



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF McLEAN COUNTY

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**The Voter**

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*Save the Date:*

**After the Hanging Chad**

**Wednesday, October 19, 5:30 p.m.**

- Normal Public Library Community Room
- McLean Co. Clerk Cathy Michael and Bloomington Election Commission Director Paul Shannon discuss "Success and Failures in Our Elections"
- See page 3 for details.

**New Member Orientation**

**Wednesday, October 26, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

- 5 White Place, Bloomington, IL
- Learn more about the League and meet other members

**Pollwatching Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.**

- First Presbyterian Church, 2000 E. College Ave., Normal
- Get in the know and get credentials. See page 3.

**General Election**

**Tuesday, November 8, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

- For information about McLean County voting go to: <http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/elections>.
- For the city of Bloomington go to: <http://www.becvote.org/wordpress/>

**The Changing Media Landscape: Is It Good for Democracy?**

**Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.**

- Normal Public Library Community Room
- Panel members TBA

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Social Fundraiser**

**Tuesday, December 6, 5:30 p.m.**

- McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington
- Enjoy fine wines with friends. See page 4.

**Drinks & Dialogue**

**Wednesday, December 14, 5:30 p.m.**

- Michael's, 110 W. Washington St., Bloomington
- Drop by when you can after work. Details on page 3.

## *From Our President*

Greetings!

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the member reception on September 27<sup>th</sup>! This always proves to be an informative and festive kick-off to our League year and an opportunity for friends of the League to hear about activities that are planned for the year.

A big thank you to those of you that have helped register voters and assist Phylis and Katie in conducting mock elections. If you would like further involvement with Voter Services, please come to Poll Watcher training on November 1<sup>st</sup> and observe one or more polling places on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The training will be held from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Normal, Illinois. As if there hasn't been enough to do for the November election, planning for activities to inform voters on candidates in the April election will begin soon. Assistance will also be needed in these efforts.

For those of you who are new to the League or would like to 'refresh' your understanding of how the League fulfills their mission, please plan to attend the New Member Orientation on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served from 5:30 – 7:30 at Joe Gibson's home, 5 White Place, Bloomington. We will share ways in which you can get involved and look forward to you sharing your ideas regarding activities or opportunities you feel the League might want to pursue. Please RSVP to Joe Gibson at 309-530-7561 if you plan to attend.

Finally, Election Day is just around the corner! It's not too late to visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) to get ready to vote, including finding your local voting rules, polling place hours and who will be on your ballot. Please share this resource with others and keep encouraging those with whom you interact to exercise their right to vote!

*Kathy*



*Everyone enjoyed the discussion about Women and Voting at Drinks & Dialogue on October 12*

# We Need Your Help

## Pollwatching, Nov. 1 & 8



**You want to be more involved in the League and the League wants you!**

Once again LWV of McLean County will do pollwatching on Election Day, November 8. This is an important part of our Voter

Services agenda to help educate our members on what really happens on Election Day. You will get a "behind the scenes" idea of elections.

**Pollwatching takes MINIMAL commitment** – you can stay 20 minutes at a polling place or stay for several hours. You can do this anytime on November 8, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You can visit any polling place in McLean County, including your own polling site. You can visit one location or as many as you wish. You just need to fill out a short form online after you finish; it takes just a few minutes.

**To participate, you only need to know a few "dos" and "don'ts" and you must have proper credentials** issued by either the City of Bloomington Election Commission or the McLean County Clerk. **Come to a very short orientation/ training meeting and get your credentials on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2000 E. College Avenue in Normal.**

PLEASE consider helping LWV in this important activity and learn first-hand about elections! You can RSVP or email any questions to Katie and Phylis at [voterservices@lwvmclean.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvmclean.org) or just come to the meeting on November 1. *–Phylis VerSteegh*

## Community Health

It may not be surprising to note that access to health care is linked to socioeconomic factors. But would you be surprised that 2/3 of the county residents are considered obese or overweight? That we are lacking in the number of farmer markets?

You can learn these facts and many others by accessing the joint 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, compiled by the Health Department, the two medical centers and the United Way:

<http://il-mcleancountyhealth.civicplus.com/112/Community-Health-Needs-Assessment-Health>.

*–Gretchen Monti*

# Programs

## After the Hanging Chad, October 19

ISU Professor Emeritus Bob Bradly will give a broad picture of the national electoral scene, with County Clerk Kathy Michael and Bloomington Election Commission Executive Director Paul Shannon discussing the issues from a local perspective. This will be presented at the **Normal Public Library Community Room at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 19.** We are starting at an earlier time to allow everyone to watch the presidential debate being televised that night.

## The Changing Media, November 16

The second fall program, "The Changing Media Landscape: Is It Good for Democracy?" will deal with what's happening with media: election coverage, newspapers losing money, the rising number of bloggers and the effect on journalism. The Changing Media Landscape will be held at the **Normal Public Library Community Room at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 16.**

*–Laurie Bergner, Community Education*

## Drinks & Dialogue, December 14



Fire and Brimstone? Hell and Damnation!? The calm after the storm!? Which, if any of these phrases, will describe the climate of our country after the November 8th election?

Join us for what can't help but be a lively discussion at our "post-election" Drinks and Dialogue on Wednesday, December 14th.

We'll meet at Michael's Restaurant, located at 110 W. Washington St., in downtown Bloomington. Social "hour" is from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. with discussion from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Professors Kyle Ciani and Sandra Harmon will return to discuss the state of our post-election America!!

You won't want to miss this!!! If for no other reason come to celebrate, vent, cry, whatever!!!

*–Camille Taylor & Becky Hines*

## Mock Elections Get Students Ready For the Real Deal

Voter services volunteers conducted two mock elections at Normal Community High School and Bloomington High School this October.

Over 400 students at each school participated and received their "I Voted" stickers. It was just like the real deal for students who voted for all available elected officials from President to local County Board members. The online ballot used for this simulation was created using Google Docs and the results were tabulated instantly at the conclusion of the voting period.

Results for each mock election is available on the league's website at [lwvmclean.org](http://lwvmclean.org). Students were very eager to be involved in the election process and many were thankful for the learning opportunity.

—Katie Pratt



## LWV Annual Wine Tasting & Social



Usher in the Holiday Season on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the League of Women Voters of McLean County's Wine Tasting and Social to be held at the McLean County Arts

Center. From 5:30 to 7:30 pm you will enjoy delicious wines and tasty hors d'oeuvres catered by Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano—while you socialize and shop the Arts Center's 'Holiday Treasures'.

Reservations are \$40 and available from any League Board member. You may also make reservations by emailing Dianne Williamson at [dd.willi@hotmail.com](mailto:dd.willi@hotmail.com), or calling her at 309-662-6129. Deadline for reservations is December 1, 2016.

Hope to see you there!



# 3rd Presidential Debate Wednesday at 8:00 – Don't Be Late!

Where will YOU be Wednesday night when the third and final presidential debate airs on TV? Have you had enough already or will you be watching for that one brilliant answer or that one giant non-answer that finally pushes you to select one candidate over the other?

If you do plan to watch, the League of Women Voters put together a 2016 Debate Watching Kit that includes *Debate Watching 101* – a guide for evaluating the evening's debate format and questions, media coverage, and the actual candidates. Questions include:

1. Is the moderator in control of the debate?
2. Is each candidate given equal opportunity to speak and respond to questions?
3. Are reaction shots or other techniques used to create a sense of drama or conflict?
4. Do the candidates answer questions directly or evade them?

5. Do the candidates give specifics about their stands on the issues, or speak in generalities?
6. Are their proposals realistic? Can they actually carry out promises they are making?

If you want to try to have a little more fun the kit also has printable BINGO cards! These will give you and your friends something extra to do in between yelling at the TV. And you could have a winner right there in your living room if someone manages to yell BINGO without cheating!

The LWV 2016 Debate Watching Kit can be found at <http://lww.org/content/2016-debate-watching-kit>. Whether you watch or not is up to you, but please, **Go and Vote on Tuesday, November 8.** Not to decide is to decide.

–Susan Alford

**Have you renewed? Please pay your dues** online by credit card or PayPal on our website: <http://www.lwvmclean.org/lwvForm/contact/contactform.php>.

**Or, you can write your check to LWV McLean County and mail with this form to:**



LWV McLean County c/o Joe Gibson  
5 White Place  
Bloomington, IL 61701

**Thank You!**

Annual Individual Dues	\$65
Household Membership	\$95
Full-Time Student	\$30

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in \_\_\_\_\_