

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM

### **LINH NGUYEN (LWV of DeKALB COUNTY) VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNANCE**

Dr. Linh Nguyen (Dr. Lynn Win), She/Her currently serves as an instructor for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Dr. Nguyen was awarded the 2022 Excellence in Online Teaching Award at NIU. She was also selected as one of the Finalists for the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce 2022 ATHENA Award, which honors women who serve as role models to help women reach their full leadership potential. Dr. Nguyen is also a mother, a spouse, a local activist, and a past President of the League of Women Voters of DeKalb County, IL. Dr. Nguyen's story of an immigrant from communist Vietnam gives her a unique awareness of an American citizen's responsibility. Her life experience and her work as a scientist inspire her to pursue more transparency and accountability in government. To further her commitment to serving the DeKalb County community, Dr. Nguyen stepped down from the President position to run for the DeKalb County Clerk and Recorder Office in 2022. She did not win the election, but her willingness to serve reminded DeKalb County residents that "citizen" is not a status or a document but a set of responsibilities.

### **WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE LWVIL BOARD**

I am a defender of democracy. I fight for voting rights anywhere, everywhere. As an immigrant from Vietnam, I watched my parents being escorted by an armed officer to the polling place to cast votes that didn't count. I witnessed a mockery of elections and democracy. And I saw how my father struggled to rebel and protest that mockery. Voting rights are sacred to me because of my experiences under the Vietnamese communist government. I cherish that our right to vote is the ultimate power that we, the American people, have to shape public policies that affect our daily lives. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be an American citizen. My moral obligation is to strive for a better democratic world where justice is given, not taken. In that democratic world, we celebrate our uniqueness and tolerate our differences while working together. I want everyone to have a chance to pursue their happiness, to be treated with dignity, and to live up to their fullest potential.

### **WHAT I HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH AS AN LWVIL BOARD MEMBER**

I demonstrated excellence and creativity in advancing Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) in my profession. The general chemistry course CHEM110 is a gen-ed course at NIU. There have existed achievement gaps in CHEM 110. When I started at NIU in 2016, I analyzed the causes of the under-represented students' poor performance. These students often had challenges involving work schedules, family responsibilities, and different abilities (disabilities) that conflicted with assignment schedules and course design. So, I put the CHEM110 curriculum online and created flexible schedules and personalized adaptive learning assignments. The students' success was immediate. It shattered stereotypes about minority group students. In 2022, I was given the Excellence in Online Teaching Award for this effort. There is a clear correlation between embracing DEI and business performance. As a champion for Academic DEI, I will bring a fresh breath of air to champion the LWVIL's policy and strategies to benefit all members and make us more competitive in an increasingly diverse field.

I love this American life and will do my part to preserve our democracy. I will lead, inspire and motivate with compassion, personifying the enduring hope of an immigrant to the free world.