



NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since we are now operating with a smaller Board, a number of League members have stepped up to support and further the work of League in Champaign County.

We are still looking for members to fill the following positions:

Oral History Liaison – coordinates work with the Urbana Archives and League members to set up interviews, match subjects and interviewers, and arrange logistics.

Centennial Special Events Coordinator – assists with planning and funding for upcoming programs to celebrate LWV’s and Suffrage anniversaries.

Public Relations – publicizes League events both to our membership and to the public.

For more information, please contact Barbara Wysocki at 367-5014 or bwysocki16@gmail.com.

VOTER FOR 3 MONTHS

Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League?

Email Kat Bork at katdenbk@gmail.com or phone her at (217)840-0450 with names and addresses and we will send them *the Voter* for the next three months.

This is a great way to find new members!

LWVCC IS ON THE LOOK OUT..

... for League materials of all kinds. If you have any in your possession and are ready to part with them, please let Margaret Olson (olson@shout.net) know.

... for new members. If you know someone who’s interested in observing local taxing units, promoting elections, furthering good government, serving on boards or special committees, please forward their name to Kat Bork (katdenbk@gmail.com) our Membership Manager. Trial memberships are also available.

... for new Board or Committee member. Soon the Nominating Committee will be asking you to serve and support LWVCC. If at all possible, please say “yes”.

JANUARY MEETING

SOCIAL HOUR

A break with tradition! Join us for our mid-year social!

Instead of a December social, the Board decided to try a January social. Our January Meeting will be at Pizza M on Main St. Urbana, just across the street from Busey Bank. Come visit with old friends, meet Kari Gibson our new intern and other student members, and catch up on League news and activities. Try a variety of pizzas made with locally-grown products. Quite a treat!

WHEN: Tuesday, January 20th, 2014
TIME: 5:00 - 7:00PM
LOCATION: Pizza M in Urbana

LWVCC Board - 2014-2015

President:

Barbara Wysocki
217-367-5014

bwysocki16@gmail

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LWVCC SUPPORTING ROLES:

Finance/Fundraiser Chair: Antje Kolodziej

Webmaster: Corrie Proksa

Voter Service: Carole Rebeiz

Observer Corps Manager: Betty Segal

UI Student Intern: Hilary Allen

Membership Manager: Kat Bork

Charter School Review Leaders:

Theresa Michelson

Sue Phillips

Nominating Committee:

Sue Phillips (Chair)

Jan Anderson

Kat Bork

Meeting Coordinator: Trisha Crowley

Newsletter Editor: Michelle Jett

Historian/Archivist: Margaret Olson

Student Mentor/Liaison: Corrie Proksa

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*League of Women Voters of
Champaign County*

Dear Members,

By any measure, 2014 was a busy year! We successfully developed, approved, and implemented **new by-laws**, entered into a new age by offering a digital newsletter and PayPal as a payment option, did an **update study on charter schools**, and conducted **candidates' forums** in local elections. In partnership with Jr. League, we created a handy **election website guide** to help voters find information pertaining to elections – local, state, and federal – at available websites.

Despite all our efforts, we did not achieve State House **redistricting** nor the **progressive income tax**, nor passage of the **ERA in Illinois**. Rest assured these LWV-endorsed items will surface again.

2015 will be equally challenging and exciting! On Jan. 20th, we begin with a social to welcome Kari Gibson as our student intern. Hilary is on sabbatical in Brazil. The highlight will be LWVIL convention on June 5-7 in the Lisle-Naperville area. Consider attending. There is so much League wisdom among ourselves that we should share it with our League sisters.

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

****RENEW ONLINE! www.lwvchampaigncounty.org****

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 1 year 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: Kat Bork 1508 Greenridge Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61802

A PRIMER ON HOW TO CHANGE THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION

By Trisha Crowley

In light of the failure of the effort to get the Legislative Redistricting Constitutional amendment on the ballot for Nov.2014, the League reviewed what the Illinois Constitution provided for constitutional amendments. Here is a summary of the three ways the Illinois Constitution can be modified as described in Article XIV of the 1970 Constitution.

1. Article XIV, Sec. 1. Constitutional Conventions: the question of whether to hold a Constitutional Convention can be placed on the ballot by vote of the Legislature at any time; but in any case this will automatically be put on the ballot every 20 years for a vote in a general election. This question, on the ballot in 1990 and 2010, was rejected by the voters. Next election is 2030. The delegates to the 1970 Constitutional Convention expressed the hope that this would be the most frequent way the Constitution was modified.
2. Article XIV, Sec. 2. The General Assembly can place a proposal to modify any section of the Illinois Constitution on the ballot. This requires a 3/5ths vote in each house; not more than 3 questions can be placed on the ballot in any one election.
3. Citizen or Popular Initiative by petition. Art. XIV, Sec.3
 - A. An Initiative Petition can only amend the Legislative Article of the Constitution
 - B. Limited to "structural and procedural subjects" of the Legislative Article.
 - C. Requires approval of 3/5 of those voting on the proposition or a majority of those voting in the election.

Since 1970, there have been several cases interpreting this Section.

Illinois Court cases in chronological order:

1. Coalition for Political Honesty vs. State Board of Elections (Ill. Sup. Ct.1976) conflict of interest prohibitions for legislators, e.g. No double dipping on governmental salaries). The Court refused to place this question on the ballot; the Court held the proposed restrictions were neither "procedural" nor structural" for the Legislature as an institution because they affected individual legislators only. The Court held any change was required to be both procedural and structural.
2. Coalition for Political Honesty vs State Board of Elections (Ill. Sup. Ct.1980) proposed change from multi-member to single member House Districts. Was held to be both procedural and structural and placed on ballot (and passed).
3. Lousin vs. State Board of Elections (Ill. App. Ct. 1st Dist., 1982) petition question would amend the legislative process to allow a citizen Initiative to be a piece of legislation to then be voted on by the Legislators. Amended the way a bill would become law. Rejected by court as too broad: affected more than the Legislative article. Was the kind of broad Initiative the ConCon delegates were trying to prevent.
4. Chi. Bar Ass'n vs. State Board of Elections (Ill. Sup. Ct., 1990) basically an attempt to make it difficult to increase taxes by adding complications to the legislative procedure. Rejected because it wasn't limited to the legislative article substantive provisions.
5. Chi. bar Ass'n vs. Ill. State Bd. Of Elections (Ill. Sup. Ct., 1994) Proposal to impose term limits. 4-3 Ill. Sup. Ct. majority held term limits was not a subject both procedural and structural because it affected individual members of the Legislature and not the Legislature as a whole.
6. Clark vs. State Bd. Of Elections (ILL.App. 1st. Dist., 2014). Term limits. Court found it was bound by the Illinois Supreme Court's holding in the 1994 Chi. Bar Ass'n case.

Circuit Court case

7. CLARK vs. State Board of Elections (2014). This Circuit Court opinion struck down term limits and redistricting. The term limits issue was appealed further.

Continued on page 4

7. *continued* The Circuit Court held redistricting in general was an appropriate subject for a citizen Initiative but that this particular proposal went beyond the limits of Art. XIV, sec. 4 by including a section on qualifications for Redistricting Commissioners which disqualified Commissioners from serving in the Illinois Legislature for 10 years. This provision was an attempt to make sure those who drew the lines were nonpartisan but the court ruled it went too far. This was the first case on reapportionment as a topic for Initiative. This holding was not appealed.

The 1970 ConCon debates were clear that the delegates were very leery of citizen initiatives and intended them to be extremely limited. A substantial minority wanted no initiative procedure at all. In the end, this limited section was added because the Legislature was least likely to propose ballot questions affecting its own direct interests. The wording of the Section was intended to prohibit initiatives proposing substantive laws, such as revenue laws raising or lowering tax rates. The delegates had the California example, where numerous and contradictory initiatives were common. Whether the extremely limited interpretation put on the language is correct, e.g. Term limits, is a regularly asked question.

Advisory (non-binding) referenda are governed by state statute. They can be put on by initiative or by the legislative body. They are also limited to 3 per ballot per governmental unit. General election law also regulates binding referenda. There are numerous statutes regarding referenda to raise or lower tax rates, create or change forms of government. The discussion above was intended to describe only changes of the Illinois Constitution itself.

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The cities of Champaign and Urbana, Champaign County Board, Parkland College and the University of Illinois invite you to attend:

**14th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Countywide
Celebration
Friday, January 16, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn
1501 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL**

***"Faith Is Taking The First Step Even When You Don't See The
Whole Staircase"***

The Keynote Speaker is **Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.**, President of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDI), a public charity that endeavors to advance freedom through knowledge and strategic action. He is the great-great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass and the great-great grandson of Booker T. Washington.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to recognize and honor individuals and organizations who have made many contributions to their community in the areas of civil rights, human rights and humanitarian efforts.

2015 Award Recipients:

- ~ **Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County** - James R. Burgess, Jr. - Susan Freiburg Humanitarian Award
- ~ **Brian Nudelman** - Doris Hoskins Prestigious Community Service Award
- ~ **Ruppert Alstine Downing** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outstanding Achievement Award

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MLK CELEBRATION

WHEN: FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 2015

TIME: 4PM

LOCATION: HILTON GARDEN INN,
LWVCC IS CO-SPONSORING THIS EVENT.

LEAGUE SOCIAL

WHEN: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2015

TIME: 5-7PM, PRESENTATION AT 5:45

LOCATION: PIZZA M ON MAIN ST IN URBANA

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2015

TIME: 11AM

LOCATION: MARY KAY'S HOUSE,
901 BRIGHTON DRIVE, URBANA

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