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Rockford VOTER

March 2012

LWVGR CONTRIBUTES TO LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR WEB SITE TODAY?

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The LWVGR web site is up and running. Go to www.lwvgr.org and see what is available.

The goal is for each committee to have a page and be able to update issues and meetings on a regular basis.

The VOTER will be posted on the web site each month (as soon as we figure out how to do that).

See what is in place and let us know what is missing, incomplete or in need to clarification.

Following a careful review of the positions at the national level our League concurred with continuing our positions with the addition of these questions or comments:

Campaign Finance - work toward legislation to over turn Citizens United.

Environmental protection- is fracking harmful to ground water?

Agriculture - concern for food and drug safety in view of lack of funding for inspections.

Fiscal policy - tax code needs to be simplified.

Immigration - concern over ICE's role in targeting immigrants without papers.

Early- Intervention for Children - need for universal kindergarden.

Health Care - should support single payer health care to reduce costs.

As a grassroots organization it is our responsibility to participate in choosing and clarifying our issues and actions. Thanks to all who participated.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

MEETINGS FOR March

On Tues., Feb. 28, 16 people from the League toured the Nicholas Conservatory. The Conservatory was built with the intention of

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

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:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: March 8, noon, Katie's Cup

EDUCATION: March 20, 9:00, Stockholm Inn

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

achieving Silver LEED certification but is now hoping it can achieve a Gold certification. Carpool there and there is better parking, drive an energy efficient car and there is better parking. The iron gates to the gift shop were made by John Verl McNamara (Mary McNamara Bernsten's brother). It was a wonderful, learning experience.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) consists of a suite of rating systems for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings, homes and neighborhoods. Below are the certifications awarded by LEED.

Certified: 40-49 points

Silver: 50-59 points

Gold: 60-79 points

Platinum: 80 points and above

Submitted by Diane Cushing (EIC - chair)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- The Education Committee will host a Rockford Public Schools' speaker from Martha Hayes's office of Curriculum Development. The date is March 20 at 9 am at the Stockholm Inn. We welcome all interested League members but ask that you RSVP as we will need to reserve a larger space than our usual meeting room. Please contact Claire McIntyre at LWVGR@yahoo.com. Bring your appetites and your questions!

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

- 310 REGISTERED TO VOTE FOR THE MARCH 20 PRIMARY
As of Friday, February 17, 310 people registered to vote in the March 20, 2012, primary. The weekend of February 18 and 19, the League will register at three Logli's (Harlem Road, Rockton Avenue, State Street), K-Mart on Sandy Hollow Road, Hilander's on Elevator Road, so our total will be even higher.

The weeks of February 6-17 we registered students at Boylan, Guilford, East, Hononegah, Jefferson, Lutheran, Rockford Christian, Youth Build, Rockford College, Rock Valley College, both main campus and downtown campus.

Thanks to League Deputy Registrars who volunteered. We realize how busy you are. We are looking forward to your help in May for high schools and in the fall for the November 6 Presidential Election.

PLEA FOR DONATIONS --

Margaret Wyeth \$500 Scholarship Fund \$190 Short

Can you contribute to help make up the \$190 shortfall for the Margaret Wyeth \$500 Scholarship to a deserving public high school senior?

Since 2003, our League has awarded nine Margaret Wyeth \$500 scholarships to public high school seniors. For the past three years, the interest from Margaret Wyeth's bequest has not been sufficient to cover the \$500. Thanks to League donations for the past two years, we were able to give \$500. This year we are short \$190 and are hoping to receive enough donations to award the \$500.

In the 1950's and 1960's, Margaret Wyeth, a very active League member and League president for two years, left a substantial bequest to the League to be administered at our discretion. The Wyeth stadium at Auburn High School was named after her husband, a principal and superintendent. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois handles this bequest and each year informs us of the interest available for the scholarship.

Nine different high schools have received Wyeth scholarships: North Boone, Harlem, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Hononegah, Winnebago, Belvidere North, Auburn, Jefferson.

If you can help, send your donation to our treasurer, Ann Powell, 4040 Pepper Drive, Rockford, IL 61114, making check out to LWVGR for Margaret Wyeth scholarship. Any donation is welcome. It is the only League scholarship we have.

Jeanne Claeys, Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Coordinator

Jeanne Claeys jclaeys@oglecom.com

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.

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