



APRIL PROGRAM:

OBSERVER REPORTS

Don't miss the second of our two Observer meetings. You can get the scoop on what's been going on for the last year at many of the civic boards and commissions in Champaign County. These are meetings that some of us rank with the Best of the League Year.

This month's meeting is Tuesday April 15th at 7PM, also at Clark Lindsey.

Please note that although there is not a lot of publicity up at Clark Lindsey because of their internal rules, they do welcome public meetings and the public attending. Parking is very good and no meters!

Of course our wonderful UPTV will be taping so they will be available for other viewing including on our website!

April reports will include:

- Urbana City Council
- Urbana Free Library Board
- Champaign Library Board
- Champaign Historic Preservation Commission
- Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board
- Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Board
- Champaign County Department of Health Board
- Forest Preserve Board
- Parkland College Board
- Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District Board

MAY ANNUAL MEETING

BYLAW CHANGES MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH

12NOON AT CLARK LINDSEY

1st of 2 Annual Meetings this year

Radical changes to the structure of the Board of the LWVCC will be presented at the May 15 member meeting. The Board has approved the presentation of these changes to the members. This article will explain the changes and the reasons for them.

The membership demographics of our League, like many civic organizations, has changed greatly over the years. We not only have fewer members but also fewer ACTIVE members. We are grateful for the support provided by long term members, both financially and by attending programs. But the number of people willing to take an active role in the leadership of the League has been decreasing dramatically over the last few years.

The National LWV has recognized this issue and recommended "streamlining" the organization, offering several models for doing this. This Board has recommended reducing Board size, while at the same time adding flexibility to its operations.

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APRIL GENERAL MEETING

OBSERVER REPORTS

APRIL OBSERVER MEETING

EVENING ONLY:

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: CLARK LINDSEY VILLAGE – ACTIVITIES 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:	Mary Kay Pleck 217-344-3747 mkpleck@hotmail.com
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.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CONVENTION

June 6 – 10
Dallas, Texas

Interested in attending the National League Convention this year in Dallas, Texas? The League will cover the costs air fare, registration, and hotel room. If you're interested, please contact Barbara Wysocki, at 217.367.5014 or bwysocki@gmail.com, as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Dear Members,

Where would you go to measure Champaign County's efforts at good government? Would it be a township meeting – our oldest form of local government? The County Board? Would it be the Regional Planning Commission – perhaps the best example of local intergovernmental cooperation? My recommendation: League's annual reporting from our Observer Corps.

The first of two reporting meetings was held March 20th at Clark-Lindsey. **Grace Shadel** reported on Urbana District 116 School Board making a transition to a new district superintendent and introducing Chinese into their curriculum. **Margaret Olsen** summarized the County Board's discussions as it considers rules changes, member participation via Skype, and issues surrounding the jail/justice system. **Nancy Morse** noted that R.P.C., with less business, has extended the intervals between meetings. **Trisha Crowley** was heartened by public involvement in city planning decisions at the Champaign Planning Commission.

Two very interesting reports contrasted approaches taken by Champaign and Mahomet townships as ongoing urban growth affects their communities. **Cheryl Kennedy** and **Holly Wilper** described the evolving relationship between townships and urban concerns as both communities grow and priorities shift.

Capably led by **Betty Segal**, (an observer herself) our Observers do an excellent job of reporting the business of the boards and commissions they watch so faithfully. Some who choose to watch a particular board over a long period see trends and developments. Others who change assignments more frequently develop intergovernmental perspectives.

Determine for yourself how good government fares in Champaign County. Come hear for yourself at the second Observers' reporting on April 15th at 7 p.m. at Clark-Lindsey.

Sincerely,
Barbara Wysocki
LWVCC President

OBSERVER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Observer Corp is one of our most important programs and currently we are in need of volunteers for multiple boards and commissions. An immediate need is for Champaign City Council meetings, 4x per month but can be viewed in person or on television. This duty could also be divided between two people.

Contact Betty Segal for more information or if you are interested in volunteering, 217-893-3080 and bssegal@mindspring.com

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

BYLAWS CHANGES continued

First, reduction in size. The current Board has a President, President -Elect, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, 6 elected Directors (3 elected every year for 2 year terms), and Directors appointed to the Board by the Board, who are Chairs of Committees. This creates a Board of 12-14 people. However there are regularly only 6 or so people who have attended Board meetings in recent years. Nominating committees are having increasing difficulty in finding members to fill all these offices. People agree to the office without perhaps realizing how much work awaits them and sometimes find it more of a commitment than they were expecting or are willing to give. Consequently the positions may be filled but not all Board members are contributing. Because many of the positions come with specific portfolios, when those board members are not contributing other board members fill in. This gets the work done, but results in some confusion about who is doing what. The Bylaws Committee recommends a 7 person Board consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 elected directors. With this core group, board meetings should be easier to arrange, and special meetings if necessary also easier to plan.

Second, increasing flexibility. One of the purposes of reducing the Board is to INCREASE member participation. It is our hope that members will volunteer more frequently for specific jobs that need to be done if they do not also have to commit to the open-ended obligations that come with being on the board. For example, the candidate debates run with members committing to working one or two evenings. This kind of League activity can be an entry to more volunteerism, or just getting very good at doing that job. Both benefit the League.

The traditional duties for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will continue to be a core job of that particular office. But each board member may expect to pick up additional duties. Rather than assigning specific portfolios before the election at the Annual Meeting, the board will assign responsibilities to all its board members in an organizational meeting in June. The assignment is not intended to mean the board member has to do the activity herself. Rather, it may require communicating with the League member and reporting what's happening to the board. For example, if the Voter Services Chair is not on the Board, one Board member will be assigned to be in communication with the Voter Services Chair and keep the Board informed of those activities.

There is also proposed a change in the restrictions on political activity while on the board. Presently the Bylaws restrict all board members from candidacy or serving in a political office. However some offices may not be identified as partisan, but are included in the term "political office". The Political Activity Policy adopted by the Board covers partisan activity and for some offices is more restrictive in that it prohibits being active in Party offices as well as elected offices. The Political Activity Policy has even more restrictions, such as not contributing to candidates, that apply to the President, Membership and Voter Services Chair- those offices most closely identified with the non-partisan stance of the League. The new bylaws would require all board members to comply with the board adopted policy but would not itself contain restrictions.

Most of the other changes are minor. One you might notice is the addition of being a US citizen to be a voting member. We made this change when reviewing the citizenship requirement and discovering this is a mandatory bylaws requirement according to the rules of the LWVUS, however much we might disagree with it. All of the proposed changes will be in the Annual meeting packet you will be receiving in the mail in early May.

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING ON MAY 15th at 12 noon, at Clark Lindsey to vote on the future of your League. This is an important decision that deserves the input of as many members as possible.

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 Voters
of Champaign County
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Urbana, IL 61803-0201

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ORGANIZATION
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2014

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: CLARK LINDSEY VILLAGE

TOPIC: OBSERVER REPORTS, 2ND OF 2 IN THE SERIES

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 22TH, 2014

TIME: 9AM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

BYLAW APPROVAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, 2014

TIME: 12NOON

LOCATION: CLARK LINDSEY VILLAGE

TOPIC: REVIEW AND VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGES

*1ST OF 2 PARTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 20TH, 2014

TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: HAWTHORNE SUITES

TOPIC: ANNUAL MEETING

*2ND OF 2 PARTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

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Exciting News!

The League Newsletter
is going digital!

Starting in September we will be offering the newsletter in print and digital copy. If you would like to receive the newsletter through email, please sign up at our web site below.

<http://www.lwvchampaigncounty.org/>

Find us on Facebook!

League of Women Voters of Champaign County



Check our website for updates:

www.lwvchampaigncounty.org