



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS**

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

# Rockford VOTER

August 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!

## **First Charter School Study Discussion Date Set!**

Please put it on your calendar. A discussion and understanding of the study is an important step in the consensus process.

- Monday, September 15th, 2014
- 5:30 PM
- The Stockholm Inn, Charles St., Rockford

## **State of the State:**

The Annual League of Women Voters of Illinois State of the State luncheon will be held:

Check us out on  
Facebook!

Tuesday, September 9, 2014  
The Union League Club of Chicago  
65 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago  
12:00 noon

The Program

Why is a Free Press Essential to Democracy?

Is Media Living up to its Responsibility in the 21st Century?

Participants:

Randy Belisomo, General Assignment Reporter, WGN-TV and CLTV

Kristen McQueary, Editorial Board, Chicago Tribune

Amanda Vinicky, Statehouse Bureau Chief, WUIS Radio

You may register by going online to

[http:// www.lwvil.org/state-of-the-state-registration.html](http://www.lwvil.org/state-of-the-state-registration.html) For more information, please call Rachel Lane at the League office in Chicago: 312-939-5953.

## League Community Visibility:

Monday, August 18th, Claire McIntyre participated as a League member to greet Belvidere North High School students with a smile and a welcome back.

Organized by Alignment Rockford, community volunteers from around the area and from different organizations and businesses, greeted students on the first day of school. The purpose was to let the kids know that the community supports and values the education these students receive. On

August 25th, community volunteers and teachers will do the same at Rockford High Schools.

'Along with Diane Peters from Alignment Rockford and Tiffany Hill from RAM, we welcomed students coming off the buses, marveled at what passes for fashion these days, and counted the number of students with casts on (5). Our favorite was the young lady who refused to be daunted by the knee high black cast she wore and dressed up her cast with a lot of sparkly bling', Claire said. "The kids seemed happy to see us and the staff appreciated our participation.'

This was Belvidere's first year greeting students and one of the other Belvidere greeters has twice volunteered at East High and reports greater participation in Rockford. There, he said, both teachers and volunteers share greeting duties.

All in all, it was well worth the effort; both an opportunity to support the students and to provide visibility for the League. If you are interested in participating, there is still time to contact the Rockford high schools to sign up for next Monday, August 25. An hour of your time and a smile from you are all it requires. Don't forget to wear your League pin.

## LEAGUE NEWS

### New Members

Welcome Jean Frana, Tina Pumilia, Linda Miller, and Lenae Weichel! We are so excited you joined and look forward to working with you.

## Letter from the President:

## **MEETINGS:**

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

LWVGR BOARD  
MEETING: Second  
Monday, @ 5:30pm all  
are welcome.

HEALTH CARE  
COMMITTEE: Second  
Thursday @ 5:30 pm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:  
2nd Wednesday, at noon,  
Katie's Cup or Stockholm  
Inn @ 5:30.

EDUCATION:  
3rd Tuesday @  
Stockholm Inn @ 9am

ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES:  
4th Tuesday@ 11:30am  
at Katie's Cup

COMMUNICATIONS:  
2nd Tuesday @ Katie's  
Cup

MEMBER SERVICES:  
1st Friday @ Ojedas @  
11:30 am

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

A special welcome to all our new members. We are grateful to have you involved in the League. The League is off to a great start this year thanks to the hard work of Diane Cushing to recruit members to volunteer at the City Market on August 15. The League received good exposure and our volunteers had fun at the same time.

[Make Your Voice Heard on the Graduated Rate Income Tax](#)

The Board has met to discuss planning for the next year which will include some of our usual activities but we also plan to have a large event in the Spring. Please watch this Voter for more information.

Ann

## **Website / Paypal:**

Have you checked out our website? You can now join/renew the League of Women Voter's of Greater Rockford on our website, including using Paypal! You can also make donations using Paypal.

# **STANDING COMMITTEES**

## **VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE**

After a summer hiatus, Voter Service plans an active year. September 18, 2014 -- League Deputy Registrar Training/Retraining, September 18, 2014, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., at the Rockford City Board of Elections, 301 South Sixth Street, phone 815-987-5850 -- Because this past year has seen new laws for voting (17 year olds registering, on-line registration, same day registration and voting), a refresher course for experienced deputy registrars seemed appropriate. Next week, August 25-29, we will contact experienced county and city Deputy Registrars to see if you can attend. If you cannot attend, you can stop by the City Board of Elections during the day and receive special training. Any League member who wishes to become a Deputy Registrar is most welcome to attend. The September 18 meeting is for all League members. Jose Paredes, 815-962-5368, at the City Board is in charge of the training.

September 19 -- Naturalization

September 3, 2014 -- Voter Registration at Rockford University from 11:30:12:30. September 27-28, October 4-5 -- Voter Registration at grocery stores October 7 deadline for voter registration

January, 2015 -- Showing of a national Teaching Tolerance Film One Person, One Voter -- Film will be shown throughout country geared

REFORM:  
3rd Tuesday @ 6 @  
Meg's.

toward the young voter -- January, 2015 fiftieth anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama. Voter Service will have a special program at some school and encourage all high schools and colleges to show film.

Voter Service meets the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn. Our first meeting is September 4. The rest of the year: Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 5, April 2, May 7. New members welcome.

Jeanne Claeys, Voter Service Chair, 815-226-4642

## MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Diane Cushing, chair



The Membership Committee held a very successful event on August 15th at City Market. Members worked for the market by acting as 'gatekeepers' where they counted attendees for City Market and took the opportunity at that time to hand out League interest cards to the public. LWVGR also had an information tent set up to answer questions, with membership brochures on hand as well as other League materials. In addition, Ann Dempsey opened up her office for a League 'Happy Hour', giving volunteers a break from counting duties and the opportunity to get to visit with new and old League friends. The evening was very successful and Diane Cushing left with several membership interest cards in her pocket. Diane also did an interview with WREX Channel 13 giving the League further terrific exposure and publicity.

We handed out 600 LWVGR "interest cards" and 5 people filled in information asking for us to call them about membership. We had large LWVGR posters on easels that Susan Janson and the Voter Service committee secured with grant money - Thanks to Susan!

Thank you to Diane for all her work coordinating this event, Ann Dempsey for her generosity in hosting the Happy Hour, and to the volunteers who worked the booth and gates: Teresa Hill, Carole Perrin,

Elaine Pfluger, Elizabeth Lindquist, Dyanna Chandler, Judy Schultz, Linda Miller, Frank Cushing, Alice Heath, Lenae Weichel, Ann Marshall, and Claire McIntyre. Thank you to our mini-League helpers as well: Judy Schultz' granddaughter and Lenea's two children, Neva and Ky, and Ann's daughter, Andrea who helped her mom host.

By the way, Diane has some very nice LWV tee-shirts made up that will come in handy for membership, voter registration, or other events. If you are interested in owning one of these classy shirts, one can be yours. Please contact Diane for information and pricing.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Communications: As always, please like and follow our Facebook page. We post up to the minute event information as well as important information from LWVUS and LWVIL.

Don't forget to visit our webpage, [www.lwvgr.org](http://www.lwvgr.org), to view local events and news. You can also pay your membership fees online or donate to the League.

In Communication news, we are still working towards a presence in the Rockford Register Star. We have several people willing to write articles and we hope that the next Voter will be able to announce a new LWVGR column in the paper. If you are interested in participating, please contact Claire McIntyre at [lwvgr22@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgr22@gmail.com).

## ISSUES AND ACTIONS COMMITTEES

### HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Elaine Pfluger, Chair

### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Diane Cushing, Chair

Susan Janson, Susan Meyers and Diane Cushing visited the Homewood Recycling Center (HRC) at Homewood, IL on May 22, 2014. We were joined by two people from the Homewood-Flosmoor League.

Homewood Disposal is a private, 3 generation family owned facility that services 75 communities. One of those communities is Rockford, IL. Rock River Disposal collects our recycling and transports 4-5 large semi truck trailers of recycling to the Homewood Recycling Center per day. HRC sorts and bails recyclables and ships to various entities. For example: Most of the paper/fiber is shipped to China on barges and China ships back Etech recyclables to U.S.. Most of the glass is sent to Ball Glass in Illinois. Steel is sent to Gary, IN.

They continue to have no place that will take plastic bags so all plastic

They continue to have no place that will take plastic bags so all plastic bags received are sorted out for landfill.

It was a most amazing facility. They took us all around the recycling area, up and down stairs all around the different conveyor belts with different recyclables. They use optical sorts that can determine the number of plastic and send it to the appropriate conveyor belt. I am always open to scheduling another trip if people are interested. They like to keep tours at a 4-6 size group.

Also our committee meets on the 4th Tues. of each month at Katie's Cup on 7th street in Rockford at 11:30 a.m..

Diane Cushing - chair, Environmental Issues Committee (815-877-2386 or [dc@juno.com](mailto:dc@juno.com))

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Claire McIntyre, Chair

Education: The committee continues to plan the upcoming charter restudy. Materials have gone out to the entire League to review and more will follow. A study session led by committee members for all League members will take place in September. The date and location will be announced next week.

On the state level: In July, pension reform was dealt a blow when in a case with ominous implications for the state's pension reform law, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the state constitution prevents any diminishment of health care benefits for retired state employees. How will that impact schools?

With an eye towards a possible decision overturning the new pension law, there is considerable appetite by legislative leadership to push the TRS pension costs on to local, non-Chicago districts. (Chicago pays for its own pension costs. However, it must be noted that Chicago's pension system is also in trouble and continues to deteriorate.) The impact on Downstate districts could be troubling as 66% of them are already deficit spending and will receive only 89% of their state funding this fiscal year. The Education Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Stockholm Inn, 9 am. All are welcome to participate.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Paula Lind, chair

The first candidates' forum will be held on Oct.8, featuring the candidates for Winnebago Sheriff. 6 PM at Maddox Theater, Rockford University. More details in September.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Elizabeth Lindquist, chair

Join us Tuesday, September 16th, at 6pm at [Meg's Daily Grind](#) on Perryville. The address is 3885 N Perryville Road, Rockford 61114. We'll discuss the various bills in Congress now, exciting things happening

we'll discuss the various bills in Congress now, exciting things happening at the state level, and plans for a speaker.

Our first meeting in August was very exciting. Richard Lake, Eastern States Coordinator and Illinois State Director with Wolf-Pac told us about his group's effort to restore true, representative democracy in the United States by pressuring our Illinois State Legislators to pass a Free and Fair Elections Amendment to the US Constitution. The bill is SJR42 and it has already passed the Illinois Senate. It will be voted on by the Illinois House during the veto session in November. He presented some good information about this bill and how this process works. We have great plans for a speaker on October 30th with possible plans for a Forum. Please join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

**New Voter Deadline: 2nd Wednesday of the month.**

### **LWVGR CONTACTS**

President: Ann Dempsey - [adempsey@oliverclose.com](mailto:adempsey@oliverclose.com)  
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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.*