



Volume 67, Issue 8

April 2013

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Observer Reports

Annually the League of Women Voters Observers give short reports on the Champaign County governmental bodies they observe. This is a condensed version of a year of regular meetings and is an excellent way to find out what is happening in the area. The second of these two meetings is Thursday, April 11th at 7PM at Clark Lindsey Village and will feature the following boards, commissions and districts:

Champaign County Housing Authority Board
Champaign County Mental Health Board
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
Champaign City Library Board
Champaign Historic Preservation Commission
Urbana City Council
CU Mass Transit District
CU Board of Health
Forest Preserve
Parkland College

This regular LWVCC meeting is open to the public and like all League public meetings it will be recorded and then broadcast several times by UPTV public access.

Questions for clarification should go to Observer Chair: Mary Blair 367-7180 or to the Communications Chair: Debbie Rugg 621-7180 or DebRugg@aol.com.

CITY-SPONSORED REDEVELOPMENT OF BRISTOL PLACE

By Theresa Michelson

For several months, Michelle Jett and Theresa Michelson have been researching the redevelopment of Bristol Place by the city of Champaign. They have been joined by new League member Scott Humphrey, a graduate student in Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Illinois.

How the city moved from a 2011 Bristol Park Neighborhood Plan, a part of the city's Comprehensive Plan, which projected "holistic neighborhood redevelopment" involving rehabilitation and infill accomplished in a variety of ways to "complete acquisition, relocation and demolition of the Bristol Place subdivision" (City of Champaign 2012) is not at all clear.

The topic has been covered by the *News-Gazette*, but from only one point of view. We think that it is an issue that would benefit from a public forum even though the city of Champaign has already approved over 8 million dollars for the first stage of the redevelopment.

The program on Monday, April 29th, will consist of a panel of four individuals knowledgeable about the project: a staff member from Champaign's city development department; Rachel Phillips, a masters student whose dissertation subject is the Redevelopment of Bristol Place and Neighborhood Sustainability; a member of the Bristol Park neighborhood steering committee and Reverend Eugene Barnes, an involved and committed community member. The committee will prepare questions for a League moderator to ask panel members and there will be time at the end for a question and answer session. The program will be from 6 to 8 pm in the large conference room at the Champaign Public Library.

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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 Sue Phillips at sPhillip3@netzero.com or phone her at 359-8818 with names.

LWVCC STUDY - CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS

The criminal justice system needs committee is gaining momentum. We are reading through stacks of reports and evaluations while waiting for the consultant's report to be released this spring. There is still time to join the committee and we would welcome you. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Michelle for the study materials and plan to attend our next meeting, Thursday, March 7th at 9AM at the Champaign Public Library.

Please consider joining this important study. For more information please contact Michelle Jett at michellejett1@gmail.com or 217-766-9677.

MAY ANNUAL MEETING

The May Annual Meeting will be two separate meetings this year.

Tuesday, May 7th will be a presentation by Ralph Martire about the Fair Tax initiative and this meeting is open to the public.

Thursday, May 16th at 7PM will be the annual meeting. Registration will start at 6:45. More details will be in next month's Voter.

2013 STATE CONVENTION

Bloomington Friday June 7, 2013 to
Sunday June 9, 2013.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois biennial convention is going to be conveniently held at the Marriott in Bloomington, Illinois this year. Our League supports its members who want to attend by paying the registration fees and hotel costs. We would like to encourage as many of our members to attend as possible. The schedule normally has workshops Friday and Saturday and convention business Sunday morning, so maybe you would like to go for a day or even part day. We will keep you informed of workshops and programs. Signing up in advance is, of course, encouraged but keep the dates in mind even if you do not want to make a commitment right away.

Volunteer

The McLean County League of Women Voters has asked us for volunteers to assist them as they are hosting the State Convention. They are scheduling two hour volunteer slots and sign up will start soon through the McLean County League website. We will send an email to our members when the signup spreadsheet is ready. The McLean County League is taking on quite a task, so it would be nice to be neighborly and provide support.

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* \$97.50 #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.

100th Anniversary of Illinois Women Suffrage

During 2013, LWVIL will celebrate the 100th anniversary – June 26, 1913 - of Illinois women getting the franchise in Presidential elections. The story of suffrage for Illinois women is unique and important in the nation's history:

- Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi to expand the vote to women
- Illinois was a more populous state than any previous state to give women the vote
- Because it was neither prohibited in the U.S. or Illinois state constitutions, Illinois women were able to vote for Presidential electors, shifting the balance of power in national elections. This propelled the national suffrage movement into its final phase, leading to the 19th amendment in 1919.

We have convened a small group to make specific plans to celebrate this anniversary. We want you to think if there is a way your League would like to mark the occasion. Please join in the planning for this historic observation. The committee is also interested in what you can find in your community about the events that took place when the suffrage bill was passed in June 1913. Please contact the committee by email with your ideas, suggestions and history notes at il.womenvote100@gmail.com.

NEW League Committee Beginning

Graduate Rate Income Tax Project

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is partnering with the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability on this GRIT project. We share the common belief that the economy is of paramount importance to Illinois families and one of the best ways to achieve economic growth is by having a well educated population. Having a structural deficit weakens our ability to provide for a strong economy. Having an inefficient revenue system is the basis for that structural deficit and we believe a better fiscal system is a graduated rate income tax

The LWVIL Graduated Rate Income Tax Project will educate Illinoisians about the issues of a progressive as opposed to a flat tax; work to lobby for a bill to change the Illinois constitution, and; ultimately support and promote the approval of the amendment which will permit the graduated tax rate in Illinois.

If you are interested in joining the Champaign League's local committee please contact Debbie Rugg at 621-7180 or DebRugg@aol.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH, 7:00 PM

WHERE: CLARK LINDSEY VILLAGE, U

PROGRAM: OBSERVER REPORTS

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH, 12-1:30 PM

WHERE: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

BRISTOL PARK PANEL

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 29TH, 6:00 PM

WHERE: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATION

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 7:00 PM

WHERE: HAWTHORNE SUITES, C

ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, 7:00 PM

WHERE: LOCATION TBA

LWVCC Volunteer Opportunities

OBSERVER CORPS BOARD WATCHER

Champaign Unit 4 School Board

Urbana Park District

Urbana Planning Commission

FAIR TAX COMMITTEE

Contact Debbie Rugg at 621-7180 or DebRugg@aol.com

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS STUDY

Contact Michelle Jett at michellejett1@gmail.com or
217-766-9677.

STATE CONVENTION

(Bloomington, June 7-9)

Most volunteer jobs will require a very short time
commitment. Contact the League of Women Voters of
McLean County to volunteer, info@lwvmclean.org.