

IVI-IPO *Action Bulletin*

Fall 2005

Reminders:

- **Aldermanic Accolades November 10th**
- **Renew your membership NOW!**

Contents:

Aldermanic Accolades	1
Renewal Note	1
From the State Chair	2
Affordable Healthcare	2
Hurricane Katrina Help and Housing	3
Board Election Results	4
Life & the Living Wage	5
New & Returning Members	6
Join IVI-IPO	7
Calendar	8



Independent Voters of Illinois—Independent Precinct Organization 312- 939-5105

Aldermanic Accolades

IVI-IPO applauds elected officials who vote for progressive measures in the public interest. Our executive director Aviva Patt notes that IVI-IPO's Aldermanic Accolades award recognizes "the efforts of 12 of our aldermen to promote a progressive agenda in the Chicago City Council—affordable housing, a living wage, accountability in privatization, supporting the Shakman decree and withdrawing US troops from Iraq."

The event will be held Thursday, November 10 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Union Park Lounge, 228 S Racine, Chicago. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Individual tickets are \$30; \$100 sponsors receive two tickets and a program listing.

Free parking is available in parking lot or on street. The Union Park Lounge is also accessible by public transportation near the Racine stop on the Blue Line, or either the Jackson or Madison bus route.

This Year's Honorees are:

Rey Colon (35)	Manuel Flores (1)	Leslie Hairston (5)
Madeline Haithcock (2)	Freddrenna Lyle (6)	Joe Moore (49)
Ricardo Muñoz (22)	Toni Preckwinkle (4)	Eugene Schulter (47)
Helen Shiller (46)	Ed Smith (28)	Ted Thomas (15)

Please call the IVI-IPO office at 312-939-5105 to reserve your tickets or become a sponsor now!

TIME TO RENEW – CHECK YOUR LABEL:

If the date on your address label is 20040401 your membership has lapsed. Please send in the enclosed form to rejoin IVI-IPO. **YOUR DUES MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY 5PM NOVEMBER 15** to be eligible to vote in the January endorsement sessions for state and county office.

If the date on your address label is 20041001 your membership is due for renewal now. Please send in the enclosed form to renew your membership. **YOUR DUES MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY 5PM DECEMBER 30** to be eligible to vote in the January endorsement sessions for state and county office. After that date you will cease to be a member of IVI-IPO and will have to rejoin and wait 60 days to regain voting privileges.

If you have any questions about your membership, please call the office at 312-939-5105.

From the State Chair

by C. Betty Magness, State Chair

One of my biggest goals is to inject new blood into both the IVI-IPO membership and our state board of directors. We need new blood, especially youth: young citizens, new voters, students, etc.!

So far our success has included gaining new board members (of which two are very youthful), and several new student interns who have joined our staff this year, and they are helping us on many fronts, including legislative and local good government efforts.

In terms of membership, I want us to start thinking outside the box, and start to work with other like-minded organizations, to tap into their membership and strengths to add to ours. I look forward to everyone assisting me in these efforts.

Another goal of mine is to energize our participation in the upcoming 2006 elections. We have state & local & federal races, including judicial races. We will offer great A to Z workshops again this year to help train and educate candidates and potential candidates on how to get on the ballot, how to get organized, how to staff properly, how to work precincts, and how to shake the trees for votes to get our progressive friends elected.

Action Bulletin

Is published by the Independent Voters of Illinois—Independent Precinct Organization

1325 S. Wabash Ave.
#105
Chicago, IL 60605
312-939-5105
Fax 312-939-3315

www.iviipo.org

Editor
Lee Snyder

Designer
Elizabeth Fraser

State Chair
C. Betty Magness

Executive Director
Aviva Patt

Speak Out for Affordable Health Care in Illinois

by Aviva Patt, Executive Director

From 2000 to 2004 health insurance premiums in Illinois rose by nearly 35%, while wages increased by only 13%. Over 3.5 million people in Illinois had no health insurance at all at some point from 2002 to 2004. Health care is increasingly becoming unaffordable for working people and rising insurance premiums are having a devastating effect on small businesses. To address this crisis, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Health Care Justice Act, which established a task force charged with developing a statewide universal health care plan. The task force is holding hearings in every congressional district in the state, to take testimony about the problems people face getting and paying for health care. IVI-IPO has long supported a universal, single payer health plan and has recently joined the Campaign for Better Health Care to mobilize our members to attend the task force hearings and urge creation of an affordable health care plan for all people of Illinois. Please refer to the website to find your district hearing and to speak out for accessible, affordable, quality health care for all.

See the Campaign for Better Health Care website at www.cbhconline.org or call them at 312-913-9449 (Chicago office) or 217-352-5600 (Champaign office) for information on when and where hearings for your district are scheduled.

Get more involved—come to state board meetings!

Be more involved—attend a board meeting: Monthly board meetings for the remainder of the 2005-2006 term are as follows: for 2005: October 26, November 30, and December 21 and for 2006: January 14 (special), January 25, February 1 (special), February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24 and June 28. Regular meetings start at 6:30 pm in the IVI-IPO office. Mailings will be sent out in advance of special meetings.

HOW IVI-IPO CAN HELP THE KATRINA EVACUEES

Volunteer to Assist Katrina Evacuees Arriving in Chicago

1. The Survivor Intake Center is located at Fosco Park, 1312 S. Racine. **Volunteers are needed NOW** and will be needed indefinitely. Stop in when you have time to volunteer.
2. **Volunteer with the American Red Cross** as either a Call Center or Administrative Team Member. Select a volunteer information session from the list below and RSVP to Juanita Tipton by e-mail at chicagovr@usa.redcross.org or by phone at 312-729-6222. You must RSVP before attending an information session. Sessions will be held October 27 and November 7 at the headquarters at 2200 W. Harrison. After attending an information session, you will be interviewed and placed in a volunteer position within the organization. For more information, contact Juanita Tipton at the number or address above or go to the website at www.chicagoredcross.org.
3. **PARTICIPATE IN IVI-IPO's DIAPER DRIVE!** On a monthly or bi-monthly basis, for the duration of this emergency, IVI-IPO will conduct a drive for one particular item needed by the Katrina evacuees. We will designate one weekday, one evening and one weekend day for drop-off at our office. Our first item is diapers – baby or adult. A post card will be sent informing you of the drop-off days. IVI-IPO volunteers will then deliver the donated items to the Survivor Intake Center.
4. Provide housing for a Katrina family. Moveon.org has established a matching service for people looking for and offering housing.

For more information go to www.hurricanehousing.org.

There are also numerous organizations providing various forms of relief for survivors throughout the country. Go to <http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/katrina/NVOAD-Members.pdf> for a list of established charities doing relief work.

SHELTER SUPPORT FOR KATRINA VICTIMS

(Note: this article was written before the Senate unanimously passed Sarbanes' amendment [SA1662] to the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill [HR2862] on September 15. The House version of the bill contains no similar proposal. A Senate-House conference will now work out the differences. See Sarbanes' press release at: http://sarbanes.senate.gov/pages/press/091505_katrina_housng_ammndmnt_pass.html)

IVI-IPO enthusiastically supports Senator Paul Sarbanes' amendment to a Senate FY 2006 appropriations bill that would provide \$3.5 billion for emergency assistance housing vouchers and for assistance to current Section 8 (Housing Choice) voucher holders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Not only would Senator Sarbanes' bill require HUD to simplify administration of the emergency voucher program, but it directs Federal agencies to inventory civilian and defense facilities that could be used to provide emergency housing or as locations for the construction or deployment of temporary housing units.

The particular significance of this bill is that it provides NEW money for Katrina disaster relief and avoids further fracturing an already precarious safety net and causing one set of poor people to have to compete against another set for diminishing resources.

HUD, in responding to the Katrina aftermath, has encouraged, or granted the authority to, public housing authorities, assisted housing providers, and agencies of state and local government that receive community development and HOME block grants, to give housing preferences to Katrina survivors and reprogram CDBG funds currently supporting a host of local social programs away from them and to hurricane relief. To give such a housing preference for Katrina survivors means that other poor people who have been on assisted housing waiting lists sometimes for years fall even further back.

Sarbanes' bill to appropriate funds for emergency vouchers would complement the larger Hurricane Katrina Emergency Relief Plan, which provides assistance to Katrina victims in such other areas as medical coverage, housing for the homeless, enrolling children in schools, extended unemployment insurance, easing bankruptcy provisions, and a moratorium on student loans and other Federal payments.

Where will this new money come from? Well, we can begin by considering rescinding the Federal tax cuts.

2005-2006 Board Election Results

Winners are in bold, Write-ins are italicized

STATEWIDE OFFICES

<u>State Chair</u> C. Betty Magness	110
<u>Admin Vice Chair</u> David Igasaki	104
<u>Program Vice Chair</u> Aviva Patt <i>Leslie Sturino</i>	104 1
<u>Secretary</u> Eduna Wilks	97
<u>Treasurer</u> Jamie Shapiro	103
<u>Political Action Chair</u> Rich Whitehead	101
<u>Membership Chair</u> Donna Conroy Dan Johnson-Weinberger	97 1
<u>Community Action Chair</u> Herb Ziegeldorf Kimberly Walz	106 1
<u>National Affairs Chair</u> Charles Paidock	101
<u>Legislative Action Chair</u> Lun Yé Marsh	99
<u>At-Large Delegates</u> Patrice Ball-Reed Robert Carroll Marc Loveless	89 86 62
<u>At Large Alternates</u> Kimberly Walz Steve Jones * Jerry Jaecks <i>Greg LaNier</i> <i>Leo Fontana</i> <i>Jesse Ruben Juarez</i> <i>Hilda Frontany</i> <i>Mae Wilson</i>	54 12 7 3 1 1 1 1 1
DOWNTOWN CHAPTER	
<u>Chapter Chair</u> Dan Johnson-Weinberger	10
<u>Vice Chair</u> Bonnie McGrath	11
<u>Delegate</u> *** no candidates, no write ins	
<u>PAC Chair</u> Bernadette Freeman	10 (declined office)
<u>PAC Rep</u> Leslie Gryce Sturino	10

FAR NORTH CHAPTER

<u>Chapter Chair</u> Paul Bonilla	21
<u>Chapter Vice Chair</u> Norman Lasko	14
<u>Delegates</u> Norman Lasko ** David Fagus	13 11
<u>Alternates</u> Jim Ginsburg ** <i>Donna Conroy</i>	8 1 ineligible for two offices
<u>PAC Chair</u> Paul Bonilla	17
<u>PAC Rep</u> Jim Ginsburg <i>Jerry Jaecks</i> <i>Raj B.</i> <i>Norm Lasko</i> <i>Marc Loveless</i> <i>David Fagus</i>	2 2- not in chapter not qualified 1 1 1 1

MID-NORTH CHAPTER

<u>Chapter Chair</u> Jay Rowell	15
<u>Vice Chair</u> Karen Boehning	16
<u>Delegate elects</u> Justin DeJong	11
<u>Alternate</u> Wes Wagar <i>Jerry Jaecks</i>	3 1
<u>PAC Chair</u> David Igasaki	17
<u>Pac Rep</u> Jerry Jaecks	2

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

<u>Chapter Chair</u> Nick Norris	4
<u>Vice Chair</u> Roger Harper	4
<u>PAC Chair</u> Aviva Miriam Patt	4
<u>PAC Rep</u> Alonzo Zaragoza	1

[results continued on next page]

SOUTH CHAPTER

<u>Chapter Chair</u> Ivory Mitchell	37
<u>Chapter Vice Chair</u> Greg Lanier	36
<u>Delegates</u> Mae Wilson	37
Marc Lipinski	37
Lois Dobry	35
<u>Alternates Delegates</u> Greg Zyvert	37
James King	38
Greg Lanier	12
<i>Lois Dobry</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Steve Jones</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Ivory Mitchell</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Charles Staples</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Joan Staples</i>	<i>1</i>
<u>PAC Chair</u> Lois Dobry	40
<u>Pac Rep</u> Greg Lanier	37

UNORGANIZED AREAS

<u>Delegates</u> Tony Land	18
Joanne Jennings	16
<u>Alternates</u> Greg Sweigert	2
Dennis Marlowe	2
<u>PAC Rep - Chicago</u> Patrice Ball-Reed	9
<u>PAC Rep - Suburbs</u> Greg Sweigert	6

- *Steve Jones' election pending determination of membership status
- ** Norm Lasko was subsequently appointed as Finance Chair & Jim Ginsburg became a delegate
- The Far North Chapter currently has vacancies for two alternates
- The Downtown Chapter has vacancies for one delegate, one alternate and a PAC rep

Life and the Living Wage

by Kimberly B. Johnson, IVI-IPO Intern

The minimum wage set for working Americans is insufficient to provide a manageable life above the government's defined poverty level, according to worker advocates.

Consistent with IVI-IPO's platform regarding labor standards, a push should be made towards leveling the playing field and enabling the working poor to afford that old cliché—the American dream. Because of low wages (for often muscle-straining work), owed bills and payments take up an unrealistic proportion of a two-week paycheck (and as for those muscles—medical coverage is impossible, difficult or expensive to come by).

The Economic Policy Institute came up with a figure of \$30,000, or \$14 an hour, as a "livable wage" to support one adult and two children. This does not just represent life's bare necessities, but is supposed to reflect modest requirements like licensed daycare and a telephone. Internet access, beer, restaurant meals or gym memberships would require an increased income.

Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "Nickel and Dimed—On Not Getting By in America", says: "The shocking thing is that the majority of American workers, about 60 percent, earn less than \$14 an hour."

Much less. Besides the obvious effects such as children being placed in compromising care situations, the dignity lost when one cannot even afford a telephone—basically access to the world at large—takes an immeasurable toll.

Alan Milsaps of Chicago worked until recently for a "Big Box"—Home Depot. His wage, \$8.75 an hour, barely covered his necessities. "Ten dollars an hour is reasonable," he said. "Anything else is insulting."

He was fired after he had worked there for exactly three months—the same interval after which employees are mandated an hourly raise.

A proposal designed by Joe Moore of the 49th Ward encourages progressive ideas including a requirement that large businesses (over 75,000 square feet) pay employees around \$10 an hour plus benefits or \$13 an hour without benefits. Also included: a mandatory practice of hiring those displaced by the store's opening, an explicit employee right to freedom of speech, and the guarantee that these "big box" stores will not intimidate or retaliate against those exercising their rights.

[continued on page 6]

IVI-IPO Welcomes New & Returning Members

David Atkins	James & Lisa Ginsburg	David Martino	James Senyszyn
Sheldon Baskin	Kent Griffiths	Michael McHale & Brad Balof	Jena Sleboda
R. Darrell Bock	Joey Hampton	Martha Mills & Patrick Papas	Susan Smolinski
& Renee Menegaz-Bock	Dr. Joan Hill	William & Regina O'Connor	Kerri Stojack
Gloria Chevere	Senator Mattie Hunter	Dale Pontius	Gregory & Carol Sweigert
Ronald Davis	Tony Joyce	Bradley Reeg	Peter & Frances Vandervoort
Justin De Jong	Mr. & Mrs. Aldophus Kindle	& Betsy Elsaesser	Christopher Vaughn
Peter Donoghue	Mary Kirby	David Rutschman	Sandra Verthein
Elinor Fallert	Kevin Lamm	& Marjory Byler	Carl-Anthony Walker
Reginald Fisher	Agostino Lorenzini	Freddy Saba	Kimberly Webb
Ezequiel Flores	& Pamela Carlantonio	Steve Saba	Jaquelyn Zevin
Carol Friedman	Dean Maragos	Monica Schuller	

Not a member yet? Just fill out and mail in the form on the opposite page. →

Life and the Living Wage [continued from page 5]

Ken Snyder, head of the Grassroots Collaborative, organized an event held recently at the Chicago Temple that underscored widespread support for the aforementioned ordinance. Among others, SEIU Local 880, ACORN, and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless stood together as one thousand individuals and as one voice. State Senator Miguel Del Valle delivered a passionate address, AND U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. was the final and keynote speaker, rousing the crowd with mention of discrepancies between the North and South Sides, the need for government accountability and encouragement for all families to be able to afford a college education for their children.

On the flip side, some people think that these stores are contributing to their employees appropriately. Scot Laudenbach is a training coordinator for Wal-Mart in suburban Wheeling. "At my store alone we have close to 215 employees. More than 50 of these have been with the company more than five years, and more than 20 of those for more than 10 years. Many of these people have made a choice to stay because what they get out of the job is more than a paycheck," he said.

"But," he adds, "as a starting point I agree that wages need to be improved for all employees of any business."

The bottom line is, however, that employees get what they get out of life within that paycheck. Whatever intangible rewards come from a job are usually a bonus. That paycheck puts a price on your time—and essentially your life—by the hour.

While the word is spread ever further about the need for workers to be compensated duly for the work that they perform, IVI-IPO can further the cause by showing its support for the big-box ordinance. The momentum is essential to making life finally fair for the American worker.

Judicial Review Committee Seeks Volunteers

IVI-IPO's Judicial Review Committee will be meeting throughout January to review candidates for Cook County Circuit Court running countywide and in areas outside of IVI-IPO chapter boundaries. The JRC does not interview candidates, but does evaluate responses to our questionnaire and conduct reference checks before making recommendations to the board for endorsement. Any member of IVI-IPO may serve on this committee (you don't have to be a lawyer!) except for candidates for any Circuit Court vacancy, their campaign employees and officers, and their spouses or relatives up to the second degree.

To be invited to the preliminary committee meeting in December, please contact JRC chair Jamie Shapiro or executive director Aviva Patt at iviipo@yahoo.com or 312-939-5105.

Independent Voters of Illinois—Independent Precinct Organization

1325 S. Wabash, Suite 105, Chicago, IL 60605 312-939-5105 Fax: 312-939-3315

Visit our website at www.iviipo.org.

YES! I want to join Illinois' oldest multi-issue progressive good government organization.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Membership Dues:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Contributor (single or joint) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Joint | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor (single or joint) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$88.36 Share the Cost
(single or joint) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Life Member (single or joint) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15 Limited Income (single) |

Please make checks payable to **IVI-IPO**. You may also charge your membership to your Visa or Master Card. Contributions to IVI-IPO are not tax-deductible.

Name as it appears on your card _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature: _____

REMINDER: WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

IVI-IPO is trying to move into the 21st century - but we need your help. Please send us your email address so we can notify you of important meetings and events as well as legislative alerts. We have so much to communicate with our members and could do it in a timely and cost-effective manner with email. So please send your email address to iviipo@yahoo.com—and be sure to give us your name. If you still prefer to receive the newsletter in the post, rather than electronically, let us know that also and we'll keep you on the snail mail list

NEW FACES: WELCOME OUR NEW INTERNS

In August, we bid adieu to History Project intern Suzanne Zoheri, who is studying abroad in Egypt for a year and to State Legislative Intern/Administrative Assistant Anne Macrander who returned to Notre Dame. We're looking forward to winter break when Anne will be back to help us set up endorsement sessions. Community Action Interns Kimberly Johnson and Tommy Bailey are staying on for the fall and winter, as is History Project intern Jessica Nguyen. [Check out the article *Life and the Living Wage* by intern Kimberly Johnson starting on page 5.] New intern Amy Shebeck has already started working with Jessica and they are deep in our archives at the Chicago Historical Society with the goal of creating a narrative of our 60+ years. Our new State Legislative intern Quinn Bernier is researching elections and ethics legislation for the upcoming session, as well as assisting Political Action intern Cassandra Harlan in updating our candidate questionnaires. Cassandra also has extensive communications experience and will be helping us with press and creating a new membership brochure. We're looking for additional interns for January to help with the endorsement process and work in our endorsed campaigns—contact the office at iviipo@yahoo.com for descriptions of the internships still available.

IVI-IPO

Independent Voters of
Illinois-Independent
Precinct Organization

1325 S. Wabash Ave.
Suite 105
Chicago, IL 60605

PHONE:
312-939-5105

FAX:
312-939-3315

EMAIL:
iviipo@yahoo.com

IVI-IPO is on the Web!

See us at:

www.iviipo.org

Calendar

[meetings at IVI-IPO office unless otherwise noted]

10/24 6:30 pm Political Action Committee meeting
10/26 5:30 pm Steering Committee
10/26 6:30 pm IVI-IPO Board meeting
11/08 6:00 pm Steering Committee
11/09 6:30 pm Community Action/Municipal Affairs Committee
11/10 5:30 pm Aldermanic Accolades
11/15 – dues deadline to vote in January endorsement sessions [see page 1]
11/19 – A-Z Campaign Workshop [location TBA]
11/21 7:00 pm National Affairs Committee
11/30 5:30pm Steering Committee [fifth Wednesday this month]
11/30 6:30 pm IVI-IPO Board meeting [fifth Wednesday this month]
12/13 6:00 pm Steering Committee
12/14 6:30 pm Community Action/Municipal Affairs Committee
12/19 7:00 pm National Affairs Committee
12/21 5:30pm Steering Committee
12/21 6:30 pm IVI-IPO Board meeting
Advance Notices for 2006
01/07 – A-Z Campaign Workshop [location TBA]
01/10 –Meet the Candidates Party [free to members]
01/11-01/25 – Local Endorsement Sessions [time, location TBA]
01/14 – State & Cook County Endorsement Sessions, followed by State Board meeting
01/15 – South side endorsement sessions [time, location TBA]
01/22 – North side endorsement sessions [Truman College, time TBA]
02/01 – Special State Board meeting to endorse judicial candidates

IVI-IPO Mission: Achieving social justice by electing good government

Independent Voters of Illinois-
Independent Precinct Organization
1325 South Wabash–Suite 105
Chicago, IL 60605

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED