



the Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Volume 69, Issue 14

April 2015

APRIL MEETING

OBSERVER REPORTS

The April meeting is the second of two Observer Corp reports and will be on April 21st at 7:00 again at Clark-Lindsey Village. 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!

APRIL MEETING

2ND OF 2 OBSERVER REPORTS

WHEN: Tuesday, April 21st, 2015

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: Clark-Lindsey Village

MAY ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your Calendars!

League's Annual Meeting is Tuesday, May 19th at the Hawthorn!

This year, LWVCC's Annual Meeting will consist of three parts:

- desserts and socializing
- a talk by Dr. Gillen D'Arcy Wood, Professor of English and Director of the Sustainability Studies Initiative in the Humanities at UIUC
- followed by a short business meeting.

More information will be forthcoming. This will be an Annual Meeting you just don't want to miss.

KUDOS!

Kudos and Thank You to everyone who helped in any way to make the Spring Candidate Forums so successful. A special thanks to Carolyn Trimble and Carole Rebeiz for their great efforts at coordination! By the numbers we managed:

- 2 nights of forums at the Champaign City Building (*thanks, City of Champaign!*),
- 5 separate forums (*Mayoral race, Unit 4, Parkland College Brd, two Park Brds*),
- 5 sponsoring organizations (*NAACP, C-U AAUW, News-Gazette, Sierra Club, LWV*),
- 21 candidates (*thanks for stepping forward to serve the community*), and
- 30 League members (*plus 4 from the UI-LWV*) who participated as timers, sorters, moderators, greeters/ushers, and audience!

LWVCC Board - 2014-2015

President:

Barbara Wysocki

217-367-5014

bwysocki16@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: Kari Gibson

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

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!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*League of Women Voters of
Champaign County*

"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment."

- Robert Hutchins --
Educator

Dear Members,

Take democracy's temperature in Champaign, and find a robust, vibrant organism – at least by measuring the enthusiasm of the eight candidates for the Unit 4 school board. In yet another year of reduced state support, these citizens stepped forward to serve on a Board whose decisions profoundly affect the lives of their children and those yet to come.

Most of these candidates graduated from Unit 4, some remembering themselves as "difficult" students – "pegs" unable to fit into pre-fashioned "holes". Many -- now parents -- worry about administrative turnover, lack of ADA compliance, overcrowding, and frequent testing. They accept that being a good parent means running for a Unit 4 seat in addition to holding a job and juggling other responsibilities. As parents, some have had encounters with teachers, counselors, and administrators with varying results; now they share a common determination to make the school system work better.

And then, the referendum! Each candidate -- armed with a long list of concerns -- is not intimidated by the messy controversy over land sites and building projects. They embrace the prospect of a second failed funding attempt, a potential PR nightmare, and the task of rebuilding the school board's relationship with the community.

Hats off to these good citizens! No apathy, indifference, or undernourishment here!

Sincerely,

Barbara Wysocki
LWVCC President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORT PART 2

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2015

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: CLARK-LINDSEY VILLAGE

TOWN HALL WITH RALPH MARTIRE

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2015

TIME: 4PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2015

TIME: 11AM

LOCATION: SANDY'S HOUSE,
803 W DELAWARE, URBANA

LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2015

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: HAWTHORN SUITES

REGISTRATION FOR STATE CONVENTION CLOSES

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH, 2015

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION

WHEN: JUNE 5TH-7TH, 2015

LOCATION: NAPERVILLE, IL

Registration for the 2015 LWVIL State Convention is now open! Check the LWVIL website for Friday's pre-convention sessions, registration fees, and meal plans. LWVCC is entitled to 6 delegates. It has been our policy to financially support those who attend either as delegates, alternates, or interested members.

Contact Sandy Volk if interested. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 20th.

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PO Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803-0201

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.



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

Check our website for updates:
www.lwvchampaigncounty.org