most destitute communities in the United States. Some never do recover from the battering they undergo in their early years, but many more battle back with fierce and often, jubilant determination to overcome the many obstacles they face.

Kozol weaves his discussion with the challenges of education and politics; as he addresses the struggles of public schools, public educators and the pressures they endure, education disparities and the ethically complicated challenges facing parents, children, and educators today.

"We hope any one who is involved with children and adolescents in any way, or care about education and teachers, come out to hear what Mr. Kozol has to say." said Dan Kenney DeKalb teacher and the coordinator of the event. "We seldom have an opportunity to hear the perspective of someone with the kind of experiences Jonathan Kozol has had. He has long been the conscience of U.S. public education. He will have much to add to our conversation about education in our local schools at all levels."

Kozol has also spent time over the recent years working with members of Congress and advisers to President Obama to reduce the punitive aspects of *No Child Left Behind* and *Race to the Top*.

Barnes and Noble of DeKalb will be selling copies of his newest book and others after the talk. Mr. Kozol will be available to sign copies of books purchased the night of the event.

Many sponsors have joined together to make the talk possible. Some of the sponsors include DeKalb School District 428, DeKalb Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA), DeKalb Interfaith Network, Northern Illinois University, Collaborative on Early Adolescence, Center for P-20 Engagement, Department of Psychology, Office of the Vice Provost, University Office of Teacher Certification, Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology, and Foundations, College of Education, Department of History, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the Genocide and Human Rights Institute.

For more information about the talk contact Dan Kenney 815-793-0950.

Claire McIntyre, chair

**MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Like to contribute to the League's mission but unable to attend meetings? The Board is looking for a member who would be willing to clip articles out of the local newspapers whenever the League was mentioned. This would help keep a historical record of the Leagues activities and would be archived at Northern Illinois University.

## **LWVIL Pension Consensus**

In response to a directive to the LWVIL board at the 2011 Convention, Leagues across the state have been asked to study and come to a consensus on public pensions in Illinois. This will allow the League to take a position on public pensions, giving us the opportunity to advocate when appropriate. Pensions will become part of our fiscal policy position.

The consensus will be take place in two parts: an opportunity to study and discuss the materials developed by the LWVIL appointed study committee and the actual consensus.

1. Pension Study Group: Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 am, at the Stockholm Inn. We hope to have one of the study committee members available to answer questions. As the public pensions is a complex and not easily understood topic, we thought it would give our members insight to so a study session.

2. Pension Consensus: The consensus meeting will take place on Wed. Nov.7, at 6:30 PM. The place is to be determined.

Joan Morton will lead the consensus.

Please RSVP by emailing [lwvgr@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvgr@yahoo.com) or by calling Claire at 815-623-9004.

### Graduated Rate Income Tax Constitutional Amendment

The LWVIL has been asked to take a lead role in organizing a grassroots effort to put a constitutional amendment on the Nov. 2014 ballot that will allow the voters to determine whether they would like a graduated rate income tax in Illinois. With Illinois' fiscal health such that millions of dollars have been cut to critical services such as public education, mental health, and higher education, it is time to take a critical look at Illinois tax policy. LWVIL has always advocated for a tax policy that is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive, and simple.

Working with the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and a wide coalition of organizations around the state, the League is training people interested in participating in a speakers's bureau as well as those interested in working within their own organization to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot and passed.

The training for the Rockford area is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2012, from 6-8 pm, at the IEA offices at 4949 Harrison Ave., Suite 102. Ralph Martire and Jennifer Lozano from CTBA will do the training.

Please contact Claire McIntyre to RSVP at [lwvgr@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvgr@yahoo.com) or by calling 815-623-9004.

## **VOTER SERVICES ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

To prepare for the November 6 election, Voter Service has been recruiting more League Deputy Registrars and scheduling times for voter registrations. On Tuesday, August 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the Rockford City Board of Elections, 301 South Sixth Street, there will be a special training session for League members both in the city and the county wishing to become Deputy Registrars or to be retrained. Those who cannot come at that time can call the city or the county and become trained individually.

Voter registration for November 6 has already begun. Deadline for registering is Tuesday, October 9. Besides registering the weekends of September 29-30 and October 6-7 at Hilander's and Logli's, we have already had requests for six other sites. We will also be registering at all candidates forums. We try to honor all requests; hence the need for more Deputy Registrars.

Jeanne Claeys, Voter Service Chair

Next Voter Service Meeting: Thursday, September 6, at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn

## **COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION**

The League has various ways of communicating to each other and

outside the League. We thought it might be useful to be aware of these possibilities. See below:

VOTER (**Constant Contact**) - early each month via email. One may receive a hard copy of the VOTER in the mail if one pays \$10/year. Contact Leigh Lakey to submit something to the Voter at

VOTER update (Constant Contact) - 2 weeks after VOTER via email. Contact Leigh Lakey to submit something to the update

Website (**lwwgr.org**) - Ann Powell was particularly involved in getting the website up and running (Thank you Ann) but at this time we do not have anyone to maintain the website. Please contact Karen Fysh if you would be interested in this responsibility at [pfeffer43@charter.net](mailto:pfeffer43@charter.net).

**Facebook** - Contact Claire McIntyre if you have any questions about Facebook.

**Public Relations** - June Jacob is getting information about our various activities out to the press. If you need to get something into the papers or onto a radio station contact June at [jjacob55@hotmail.com](mailto:jjacob55@hotmail.com). we have a Facebook page that can be accessed by going through the website, [www.lwwgr.org](http://www.lwwgr.org) (which, by the way, has a calendar of upcoming event posted on it. Hint, hint, please visit it occasionally). You can also go to the Facebook page directly by going to <http://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfGreaterRockford>.

### **LWVGR CONTACTS**

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*The purpose of the LWVGR shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.*

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