



Volume 69, Issue 13

March 2015

## **MARCH & APRIL MEETINGS**

### **OBSERVER REPORTS**

As is our custom, LWVCC's March and April meetings will be devoted to reports from our steadfast Observer Corps. The March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at noon at Clark-Lindsey Village; the second on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 again at CLV. This is a great opportunity to hear about the work of our local taxing bodies (libraries, school boards, municipalities, etc.)

These reporting sessions are also good moments to consider becoming an observer yourself. Locally there is a much activity at our park and school districts, city councils, MTD, public health boards as they meet the challenges of smaller budgets and greater demand. If you can partner with another Leaguer (or bring along a friend who's a League member-in-waiting), alternating attendance at meetings can make the experience less taxing on your time and energy.

Also consider: Betty Segal -- our intrepid chief observer -- could use an assistant. She has recruited and assigned observers for some time in addition to her activities in Rantoul. Betty has much wisdom to share -- why not take advantage of her insights and ideas!

## **VOTER FOR 3 MONTHS**

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

Email Kat Bork at [katdenbk@gmail.com](mailto: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 FUNDRAISING SEASON BEGINS!**

Singing the praises and citing the benefits of League is always a joy. League -- both nationally and locally -- has been a force in our collective lives as we have undertaken challenges to make our communities more livable and our government more transparent.

This is the time to express your gratitude and urge League to continue to do even more. The ERA is still not law, an Illinois progressive tax still eludes us, and some early gains (quality education, pension and health care reform, and voting rights) are losing ground.

Watch for your letter and decide how you can help support LWVCC.

## **MARCH MEETING**

1<sup>ST</sup> OF 2 OBSERVER REPORTS

WHEN: Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

TIME: 12noon

LOCATION: Clark-Lindsey Village

## **ILLINOIS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Keep up on what's going on with the state League of Women Voters at <http://www.lwvil.org/>

## **LWVCC Board - 2014-2015**

### *President:*

Barbara Wysocki  
217-367-5014 bwsocki16@gmail

### *Vice President:*

VACANT

### *Secretary:*

Mary Kay Pleck  
217-344-3747 mkpleck@hotmail.com

### *Treasurer:*

Sandy Volk  
217-367-7664 sandyvolk803@gmail.com

### *Directors:*

Trisha Crowley  
217-359-2514 tcrowley9491@gmail.com

Theresa Michelson

217-344-4078 thmichelson@gmail.com

Antje Kolodziej

217-356-1734 antje@illinois.edu

## **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

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

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

### *League of Women Voters of Champaign County*

Dear Members,

Our February monthly meeting on public transportation was a real eye-opener! Steve Carter (Willard Airport Study) and Karl Gnadt (MTD) offered a comprehensive analysis of local systems, encouraging us to view public transportation infrastructure as a network of moving parts that impacts life in C-U.

First, some myth-busters regarding Willard Airport: a market study revealed the following statistics about its use

- 30% of locals use Willard Airport (including 60% of University staff)
- 6% of locals use Bloomington's airport
- \*37% of locals use Indianapolis with the advantage being the convenience of non-stop flights
- \*25% of locals travel to Chicago to use Midway and O'Hare facilities

Other issues that affect our ability to attract service include the decline in the number of airlines nationally. At one time 30 airlines – both large and small – competed for routes; now just 4 set the routes and schedules. Planes are now bigger, and part of Willard's attraction is as overnight plane maintenance service. Continuing our appeal will require expansion of existing facilities. Willard operates with a \$400,000 subsidy from the state. MTD is facing a 35% decline in state support. Can we expect that Willard's subsidy will continue? Carter thinks more community involvement is necessary as Willard's future is discussed.

MTD continues to examine its routes as it shapes airport and high school discussions. They are enlarging their maintenance building and are considering expansion of Illinois Terminal since

## Membership Form – League of Women Voters of Champaign County

**\*\*RENEW ONLINE! [www.lwvchampaigncounty.org](http://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\* \$5.00Household 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

### **SPRING 2015 CANDIDATE FORUMS**

It's that time again! Spring elections are on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>! In Champaign County, just as there are elections, there are Candidate Forums to educate and inform us about the people who are seeking elective office. Forums are the best means to hear candidates' plans and judge their qualifications as they sit side by side, responding to questions posed by the voters.

This year, the long-standing sponsorship of Candidate Forums of LWVCC, the News-Gazette, and the NAACP will also include C-U AAUW and the Sierra Club. LWV's Voter Service team – Carolyn Trimble and Carole Rebeiz – have done remarkable work in directing the five groups and a large number of candidates. Great coordination and timing is required to make Forums look so effortless. Thanks for making this exercise in democracy happen.

### **CANDIDATE FORUM SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

7:00PM - Parkland College Board

7:45PM - Urbana Park District Board

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

7:00PM - Unit 4 School Board

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 - Champaign Mayoral Candidates

8:15PM - Champaign Park Board

Note: this schedule supersedes previously published schedules you may have seen.

All forums are held at the Champaign City Building.

### **CONDOLENCES**

We are sad to report the death of long time League member Marian Ascoli. She died on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at Meadowbrook Health Center. Marian worked in child welfare with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and later with Family Services of Champaign County. She became their executive director in 1980.

A celebration of Marian's life will be held at Clark-Lindsey Village on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Our condolences to her many friends and family.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **CANDIDATE FORUMS**

LWVCC IS CO-SPONSORING THIS EVENT

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

TIME: 7PM – PARKLAND COLLEGE BOARD

7:45PM – URRANA PARK BOARD

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN CITY BUILDING

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

TIME: 7PM – UNIT 4 SCHOOL BOARD

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN CITY BUILDING

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

TIME: 7PM – CHAMPAIGN MAYORAL CANDIDATES

8:15PM – CHAMPAIGN PARK BOARD

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN CITY BUILDING

## **LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORT**

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

TIME: 12NOON

LOCATION: CLARK-LINDSEY VILLAGE

## **BOARD MEETING**

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

TIME: 11AM

LOCATION: TRISHA'S HOUSE,

1004 MAYFAIR, CHAMPAIGN

## **LEAGUE FUNDRAISING SEASON BEGINS**

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2015

## **LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORT**

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2015

TIME: 12NOON

LOCATION: CLARK-LINDSEY VILLAGE

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ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
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## **Did You Know?**

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920, right here in Illinois at the Congress Hotel in Chicago!

This month, the League of Women Voters kicks off a year-long celebration marking the organization's 95th anniversary. The League's nearly 800 local and state chapters in communities nationwide will join in honoring this milestone.

"Ninety-five years after its founding, the League continues to make a difference to American lives and in Making Democracy Work®. The League has involved millions of voters in electing government decision-makers at all levels of government and in holding them accountable for their actions," said Elisabeth MacNamara, 18th president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

Find us on Facebook!

League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Check our website for updates:

[www.lwvchampaigncounty.org](http://www.lwvchampaigncounty.org)

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