



Volume 69, Issue 10

September 2014

## **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](mailto:bwysocki16@gmail.com).

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING**

### **SCHOOL REFERENDUM**

WHEN: Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: Champaign Public Library, Robeson A & B Rooms

Champaign Unit 4 School District administrators will discuss the future of the district's school facilities. Bring your questions, concerns, insights, and observations to this important meeting.

## **CALLING ALL COLLECTORS!**

In an effort to celebrate, document, and memorialize our history, LWVCC is working with the Champaign County Archives to systematically gather and archive League material. If you served as an officer, worked on a particular campaign or project, scrapbooked or saved press articles pertaining to our League and/or League members, please consider donating your papers and notes to the Champaign County Archives. You need not sort or tidy them up. Contact Margaret Olson at 344-6390 or [olsonmjo@gmail.com](mailto:olsonmjo@gmail.com).

## **ANNUAL FUND DRIVE:**

### **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!**

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our Annual Fund Drive is over! Thanks to the fifty members and friends who contributed over \$3,000 during our annual fund drive, making possible so much of League's work in the coming year. To the members whose practice is to make an extra contribution as they renew their membership each year, we also extend our appreciation. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is outstanding!

Our thanks also to those who promptly responded to our call for League material to build up our archives. This will be an ongoing process. If you're downsizing or have yet to do an annual cleaning, be aware that we will continue accepting League materials that may be in your possession. Please contact Margaret Olson (344-6390 or [olsonmjo@gmail.com](mailto:olsonmjo@gmail.com)).

We're off to a good start!

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

President: Barbara Wysocki  
217-367-5014  
bwyssocki16@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant

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

Treasurer: Sandy Volk  
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217-359-2514  
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Theresa Michelson  
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thmichelson@gmail.com  
Antje Kolodziej  
217-356-1734  
antje@illinois.edu

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.

### **IN MEMORIAM:** Margaret Raup Frampton 1920-2014

Margaret (Peg) Frampton -- a long-time, active member of LWVCC -- died in June at Carle Hospital. As recently as this spring, Margaret made a generous contribution to the LWVCC Fund Drive. Margaret was also active in local cultural institutions including the Krannert Art Museum, the Spurlock Museum Guild, the Urbana Free Library, and School District 116's citizens' advisory board.

A memorial service is planned for this fall at Clark-Lindsey Village.

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

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

Dear Members,

*"Summer afternoon" - two of the most beautiful words in the English language.* Edith Wharton.

Her quote sums up this Illinois summer quite well!

Now, however, it's time to prepare for another League year, and much of that work began with decisions and actions moved in May. For League, May turned out to be significant as the membership voted in revisions to our by-laws. In effect, we will now operate with a smaller, elected Board which will function more as an executive committee than the hub of all League activity. Consequently, the Board will rely more on the membership to execute traditional League activities and to initiate new ones that further League's mission. May, unfortunately, was devastating for the Redistricting referendum – a good-government, League-backed initiative that would reform the process by which Illinois House districts are drawn, allowing greater transparency through greater involvement by the citizenry. Despite our efforts, the courts overruled some wording, disqualifying the measure from the Nov. ballot. At this writing, discussions are ongoing between/ among Leagues, local Leagues and LWVIL to decide if and how to proceed with a third effort.

Meanwhile, the Board is planning meetings and activities for the upcoming months. At the request of LWVIL, we will revisit the Charter School issue; we will co-sponsor Candidate Forums; we will rely on our observers to share their insights on the business of local taxing bodies. More is in store, so please continue to check your newsletter – either in print or on-line.

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](mailto:bssegal@mindspring.com)

## 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\* \$5.00 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

## CHARTER SCHOOL POSITION STUDY UPDATE

In 2001, the LWVIL adopted a position on Charter Schools. Since the original position was adopted there have been many new developments including the creation of the state Commission on Charter schools, the arrival of virtual charters, the rapid increase in the number of charter campuses in Illinois and the existence of numerous studies examining the effects of charter schools. In light of these developments, delegates to the 2013 LWVIL state convention approved updating the Charter Schools Position during the 2013-2015 biennium.

At the state level, the charter schools position update committee has been researching, creating, and debating questions addressing a variety of issues regarding charter schools--ranging from Authorization to Zero tolerance discipline, with consideration for policies which might apply to all public schools, including charters.

LWVCC has put together a local committee, co-chaired by Theresa Michelson and Sue Phillips, which has begun to look at the materials provided by the state league. Committee members Lillian Katz, Jo Kibbee, Pat Meller, Peggy Patten and Susan Taylor are reviewing the online materials provided by the state committee and the seven of us will be meeting as a group for the first time on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Between then and a meeting of League members on November 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be discussing the material, coming to our own conclusions about the issues and deciding how to present the pertinent information to our members and obtain consensus on an updated position.

All of the materials provided by LWVIL are available online, including the state League position from 2001: <http://www.lwvil.org/charter-schools.html>

If anyone else is interested in being on the committee, you must be able to attend the first meeting at 9 am on October 16 at 2013 Silver Ct W, Urbana.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Theresa at 344-4078 or [thmichelson@gmail.com](mailto:thmichelson@gmail.com)

The League Newsletter is going digital! Starting this month 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>

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **GENERAL MEETING**

WHEN: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2014

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOPIC: SCHOOL REFERENDUM

### **BOARD MEETING**

WHEN: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2014

TIME: 9AM

LOCATION: ATLANTA BREAD COMPANY

### **CANDIDATE FORUM**

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 2014

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN CITY BUILDING

RACES: COUNTY CLERK & COUNTY BOARD, 3 SEATS

### **CANDIDATE FORUM**

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 2014

TIME: 8PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN CITY BUILDING

RACE: 103<sup>RD</sup> STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### **CANDIDATE DEBATE**

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2014

TIME: 8PM

LOCATION: CAMPBELL HALL, 300 N. GOODWIN AVENUE URBANA, IL

RACES: 13<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## **Thank you!**

To all the League members that have stepped up and taken on roles to support the new smaller board structure!

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**



Find us on Facebook!  
League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Check our website for updates:  
[www.lwvchampaigncounty.org](http://www.lwvchampaigncounty.org)