



League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

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Rockford VOTER

April 2012

April 14 League Event!

**DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL
MEETING KIT
INFORMATION**

April 15 is the date for committee reports for the annual meeting kit. Committee chairs should send reports to Judy Schultz by the 15th of April.

VIVIAN HICKEY has new contact information. Her new address is

40 Camino Alto, Apt
4105

Mill Valley, CA 94941

and her phone # is
415- 380-8075.

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

Susan Stephens was

LWVUS Concensus on the Privatization of Governmental/Public Services

In the past several years, there has been a move to privatize governmental and public services. We have seen this locally in the move to use a private contractor to provide custodial services to the Rockford public schools and statewide in regards to the proposed sale of the Tollway.

According to the LWVUS website:

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Please join us:

April 14, 2012

The Stockholm Inn

9 AM

named "Best Newswriter" and took first place in the "Hard News Feature" category by the Illinois AP Broadcasters Association. The awards will be presented on April 28. See her stories on the station web site www.wnij.org.
Congratulations Sue.

Joel Cowen received the Distinguished Service Award by the Rockford Park District for his help with surveys and statistics. Director Tim Dimke said, "He's a mastermind when it comes to facts, figures and demographics."
Congratulations Joel, job well done.

MEETINGS FOR April

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.

To prepare for the discussion, you may read the study materials by going to <http://lwv.org/content/about-privatization-study>.

If that doesn't bring you to the materials, you can go 'the long way' by going to the main LWVUS webpage at www.lwv.org.

On the top of the page, please click on 'Members'. It will bring up a menu. Choose 'Advocacy, Projects, and Studies'. Click on 'Privatization' and it will bring you to the materials you will want to read in preparation.

Please contact the League at lwvgr@yahoo.com by April 12th to reserve a space. All are welcome to attend but we need to reserve a room large enough to accommodate the group.

Chris Slowik from Palos-Orland wrote up abbreviated versions of the privatization study materials for some of the Leagues in her area. Click on this well written explanation of our study issues.

[Click Here for Issues Brief #1](#)

[Click Here for Issues Brief #2](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

On March 14 the 18th annual Youth Groundwater Festival took place at RVC. Only 220 4th and 5th graders took part this year. We usually get 400-600. Schools don't want to pay busing costs and some schools that usually come were testing. It is such great curriculum for learning about our precious groundwater from which we get our drinking water here in Northern Illinois. Our League started the YGF in 1994 and the following sponsors keep it going: RVC, Burpee Museum, Winn. Cty. Health Dept., RSVP and the LWVGR. Our League supports the YGF with money and volunteers.

Submitted by Diane Cushing (EIC - chair)

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

420+ REGISTERED TO VOTE IN MARCH 20, 2012,
PRIMARY THANKS TO LEAGUE DEPUTY REGISTRARS

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

Thanks to the following League Deputy Registrars for volunteering to help people to register to vote in the March 20, 2012, primary:

IR COMMITTEE:

Sandra Aden, Kristin Burns, Jeanne Claeys, Diane Cushing

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT:
not meeting in April

Karen Fysh, Maxine Hadley, Alice Heath, Wanda Hoover June Jacob, Virginia Jansen, Elsie Janson, Susan Janson Marti Keecker, Jane Kelley, Leigh Lakey, Adrienne Langley Susan Lewandowski, Faye Marcus, Jane McAfee Claire McIntyre, Joan Morton, Carole Perrin, Martha Pippitt

EDUCATION:
April 17, 9:00 at
Stockholm Inn

Joan Schmelzle, Judy Schultz, Glenda Shaver, Suzanne Whiteford

ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES:
April 24

We registered at 9 high schools, Youth Build, Crusader Clinic, East Branch of Rockford Main Library, Rockford College, Rock Valley College (both Main Campus and Downtown Campus), three Logli's stores (East State Street, Harlem Road, Rockton Avenue), one Hilander's in Roscoe, and one K-Mart on Sandy Hollow Road.

A special thanks to Elsie Janson for coordinating the weekend registrations. Many do not realize all the good work she does for the League.

For those League Deputy Registrars who were not contacted to help, we apologize. Once we have the required volunteers, we stop contacting volunteers. However, we will need many volunteers for the November 6 Presidential Election. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, October 9, so we will probably be registering two weekends, September 29-30 and October 6-7.

Jeanne Claeys

jclaeys@oglecom.com

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On March 20, the Education Committee hosted Jennifer Jump and Dave Carson from the Rockford Public Schools' Learning Support Services. Ms. Jump and Mr. Carson spoke on how the new Common Core State Standards adopted by Illinois will impact curriculum and answered questions as to how they will be implemented. The CCSS

are a national movement adopted by 48 of the 50 states, partly in response to the Obama Administration's Race to the Top efforts.

CCSS are NOT a federal program but were developed by the National Governors Association in cooperation with state boards of education and other expert stakeholders. The CCSS build directly on recent efforts to focus on developing college and career-ready standards and ensuring these standards are evidence and research-based as well as internationally benchmarked to top-performing countries.

RPS administration is providing leadership on the implementation while including staff input for maximum understanding and buy-in. As of now, how the standards will be assessed is still in question as the assessment tools are still being developed by The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), 'a consortium of states working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. These new K-12 assessments will build a pathway to college and career readiness by the end of high school, mark students' progress toward this goal from 3rd grade up, and provide teachers with timely information to inform instruction and provide student support.

The PARCC assessments will be ready for states to administer during the 2014-15 school year'. (PARCC website) Mr. Carson also answered questions regarding the district's involvement with Alignment Rockford and the new academies being developed in concert with AR. He is very excited about the possibilities this will offer students.

The **Education Committee** will next meet on April 17th. Our speakers will be RPS board members Jude Makulec and Tim Rollins, who will answer questions pertaining to the district's finances and other key topics under the School Board's purview. We meet at 9 AM at the Stockholm Inn. All League members and their guests are welcome. However, due to space constraints, it is helpful to number of attendees so that we may plan ahead. Please contact Claire McIntyre at lwvgr@yahoo.com.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS TO THE MARGARET WYETH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thanks to donations from League members, we were able to make up the \$190 shortfall for the Margaret Wyeth \$500 Scholarship to a deserving public high school student. In the future when interest rates improve, we may not need to ask for donations. In the past, nine different high schools have received Wyeth scholarships: North Boone,

Harlem, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Hononegah, Winnebago, Belvidere North, Auburn, Jefferson. This year's winner will be announced in late April or early May.

League contributors include Jeanne Claeys, Diane Cushing, Joyce Holmberg, Wanda Hoover, Susan Janson, Elizanne Lewis, Faye Marcus, Judy Schultz, and Justine Walhout.

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois handles all the details of the Wyeth scholarship, contacting all schools, receiving all scholarship applications, and arranging for a Scholarship Committee to determine the winner. When Janyce Fadden was President of the League, she recommended we transfer Margaret Wyeth's bequest to the Community Foundation. This has been a godsend to the original Wyeth Scholarship Committee (Jeanne Claeys, Paula Lind, Justine Walhout) who had to do all the contacts.

Jeanne Claeys, Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Coordinator.
jclaeys@oglecom.com

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Please note that Local Government will not meet in April but will meet the second Wednesday in May - May 9th, noon, at Katie's cup.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee would like to welcome Teresa Hill to the League. Teresa has already become involved by helping with Facebook and website questions. Thank you, Teresa!

Additional new members are: Dyanna Chandler, Sarah Reed, Liz Walgren and Marsha Ackerman. Sue Stephens and Patricia Wilkins are renewing members.

Speaking of Facebook, for those of you who are already on Facebook or plan to be, please check out our new page at League of Women Voters Greater Rockford Illinois. We would love to have you 'friend' us! We plan to update it regularly with League news and photos. We hope this will be a good tool for keeping our members informed of latest developments and interest new members in the League.

Needed: Volunteer callers to remind League members of important upcoming events! We would like to have a cadre of callers who will call a few members occasionally when we have important key events to help boost participation. Please contact Carole Perrin at

lwvgr@yahoo.com if you are able to help.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Elaine Pfluger reports the committee is in transition since the 708 Board is no longer a reality. She is exploring new areas of emphasis.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING MEETING

Another training for community organizers is scheduled for April. Several League members have participated in the previous meetings and can attest that the training is informative and thought provoking. The meals are delicious. Advance registration is requested.

Dear Rockford Neighbor,

Would you like to make an impact in our city? Are you looking for partners to build safer, healthier, more just neighborhoods? This upcoming event may be for you!

On Wednesday and Friday, April 18 and 20, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church will host an introduction to organizing for residents and leaders of Rockford. The training will be conducted by staff from the Industrial Areas Foundation. (Feel free to look up the IAF on-line.)

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.

Free Child Care will be available, only if requested at time of registration.

This is a two-part event:

Wednesday and Friday; April 18 and 20.

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 Or call me at: 815/979-7883

LWVGR CONTACTS

President: Karen Fysh - pfeffer43@charter.net

Secretary: Judy Schultz - judyjs@comcast.net

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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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