

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford <chunkybutfunky44@gmail.com>

May 1, 2013 1:25 PM

To: janiewc@mac.com

Reply-To: chunkybutfunky44@gmail.com

LWVGR Annual Meeting Kit 2013



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

Annual Meeting Kit 2013





Saturday, June 1, 2013
Forest Hills Country Club

9am Coffee and Conversation
9:30am Breakfast

10am Speaker: Joe Haverly, Assistant Professor
Rock Valley College

A self-declared environmentalist, he spurred a campus wide recycling program and a community wide Earth Day celebration. He is a 2010 winner of Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful's Outstanding Individual of the Environment award and a board member of Severson dells Nature Center. He is an environmental speaker at the Center for Learning in Retirement.

10:30 am Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order: Karen Fysh, president

Announcements and Recognitions:
Fifty Year Members

Jeanne Claeys, Vivian Hickey, Colleen Holmbeck, Joyce Holmberg, Elizanne Lewis, Hazel Mosher, Evelyn Palm, Sally Trefz, Jennie Wall

Adoption of Rules (*Robert's Rules of Order*):

Minutes of the June 2, 2012 meeting :

Financial Report :

Program Proposal for 2013-2015

Organizational Committees:

Member Services Committee

Voter Services Committee

Communication Committee

Judy Schultz, Secretary
Ann Powell, Treasurer
Leigh Lakey

By-laws Committee Report:
Nominating Committee Report:
Election of New Officers and Directors
Issues and Action Committees
Education Committee
Environmental Issues Committee
Health Committee
Local Government Committee
Adjournment

Leigh Lakey, chair
Joel Cowen, chair

Your check for \$20 is your reservation. Guests cost \$15. Ann Powell, 4040 Pepper Dr., Rockford, IL 61114 is accepting all reservations.

Minutes of June 2, 2012 LWVGR Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

90th Annual Meeting

Forest Hills Country Club June 2, 2012

Opening Greeting: Karen Fysh, presiding, welcomed the members and guests to the 90th Annual Meeting. Joel Cowen introduced speaker P.S. Ruckman, Political Science Professor at Rock Valley College.

Speaker

Dr. P.S. Ruckman is considered an expert on the Supreme Court nomination and confirmation process and is sought after by media. He spoke on "Why Voters Vote The Way They Do". He outlined the history of voting studies. In the 1940's, the Columbia Model began the scientific analysis of voting and theorized that how people vote can be predicted based on their socio-economic background, but that didn't always hold true. The Michigan Model theorized that people vote like their parents did. The Downzian Model has predicted national races since the August prior to Clinton's election. It uses a small math model: the popularity of the President combined with the GDP at least six months prior to the election. Dr. Ruckman advises watching for Allen Abramowitz's election prediction in September, 2012, using the Downzian Model. The major polling agencies have had a perfect record for the last forty years in national elections.

Special Presentation

Dave Peterson accepted a plaque for County Board Chair Scott Christiansen honoring him for leading the effort to reduce the size of the Winnebago County Board from 28 to 20 members. The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford made a recommendation in 1981 that they reduce the number of members.

Call to Order 10:55

The 90th Annual Meeting was called to order. A motion was made, seconded and approved that we observe Roberts Rules of Order. Barb Smith will act as parliamentarian.

Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting–Judy Schultz, Secretary, referred to the minutes in the Annual

Meeting packet and asked for approval. Minutes were approved.
 Financial Report and 2010–2011 Budget–Ann Powell, Treasurer, referred to the Annual Meeting packet and asked for approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Financial Report and Budget. League received \$2,480 from a fundraising letter.
 Member Services–Two potential members were present.
 Nominating Committee/Election of Officers–Joel Cowen presented the slate of officers for 2012–13: President–Karen Fysh, Vice–President–Susan Janson, Secretary–Judy Schultz, Treasurer–Ann Powell. This slate of officers was adopted. Diane Cushing and Claire McIntyre will co-chair the Membership Committee. The following committees still need chairs: Communications, Issues and Action, Events Planning. In addition, a webmaster is needed.

A motion was made and approved for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Judy Schultz, Secretary

Financial Report

Financial Report 2012–2013 and Budget 2013–2014

LWVGR Fiscal Year is from July 1 to June 30

Revenues	July 2012– March 2013	Budget 2013–2014	
Amt from previous year	\$12,008.50	\$10,000.00	
Dues – Regular, Family, Life	\$1,440.00	\$2,000.00	
Contributions	\$28.80	\$200.00	
Other	\$2,299.23	\$1,000.00	
Total Income	\$15,776.53	\$10,200.00	
Expenditures	July 2012– 2013	Budget	
Operating Costs			
P.O. Box	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Insurance	\$115.00	\$150.00	
Web Site Maintenance	\$104.97	\$250.00	
Leadership, Convention, Training, & Meetings	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Events – forums, meeting	\$1,814.00	\$500.00	
Dues			
State	\$2,538.00	\$2,700.00	100 members x \$27
			100

	National	\$3,162.00	\$3,100.00	members x \$31
Membership communications				
	Constant Contact		\$175.00	
	Postage		\$50.00	
	Copying and printing	\$315.68	\$200.00	
Educational activities				
	Scholarship fund	\$178.80	\$150.00	
	Youth Ground Water Festival	\$100.00	\$100.00	
	Total	\$9,878.45	\$8,818.00	
bank balance	\$6,568.27			
Education Fund	\$452.73			
Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Fund	\$8,321.39			

Local Program Proposal 2013-2015

LWVGR Local Program 2013-2015
In concert with the LWVIL and LWVUS positions

EDUCATION

- Support a public school system that is equitable both in quality for all students and in financing for the taxpayer
- Support the implementation of action plans as developed in partnership with school personnel and citizens

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Support policies/programs through organizations and coalitions that promote the well-being, development, health and safety of all children
- Focus on prevention of crime and violence by supporting activities of the Violence Prevention Collaborative
- Support the study of a comprehensive approach on planning and conducting behavioral health services to meet the needs of the citizens of greater Rockford

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Support improved election services for all citizens of Winnebago county by consolidating the administration of election services in an independent county-wide commission created by the enactment of enabling legislation by the State of Illinois
- Support home rule in Rockford

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Support the Winnebago County 2030 Land Resource Management Plan
- Support improved waste management
- Support the protection and conservation of natural resources including land, water and air

Organizational Committee Reports

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE Claire McIntyre, Chair

Membership– Membership continues to hold fairly steady.

Our Facebook page, begun last year, is fairly active with 55 followers, most of them not League. We hope that at some point our presence will bring more than 'likes' and comments and will encourage new membership.

There have been a couple of people who expressed interest in joining but, in this down economy, felt that they could not afford the membership fee.

The committee has recommended that the board be structured somewhat differently, with members at large being assigned a portfolio. This would pair them with a particular committee chair or executive board member, giving them an opportunity to take on a role without having to be responsible for an entire committee or position. We hope to develop more League leadership in this fashion.

The membership committee also recommended that whole League meetings be held at least quarterly, both to better involve current membership and encourage potential new members to attend as guests. In addition to the annual meeting and December holiday meeting, two whole member meetings should be held, focusing on both League business (updates on Board and League activity) and an educational program. The membership committee will work with the existing committees to plan these two additional meetings. We tried this out in April with a fair amount of success, meeting to discuss the recent elections and the implications of them.

The committee also hopes that focusing on League communications will spotlight the League locally and bring more community awareness to what the League is doing and, potentially more members.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Jeanne Claey's, Chair

VOTER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

Members: Jeanne Claey's, Chair; Dianna Chandler, Diane Cushing, Wanda Hoover, Elsie Janson, Susan Janson, Jane Kelley, Ann Marshall, Jane McAfee, Janie Wilson-Cook, Shirley Wooden

Thanks to fifty-eight League Deputy Registrars, we registered 600 during the 2012-2013 Election Year. Because of the November 9, 2012, Presidential Election, we registered 580. Because of the low turnout for the April 9, 2013, general election for mayor, alderman, school board members, Rock Valley Board of Trustees, we registered 22.

During our voter registration drives, we register at high schools, colleges, supermarkets (Logli's, Hilander's, Valli) K-Mart on Sandy Hollow, Crusader Clinic, Federal Building for Naturalization of new citizens, and other sites that ask for our services.

In Illinois the deadline for Voter Registration is always 28 days before each election. There is no election this November, 2013, but 2014 will be a busy year. In 2014, among candidates to be elected will be Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives. Tuesday, March 18, will be the Primary Election -- deadline for Voter Registration Tuesday, February 18. Tuesday, November 4, will be the General Election -- deadline for Voter Registration Tuesday, October 8.

Our fall activities will be limited because there is no November election. We have prepared a new informational flyer to be distributed to League members, legislators, people we register to vote, etc. -- whoever we think are not fully aware of the in's and out's of voting. We will also try to recruit more League Deputy Registrars. Even though we have over fifty Deputy Registrars, there are never enough for the times and sites when and where we register. We never run out of sites; we do run out of Deputy Registrars.

We meet the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn. Our first serious meeting will be Tuesday, September 5. Our main summer activity is a summer social potluck to celebrate another successful year.

Interested in joining the Voter Service Committee or becoming a Deputy Registrar? Contact Chair Jeanne Claey's, phone - 815-226-4642, e-mail - jclaey's@comcast.net

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Leigh Lakey, Chair

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford, Inc. By-Laws
Changes: **(bold is remove)**, *italics is add*

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVGR. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, hereinafter referred to in these by-laws as LWVUS and LWVIL, respectively.

Article II – Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1 Purposes. The purposes of the LWVGR **(are)** *shall be* to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2 Policy. The LWVGR shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Sec. 3 Diversity Policy. The LWVGR affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our region in its membership and activities. The LWVGR recognizes that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and effective decision making in democratic organizations.

The League seeks to remove barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, national origin and socio-economic position and to promote diversity and pluralism through its programs, committees and partnerships with other organizations.

Article III – Membership

Sec. 1 Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League and pays annual dues shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2 **(Types of) Membership. (Voting Members).** U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age who join LWVGR shall be **(voting)** members.

1. a. Members who enroll in LWVGR **(shall be voting members, and)** shall pay annual dues to LWVGR as determined by LWVGR.
2. b. Honorary Life Membership shall be granted to any member of LWVGR who has been a member of the LWVUS for fifty (50) years or more. No further dues will be **(collected)** *required* and all privileges shall be retained.

1. a. **(Associate members. All others who join the LWVGR shall be associate members.)**

Sec. 3 Membership meetings.

a. **(General)** Meetings. The membership shall meet **(at least four)** *several* times each year, with the time and place being determined by the board. Members shall be notified of all **(general)** meetings **(at least two weeks)** prior to such meetings.

b. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the LWVGR shall be held during the final quarter each fiscal year, with the time and place being determined by the board. Members shall be notified of the annual meeting at least one month prior to such meeting. The annual meeting agenda shall include adoption of a program of study and action, election of officers, members-at-large and **(appointment of board members)** *standing committee chairs*, establishment of dues, adoption of a budget and transaction of such other business as may be presented.

c. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of **(voting)** members present provided that not less than ten percent of **(voting)** members are present. **(In the presence of a quorum, a majority of members in attendance at any board meeting shall decide its action.)**

Article IV –(Executive) Board of Directors

Sec. 1 Selection, Qualification and Term. **(The LWVGR board shall consist of the elected officers, the chairs of standing committees and not more than three members-at-large appointed by the president with the approval of the elected members of the board. All board members shall be voting members of the LWVGR and shall be elected or appointed at the annual meeting to serve for one year until the following annual meeting, or until their successors have been elected or appointed. A board member who misses three consecutive meetings may be asked to resign by the board. No board members shall serve more than four successive terms in the same position. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the board.)**

The LWVGR board of directors shall consist of the elected officers, the chairs of standing committees: Member Services, Voter Services and Communications, and not more than three (3) members-at-large. All board members shall be (voting) members of the LWVGR and shall be elected at the annual meeting to serve for two (2) year terms, or until their successors have been elected or appointed. No board members shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the board.

Sec. 2 Powers and Duties. The **(executive)** board shall manage and supervise the business and activities of the LWVGR subject to the instruction of the membership. The board shall create and designate such committees as it may deem necessary.

Sec.3 Regular Meetings. The **(executive)** board shall **(meet monthly, September through May)** *have regular meetings*. Members of the board shall be notified of all regular meetings at least one week prior to such meetings.

Sec. 4. Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the board and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the board. Members of the board shall be given written notice at least two (2) days prior to such meetings.

Sec.5 Quorum. **(A majority)** *Fifty percent (50%)* of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. In the presence of a quorum, a majority of members in attendance and voting at any board meeting shall decide its action. Absentee and proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Article V – Officers

Sec. 1 Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVGR shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. **(The secretary and treasurer may be combined into**

one position.) All officers shall be **(voting)** members of the League and shall be elected by the membership at the annual meeting to hold office for (one) two (2) years (**until the following annual meeting,**) or until their successors have been elected. No person shall be elected to more than **(four successive)** three (3) consecutive terms in the same office.

As an option, the officers shall be two co-presidents, **(two vice presidents)**, a secretary and a treasurer. The secretary and treasurer may be combined into one position. Throughout the by-laws, wherever 'president' is used, 'one of the co-presidents' may be substituted.

Sec.2 The President. The president shall **(have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall)** preside at all meetings of the organization **(or designate another person to do so)**; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes; and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, the vice president shall fill the vacancy. If the vice president is unable to serve, the board shall elect another of its members to serve as president

Sec.3 The Vice President. The vice president shall **(perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office, and such other)** preside in the absence of the president; be the liaison between the board and the issues and actions committees; and perform duties as may be designated by the board.

Sec.4 The Secretary. The secretary shall **(perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office, and such other)** record proceedings of meetings and maintain written records for the League and perform duties as may be designated by the board.

Sec.5 The Treasurer. The treasurer shall chair the budget committee; shall arrange for an annual audit of the books; shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments **(when so authorized by the board)**; and shall perform such **(duties as customarily pertain to the office and such other)** duties as may be designated by the board.

Sec.6 The Executive Committee. **These elected officers shall comprise the executive committee, which shall exercise such power and authority as may be designated to it and report on all actions taken by it.**

ARTICLE VI – Nominations and Elections

Sec. 1 Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of three (3) members, at least one (but not more than two) of whom shall be a member(s) of the **(executive)** board. Members of this committee shall be appointed by the board. **(immediately after the annual meeting. Any vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by appointment by the executive board).** The nominating committee shall solicit nominations from the membership.

Sec.2 Nominations. **At least three (3) months prior to the annual meeting, the chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations, which suggestions shall be sent to the chair of the nominating committee. Any member may submit suggestions for nominations.**

Sec.(3)2 Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, members-at-large and **(directors)** standing committee chairs shall be **(sent to the president)** submitted to the board for approval not less than six (6) weeks prior to the annual meeting. One month in advance of the annual meeting the board shall submit the proposed slate of officers to the membership, which may be by inclusion in the monthly newsletter. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided that the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sec.(4)3 Election. The election shall be by ballot, except if there is but one nominee for each

office, and shall be by adoption of the slate. A majority of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee and proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE VII – Program

Sec.1 Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of the program.

Sec.(2)1 Program. The program of the LWVGR shall consist of:

1. a. Action to implement the Principles and Program of the LWVUS,
2. b. Action to implement the Principles and Program of the LWVIL, and
3. c. Local government issues chosen at the annual meetings in even-numbered years for concerted study or concurrence and action.

Sec.(3)2 Adoption.

1. a. **(Not less than three (3) months in advance of the annual meeting the board shall send to the membership a status report of the current program, asking members to evaluate the program and submit their suggestions.**
2. b. **Not less than two (2) months in advance of the annual meeting the board shall convene to consider t program recommendations and formulate a proposed program.)**
 1. a. LWVIL program planning occurs in odd numbered years at the direction of the state league. In conjunction with the state program planning event, the local program will be evaluated for possible revision.
 2. b. LWVUS program planning occurs in even numbered years at the direction of the national league.
 3. c. One month in advance of the annual meeting the board shall submit the proposed local program to the membership which may be by inclusion in the monthly newsletter.
 4. d. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for the adoption of items in the proposed local program as presented to the membership by the board.
 5. e. **(Further changes in the proposed program submitted for consideration but not recommended by the board may be made by the membership provided that:**
 1. i. **The membership shall order consideration by a majority vote;**
 2. ii. **The vote on the proposed changed shall not be taken in the same session as the order for consideration; and**
 3. iii. **The membership shall adopt the change by a two-thirds majority vote.)**

Sec.(4)3 Action.

a . Members may act in the name of the LWVGR only when authorized to do so by the board.

1. b. The LWVGR may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVUS and/or the LWVIL.

ARTICLE VIII – Financial Administration

- Sec.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVGR shall conform to that of the LWVUS.
- Sec.2 Dues. Each member, except for life members, shall pay annual dues.
- Sec.3 Budget Committee. The president shall appoint a budget committee, to be chaired by the treasurer, for the purpose of preparing the proposed budgets in advance of the annual meeting. The proposed budgets shall be submitted to the board for approval.
- Sec.4 Budget. One month in advance of the annual meeting the board shall submit the proposed budget to the membership, which may be by inclusion in the monthly newsletter.
- Sec.5 Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVGR, all **(monies and securities which may, at the time, be owned or under the control of the LWVGR)** assets shall be paid to the LWVIL, after the board has paid or made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the LWVGR. **(All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed which may at the time be owned or under the control of the LWVGR, shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposed as the LWSVGR board in its absolute discretion by designate.)**

ARTICLE IX – National and State Conventions and Council

- Sec.1 National Convention. The board shall select delegates to the national convention in the number allotted under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS. The president shall have the power to fill any vacancies which may occur in the delegation.
- Sec.2 State Convention. The board shall select delegates to the state convention in the number allotted under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVIL. The president shall have the power to fill any vacancies which may occur in the delegation.
- Sec.3 **(State Council. The president or proxy shall be the delegate to the State Council pursuant to the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVIL.)**

ARTICLE X – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XI – Amendments

- Sec.1 Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at **(any)** the annual meeting of the general membership, provided that all proposed amendments shall be sent to all members at least one month in advance of the meeting.
- Sec.2 By-laws Committee. The president shall appoint a by-laws committee **(following the annual meeting)** to study the by-laws and suggest amendments, if necessary, and to consider proposals suggested by any member for changing the by-laws. *The proposed by-laws shall be submitted by the board for approval by the membership at the next annual meeting.*

- Accepted by the membership April 26, 1951.

Revised: 1953, 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1998, 1999, 2004. 2013

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joel Cowen, Chair

Slate for LWVGR 2013–2014

Offices and Board Members

President: Ann Dempsey
Vice-president: Susan Janson
Secretary: Judy Schultz
Treasure: Ann Powell
Assistant treasurer: Martha Pippitt

Members at Large:
Legislative liaison –Marla Wilson

Organizational Committee Chairs and Board Members

Voter Services – Jeanne Claeys
Member Services – Diane Cushing
Communication: Claire McIntyre Chr
Voter: Leigh Lakey
Publicity: June Jacobs
Webmaster: Janie Wilson–Cook
Historian: TBA

Action Committee Chairs

Environmental Services – Diane Cushing
Education Committee– Claire McIntyre and Glenda Shaver
Health Committee– Elaine Pfluger
Local Government – Paula Lind
Campaign Finance – Karen Fysh

Issues and Action Committee Reports

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Claire McIntyre, Chair

The Education Committee had very varied content and activities this past year. We began the year co-sponsoring a candidate forum on education at the request of Robert King, Executive Director of the Booker T. Washington Center. Sue Stephens moderated and approximately 50 people attended. The committee also sponsored the Pension Consensus, beginning with a discussion with pension study committee member and author of the study materials, Sandra Bartholomey of McHenry County LWV. In October, Education Committee member Joan Morton led the League discussion and resulting consensus for Greater Rockford. The results are in and will be accepted at the upcoming LWVIL Convention in June. Joan has reviewed the results of the consensus if you have questions.

In March, Donnette Nailor from the Regional Office of Education met with us to give us an update on the implementation of the Common Core Standards and the new assessments. A detailed report of that meeting was in the March Voter.

The committee's focus for the April and May meetings was a discussion of the book, *Hope Against Hope* by Sarah Carr, the story of the New Orleans' move to a charter school system under Paul Vallas after Hurricane Katrina. We also discussed the materials from the education conference held April 15th in Chicago, 'Reframing Reform: Achieving Equity and Excellence in Public Education'. This conference was the result and culmination of a federal Department of Education commission on education equity and excellence. Keynote speaker was Pasi Sahlberg, the Director General of the Finnish Department of Education and Culture.

Further meetings will refocus on the charter school education in Rockford as well as the charter school movement in Illinois. We will also be following with interest the Academy concept in the Rockford High Schools, the renovation and improvement of the Rockford schools utilizing the bond passed in November, and legislation affecting education in Illinois.

The Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9 am at the Stockholm Inn. We are open to evening meetings for those who cannot make morning meetings. You do not need to be a specialist in education to participate, only an interest in our children's education.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Diane Cushing, Chair

Due to technical difficulties this report will be sent in a separate email.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Elaine Pfluger, Chair

This past year, the Health Care committee spent time learning about the changes in the Winnebago County Behavioral Health care system and Federal and State Governments National Health Care system. The summer months were spent educating our Legislators about the importance of funding behavioral health and having a plan ready, if or when, Singer Mental Health Center closes.

With a deficit State of Illinois budget, Governor Quinn closed Singer Mental Health Center on October 31. The Governor was attempting to "rebalance" the way mental health services are funded and accessed by people. A bigger share of the responsibility was shifted from the state's shoulders to community agencies to treat patients in the least restrictive environments when possible. When Singer did close, Roscrance Health Network opened a regional triage center in downtown Rockford. The center is part of a comprehensive plan prepared by local agencies to provide services for patients with behavioral or mental health issues. The triage center is for nonviolent individuals older than 18 who are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, are medically stable and struggling with mental health issues.

On October 9, Professor Mark Heyrman gave a presentation in Rockford. The title of his presentation "More Hospital Closures: Will this time Be Different?" explained the lawsuit filed by the Mental Health America of Illinois and the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Illinois. The Mental Health Summit is concerned because the Department of Human Services has announced that it does not intend to use the money appropriated in Public Act 97-0730 either to keep the nine state-operated facilities open or for transitional services in the community.

On October 18, LWV sponsored a presentation of "Unlocking the Affordable Care Act" by Joel

Cowen. The presentation was held at the North Suburban Library with over 100 people. The public was educated on the changes to public health coverage to take effect in 2013 and 2014.

The Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee, that was appointed by the County Board Chairman, update us on the progress they the making for local funding for Behavioral Health. Their 7:00 a.m. Monthly meetings are open to the public.

Lynn Dieterman, from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), explained the Healthy Futures 3 year grant that they were awarded. The Healthy Futures initiative was developed by the White House and Michelle Obama to serve communities and neighbors by promoting health and wellness throughout the nation. The initiative reaches out to all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Lynn Liston, Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, gave us some ideas of how our committee could support children's behavioral health needs in the coming fiscal year.

The Health Care committee chairman represents the LWV at meetings of NAMI of No. IL, NAMI Legislative and Winnebago County Violence Prevention Collaborative committees. She serves as Illinois League of Women Voters Mental Health issues specialist.

Members of the LWV Health Care committee: Joel Cowen, Wanda Hoover, Leigh Lakey, Lynn Liston, Jane McAfee, Guen McClendon, Ann Powell, Barb Smith.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Paula Lind, chair

Paula Lind, Chair, Jeanne Claeys, Angie Goral, Marti Keeker, Faye Marcus, Jane McAfee, Martha Pippitt, Ann Powell

The Local Government Committee promotes community vision/leadership by citizens. This past year, the Local Government Committee has met actively on the second Wednesday of each month. The goal of our committee is to educate and inform the community on current and local issues. This past year, the Local Government met our goal by hosting a televised event for our State Senate and House of Representative candidates specifically geared toward human services in Winnebago County. As well, we hosted and partnered with community organizations to hold numerous candidate forums leading up to the spring 2013 election.

The Local Government Committee continues to partner with local agencies and organizations to provide an opportunity for our local candidates to inform the voters and group memberships on their candidacy and platform. Our hope is to promote voter participation.

This year the Local Government Committee will be devoted to restudying the combining of the City and County Election offices. We intend to work on behavioral health issues and discuss the future of home rule.

Membership Renewal Notice

2013-2014 LWVGR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is due July 1st..

*This is your opportunity to say,
"Yes! I want to continue to be part of the League!"
We want and need your help. We understand if you are unable to actively serve at this time.
However, we ask you to continue to support League programs by renewing your
membership.*

LWVGR Membership Renewal Form

Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____ E-Mail _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Cell Phone _____

Membership Categories:

*Individual Membership \$60.00 Young Member (under age 35) \$20.00 Household
\$90.00 (two people at the same address)*

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS (includes basic membership)

<i>Carrie Chapman Catt - LWVUS Founder</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>
<i>Susan B. Anthony - Suffragist 1800s</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton - Suffragist 1800s</i>	<i>150.00</i>
<i>Julia Lathrop, LWVGR Founder</i>	<i>200.00</i>
<i>Additional Contribution or Pledge</i>	<i>\$ _____</i>

Life membership free with 50 years of membership. Do you qualify?

Please send checks today to Ann Powell 4040 Pepper Drive Rockford, IL 61114

Name _____ Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Name _____ Phone _____
E-Mail _____

LWVGR CONTACTS

President: Karen Fysh - pfeffer43@charter.net

Vice President: Sue Janson - sjjanson@comcast.net

Secretary: Judy Schultz - judyjs@comcast.net

Treasurer: Ann Powell - powell4040@comcast.net

Environmental Issues: Diane Cushing - dc@juno.com

Education: Claire McIntyre - claire.f.mcintyre@gmail.com

Health Care: Elaine Pfluger - elainepfluger818@comcast.net

Local Government: Paula Lind - plind@twp.rockford.il.us

Voter Services: Jeanne claeys - jclaeys@comcast.net

VOTER Editor: Leigh Lakey - chunkybutfunky44@gmail.com

The purpose of the LWVGR shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to janiewc@mac.com by chunkybutfunky44@gmail.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford | 301 Dawn Ave | Rockford | IL | 61107