



the Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Volume 69, Issue 15

May 2015

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY MEETING

Our ANNUAL MEETING is coming up and will contain both new and familiar features. Our guest speaker will be Gillen D'Arcy Wood, author of *TAMBORA: the Eruption that Changed the World*.

Professor Wood is the director of the Sustainability Studies Initiative in the Humanities at the University of Illinois. His research focuses on climate and environmental history. His first book, *Hosack's Folly*, published in 2005 as an eco-historical novel, examined the politics of water and epidemic diseases in 1820s New York City.

Tambora, Wood's latest book, reconstructs on a global scale the changing climate resulting from the massive eruption of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia in 1815. The changes wrought by the volcano affected climate and culture in every part of the globe including the recently-independent U.S. Illinois, still a territory in 1815, was profoundly affected in ways beyond its ecology. Some unintended consequences of the eruption gave the world advances in medical research, literature, and politics. The book is the centerpiece of a forthcoming documentary marking the bicentenary of the eruption.

Following his talk, there will be desserts and time to visit with League friends. Prof. Wood will remain to sign copies of his book. The last item of the evening will be a short business meeting for members to approve a new slate of officers and a 2015-16 budget. **PLEASE BRING THE ENCLOSED SHEETS WITH YOU FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES.**

Bring a friend to this event. It promises to be an interesting night!

LWVCC ANNUAL DRIVE CONTINUES!

League's Annual Fund drive continues!

When donating, please consider these "hidden" expenses the League covers on a regular basis:

- Accommodations and services that once were free now require fees.
- Opportunities for co-sponsorship require remuneration for printing, publicity, and numerous odds and ends.
- Chances to get League's name before the public, while welcome, don't come free.

Please respond and be as generous as possible.

MAY MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, May 19th, 2015

TIME: 7pm

LOCATION: Hawthorne Suites, Champaign

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

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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,

Hard to believe another busy, League year is over! We've covered a number of topics at our general meetings ranging from local issues like the Unit 4 referendum (the 1st try), local transportation developments, and an analysis of failed state referenda. In addition, we revisited the League's charter school position and met our newest intern, Kari Gibson. Finally, a series of candidate forums (both in the fall and spring) informed us about a variety of local issues and the perspective of candidates willing to take on the responsibility of solving problems and charting a future.

A public thank you to Steve Carter, Karl Gnadt, Dr. Judy Weigand, Professor Brian Gaines, our Charter School Study Committee, League Observers, Voter Service, our intern, and local candidates for informative and relevant programs that help us understand our complicated world. Lastly, my thanks to League volunteers whose presence made each event a success.

I look forward to state convention and its renewing energy; I'm eager to work with new board members, and I already appreciate their willingness to serve. The Board is open to ideas for upcoming programs and activities; please let us know your thoughts and ideas for next year's programs.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wysocki
LWVCC President

CONDOLENCES

LWVCC extends its sympathy to member Ruth Fisher on the death of her husband and League member Ralph Jr. Ralph was a member of the UI History Department and was instrumental in founding the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center on the UIUC campus. Many describe him as a true visionary in recognizing the importance of eastern European and Asia in the post-World War II era and beyond.

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

LEAGUE NEWSLETTER GOES DIGITAL

END OF AN ERA! INTO THE FUTURE!

Effective with the September VOTER, LWVCC will cease hard copy publication of the newsletter. Our monthly publication will be found at our website, and we will continue the practice of notifying members through e-mail that a new newsletter is available.

For those who absolutely prefer a paper copy, you can request one. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you have not volunteered an e-mail address, you will automatically receive a mailed copy.

OBSERVERS NEEDED

A VITAL PROGRAM

Our list of vacant and imminent vacancies among our observer positions is growing! In addition to those announced last month, we have added two more to the list. So, there are plenty of great choices; hopefully one will match your interest and your schedule. Consider:

Unit 4 School Board: meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Monday of the month

Champaign Park Board: meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Wednesday with a study session on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00

Urbana Park Board: meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Urbana Free Library: meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Champaign County Board: meets 3rd Thursday following the 1st Monday. For Committee meetings, check the County website.

Buddy up with a League friend or a perspective League member and contact Betty Segal (217-893-3080) or bssegal@mindspring.com to offer your services.

By-the-Way, Betty has signaled that she's ready to retire as Observer Coordinator. She will, however, remain as Observer of the U-C Sanitary Board. If you're interested in coordinating assignments and carrying on this valued League service, please contact Betty (893-3080) or Barbara (367-5014).

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www.lwvchampaigncounty.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LWV ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2015

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: HAWTHORN SUITES, CHAMPAIGN

GUEST SPEAKER: PROF GILLIEN D'ARCY WOOD

STATE CONVENTION RESERVATIONS

DUE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH, 2015

TRANSITION BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 26TH, 2015

TIME: 11AM

LOCATION: THERESA'S HOUSE,
2013 SILVER CT, URBANA

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION

WHEN: JUNE 5TH-7TH, 2015

LOCATION: NAPERVILLE, IL

BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2015

TIME: TBD

LOCATION: TBD

POST CONVENTION LUNCHEON

WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 16TH, 2015

TIME: 12NOON

LOCATION: PIZZA M, URBANA

FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE: WHY CIVICS EDUCATION MATTERS.

Under what kind of government does the United States operate and what does it value? Here is a hint: repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. Did you learn this in civics? Perhaps not. Illinois is one of 10 states that do not require a civics or government course to graduate from high school.

Said Illinois Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park: "Many students graduate without even basic knowledge of current events and how to become active members of their communities." To rectify this, she introduced **House Bill 4025**, requiring civics education for high school students as a graduation requirement, and **HB4024**, implementing teacher training in the teaching of civics.

The League of Women Voters Illinois supports this legislation. In Illinois, voter turnout is at an all-time low. Only 1 in 5 18- to 29-year-olds exercises his or her voting rights. The League is dedicated to facilitating citizen participation in government decision-making. It believes that effective civics education will be essential in furthering citizen involvement.

For the rest of the article, please visit lwv.org