

**In This Issue**

[LWVIL Issues Briefing](#)

[LWV Committees](#)

**Featured Article**

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing  
Saturday, January 28

Presentations on:  
Myths and Reality of voting in Illinois

Sustainable food and water policy and progress

Box lunch

Afternoon workshops:  
LWVUS privatization study  
LWVIL pension study  
Candidate forum planners  
Candidate forum moderators  
Legislative outlook

Registration required  
\$50 all day fee

Young members may use the Young Member fund to pay the registration fee.

Karen Fysh is arranging carpools and coordinating registrations

# Rockford VOTER

## January 2012

### **CANDIDATE FORUM WITH A 'TWIST'**

Candidates for the House and Senate in Springfield are invited to a forum focusing on education issues.

The Unitarian Church, along with Rockford Urban Ministries, and the League of Women Voters plan to hold a forum with a twist- it will focus only on education and will be organized in three segments. The first will be a panel of experts and stakeholders in education speaking about their concerns and experiences in education and focused primarily on the state's responsibilities, setting the stage for a more purposeful conversation with the candidates about their education policies and plans. The second segment will be a more traditional forum segment with a panel of community members asking the candidates questions, and the third segment will allow the audience to ask questions. We expect it to last 60-75 min. Because of the nature of those we hope will make up the two panels, we believe that this will be well attended.

Date: Tuesday, January 31

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: UU Church, 4848 Turner Street, Rockford

### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING TRAINING**

-  
On Wednesday and Friday evenings, January 11 and 13, Emmanuel Episcopal Church will host a training in community organizing for residents and leaders of Rockford. The training will be conducted by staff from the Industrial Areas Foundation.

**MEETINGS  
FOR January**

**VOTER SERVICE  
COMMITTEE:**

Voter Service meets the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn.

**LWVGR BOARD  
MEETING:**

Monday, January 9,  
North Suburban  
Library, 5:00.

**COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZING:**

Jan. 11 and Jan. 13

**HEALTH CARE  
COMMITTEE:**

January 19, 5:30 p.m.

**IR COMMITTEE:**

January 20, 9:30 a.m.

**EDUCATION**

**FORUM:** Jan. 31,  
7:00 p.m.

**CANDIDATE**

**FORUM:** February  
2, Allen Chapel  
Church

**CANDIDATE**

**FORUM:** February

All across the nation, folk from various walks of life, and various political, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, have created broad-based local organizations that have been able to address issues sometimes considered impossible to correct. The training provided will be an introduction to this kind of organizing.

The training is free.

Dinner will be catered each evening, also at no charge.

This is a two-part training.

Wednesday and Friday; January 11 and 13.  
6 P.M. 'til 8:30 P.M.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
412 North Church Street  
Rockford, Illinois

Please register in advance (We need to plan for the meal.)

E-mail at: [bobhrockford@aol.com](mailto:bobhrockford@aol.com)  
Or call at: 815/979-7883.

All messages will be responded to ASAP.

-The Rev. Bob Hillenbrand

**LWVGR CONTACTS**

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Voter Services: Jeanne claeys - [jclaeys@oglecom.com](mailto:jclaeys@oglecom.com)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

**The Green Communities Coalition spoke with our committee on 11/29/11 at Katie's Cup. Alan Penticoff and Bob Lundstrom from the GCC and Dwayne Nelson from Solergy were the presenters. Dwayne owns Solergy which is a solar panel installation company. When asked about the delighting of Rockford they reported that the Sierra Club supports delighted communities stating the research does not support more crime as a result of fewer street lights. Ruth Wagner is the new president of the Green Communities Coalition. The GCC is partnering with RVC to reinvigorate Earth Day.**

Ever heard of Green Drinks? Every month people who work in the environmental field meet up at informal sessions known as Green Drinks. There is a lively mixture of people from NGOs, academia, government and business. **Come along and you'll be made welcome. Just say, "are you green?" and we will look after you and introduce you to whoever is there. It's a great way of catching up with people you know and also for making new contacts. Everyone invites someone else along, so there's always a different crowd, making Green Drinks an organic, self-organizing network.**

The GCC is going to organize a GREEN DRINKS at Clock Tower on Jan. 19. Apparently Green Drinks is going on through out the world and now Rockford, IL will have GREEN DRINKS. The EIC is also reading The Third Industrial Revolution by Jeremy Rifkin.

**Submitted by Diane Cushing - chair**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**Feb. 2nd forum for candidates with opponents running in local primary elections at Allen Chapel, 3000 rural Street, Rockford**

**Feb. 19th forum for candidates with opponents running in state elections including those running for State Representative and State Senate, First Presbyterian Church, 406 North Main Street.**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

International Relations will meet on January 20 at my home, 615 Sunrise Ln. at 9:30 a.m. Any Leaguers who would like to continue discussing The Arab Spring are welcome.

This is a topic of enduring importance and of special interest because LWVUS has a position on establishing democratic societies.

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Voter Service Update: Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn. Members will be finalizing dates for voter registration drives in early February to meet the voter registration deadline of February 21. Colleges, high schools, and Logli's and K-Mart sites will be considered plus other sites if there are enough volunteer Deputy Registrars.

It's not too late to be trained as a Deputy Registrar. If you live in the city, call the City Board of Elections, 815-987-5756, 301 South Sixth Street. If you live in Winnebago County, call the County Clerk's office, 815-319-4252, 404 Elm Street. Make an appointment to receive the training. It takes about ten minutes. Try to do this sometime in January. Any questions call Jeanne Claeys, 815-226-4642.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE**

January, 2012

The LWV Health Care Committee is hopeful that 2012 will be a time of action for Winnebago County Behavioral Health funding options. At our

January 19th meeting we expect to have the names of the Mental Health Advisory Committee, that was appointed by the Winnebago County Board Chairman. This committee will identify and assess current mental (behavioral) health services in its respective jurisdiction, monitor any expansion or contraction of such services, and, if deemed necessary, provide a report to the county with recommendations for additional services.

Because the dinner we had at the December meeting was not what was ordered, the Dietary Supervisor at P.A. Peterson Center for Health will provide us a meal for no cost at our January meeting.

January 19, 2012 Health Care committee meeting 5:30- 6:30 p.m.  
dinner provided

P.A. Peterson Center for Health library - 1311 Parkview Ave. Rockford, IL

Reply if you will attend by email. [elainepluger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elainepluger@sbcglobal.net)

*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.*

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