



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

League of Women Voters of Greater
Rockford

June 2012

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Annual Report 2011-2012

League of Women Voters
Invites you to attend the
90th Annual Meeting
June 2nd
9 AM registration and networking
9:30 AM Breakfast
Forest Hill Country Club
5135 Forest Hills Road
Reservation confirmed with your check
for \$18.00
Checks made out to LWVGR
Mail to Ann Powell
4040 Pepper Drive
Rockford, IL 61114

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford
90th Year

Saturday, June 2, 2012
Forest Hills Country Club

9:30 a.m. Breakfast

10 a.m. Dr. P. S. Ruchman, Jr.
Why Voters Vote the Way
They Do

10:30 a.m. LWVGR Community Service
Award

Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order president	Karen Fysh,
Adoption of Rules (Robert's Rules of Order) Smith	Barb
Minutes of the June 7, 2008 Secretary	Judy Schultz,
Treasurer's Report Treasurer	Ann Powell,
Budget Report Budget	Ann Powell,
Membership Report chair	Claire McIntyre,
Nominating Committee Report Election of New Officers and Directors	Karen Fysh
Adjournment	

"Why Voters Vote the Way they Do"



P.S. Ruckman, Jr. is a native of Pensacola, Fl. and earned his Ph.D. in political science at Florida State University. He is nationally recognized as an expert on the confirmation process for Supreme Court justices and presidential pardons. Professor Ruckman has appeared in the pages of the New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal dozens of times and has been a guest on National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation, Morning Edition and On the Media. He is consulted by CBS, ABC News, MSNBC, and America's Newsroom (FOX) as well as Newsweek and Rolling Stone magazines. Professor Ruckman has also enjoyed appearances in two episodes of the popular PBS television series History Detectives. Professor Ruckman's wife, Heidi, is a partner in the law firm Heyl, Royster, Voelker and Allen and they are parents to 6 and 8 year old sons, Christopher Hamilton and John Wilson."

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Whereas, the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford has repeatedly adopted the local government position:

Support efforts to reduce the size of the Winnebago County Board;

Whereas, the County Board Chair led the effort to bring this issue to the voters of Winnebago County;

Whereas, the question to reduce the size of the Winnebago County Board was approved by the voters;

Whereas, the County Board Chair implemented the will of the voters efficiently and fairly;

Therefore, The League recognizes Chairman Scott Christiansen for his leadership in accomplishing this important goal.

In appreciation for all he has done for our community, we, the members of the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford express our gratitude to

Chairman Scott Christiansen

Karen Fysh, President
On behalf of the League membership

President's Report

- We have had a busy year.

Two of the greatest challenges were studying the two important issues that the US League asked us to discuss and to come to consensus on, the Federal Role in Education and the Privatization of Public Services. We accomplished both of them. It will be interesting to see how our ideas compare with Leagues all over the US. We were successful in holding three candidate forums in coalition with several other organizations before the primary election in March. Our Voter Service committee registered to vote many members of our community and sponsored members at a training at the city election office to become a voter registrar.

Our new League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford web site and the new Facebook link to it is up and running. A big "Thank You" to Ann Powell, Theresa Hill and Claire McIntyre for all their hard work on these two important communication resources.

Our work is not done. Old issues resurface, i.e. Campaign Finance/Election Reform and the collapse of the Health Care coalition we were a part of . The attack on and passage of new voter suppression laws by many states is a fight that needs to be fought by all of us in Leagues across the nation.

I would like to "Thank" all of the marvelous members of this League for their service and dedication to the work of the League. You are the "Heartbeat" of this League.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fysh

Click on the link below for the financial report.

[FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET 2012](#)

MEMBER SERVICES Report 2012

Claire McIntyre, Diane Cushing, Carole Perrin, Jeanne Claeys, Committee Members

Statistics: The League of Women Voters Greater Rockford now has 110 members. LWVGR welcomed 12 new members; Jean Beal, Lavon Buelte, Kristin Burns, Sarah Reed-McNamara, Tom McNamara, Genevieve Schlicher, Joan Schmelzle, Teresa Hill, Marsha Ackerman, Kathy McNeely-Johnson, Hope Cantwell, Dyanna Chandler, and returning members Annie Hose-Ryan and Susan Stephens.

LWVGR has nine 50 Year Members; Jeanne Claeys (1960), Vivian Hickey (1941), Colleen Holmbeck (1960), Elizanne Lewis (1951), Marjorie Johnsen, Joyce Holmberg, Evelyn Palm, Sally Trefz, and Jennie Wall. Congratulations and thank you to these dedicated Leaguers.

Membership Events: In September, the LWVGR Membership Committee held a new members orientation Meet and Greet. It was an opportunity to share critical information about how the League operates as well as an opportunity to get to know new members. Many of the new members were interested in becoming Voter Registrars and Jeanne Claeys was on hand to answer questions and let them know about a scheduled training event. Other committee members were there to talk about opportunities within their own committees. The meeting was well attended and we will host another orientation this fall.

Also on tap for the fall will be a Young Members' Event. Our young members list is growing and we would like to present an opportunity for them to meet and network.

New and Exciting: LWVGR now has a new and up to date webpage, www.lwvgr.org, an email contact, lwvgr@yahoo.org, and a Facebook page, League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Illinois. You need not be a Facebook member to view this page. We have a Facebook link on our webpage. The purpose of the Facebook page is to bring up to date information about League happenings and to allow members to comment. It is also a necessary tool to attract new members.

The committee has also instituted a calling tree for major events, contacting members who may have missed the announcements sent out in the Voter or weekly updates. This has been well received.

Personal Information Update: If your email, address, or phone number change over the year, please contact the membership committee so we may update our materials. You may either call Diane Cushing at 815-877-2386 or contact us by email at lwvgr@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Interests Survey: *Please fill out this short survey to let us know what your interests are as a League member. When you joined you filled out a membership brochure which allowed you to check off your interests. As interests change over time, you may wish to review the list again. You may send the form in with your membership renewal to Ann Powell at 4040 Pepper Dr. ,Rockford, 61114. Thank you.*

Please check all that apply:
Elections/Campaign Finance Reform (Does not have a standing committee at this time but is a priority issue with LWVUS and LWVIL) _____
Communications (includes Public Relations/Media) _____

EducationCommittee _____
 Fund Raising _____
 Health Care _____
 InternationalRelations _____
 LocalGovernment (This committee plans the public and candidate forums) _____
 Membership _____
 Environmental Issues _____
 Newsletter _____
 Event Planning _____
 Voter Service _____
 I would like to be a Voter Registrar _____
 For Voter Registrar training purposes, I live in: Rockford _____ Winnebago County _____
 Boone County _____

EDUCATION COMMITTEE Annual Report, June 2011-May 2012

The Education Committee focused on the LWVUS consensus on The Federal Role in Education. In cooperation with the Leagues from Rochelle, McHenry, and Jo Daviess County, LWVGR held two presentations to help us understand the main points of the consensus we were being asked to consider: the Common Core State Standards and Equity in Funding. Our two speakers were Dr. Susan Udelhofen on CCSS and Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability on equity in funding. We then completed the consensus for submission at a special meeting in November.

In January, the League coordinated with the Universalist Unitarian Church, La Voz Latina, and the Rockford Register Star to present a primary candidate forum focusing on education.

In March and April, representatives of the Rockford Public Schools were invited to speak to the committee on integration of common core state standards and school board members addressed questions on fiscal, pension, and other policies. In April, the League was asked by RPS District 205 to help moderate and work with the district and Alignment Rockford on two public information sessions on the academy concept for the high schools.

Our upcoming focus in the fall will be to reprise the candidate forum focused on education issues in cooperation with the Booker Washington Center. We welcome new members.

Committee members: Marsha Ackerman, Sandra Aden, Kristin Burns, Joel Cowen, Karen Fysh, Amanda Hamaker, Alice Heath, Faye Marcus, Jane McAfee, Joan Morton, Ann Powell, Elinor Radlund, Sarah Reed-McNamara, Gen Schlicher, Joan Schmelzle, Judy Schultz, Joann Shaheen, Glenda Shaver, Justine Walhout, Karen Weedman
 Claire McIntyre, Committee Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

6/28/2011 - Constance McCarthy, President of the Rock River Valley Wild Ones organization, gave a presentation. Wild Ones promotes native plants for natural landscapes. They have 3,012 household memberships in 45 states and 4 Canadian provinces. Native plants lead to naturally low-impact and sustainable landscaping practices. Wild Ones promote their many benefits to home owners, governmental agencies, corporate boardrooms, institutional administrators, and all other decision-makers in order to counter misleading propaganda from the chemical and lawn care industries.

10/3/11 - Tour of the Winnebago County Landfill with 4 representatives of the Glencoe and Glenview Leagues. The Winnebago Reclamation Services Inc. is now the owner of our landfill. They are a private company established in 1982. Per the Rockford Register Star, "they employ a staff of 20-49 and make an annual revenue of \$5-10 million". The Rock River Environmental Services Co. is the operator of the landfill. They are a private equity, holding company and finally, the Winnebago Landfill Co. manages and operates the landfill. Winnebago County receives around \$2.4 million from these companies yearly and that is called a "tipping fee". That money is used for "economic development". Recycling is currently being shipped to Homewood Disposal in Homewood, IL.

11/29/ 11 - Representatives of the Green Communities Coalition spoke with the EIC. The Green Communities Coalition is a non-profit grassroots organization of Northern Illinois dedicated to preserving and improving our environment through positive action.

2/28/12 - Tour of the Nicholas Conservatory. As Jack Armstrong, president of the Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners stated, "Nicholas Conservatory is a new way of thinking about our community. We are becoming a City of Gardens, and the addition of Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens will compliment many other attractions in Rockford like Severson Dells, Nygren Wetlands, and Winnebago County Forest Preserve, along with other 'Great Garden' destinations in Rockford like Anderson Japanese Gardens, Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, La Paloma Gardens, Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum and Gardens, Heritage Gardens at Midway Village Museum and the Sinnissippi Rose Garden." The Nicholas Conservatory is applying for LEED Certification.

The EIC also has read *The Third Industrial Revolution*, by Jeremy Rifkin. In this book Rifkin explores how Internet technology and renewable energy are merging to create a powerful "Third Industrial Revolution". He asks us to imagine hundreds of millions of people producing their own green energy in their homes, offices, and factories and sharing it with each other in an "energy Internet", just like how we now create and share information online. Rifkin is one of the most popular social thinkers of our time and is the bestselling author of 18 books. He is an advisor to the European Union, who have committed to the TIR, and to heads of state around the world. This is a book well worth reading.

EIC members: Angie Goral, Virginia Jansen, Marti Keeker, Jane McAfee, Carole Perrin, Marjorie Trigg, Justine Walhout, Marla Wilson, Diane Cushing (chair)

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

In last year's annual report, our committee members were optimistic that our work of the past four years would finally move into a funding campaign for Behavioral Health. We were encouraged by the League of Women Voters vote to accept the following proposal. "Therefore- The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford shall undertake a major effort in 2011- 2013 to obtain voter approval for a local funding mechanism for Mental Health Services, including leadership, community education, serving as fiscal agent for a community coalition, and other efforts."

The members of the Behavioral Health Steering Committee welcomed the support of the League of Women Voters and agreed to have a decision on the funding mechanism in June, 2011 and start the funding campaign. Our meeting in July focused on a survey, requested by the Behavioral Health Steering Committee. The survey would determine the perceptions of the public's knowledge of the Behavioral Health crisis and the need for Winnebago County to have local funding in addition of Federal and State funding. The committee members worked with Joel Cowen regarding the objectives of the survey and how the questions would be worded. Joel reported on which questions on Behavioral Health were used in the 2010 Healthy Community Study. The cost of the survey would be around \$10,000 and raising these funds would not be the responsibility of LWV. Our committee met with League member Janyce Fadden, and work on goals, objectives and a proposed time line for the survey and start of a campaign. We would start in August, conduct the survey in January 2012, and give the survey results to the Funding options committee in March, 2012.

In August, Joel Cowen reported that he attended a meeting of the Behavioral Health Funding Options committee. The members were checking on different streams of funding instead of a 708 referendum (casino, "sin" tax, etc). They said that the LWV should not proceed with a survey at this time because of lack of funds.

For the past 4 years, the Behavioral Health Steering Committee has been invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (ACMHAI). Their purpose is to increase the capacity of individual community mental health systems to eliminate, ameliorate or reduce the incidence of mental disabilities by strengthening and developing local mental health authorities. LWV Education fund, with the Northern Illinois Community Foundation, has been used as a method to pay the \$500 non- voting trial membership for their help in creating a Winnebago County Mental Health Authority.

Elaine represented the LWV at the ACMHAI two day quarterly meeting at Starved Rock conference Center in September and the December meeting in Schaumburg. After the September meeting, Elaine gave copies of the amended Section 14 of the Community Mental Health Act to the Behavioral Health Steering Committee.

ACMHAI introduced this legislation to ensure that every county or township has, at a minimum, a voluntary mental health advisory committee to coordinate local efforts to carry out the new federal and state policies enacted through Health/Medicaid Reform. As required by the act, the County Board Chairman, Scott Christiansen, appointed the seven member Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory committee at the end of December, 2011. The members are: Angie Goral, Carol Klint, Matthew Toohey, Dr. Marilyn Griffin, Philip Eaton, Richard Kunnert and Susan Grans. The Health Care Committee meetings in 2012 have been spent in discussions of the role of the LWV and Behavioral Health local funding.

Committee members: Nancy Basik, Joel Cowen, Janet Ellis, Wanda Hoover, Harlan Johnson, Leigh Lakey, Eileen Liezert, Jane McAfee, Guen McClendon, Elizabeth Mendeloff, Jean Morrow, Ann Powell, Barb Smith, and Chair, Elaine Pfluger

VOTER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT, JULY 2011-JUNE, 2012

MEMBERS: Jeanne Claeys, Chair; Diane Cushing, Wanda Hoover, Elsie Janson, Susan Janson, Marti Keeker, Jane Kelley, Ann Marshall, Jane McAfee, Suzanne Whiteford, Janie Wilson-Cook, Shirley Wooden

Voter Service coordinated last year's Annual Meeting June 4. On July 21 we had our annual summer potluck at Susan Janson's home. From then on, it was down to business. In the fall some Voter Service members, the Local Government Committee, and AAUW held a Women in Healthcare Forum at the University College of Medicine on Tuesday, October 18. Voter Registrations in preparation for the March 20 Primary began in December at various schools and ended on February 20. We registered 420+.

For the November 6 Election, we will be registering voters until the October 9 deadline, particularly on the weekends of September 29-30 and October 6-7. We plan to recruit more League Deputy Registrars and hope to have a training session at the City Board of Elections sometime in July or August followed by an informational meeting of all Deputy Registrars. We also help Local Government with their candidates forums.

Voter Service welcomes new members. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn. Our next meetings will be on August 2 and September 6. If interested in joining our committee, contact Jeanne Claeys, Chair, phone - 815-226-4642, e-mail - jclaeys@oglecom.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE report is pending.

LWVGR Local Program 2010-2012
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
- Support efforts to reduce the size of the Winnebago County Board

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

2011-2012 LWVGR PLANNING CALENDAR

August 2011

22nd Board mtg.

September 2011

12th Board mtg.

22nd new member orientation

26th Common Core Standards Wkshp. 19th IL House &

October 2011

18th "Women in Health Care" Forum

29th Dr. Beth Dougherty, "Arab Spring"

February 2012

2nd Winnebago Co. Candidate Forum
6:30 pm Allen Chapel

10th & 11th Voter registration at RLP

13th Board mtg.

18th & 19th Voter registration at RLP

18th & 19th Voter registration at groceries

1st Presbyterian, 2-4 pm

28th Nicholas Conservatory Tour, 11:30 am

November 2012
7th Equity & Funding in Education
14th Board meeting
12th Federal Role in Education consensus
30th Consensus due

December 2011
3rd Holiday mtg. at Wesley Willows
12th Board mtg.

January 2012
9th Board mtg.
28th LWVIL Issues Briefing
31st Ed Forum w/IL House & Senate
Candidates, 7 pm at UU

March 2012
5th Leader Luncheon
12th Board mtg.

Women's History Month
14th Groundwater Festival

April 2012
9th Board mtg.
14th Consensus on privatization of govt.
services
15th Articles for Annual Rpt. due
17th & 19th moderate Ed Forums Auburn &
Jefferson Schools

May 2012
Annual mtg. packets mailed
14th Board mtg.

June 2012
2nd 90th Annual Mtg. at Forest Hills
Country Club at 9 am

Revised May 1, 2012

MARGARET WYETH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FOR 2012

Rhode Saint-Fleurose from Rockford East High School will receive the \$500 Margaret Wyeth Scholarship for 2012. Rhode was chosen from nineteen applicants. She plans to attend Illinois State University, Normal, IL, majoring in nursing and eventually planning to become a doctor.

Rhode is in the top percent of her class, having taken difficult classes including AP English, AP Government/Economics, and AP Statistics. Her extracurricular activities include cheerleading, Student Commission, Natural Helpers, French Club, Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Opinion Editor for East High Newspaper, National Honors Society, Scholastic Bowl, Class President.

Rhode will assume much responsibility for her college expenses. She works part-time at a McDonald's Restaurant. Her parents come from Haiti, having lived in the United States for eighteen years, still having many relatives in Haiti and being worried and heartbroken after the devastating earthquake. Rhode volunteered at Rockford schools and Heartland Church to add to the contributions to Haiti from Rockford.

In her personal essay, Rhode wrote: "The tragedy ended up bringing not only Rockford, but many cities around the world together and benefiting a country that was more than just a headline to me. I learned how to appreciate what I had and not take anything for granted. I learned how when I put my mind to something I could really make a difference. This is why I want to become a nurse and eventually a doctor. I want to help others and put smiles on faces. I want to be the silver lining in a gray cloud. I want to make a difference in the world."

The League thanks those members who donated toward the \$500 scholarship. The annual \$500 scholarship is derived from the interest on the Margaret Wyeth bequest deposited with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. This year because of the poor economy, the interest amounted to \$310. The extra \$190 was donated by League members.

Since 2003 the League has awarded ten \$500 scholarships: North Boone High School, Harlem High School, Roosevelt Alternative High School, Jefferson High School, Hononegah High School, Winnebago

High School, Belvidere North High School, Auburn High School, Jefferson High School, East High School.

Thanks to Margaret Wyeth, a very active member of the League having been on various committees and serving as League President for two years from 1960-62, the League has been able to honor some of our outstanding young people.

Jeanne Claeys, Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Coordinator

2012-2013 LWVGR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 90th ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Membership renewal is July 1, the start of the fiscal year, for one year. we ask you to continue to support League programs by renewing your membership. Please remember to bring this annual report to the meeting!

LWVGR Membership Renewal Form

Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____ E-Mail _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Membership Categories:
q Individual Membership \$60.00 q Young Member (under age 35) \$20.00 q Household \$90.00

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS (includes basic membership)

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

RESERVATIONS FOR 90th ANNUAL MEETING LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER ROCKFORD

Saturday, June 2nd 2012 * 9:00 a.m. ² Forest Hills Country Club
*5135 Forest Hills Road. Rockford, Illinois 61114

Reservation deadline May 29th, 2012² Please send your \$18.00 check to:
Ann Powell, 4040 Pepper Drive Rockford, IL 61114

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____
Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Guests are offered a special price of \$10.

Read and print the annual report in preparation for the annual meeting. Send in your check for your reservation. Invite a friend or interested person to attend the meeting for a reduced price. Spend the morning with your League friends learning about the League activities. Looking forward to your presence.

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