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Rockford VOTER

December 2011

HOLIDAY PARTY THIS SATURDAY

Join our friends with AAUW this Saturday at 9:30 for a delicious breakfast and lively conversation and children singing. Meet at the New Towne Center at Wesley Willows. Bring a friend and something for the white elephant table.

Ann Powell is taking reservations. It is too late to mail your check but do let her know you are coming so we can welcome everyone.

Be prepared to have an enjoyable time.

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

A big thank you to everyone who attended "A Night to Celebrate Women in Healthcare." The evening was a huge success due in large to the committee who worked so hard: Jeanne Claeys, Janie Wilson-Cook, Faye Marcus, Christine Haeggquist, Marti Keeker, Mary Campbell, and Angie Goral. The panelists were absolutely delightful and inspiring. The refreshments of apple donuts and apple cider were yummy!

The Local Government is presently working on Primary Candidate Forums that will be held in February 2012. We will notify you as to the times and dates as we firm them. Additionally, should you attend a candidate forum, there will be short presentations on the redistricting that you might find informative and educational.

As always, if you are interesting in joining or attending one of our meetings, we meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Noon at Katie's Cup on 7th Street.

Happy Holidays from the Local Government Committee!
Paula Lind, Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS will not meet in December.

MEETINGS FOR December

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, December 12, North Suburban Library, 5:00.

HOLIDAY PARTY - Saturday, December 3, with AAUW - Wesley Willows Town Center - 9:30 a.m.

LEAGUERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE - Angie Goral

The closest I ever got to politics was being an election judge for over 35 years. My experience of being a realtor for 22 years has been very beneficial for my position on the County Board. When my husband, Dick Goral, was elected to the position of alderman in 2001, I received a fast education in local politics. After his death in Nov. of 2004, I was appointed to finish his term by Mayor Scott. In April of 2005 I was appointed to Polly Berg's vacant seat on the Winnebago County Board. I was elected for that position Dec of '06. I will be running to retain my seat in 2012 election. I have been appointed to and am serving on River Bluff Nursing Home Advisory Committee, Winnebago County Health Department Board, U of I Winnebago County Extension Steering Board, Winnebago County Zoning and Operations Committee. For the League of

Women Voter's I am on the Natural Resource and Government Committee's. I am committed to The Behavioral Health and Violence Prevention Collaborative Steering Committee's. I believe all children have the right to live in safe and healthy neighborhoods.

Good word for the day, The county finances are in the BLACK and our reserve is still there in case of an emergency. This is what happens when county board members, chair & department heads, staff all work together to get the job done. The challenge is keeping it that way. Lack of jobs, foreclosures, higher cost of doing business to name a few are taking away our tax dollars. The county is looking for new ways to harness renewable energy, bringing rail to our area, new commercial, industrial business yet trying to maintaining and helping existing business to expand. It's an on going process but the county keeps exploring all new resources to see if any will help the county go forward. The main challenge of the County is maintain or lessen the tax rate and still retain a quality of life for the tax payers of Winnebago County.

This is part of a series to introduce Leaguers currently in public service to our membership. Contributors have been: Mary McBernstein, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and Angie Goral, Winnebago County Board.

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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