



Volume 67, Issue 5

January 2013

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Three panelists will share their perspectives on “Issues of Affordable Housing in Champaign County” at our January general meeting. Diane Koeppel who is the Community Services Director for the Champaign County Regional Planning Director will talk about affordable housing in general, Tonya Crawley, Director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program at the Housing Authority of Champaign County will explain the details of the program she administers and John Roska, who is an attorney with the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance will focus on landlord tenant relations from a legal point of view.

The panel presentation will last almost an hour and our speakers will stay an additional fifteen minutes to take questions.

Please plan to attend and invite anyone from the community that is interested in this topic. This meeting will be a little longer than usual.

JANUARY 2013 MEETING

Affordable Housing in Champaign County

Where: Urbana City Council Chambers

When: Thursday, January 10, 2013

Brown Bag Lunch: 11:30

Program: Noon-1:30 PM

There will be opportunity for questions.

League Pushes Obama on Climate Change

National League News

Washington, D.C. – Today, the League of Women Voters sent a letter urging President Obama, to takes steps to lead the world in the face of the greatest environmental challenge of our generation: climate change. Specifically, the League asked the President to use his existing regulatory powers to control industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.

“The world has known about climate change for decades, yet little has been done to address the issue,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. “People are dying because of climate change. Our families, our communities and our planet are all threatened by it.”

The League’s letter uses the President’s own words to make the point that action is needed now.

“Climate change is not a hoax. More drought and floods and hurricanes and wildfires are not a joke. They’re a threat to our children’s future. And we can do something about it.” - President Barack Obama, September 2012

The League notes that past Congressional action on climate change has been stymied by special interests but that the President has the authority to take action himself, with his existing regulatory authority

“With the current gridlock in Congress, it seems impossible that any legislative action will be taken to protect our health and our planet. President Obama, you can do this by yourself, without a second-guessing Congress or a nay-saying Supreme Court. In fact, the Supreme Court has already said that the Administration can move forward under the Clean Air Act to cut this life-threatening pollution,” MacNamara said.

“President Obama, if you don’t do it, it won’t get done,” concluded MacNamara. “If the United States doesn’t lead, the rest of the world cannot follow.”

*League of Women Voters of Champaign
County Officers for 2012-2013*

President: Corrie Proksa
217-359-495 corrieproksa@hotmail.com

1st Vice President (Organization): Trisha Crowley
217-359-2514 tcrowley9491@gmail.com

2nd Vice President (Program): Theresa Michelson
217-344-4078 thmichelson@gmail.com

Secretary: Claire Barkley
217-344-6995 cebarkley@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy Volk
217-367-7664 sandyvolk803@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Michelle Petty
217-766-9677 pettyml@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rachel Storm
630-677-7791 rstorm2@illinois.edu

Directors: Antje Kolodziej
Joan Miller
Sue Phillips
Deb Rugg
Rachel Storm

Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League? Share your newsletter! We will add them for three months to the mailing list for *the Voter*. Email lvv.il.cc@gmail.com or call Sue Phillips at 359-8818 or Margaret Olson at 344-6390 with the name of anyone who might be interested.

**LWVCC STUDY - CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS**

Currently the committee is reading through multiple reports on the criminal justice system in Champaign County. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Michelle for the study materials and plan to attend our next meeting, Monday February 7th at 9AM at Espresso on Neil Street.

Please consider joining this important study. For more information please contact Michelle Petty at pettyml@gmail.com or 217-766-9677.

**LWVCC Party for Helen Levin's Hundredth
Birthday!!**

You all come!!!

Helen Levin is going to mark 100 years this January and the LWVCC is having a party of course!

It will be 2pm Friday February 1, 2013 at Clark Lindsey Village in the Horsfal Private Dining Room across from the library. They call this the second floor; I call it the main floor because the front main entrance is on same floor.

This is a cake and tea party for League fun. We know several folks know Helen and did League activities with her, but this is not just for them! This is such a great event and everyone will want to be there!!

We will need to know how many are coming. Please let Debbie Rugg know if you can attend at 621-7180 or debrugg@aol.com

Instead of personal gifts, if you wish, you could kindly contribute to:

League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund:

Checks payable to "LWVIL Ed Fund"

Memo line: LWVCC Civic Engagement

P.O. Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803 or bring to the event.

2013 is a really neat year for women's suffrage in Illinois. On June 26, 1913, Illinois became the first state east of the Mississippi River to allow women to vote in national elections. Please watch this *Voter* and LWVIL news too for updates on this wonderful 100th anniversary. Starting with Helen Levin's 100th birthday is just a great start!

Membership Form – League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Include this email address in the League Membership Directory? YES NO (please circle one)

Please circle the type of membership: Individual Dues* \$65.00 Student Dues* \$5.00
Household Dues* \$97.5 #NEW Member Due \$32.50 #New Household Dues \$48.75

Please make checks payable to LWVCC, and mail to: Sue Phillips, 1018 W William, Champaign, IL 61821

#Dues for new members, for one year, are half the amount paid by continuing members.

*Dues and donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions from your federal income tax return. You may, however, make a tax deductible contribution to the Education Fund (of LWVCC) by writing a separate check made payable to "LWVIL Education Fund". Please include "Champaign County" on the memo line of your check.

Check your Voter mailing label for the month your membership dues are payable.

Join other Leaguers in Chicago for a day meeting!

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing, Saturday, February 9, 2013 8:30 to 3PM at University Center Chicago

This annual information packed event with Leaguers from around the State is a worthwhile effort. You probably received a flyer on this with all the details including the plenary on Leading the Way to Graduated Income Tax in Illinois and other topics. Workshops in afternoon on Pension Study next steps and what's new in Criminal Justice among others

At least one car is going up and in addition alternatively going on the train the night before and taking the 4 pm back home Saturday. Trisha Crowley is organizing our trip. Please let her know at tcrowley9491@gmail.com or 649-3500 by Saturday, January 19 if you are thinking about attending!!!

We can get everyone registered and the LWVCC will cover meeting registration since this is so important.

NEW League Study Beginning

Join our local League group to study the LWVIL Fiscal Policy action item for the biennium: Leading the Way to a Graduated Rate Income Tax (GRIT) for Illinois!

Please let Debbie Rugg know if you would like to join this study, debrugg@aol.com or 621-7180. The LWVIL has study materials as well as some training sessions which we hope to attract to our CU area.

February's Meeting Topic:

Answering the Mandate:
Comprehensive Sex Education in Champaign County Schools

Come join us for a forum discussion of local efforts to establish sex education in local schools--hearing from those who were involved in the critical organizing to pass the mandate and the administrators working on next steps.

League of Women Voters of Champaign County
P.O. Box 201
Urbana, IL 61803-0201

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 10TH
TIME: NOON-1:30PM, PRESENTATION
11:30 BROWN BAG LUNCH
LOCATION: URBANA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TOPIC: HOW DOES SUBSIDIZED HOUSING WORK

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 17TH
TIME: 12PM-1:30PM
LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

HELEN LEVIN BIRTHDAY PARTY

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST
TIME: 2PM
WHERE: CLARK-LINDSEY VILLAGE

LWVIL ANNUAL ISSUES BRIEFING

WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
TIME: 8:30AM-3:00PM
LOCATION: UNIVERSITY CENTER, CHICAGO, IL

LWVCC Volunteer Opportunities

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

We need Committee Chairs for:

Action

Budget

Contact Corrie at 359-4959 or
corrieproksa@gmail.com, if you are interested or
have questions about what this volunteer
commitment requires.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS STUDY COMMITTEE

If you are interested in participating in the Criminal
Justice System Needs Study Committee, please
contact Michelle Petty at 217-766-9677 or
pettym1@gmail.com.

OBSERVER CORPS BOARD WATCHER

Urbana Park District
Urbana Planning Commission