

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

of Greater Rockford, Illinois

VOTER

<http://www.lwvgr.org>

July 2015

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.

It's easy to stay connected to the League:

Email:

lwvgr22@gmail.com

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Facebook:

LeagueofWomenVotersofGreaterRockfordIllinois - (one word).

•

Twitter

#LWVGR

•

Website:

<http://www.lwvgr.org>

Event and meeting calendar available.

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Listserver:

LWVGR has a private email listserver for members only. If you have an email change, email to: janiewc@mac.com.

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Newsletter mailing list:

If you prefer to receive mailed copies of the *VOTER* newsletter, just pay the \$12.00 fee. Go the website and the option is on the membership renewal page.

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Paypal:

You can now join/renew on our website, using the mail form or Paypal! You can also make donations using Paypal.

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Tell your friends!

Do you know someone who might be interested in joining?

Please introduce them to our social media.

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LWVGR Mailing Address:

4990 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61114

All Members: There is no Board of Directors meeting for July. Our next meeting will be August 10 and will be our annual planning meeting. Any member is welcome to attend and even if you don't attend your ideas and input are welcomed.

President's Report

Claire McIntyre, LWVGR President

Although it will be fairly quiet this summer, the pace will pick up in the fall as we begin our fall schedule of committee meetings and our new schedule of monthly membership meetings. We will be sending you announcements and reminders but please put the first Tuesday of every month, 6:00 p.m. on your calendar. The location will be the centrally located YWCA, 4990 E. State St., located near Rockford University. The YWCA has plentiful parking convenient to the building. Meetings start September 8.



Monthly LWVGR membership meetings first Tuesday of every month, 6:00 p.m. YWCA, 4990 E. State St. Starting September 8

We'll kick off September focusing our first monthly membership meeting on Redistricting and a new members drive. Our speaker will be Mary Kubasak, President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois and board member of Independent Maps. A notary of the public will be on hand to notarize any petitions you may have completed over the summer and our Redistricting Coordinator, Dyanna Walker, will collect the petitions to submit to the state. If you need petitions or instruction on how to gather signatures, please contact us by emailing lwvgr22@gmail.com, with Redistricting Petitions on the subject line.

New membership is critical to the functioning and longevity of the League and we encourage you to bring potential members with you to the meeting. Redistricting is an easy sell as many of Illinois' citizens are interested in changing the current system of legislators choosing their district through dominant party control of the redistricting process.

We have several new members whom we would like to welcome: Emily Lindquist and Charissa Lindquist, who joined at the annual meeting. We would also like to welcome Mary Johnson and Lynn Stainbrook, also new to the League. Have a lovely summer! *See you in September.*

The Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford meets the second Monday of the month at 5:30pm, currently at the home of Vice-President Christina Hiltrop, 2606 Point O' Woods, Rockford, 61114.

Any member is welcome at Board meetings.

President:

Communications:

Claire McIntyre

claire.f.mcintyre@gmail.com

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Glenda Shaver

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Campaign Finance Reform:

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Member-at-Large

VOTER Editor & Webmaster:

Janie Wilson-Cook

janiewc@mac.com

Member-at-Large

Facebook Contact

Teresa Hill

trusstech@live.com

Communications Committee

Claire McIntyre, chair

We are continuing to update the League website and Facebook page, which may be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfGreaterRockford>, frequently and have added a Twitter account to our repertoire of online media tools. At the Convention, a great deal of conversation and workshops revolved around reaching new members, particularly those in their 20's and 30's, who rely on these means of communication. Our Twitter handle is #LWVGR and will be up and running soon.

Webmaster and Voter editor Janie Wilson-Cook is happy to accept articles and photographs from members for the Voter and for our website, www.lwvgr.org. Article deadline for the Voter is the 17th of the month. Information for the website may be submitted at any time.

Our next column in the Rockford Register Star is scheduled to appear on July 5th. You may find it at: <http://www.rrstar.com/article/20150704/OPINION/150709786/14261/OPINION>

Campaign Finance Reform

Elizabeth Lindquist, chair

No report. Our next meeting is July 21th at 6pm at Meg's Daily Grind on Perryville. We meet there the third Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you.

Education Committee

Glenda Shaver, chair

There is no report for June. Our next meeting will be July 21, 9:00 a.m. at The Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles St., Rockford

Environmental Issues

Diane Cushing, chair

On June 23, 2015 the EIC and guests toured 304 North Main Street and went to Octane for lunch. There were 19 in attendance. January of 2015 Transatlantic President Kevin Holdmann and his wife Lenae Weichel purchased the building at 304 North Main Street and are in the process of doing a \$5 million historic renovation of this 55,000 square foot building next to the Coronado Theatre. Lenae provided us with a tour of the building. She provided interesting history and insight into what it takes to renovate a building like this with an environmental protection focus. They have removed all asbestos and torn down walls and duct work. They are literally in the throes of renovation. They will have room for other companies or agencies that may want to set up home at 304 North Main Street. If anyone has any interest or knows of anyone that may have interest, please contact Lenae at LWeichel@304Main.com. Thank you, Lenae, for the tour but also for investing in Rockford. They are part of transforming Rockford.

The LWVGR board voted to join the Upper Mississippi River Region Independent League Organization (ILO). Lenae Weichel has agreed to act as liaison to it for LWVGR. The UMRR ILO is made up of Leagues in the Mississippi watershed region representing Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. For the ILO to be approved by LWVUS, 43 local Leagues must be represented. LWVGR is proud to add its name to this important effort.

Our next meeting will be July 28, 2015 at 11:30 at Katie's Cup.

MEETINGS:

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE:

1st Thursday of the month, 8am
Stockholm Inn
Rockford Plaza
2420 Charles Street
Rockford, IL 61108

LWVGR BOARD MEETING:

2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm
home of Christina Hiltrop
2606 Point O' Woods
Rockford, IL 61114
All are welcome.

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE:

2nd Thursday of the month,
5:30 pm

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

2nd Wednesday of the month, at noon
Katie's Cup
502 7th Street
Rockford, IL 61104.

EDUCATION:

3rd Tuesday of the month, 9am
Stockholm Inn
Rockford Plaza
2420 Charles Street
Rockford, IL 61108

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

4th Tuesday of the month, 11:30am
Katie's Cup
502 7th Street
Rockford, IL 61104

COMMUNICATIONS:

2nd Tuesday of the month
Katie's Cup, 502 7th Street
Rockford, IL 61104

MEMBER SERVICES:

1st Friday of the month, 11:30am
Thai Hut
Sandy Hollow Road
west of 11th Street
Rockford, IL 61109

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM:

3rd Tuesday of the month, 6pm
Meg's Daily Grind
3885 N Perryville Road
Rockford, IL 61114

LWVGR MONTHLY MEETINGS

June 13, 2015, 9-11am
Forest Hills Country Club
5135 Forest Hills Road,
Rockford, IL 61107
\$25.00

Sent with yearly dues by mail
or online.

Local Government

Paula Lind, chair

Local Government has no meetings this summer. No committee report.

LWVGR Scholarship

Janie Wilson-Cook, co-ordinator

Amanda Nichols was chosen as the recipient of the LWVGR scholarship. Amanda Nichols is an outstanding scholarship recipient. The Scholarship, formerly the Margaret Wyeth Scholarship, is for \$500.00 and will be sent directly to Rock Valley College where Amanda intends to study nursing in preparation to be a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. Amanda is in the National Honor Society, holds a 4.1 G.P.A. from Auburn High School, is in the Creative and Performing Arts Program (CAPA), and a volunteer with Restore Habitat for the Humanity and Greenwich Art Fair.

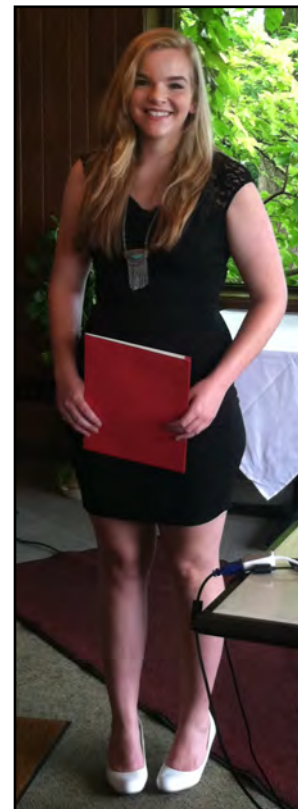
Very active at her church, Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, she is also a Certified Nurse Assistant, with clinical hours at Rockford Memorial Hospital and Wesley Willows Nursing Home. Amanda also works on the serving staff at Rockford Country Club. Living with her grandparents, Amanda dedicates her success to the memory of her parents.

Amanda is the persistent, hard-working, intelligent young woman that exemplifies the perfect League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Scholarship recipient.

Voter Service

Susan Janson, chair

Voter Services has no meetings scheduled this summer. No committee report.



*LWVGR Scholarship
Award Recipient
Amanda Nichols.*

Please send in your Membership
renewal today!

We still have several members needing to renew.
If you have questions or are unsure of your renewal
status, please email Treasurer Martha Pippitt at
dpippitt@sbcglobal.net or
call her at 815-636-1974.

You can download the form and mail the renewal to
her address and/or use Paypal from our website:
http://www.lwvgr.org/join_form.html

LWVGR Annual Meeting 2015

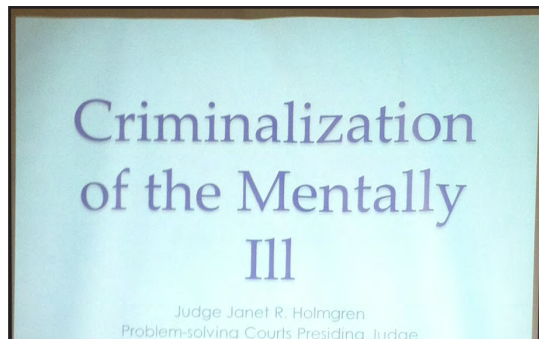
The League of Women Voters Greater Rockford held its annual meeting at Forest Hills Country Club on Saturday, June 13, 2015. The keynote speaker was Hon. Janet Holmgren.

Judge Janet Holmgren currently is the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile and Problem-solving Courts Divisions of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court, which includes Winnebago and Boone Counties. Judge Holmgren's court assignment includes presiding over the Adult Drug Court, the Therapeutic Intervention Program (TIP) Mental Health Court, Veteran's Court, Family Drug Court, which is a program for substance abusing parents in abuse and neglect court, Youth Recovery Court, which is the only juvenile mental health court in Illinois, and all juvenile court proceedings in Boone County.

The League business meeting included the election of officers and committee reports were presented. Slated officers for 2015-2016 elected were: Claire McInyre, President, Christine Hilltrop, Vice President, Martha Pippitt, Treasurer, Jo Minor, Secretary.



Judge Janet Holmgren speaking on "Criminalization of the Mentally Ill."



Judge Holmgren spoke on the history of usually punitive solutions for the mentally ill and the development of Problem Solving Courts in Winnebago County such as the Winnebago County Adult Drug Court in 1996; Therapeutic Intervention Program (TIP) Court in 2005; Family Drug Court in 2009; Veteran's Court in 2012; and Youth Recovery Court in 2012.



President Susan running the Annual Meeting.



Jeanne Claeys presents our scholarship winner.

Jeanne Claeys presents LWVGR Scholarship recipient Amanda Nichols her certificate during Amanda's introduction to the League.



Elaine Pfluger introduces our speaker.



Angie Goral, Dyanna Walker, Judge Holmgren, and Marla Wilson



Christina Hiltrop, Susan Janson, and Elaine Pfluger



Ann Marie Marshall and Barbara Smith



Guests Adela Rivera, Linda Paluzzi, and member Teresa Hill



Elizabeth Lindquist, daughter Emily and guest MacKenzie Peschek



Lenae Weichel and daughter





Kathy Scarpaci, Kathy Mattison, and Martha Pippitt



Joel Cowen and Doug Scott



Justine Walhout



Alice Heath and Marla Wilson



Hon. Janet Holmgren and a lovely bouquet from the League



Jean Beal (R) and her guest

