

MARI G. MacGREGOR

February, 27, 2017

TO THE LEAGUE BOARD:

You are very dedicated and hard working. I admire the time you all devote to your beliefs.

However the primary purpose of the League is to promote Voter Education programs. This you have done with Policing, Townships, Election Forums etc. All good

This should mean presenting all positions of an issue and let the voter decide. The League should not promote one side (including state and national) because that is partisan. The League states it is non-partisan; yet the national web site states League positions, which are right out of Democrat Party Platform. This will not appeal to moderates and independents.

I know how much work is involved to secure good speakers and to put together a well attended program. And I applaud the dedicated efforts. But unfortunately too many end up with a partisan slant and lacking balance.

Good sources for the Republican side of issues would be The Illinois Policy Institute and Heartland, which would offer a balance to the local liberal colleges.

My concern today is "going off the reservation" into controversial territory.

- (1) First, The Women's March was an extreme partisan, anti-Trump, and pro-abortion protest march. The national sponsors were numerous far left groups funded by George Soros, whose primary goal is to destroy U.S. and Western Capitalism. It was not a march for all women..just leftists. Pro-life women were disinvited! Well meaning women were naive to participate.
- (2) Secondly, announcing-promoting National Hijab Day again was partisan and highly controversial.
- (3) Third, Your latest activity partnering with a Mosque goes far beyond welcoming prospective members. Because of Pres. Trump's National Security decision, and today's toxic climate, it is most partisan of all. Pres. Trump has been falsely accused of a Muslim Ban. In truth the selected countries were also Obama's, and it is not permanent. Extreme vetting is essential and should not be controversial.  
  
It is interesting to me why Muslim Americans aren't equally worried and joining us in support of national security measures.
- (4) Since you rightly advocate women's rights and empowerment, WHY would you align with an anti-woman agenda? The meeting was described as warm and welcoming.

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Isn't there an irony here? These nice Muslims have strong religious views against abortion, LGBTQ rights, divorce, marriage, women's independence, and even what clothing is allowed. All of which you oppose.

However, the Mosque leaders accomplished their objectives. You left with a warm feeling, and you will thus treat any critique of Islam as Islamophobic. Yes the nice ladies at the Mosque accomplished their objective!

I am not anti Muslim. We've lived in the Middle East and have many Muslim friends. But over there we and they agree and respect our differences.

The best outreach to Muslim women is to welcome them as members and then educate them on being American....our rule of law, the Constitution, women as equals, not property, the separation of church and state, our first allegiance is to the Constitution, not Koran. These are important differences and we must assume that Muslims living in America would share these precepts.

League member have every right to these interests, but through a different venue ....not a non-partisan LWV.

(5) Another indication of the League's partisan slant is the Book Club selection of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She has been criticized by both Democrats and Republicans for her open support of Democrat Party agenda, and revealing confidential Court deliberations...highly inappropriate for a Justice of the Supreme Court.

(6) Finally, I do not know much about the Renew Project. I assume they do some good work. However, once again, the League shouldn't get involved in another controversial Democrat issue by supporting undocumented immigrants (illegal aliens). This is violating established law!

One topic that should have been included this year is the Illinois Legislature...the lack of budget...and corrupt governance. Gov. Rauner has only been in office for two years, Madigan for 30. Yet the ACLU panelist blamed the Governor for budget cuts. That is highly partisan. Voters are woefully ignorant, and I would think reasonable Democrats would agree with Republicans that Illinois would be better without Madigan in control. Voter education is the key. The Naperville Police Chief also said a very shocking and partisan thing when he said he would not follow federal law on immigration...another partisan statement with no corrective from the League.. The NAACP panelist referenced Black Lives Matter in a favorable context....also divisive, as it is a Democrat Party position. There was no opportunity to challenge these statements.

I would welcome a discussion with any of you or all if there is an interest.

As a newcomer to Illinois I joined the League hoping to meet civic minded people to engage in balanced discussion of current issues. Thus far I have observed only

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Democrat Party positions (Planned Parenthood, Citizen's United, Climate Change/  
Global Warming, Oppose Voter ID etc.)

This has resulted in an uneasy frustration for me, and I know for you. I appreciate having been considered for the Board, but realize it is not a good fit, and therefore must resign from the Board. (I will continue to pay dues and attend your programs whenever I can). Thank you for your friendship.

Sincerely,

Mari MacGregor