



FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

PRETRIAL SERVICES IN THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.
The Urbana Free Library, Lewis Auditorium**

As part of League’s continuing review of the Champaign County criminal justice system programs and facilities, States Attorney Julia Rietz will present the February program describing pretrial services in Champaign County.

The issue of pre-trial incarceration was identified as a major factor in the jail population by both the Champaign County Community Justice Task Force and the County’s year-long study conducted by the Institute for Law and Policy Planning. Both reports noted that the majority of inmates are being held pretrial—in September 2012, “pretrial detainees comprised approximately 80% of the jail’s population.”

Further, ILPP’s tracking study “showed that the vast majority of offenders committed infractions and misdemeanors, and spend less than three days in jail. Cycling of a high volume of minor offenders at the front end of the system generates significant waste of staff time and money.”

Both reports strenuously advocated the development of a comprehensive pretrial
continued on page 2

CANDIDATE FORUM

All debates are from 7PM-9PM at the Champaign City Council Chambers and will be televised live and rebroadcast on CGTV Cable Channel 5.

Wednesday, February 19:

Champaign County Board Races

District 6: Pattsie Petrie & Tony Fabri

District 7 Alan Kurtz & C. Pius Weibel

District 9: Ralph Langenheim & Shana Jo Harrison

District 11: Lorraine Cowart & Brent West

Thursday, February 20: Representatives for the 13th

Republicans: Michael Firsching & Erika Harold

As of 1/31, Rodney Davis was not available on this date.

Democrats: Ann Callis, George Gollin, & David Green

Friday, February 21: Representative in the 103rd

Democrats: Carol Ammons & Samuel Rosenberg

FEBRUARY GENERAL

MEETINGS - yes, two of them. Come to one or both.

PRETRIAL SERVICES IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Evening:

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2014

TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: URBANA FREE LIBRARY, LEWIS AUDITORIUM

Noontime Tape Replay:

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2014

TIME: 11:30AM - 1:30PM

LOCATION: CLARK-LINDSEY ACTIVITY ROOM

LWVCC Board - 2013-2014

President:	Barbara Wysocki 217-367-5014 bwysocki16@gmail.com
1 st VP (Organization):	Trisha Crowley 217-359-2514 tcrowley9491@gmail.com
2 nd VP (Program):	Theresa Michelson 217-344-4078 thmichelson@gmail.com
Secretary:	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer:	Sandy Volk 217-367-7664 sandyvolk803@gmail.com
Communications:	Debbie Rugg 217-621-7180 debrugg@aol.com
Criminal Justice Chair	Gerri Kirchner 217-328-0547 gerrickirchner@comcast.net
Finance Drive:	Antje Kolodziej 217-356-1734 antje@illinois.edu
Membership Chair:	Sue Phillips 217-359-8818 suephillips1018@att.net
Newsletter Editor:	Michelle Jett michellejett1@gmail.com
Observer Corps:	Betty Segal 217-893-3080 bssegal@mindspring.com
Resource Management:	Margaret Olson 217-344-6390 olsonmjo@gmail.com
Student Intern:	Kim DeGiacomo 708-574-2957 degiaco1@illinois.edu
Voter Service Chair:	Carole Rebeiz 217-377-9148 caroler57@comcast.net
Webmaster:	Corrie Proksa 217-359-4959 corrieproksa@hotmail.com
Nominating Committee:	Chair: Lois Gullerud Jan Anderson, Gerri Kirchner

Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League? Email Sue Phillips at suephillips1018@att.net or phone her at 359-8818 with names and addresses and we will send them *the Voter* for the next three months.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS: CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR THE MARCH 18TH PRIMARY ELECTION

Your Voter Service Committee Vice Chair, Carolyn Trimble, with help from Barbara Wysocki and Carole Rebeiz, is organizing three candidate forums in February. We are ably assisted by our co-sponsors, Patricia Avery of the NAACP-Champaign County Branch and Tom Kacich of the News-Gazette.

All of the forums will be held from 7-9 pm at the Champaign City Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 19th, Thursday, February 20th, and Friday, February 21st.

We will need two ushers, two time keepers and two card sorters for each of these forums. Contact Carole if you can volunteer; 217-377-9148 or caroler57@comcast.net.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Dear Members,

By-laws: a law or rule governing the internal affairs of an organization.

At first glance, the definition appears dull and boring – a bit of housekeeping – certainly not the sexiest of subjects. In many ways, though, reviewing by-laws is much like remodeling: sometimes the structure may require only a coat of paint; sometimes significant structural changes are necessary. In any case, both require serious discussion and analysis of purpose, recognition of emerging ideas and intentions, along with concerns for present and future utility. Does the framework continue to suit current functions and yet support growth?

This question might well be asked of League, which, like any organization, has a structure which impacts its work and its legacy. With this in mind Louise Allen, Sandy Volk, Carole Rebeiz, and I critically examine the existing rules to correct what's missing, no longer relevant, too ambitious or unclear, or just requires better word-smithing. The review committee will be working throughout February with the goal of submitting a revised draft for consideration and approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May. Right now, the committee would certainly entertain input – ideas and suggestions – not only from the leadership, but the membership – about ways to improve League's work. Check the website (www.lwvccchampaigncounty.org) to view the current by-laws. Then contact any committee member to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wysocki
LWVCC President

continued from page 1
services program in Champaign County as a way to limit pretrial incarceration and reduce jail population, noting that such programs are prevalent throughout the U.S. and used in many Illinois counties. The reports also recommended the adoption of an objective, evidence-based risk assessment instrument when screening individuals for pretrial release and possible conditions of release.

In November 2013 it was reported that Champaign County court officials recommended dropping their new pretrial services program after a just a five week test. States Attorney Rietz will talk about the current pretrial services program.

Membership Form – League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred 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 #New Individual Dues \$32.50
Student Dues* \$5.00 Household Dues* \$97.50 #New Household Dues \$48.75

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 to the Education Fund.

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

BY-LAWS BORING? NOT TO US.

By Trisha Crowley, Chair By-Laws Committee

The Board is taking a look at the current LWVCC by-laws to see if it should recommend some changes at the Annual meeting in May. I'm not asking you to review the by-laws (a snooze for most normal people) although for those interested they are posted on our website.

However, if you have some thought on how our current board is functioning and whether we could improve on our service to the League and to the community, we would be happy to hear and consider your thoughts.

For instance, we have had a wide range of topics in monthly member meetings, but we can't always fill committee chair positions on topics such as Environment. Do you think we should continue our broad focus on governmental policy issues or contract back to core areas such a voting education and registration?

We have money from a generous bequeath to educate students on the League way. Do you have ideas on how we could do this? Any suggestions on these or any other League issue, send by email to me at tcrowley9491@gmail.com.

LWVCC: STUDENT UNIT REPORT

The League of Women Voters of Champaign County Student Unit participated in Activity Day at the Illini Union on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Activity Day can be described as a "mini Quad Day". There were over one hundred Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) present at this event, and the students were eager to include the LWVCC Student Unit for the first time.

Kim DeGiacomo, student intern, and Hilary Allen, Student Unit member, were present for the first half of the event. The students were able to disseminate information about the LWV through handouts and a poster they had created. Diane from the Independent Maps Committee was also present and brought additional flyers in order to obtain more signatures. Kacey Keegan and Carrie Quinn, student members, ran the booth for the second half of the event with the support of LWV President, Barbara Wysocki (photographed above).

Overall, this event was a great success. The LWVCC Student Unit obtained over twenty emails from interested students and more signatures for the Independent Maps. The Student Unit will be holding another informational session on Monday, February, 2014 to welcome new members.

LWVCC 2013-2014 Programs

September: The Affordable Care Act: Its Impact on Local Health Care Providers

October: Illinois: Time to Pay off the Credit Card

November: Champaign County Criminal Justice Review

December: Social and Final Celebration of our 100th Anniversary

January: Yes for Independent Maps

February: Pre-trial Services in the Champaign County Criminal Justice System

March: Observer Reports

April: Observer Reports

May: Annual Meeting

June: LWVUS Convention Report

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 208

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING – EVENING SESSION

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2014

TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: URBANA FREE LIBRARY

TOPIC: PRETRIAL SERVICES IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

GENERAL MEETING—REPLAY OF 1/21 MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2014

TIME: 11:30AM - 1:30PM

LOCATION: CLARK-LINDSEY ACTIVITY ROOM

TOPIC: PRETRIAL SERVICES IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2014

TIME: 9AM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

CO-SPONSORING:

CANDIDATE IMMIGRATION FORUM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2014

TIME: 3PM-5PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Candidate Forums for the March 18th Primary Election

Wednesday, February 19:
Champaign County Board Races

Thursday, February 20:
Representatives for the 13th

Friday, February 21:
Representative in the 103rd

7PM-9PM at Champaign City Council
Chambers and televised live on CGTV
Cable Channel 5.

Check our website for updates:

www.lwvchampaigncounty.org



Find us on Facebook!

League of Women Voters of Champaign County

The Voter, February 2014, Volume 69, No 5
Published monthly except July and August by
The League of Women Voters of Champaign County, IL
PO Box 201. Urbana. IL 61803-0201