



Volume 67, Issue 10

June 2013

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Traditionally this meeting has been a potluck but this year the League will provide the sandwiches, chips, pop, and a cake to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. Illinois was one of the first states to grant women a (limited) right to vote in legislation passed June 1913.

If the food isn't enough incentive, we have 4 members attending the State League convention in Bloomington, who will report on the Convention's activities at the June meeting. This is a great time to catch up on the activities of the State League.

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

When: Thursday, June 13th, 2013

Time: Noon

Where: Urbana Park District Facility
1011 E Kerr, Urbana

a brief board meeting will follow the general meeting

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am both happy and humbled to be asked to serve as president of the League of Women Voters here in Champaign County. For a second time I will have the privilege to give back to an organization that has nurtured and supported me in my professional and political life. From my first years as a League member -- and as League president (1979-1981) -- in La Salle County, I learned early that I gained much from my League experiences in measures well beyond my ability to contribute. I'm sure the same will continue to be true over these next two years. Anticipating this to be the case, you have my gratitude and I ask your patience as we adjust to the challenges that await us.

The League's mission -- **a non-partisan political organization, dedicated to making democracy work through voter education, issue advocacy, and citizen participation**-- is our guide and measure for focusing our work over the next two years. We have activities and projects already underway and new ones yet to initiate, but endorsed at the annual meeting that support the League's purpose and strengthen the backbone of this organization both locally and nationally.

Ultimately, the greatness of League, though, depends on us -- the members. We must participate in League programs, forums, and studies to the extent that we can. We must recommend League to friends and family. Finally, we must leave the League legacy to the next generation as we address today's issues to make democracy work.

Barbara Wysocki

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Nominating Committee: Chair: Lois Gullerud
Jan Anderson, Geri Kirchner

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.

MARIANNE FERBER

Marianne Ferber was born in 1923 in Czechoslovakia and died in Urbana on May 11, 2013.

Marianne was an active member of the Champaign County League for many years and served as President from 1962-1963.

As a longtime professor of economics at the University of Illinois she specialized in the economics of women in the workplace and personally introduced me to the benefits of taxes.

One of the very first LWVCC meetings I attended Marianne was the speaker and eloquently explained why we should be pleased to pay taxes.

Marianne Ferber is one of the many special League members who give us substance and memories that make us a great League of Women Voters!

I will miss her.

Debbie Rugg

WELCOME KIM!

Again this year, our League will have a student intern! Beginning on August 1st, Kimberly DeGiacomo will assist us in website development and be a League presence on campus as she collaborates with other student organizations on voter registration, setting up forums, and works on other forms of civic engagement.

Kim is a senior at the UI, majoring in Global Studies and Spanish. She's had experience as an intern with SmileHealthy, a volunteer as a Spanish tutor at Campus Middle School, even worked as a lighting technician at Krannert.

There will be more about Kim in the next newsletter.

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.

LWVCC Fair Tax: Present and Future

This past year local Leagues in Illinois have been working on the Graduated Rate Income Tax, also known as the Fair Tax, as part of the LWVIL Fiscal Policy ACTION. The first step is to educate our committee members, our own League members and then seek to educate others and our legislators. The goal is to have a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot.

Our LWVCC committee has been reading up a storm of course. More importantly several of us went to training at an LWVIL Bloomington session with Ralph Martire (CTBA) and Peter Starszynski (CBI). Since that time Peter has been in Champaign-Urbana for meetings that LWVCC has publicized and attended. The meetings have included members of the coalition effort to get a fair tax possible with a change to our state constitution. The League also hosted Martire at the May meeting.

The Committee is now working on initial talks with Champaign County mayors and legislators. We anticipate that the LWVIL June Convention will give us further info and impetus for the final campaign to get this on the ballot. Please contact the chair Debbie Rugg debrugg@aol.com or 621 7180 if you have questions, comments or wish to join us. We meet monthly and are pleased to have new or one time members of our group.

RESOLUTION HONORING MARY BLAIR

WHEREAS, Mary Blair has been a member of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years; and
WHEREAS, Mary has served in a leadership position in her home Leagues for most of those years; and
WHEREAS, Mary exemplifies the League motto "Making Democracy Work"; and
WHEREAS, Mary has been Chair of the League of Women Voters of Champaign Count Observer program for many years, developing this program into one of the best League Observer programs in the state and the nation; and
WHEREAS, Mary has recruited many hundreds of League members as Observers over the years; and
WHEREAS, Many members have found Observing to be a rewarding introduction to public service; and
WHEREAS, Mary is stepping down from her position as Chair of the Observers, leaving the program in the capable hands of Betty Segal.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County thanks Mary from the bottom of their hearts for her service, and hopes to see her at monthly meetings for many years to come.

Corrie Proksa, President
League of Women Voters of Champaign County

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH

TIME: NOON

LOCATION: URBANA PARK DISTRICT FACILITY
1011 E KERR, URBANA

a brief board meeting will follow the meeting

LWVCC Volunteer Opportunities

FAIR TAX COMMITTEE

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

ENJOY THE SUMMER
Your next Voter will
arrive in September!