



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

Rockford VOTER

February 2014

League Awarded Ed Fund Grant

Thanks to the efforts of Susan Janson, the League has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$800 from the Education Fund. Susan wrote for a grant to the LWV Ed Fund to help the Voter Services Committee promote the voter registration drive of 17 year olds in 2014. The grant will be used to purchase new signs and a banner to educate and attract young people to register under the new law.

Great work Susan!

City Market

Save the date! August 15, The League of Women Voters will host the City Market. We will need at least 6 people to hand out our interest cards to people as they enter the market. This will be a fun event. Contact Diane Cushing if you are interested in helping.

Make Your Voice Heard on the Graduated Rate Income Tax

It's easy. Just copy and paste this simple message into an email and send it to your state rep and state senator. You can also add your own personal thoughts/story as to why you support a

[fair and graduated rate income tax.](#)

The Right to Vote and the Rockford Connection

Our forum was a great success. Thank you to all who helped make this a great event. Keep your eyes open for our next forum.

fair and graduated rate income tax.

Need inspiration? With the sunset of the temporary 5% income tax rate midway through this fiscal year, Illinois will lose \$2 Billion in revenue, and \$5 Billion the following year. This will come from the only part of the budget available for cutting- core services, including education, human services, public safety, health care, and environmental protection. These services could see a 27% decrease in funding on top of the 33% they've already seen since FY 2000. How will that help to Transform Rockford?

If you don't know who your legislators are, please contact Claire McIntyre at claire.f.mcintyre@gmail.com.

Also, please take a moment to go to A Better Illinois to sign the petition. Over 1000 have been collected in the Rockford area and more are needed. Ask friends and family to sign on as well.
http://takeaction.abetterillinois.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=6579

Subject: Legislation (HJRCA 33/SJRCA 40)

Dear Representative (or Senator):

Please support placing on the ballot the pending legislation for a fair tax constitutional amendment allowing for higher rates on higher incomes and lower rates on lower incomes.

In addition to sound tax principles, the legislation embodies another important principle: citizen participation. If adopted by the General Assembly, this referendum would ask Illinois voters if they want to amend the 1970 Illinois Constitution, which currently states that the personal income tax must be non-graduated (flat). Please give Illinois voters the opportunity to make THEIR voices heard.

Sincerely,

Your name, address, and phone number

Senator Steve Stadelman: stevestadelman@senatedem.ilga.gov

Senator Dave Syverson: info@senatordavesyverson.com

Representative John Cabello: johncabello@aol.com

Transform Rockford Community Visioning Sessions

March 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, 13th
Rockford, IL

Transform Rockford has had several visioning sessions but it is not too late to join in the vision. Please consider attending one of these sessions. Below is a link to more information regarding these sessions.

<http://transformrockford.org/community-engagement/>

Join this bold initiative to Transform Rockford.

LEAGUE NEWS

New Member

NEW MEMBER

Welcome Elizabeth Lindquist! We all look forward to working with you on projects in the future.

MEETINGS:

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE: first Thursday, 8am, Stockholm Inn

LWVGR BOARD MEETING: Monday, January 13, 5:30pm

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE: Second Thursday of each Month

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: second Wednesday, at noon, Katie's Cup

EDUCATION:

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: January 28th 11:30 am at Katie's Cup

Farewell Brunch for Jane McAfee

A farewell brunch for Jane McAfee, who has moved to Ft. Collins, Colorado, was held on Saturday, January 4, 2014, at Diane Cushing's home. Despite the snow and previous commitments, many bid a fond farewell to Jane.

Jane has been active in the League since the 1960's, first as a Voter Service member, then as co-chair of Voter Service, then as League President, then as an active member of most League committees. She attended most meetings of the various committees and had countless meetings and parties at her house. Whoever lives in Jane's Rockford house will have to contend with ghosts of meetings past. Her tombstone will read "Gone to Heavenly Meetings."

As of Saturday, January 11, 2012, Jane left Rockford headed for Ft. Collins, Colorado. Her new address is Jane McAfee, 9000 Worthington Circle, Apt. 102, Ft. Collins, CO 80526-1851. Her cell phone number is 815-315-3803. Her e-mail remains the same: janemcafee1320@sbcglobal.net. On Tuesday, January 20, Jane called from Ft. Collins -- temperature 40 degrees.

Pennsylvania Voter ID Struck Down

"A state court judge on Friday struck down a Pennsylvania law requiring that voters to show photo identification at the polls," the [AP](#) reports.

[Rick Hasen](#): "This is a clear victory for opponents of voter id laws, with a finding that the implementation of the voter id law violated the law's own promise of liberal access to voter id, that the implementation exceeded the agency's authority to administer the program, that the voter education efforts were woefully inadequate, and that as a whole the Pa. voter id program violated the Pa. constitutional's fundamental right to vote. In this regard, it is important to note that the court rejected Pa's argument that the law was aimed at preventing voter fraud. The judge found that the state presented no evidence the law was necessary either to prevent fraud or to keep public confidence in the fairness of the election process."

STANDING COMMITTEES

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Voter Service Committee have been busy contacting 18 schools and offering voter registration for high school and college students. The deadline for voter registration in Illinois was Tuesday, February 18, so we will be registering students before then. 17 year olds who will be 18 on or before Tuesday, November 4 General Election can register now and be eligible to vote in both the March 18 Primary and the November 4

General Election. We registered 286 young people at 11 schools.

The League will also register at four Schnuck's supermarkets on Saturday, February 16, and Sunday, February 17. We registered 18 people at our tables at Schnuck's.

We hope to register more students after the Primary at Guilford, Jefferson and Auburn plus any of the other area schools we were unable to get to before.

Jeanne Claeys, Voter Service Chair

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Diane Cushing, chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Claire McIntyre, chair

ISSUES AND ACTIONS COMMITTEES

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Elaine Pfluger, Chair

The LWV Health Committee will change their meeting time in 2014 to the 2nd Thursday of the month instead of the third Thursday.

In January, Amy Akroos, from OSF supportive care gave us a interesting overview of the video *Have the Conversation*, that was shown in the fall at the Coronado theater, and explanation of the Advance Care Planning using the OSF Care Decisions Model. Amy is a trained advance care planning facilitator to help patients talk about their future health care decisions with family members and health care providers, and then complete a Power of Attorney for Health Care document. Advance care planning is thinking about your personal values, beliefs and preferences for care at end of life and then discussing then with your family and health care providers. It is also learning about your current state of health and what specific care decisions you may need to make in the future.

We discussed how the Health Committee could help educate the community on this topic. Amy has a copy of the video, that is one hour long, and we talked about whether we should have a small group of interested League members or open it to the community. This could be the educational topic for the Spring. Our committee is small and we