



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS**

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

# Rockford VOTER

May 2013

## **Annual Meeting**

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

**91st Year**

### **LEAGUE NEWS**

I accepted the position of Director of Development, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Am working specifically in the areas of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.

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Am still back and forth to Rockford because my house is on the market and my son Daniel is living in it taking care of the place and the pets.

Haven't joined the League down here yet - things still full enough learning the University and beginning to travel, but hope to soon.

My best to everyone,

Elaine



Saturday, June 1, 2013  
Forest Hills Country Club

9am Coffee and Conversation

9:30am Breakfast

10am Speaker: TBA

10:30 am Business Meeting

### Agenda

**Call to Order :** Karen Fysh, president

**Announcements and Recognitions**

**Adoption of Rules**(*Robert's Rules of Order*):

**Minutes of the June 2, 2012 meeting :** Judy Schultz,  
Secretary

**Treasurer's Report :** Ann Powell, Treasurer

**Budget Report:** Ann Powell, Budget

**Membership Report:** Claire McIntyre

**By-laws Committee Report:** Leigh Lakey

**Nominating Committee Report:** Joel Cowen

**Election of New Officers and Directors:** Karen Fysh

**MEETINGS:**

VOTER SERVICE  
COMMITTEE: first  
Thursday, 8am,  
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

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

EDUCATION: TBA  
Stockholm Inn

ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES: May 22

**Adjournment**

Your check for \$20 is your reservation. If you bring a guest their cost is \$15. Ann Powell, 4040 Pepper Dr., Rockford, IL 61111 is accepting all reservations.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
Diane Cushing, Chair

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Jeanne Claeys, Chair

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE  
Elaine Pfluger, Chair

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
Claire McIntyre, Chair

The Education committee met April 16th and discussed the book Hope Against Hope by Sarah Carr. It covers the story of what happened to the public school system in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. We also reviewed the keynote speaker's presentation from the education conference held in Chicago on April 15th focused on 'Reframing Reform: Achieving Equity and Excellence in Public Education'. The speaker was Pasi Stahlberg, the Finnish Director General for the Department of Education and Culture. Our next meeting will finish our discussion on these two topics as well as review the notes from other presenters at the Chicago conference. If you are interested in either the notes or in joining us, please contact Claire McIntyre at [lwvgr@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvgr@yahoo.com).

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**  
Paula Lind, chair

Local Government has been very busy this election season hosting and co-hosting numerous candidate forums. The attendance by both the candidates seeking elected office as well as the community has been fantastic! We have hosted and partnered five forums that not only included Rockford but Loves Park and Machesney Park too! We appreciate the League's support and attendance at these events.

A special thank you to a great team: Ann Powell, Faye Marcus, Martha Pippitt, Jeanne Claves, Jane McAfee, Angie Goral and June Jacobs who worked tirelessly to make these events successful!

Paula Lind

### **MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

On Monday evening April 15th the League of Women Voters Greater Rockford held an election discussion facilitated by Tom McNamara. Tom successfully ran for the 3rd Ward Alderman in Rockford and is a member of the League. Tom broke down his strategy for his campaign and discussed his opponent's strategy. We had statistics for each area of the 3rd ward with break downs of the votes.

Tom also discussed the importance of a campaign manager and treasurer to any race. We had a great dialog regarding how to get more people involved in local government. Tom acknowledged how qualified his opponents were for the job and hope both will stay in local government.

We also discussed the possibility of League members return to an Observers Corps where League representatives cover local government board/council meetings. In the past, League representatives would attend School Board, County Board, Park District, Library and City Council meetings. With the ease of electronic communication, reports could be posted on our Facebook page or emailed quickly.

Other topics discussed were home rule, failures of each party to promote candidates and non-partisan elections. Delicious snacks and coffee were served to the group of 14 members attending the discussion. A big thank you to Tom McNamara for leading and Faye Marcus for hosting this event.

### **David Caskey Memorial Lecture**

Reported by Jane McAfee

The David H. Caskey Memorial Lecture was held at Rock Valley College on Tuesday, March 26 and was on the subject "THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS - coming to our Great Lakes." Many of us in the League know Mary Caskey and did know Dave and we treasure them both. MAUDE BARLOW, with many degrees and honors, is from Canada and was the keynote speaker. She brought with her much enthusiasm and knowledge about the serious conditions of our water supplies all over the world. Here are some of the reasons we are in trouble:- - - - - damming our rivers - using our ground water - we double our takings every 20 years - pumping water into the cities - using to make ethanol - bottling water (1 in five bottles of water is contaminated) - buying water and sending it long distances - paving over vegetation - using up water in aquifers - using water that belongs to the future - fracking (blasting into shale) -taking water from Great Lakes (could be dry in 80 years) - loss of 2/3of wetlands - not conserving while farming - big livestock farms -little water retention. - - - - -

Barlow promotes the fact that water is a human right, should be shared equitably, we must be stewards of our supplies, water is a public trust, global justice activists know we are using water that belongs to the future, the way we treat nature is 'abuse'.. "We can't run out of water".

### **LWVGR CONTACTS**

President: Karen Fysh - [pfeffer43@charter.net](mailto:pfeffer43@charter.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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