



League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

Rockford VOTER

February 2013

MEETINGS:

VOTER SERVICE
COMMITTEE:

LWVGR BOARD
MEETING: the
second Monday,
North Suburban
Library, 5:00.

HEALTH CARE
COMMITTEE: third
Thursday, 5:30
p.m.
P.A.Peterson

IR COMMITTEE:

celebrate
BLACK
history MONTH

*Special presentation
for community....*

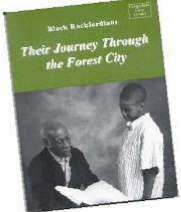
**Black Rockfordians:
Their Journey Through the Forest City**

Tuesday, February 5

6:30 pm—8:30 pm


Where: NSLD/Loves Park

Hosted by North Suburban Library District
and League of Women Voters of Rockford



**Learn about the experiences/
accomplishments of 66 African
Americans who lived in the
Forest City for 25 years or more.**
Special program based on the book and film.

- *Members of oral history project will show film, add their comments and answer questions.*
- *Middle-High school students and adults welcome.*



NSLD
North Suburban Library District

NSLD/Loves Park
6340 N. Second St.
Loves Park, IL 61111
815-633-4247
www.northsuburbanlibrary.org
Find us on facebook!

NSLD/Roscoe
5562 Clayton Circle
Roscoe, IL 61073
815-923-6266

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT:
second
Wednesday, at
noon, Katie's Cup

EDUCATION: Feb.
19 9a.m.,
Stockholm Inn

ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES: Feb. 26
11:30am Katie's
Cup

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Local Government Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at Noon at Katie's Cup. 2013 activities will include educational opportunities for league members and the public.

Candidate forums

Feb. 10 Allen Chapel 2-4 p.m. Meet and Greet for Mayoral and Aldermanic candidates

March 6th cosponsored with Next Rockford and Rockford Register Star -Aldermanic candidates Sullivan Center 6:30 pm

March 20th cosponsored with Next Rockford and Rockford Register Star - School Board candidates Sullivan Center 6:30 pm

March 27th cosponsored with North Suburban Library Loves Park and Machesney Park Mayoral and Aldermanic and School Board Candidates.

Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to serve. Please submit your name and interest to Karen Fysh or Ann Powell powell4040@comcast.net 815-222-8208.

The **Education Committee** met on Jan. 22. The discussion centered on the committee's future focus. We identified two areas of concern- an update on the

implementation of the Common Core Standards and the execution of the bond issue passed in November for capital improvements. We will invite speakers for the Feb. and March meetings to update us and, using that information, will identify which area to follow more in-depth. At this time, Donette Naylor from the Regional Office of Education has agreed to be our speaker on Common Core at the March meeting. Our speaker for Feb. will address the bond issue, although he/she has not yet been identified. All League members are welcome to attend. However, we ask that you RSVP so that we ensure enough seating for all. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 19th at 9 am at the Stockholm Inn.

The LWVGR and the Unitarian-Universalist Church hosted a meeting for local business and government leaders on the need for a graduated rate income tax in Illinois on Jan. 23rd. Executive Director Ralph Martire of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability presented the research behind the case for a graduated tax and answered questions from the audience. Speakers on the need for a graduated rate income tax are available to present to faith and other organizations. Please contact issues@lwwil.org if you would like a speaker for your organization.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

The EIC met Jan. 22 at Katie's Cup and discussed the book *Full Planet, Empty Plates (The New Geopolitics of Food Scarcity)* by Lester R. Brown. "The world food situation is deteriorating. Grain stocks have dropped to a dangerously low level. The World Food Price Index has doubled in one decade. The ranks of the hungry are expanding; political unrest is spreading.

On the demand side of the food equation, there will be 219,000 people at the dinner table tonight who were not there last night. And some 3 billion increasingly affluent people are moving up the food chain, consuming grain-intensive livestock and poultry products.

At the same time, water shortages and heat waves are making it more difficult for farmers to keep pace with demand." A small book well worth reading.

The EIC will meet next at Katie's Cup at 11:30 on Feb. 26.
Submitted by Diane Cushing (EIC chair)

LWVGR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford believes the proliferation of semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammo clips is a major health and safety threat. The League supports strong federal and state measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these items by private citizens. LWVGR believes that there should be enforcement of strict penalties for improper possession of and crimes committed with assault weapons and high-capacity ammo clips and the adequate allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

Large capacity magazines have made possible some of the worst mass murders ever committed, enabling a shooter to rapidly fire off many rounds without having to reload. Given the heart-breaking killing of young, innocent children in what should have been a safe learning environment; it is clearly time that our legislators prohibit the buying of guns with high-capacity magazines and close the loophole that allows people to buy guns at gun shows without a criminal background check. This is not about being "anti-gun" or "gun control", this is about sensible gun policies for our health and safety. Please join the League of Women Voters in urging our legislators to pass such sensible laws.

Karen Fysh, President

The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

LWVGR CONTACTS

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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



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