

# LEAGUE UPDATE

League of Women Voters of Park Ridge

June 2020

## June Meeting to Include 501(c)(3) Discussion

Join us for a virtual meeting on Zoom on June 20 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. where experts will address questions about the pros and cons of moving from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3) group. [Register for the meeting here.](#)

Jenny Grochowski from the League of Women Voters of Illinois and consultants Tom Carson and Janet Hoffman will offer their expertise on this issue. Our local League (and the League overall) historically has been a 501(c)(4). Now, many Leagues are changing to a 501(c)(3), including the Cook County League which voted to become a 501(c)(3) on May 18. Since the status of the Park Ridge League as a 501(c)(4) has lapsed, we need to re-activate our status as a 501(c)(4) or become a 501(c)(3). We will vote on this agenda item following the discussion at our June meeting.

For those who missed the Annual Meeting in May, here's a recap of points brought up about moving to a 501(c)(3):

### Advantages:

- No need to maintain a separate account as we will have to do if we maintain 501(c)(4) status.
- Increased likelihood of receiving grants.
- Tax write-off for all contributions.

### Restrictions:

- Would limit ability to lobby.
- Would have to consider the group a charitable organization.
- Possibility of future negative consequences if restrictions on eligibility for 501(c)(3) status are tightened.

Those participating in the June meeting are asked to review the documents Sarah Nugent shared in an email about the event prior to the meeting.

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## Request Mail-in Ballots Starting August 5!



## Volunteers Needed for August Push to Rally the Youth Vote

League members are needed to contact students to remind them to vote in the general election. The calling and writing will begin in early August to coincide with the opening of mail-in applications for ballots.

Volunteers will receive a script and a list of students to contact. The names come from voter registration events where students provided their phone numbers if they were interested in receiving voting reminders.

To volunteer, contact Karen Reid, director of voter services, at [kayreid@comcast.net](mailto:kayreid@comcast.net). Please contact her even if you already volunteered at the May meeting so she can make sure her roster is complete.

## 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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## Members Rank Voter Outreach as Top Issue for Upcoming Year

Members listed voter outreach and education leading up to the November elections as their top priority in a survey that asked members to rank issues that they would like to see our local League address in the coming year.

Climate change ranked second with the focus on planning an event to learn about green activities. Placing third was the continuation of Observer Corps activities.

### *Members' Top Issues*

1. Voter Outreach & Education
2. Climate Change
3. Observer Corps
4. Gun Violence
5. Redistricting
6. Census
7. Suffrage Anniversary Celebration

## League's VOTE411 Wins Webby Award

The League of Women Voters election tool VOTE411.org was named Best Government & Civil Innovation Website in the prestigious 24th Annual Webby People's Voice Awards.

Founded in 2006 and redesigned late last year, Vote411 is a one-stop-shop for election information. The user-friendly site helps people across the country register to vote, see what's on their ballot, find out candidates' positions, learn about absentee and early voting in their states, find their polling place and more.

Jeanette Senecal, senior director of mission impact for the League of Women Voters Education Fund, expects VOTE411 to reach one in four voters before election day on Nov. 3.

Presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, the Webby Awards is the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the Internet.

## Reading Lists: Books on Women's Suffrage, Race

The American Library Association has partnered with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to distribute 6,000 youth book sets on women's suffrage. The sets include "Around America to Win the Vote" by Mara Rockliff, for young readers; "The Woman's Hour: Our Fight for the Right to Vote" by Elaine Weiss, for middle schoolers; and "National Park Service Women's Suffrage Reader" for high school students. T

The Park Ridge Public Library has put together a list of ["Antiracism Reading & Viewing."](#) The list has four categories: adults, teens, kids, and documentaries and films.

New York Magazine offers ["12 Anti-Racist Books Recommended by Educators and Activists."](#)

Mic noted ["The books on racism you can read for free right now."](#)

# Member Snapshot

## Cindy Grau

**Background:** I was born in Florida and moved back to the Chicago area where my mom was at age three.

**Current home:** We have been in Park Ridge for 12 years. We also lived in Austin, Texas, and Middletown, Ohio, as a couple.

**Occupation:** Perennial Volunteer. I retired when my first son was born as my husband was involved in various startup companies and worked many long hours.

**Family:** Scott and I were married 25 years ago this month. Our two boys are Christopher and Aaron, who are young adults.

**Hobbies:** Reading, gardening, yoga, current events, advocacy work .

**Why I joined the League:** As I remember it the Park Ridge League members badgered me for a couple years to join after I met them at an event! I believe in what the LWV stands for.

**Goals:** Improve our systems of government locally, at the state level, and nationally.

**Prior involvement in politics:** My dad was a state legislator in Florida. I helped him campaign and was a page one week my freshman year in high school. I am currently on the Park Ridge Park Board.

**Fun fact:** I went to Blackburn College, a work college in central Illinois where all students worked 15 hours in the student managed program. I spent three years in the kitchen working my way up the ranks!

**Favorite things:** Native flowers, hugs, connecting with people, my church.



# Upcoming Events

**June 20** League of Women Voters of Park Ridge Virtual Meeting, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**August 5** First day to request a mail-in ballot

**August 26** 100th Anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment

**September 22** Voter Registration Day

## Contact Us

For information on Membership please email us at:

LWVParkRidge@gmail.com

You can also find us at  
lwvpr.org

Or on Facebook:  
League of Women  
Voters Park Ridge

