



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

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### LWVGR Fund Raiser

Thanks to our loyal league members we have raised just under \$2000 towards our \$5000 goal.

The money allows us to continue with voter service activities and forums; public information meetings; action committees; communication on the internet and on paper; and other organizational expenses.

In alphabetical order we thank:

Jeanne Claeys  
Diane Cushing  
Janet Ellis  
Mary English  
Janyce Fadden  
Maxine Hadley  
Christine Haeggquist  
Colleen Holmbeck  
Elsie Janson  
Leigh Lakey  
Sue Lewandowski  
Elizanne Lewis  
Claire McIntyre  
Mary Mc Bernstein

# Rockford VOTER

May 2012

## LWVGR ANNUAL MEETING

**League of Women Voters**

**Invites you to attend the 90th Annual Meeting**

**June 2nd**

**9 AM registration and networking**

**9:30 AM Breakfast**

**Forest Hill Country Club**

**5135 Forest Hills Road**

**Reservation confirmed with your check**

**for \$18.00**

**Checks made out to LWVGR**

**Mail to Ann Powell**

**4040 Pepper Drive**

**Rockford, IL 61114**

**Bring guests for \$10 each**

Anne Meyer  
Bruce Moe  
Joan Norton  
Doris Nolan  
Evelyn Palm  
Elaine Pfluger  
Martha Pippitt  
Ann Powell  
Elinor Radlund  
Sally Trefz  
Jennie Wall  
Shirley Wooden

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

The EIC met on April 24th and discussed electrical aggregation. As you know the citizens of Rockford voted to approve aggregating our total power usage thus reducing our supply costs while keeping our delivery service through ComEd and Ameren. As individuals you can secure your own energy through various green energy and brown energy companies. If you would choose to find your own energy company then at some point you will simply sign off with the city's aggregation process. It can be somewhat confusing to decide which energy company to sign up with so many will rely on the city of Rockford to aggregate (negotiate with energy companies) to secure a lower cost of energy. The delivery of our energy is controlled by Comed/Ameren and those costs will not change at this time. In the future, though, costs may very well increase as they put Smart Meters in our homes. Confused yet? Remember that your billing process from Comed will not change just the one line on your bill that says "Electricity Supply Services".

Some municipalities hire aggregators/consultants/administrators to aid them in the aggregation process. There are three of these companies (Rock River Energy Services, Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative and Progressive Energy Group). Marcy Leach, Engineering Operations Manager, from the city of Rockford told me that the city will be administrating the aggregation process themselves, therefore not spending any of our money to hire one of these companies. I think that is admirable on the city's part to look for ways to not spend our money. We, the citizens of Rockford, will be hearing more in the future about the aggregation process.

Good tip on a book - Recycling Reconsidered by Samantha MacBride (highlighted on NPR).

We meet again on May 22 at Katie's Cup at 11:30a.m. Please join us for good discussion and planning. Diane Cushing (chair)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The education committee will next meet on Tuesday, May 15th at the Stockholm Inn at 9 AM. We have the iRead people coming for a brief presentation and then will have Karen Biescke from the REA. Glenda suggested that we might want to invite her as a follow up to our meeting with the RPS board members. Karen would like to speak on moving forward with new initiatives in the district. Please let me know if you will attend.

Claire

## ***MEETINGS FOR May***

### **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

Please contact Claire McIntyre at [lwvgr@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvgr@yahoo.com).

IR COMMITTEE:

LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT:

LWVGR Privatization Study Response from our April meeting

EDUCATION:  
May 15, 9:00 at  
Stockholm Inn

ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES:  
May 22, 11:30 at  
Katie's Cup

Recorded Response:

1. As a general matter, the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade is

Answer: No consensus

2. Core government services and functions important to well-being of the people should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector

Answer: Strongly agree

3. As a matter of good government policy, which of the following criteria should be applied when making decisions to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector?

1. Transparency and Accountability: All government contracts with private companies for services must ensure public access to relevant records and information regarding contracted services, functions and assets and provide for adequate government oversight and control.

Answer: High priority

2. Public Well-being: Provisions are in place to assure that, in the event any public services are to be privatized, there will be no increased risks to public well-being, especially to vulnerable populations.

Answer: High priority

3. Cost and Quality: Privatized services should not appreciably increase the costs or decrease the quality of services to the public.

Answer : High priority

4. Environmental and Natural Resources: Defined parameters should be in place to assure that environmental and natural resources are not compromised.

Answer: High priority

5. Contracts and Sales of Public Assets: All government contracts and privatized public assets should be subject to competitive bidding and comply with all laws regarding awarding contracts.

Answer: High priority

6. Economic Impact: Privatization should not result in a negative economic impact on the communities in which the services are provided.

Answer: High priority

7. Government Recovery of Services and Assets: Provisions should be in place to recover key services, assets and functions should the private sector fail to safeguard them.

Answer: High priority

Privatization is not appropriate:

1. When the government lacks the will, ability or resources to adequately oversee contracts with the private entity and any successor thereto.

Answer: Agree

2. When there is no private entity able or willing to provide the service for the short and long term.

Answer: Agree

3. When it poses a potential threat to national security.

Answer:

Agree

4. When it poses a risk to personal or security data. Answer: Agree

5. When there has been evidence of potential corruption. Answer: Agree

6. When the private entity's goals and purposes are not compatible with public well-being.

Answer: Agree

7. When the private entity has not complied with existing government requirements for public records, open meetings or publication of reports and audits Answer: Agree

8. When a loss of revenue decreases government support for mandated or critical services.

Answer: No consensus

Some states have developed laws and regulations to control the process of privatization within their jurisdictions.

As a general matter, should privatization be regulated? Answer: d. No consensus

Which of the following should be included in the regulatory process when privatizing public assets, services and functions?

1. Timely public announcements regarding intentions to privatize and the clear and measurable expected benefits to the public. Answer: Strongly agree

2. Public and stakeholder (investors, shareholders, experts) input into the decision and terms of the contract. Answer: Strongly agree

3. Feasibility study regarding performance, costs and benefits. Answer : Strongly agree

4. Adherence to all laws regarding public contracts. Answer : Strongly agree

5. Transition plans for displaced employees. Answer : Agree

6. Accountability and transparency provisions in all contracts. Answer : Strongly agree

7. Regular performance evaluations including meaningful opportunity for public comment.

Answer: Strongly agree

8. Provisions for transferring services and assets back to the government or another contractor in the event of inadequate performance. Answer : Strongly agree

9. Adequate resources for enforcement. Answer: Strongly agree

Comments:

1) On the first question about the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade we felt that we did not have enough information in order to make any other choice than "No Consensus".

2) On question number six, part E we would like to know who would have the responsibility of making sure there were transition plans for all of the displaced employees. Would it be the governmental department that they were employed by, or the private company that was taking over the service or function of the department, or a combination of the two? We chose "agree" rather than "strongly agree" because of this. The bottom line would be that the employees would be able to continue working for the department.

## **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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