



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

Co-Presidents

Joni Painter
1903 Hedgewood Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-662-8413
jonilou@insightbb.com

Maureen O'Keefe
501 Centennial Avenue
Normal, IL 61761
309-258-4233
mokbg@insightbb.com

Bulletin

Charlette Elm
30 Stonebrook Court
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-664-5857
charelm@msn.com

Membership

Phylis VerSteegh
49 Kenfield Circle
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-664-5357
pjversteegh@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Myra Gordon
2 Kent Drive
Normal, 61761
309-452-8530
enviromyra@insightbb.com

**League of Women Voters
of McLean County Bulletin
is published eight months
of the year.**

The official address of the
League of Women Voters
is 1918 Owens Drive
Bloomington, IL 61701

Telephone: 309-663-5166

New web site!
www.lwvmclean.org

Bulletin

Rehabilitation in our Prisons: Is Illinois doing its job?

- Did you know that the Illinois Constitution gives us obligations towards incarcerated individuals?
- What are those obligations and is Illinois living up to them?
- Has Illinois gotten better or worse in fulfilling its obligations over the years?

*Hear answers to these questions at a program
co-sponsored by the ACLU
and the League of Women Voters*

**Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m.
Bloomington Public Library Community Room**

Speakers include:

Malcolm Young

Executive Director of the John Howard Association,
a prison watchdog group

James Sayles

Program Coordinator for the John Howard Association
and former inmate in the Illinois Department of Corrections

Thomas Shea

Pastor at St. Patrick's Church in Merna
and community activist

This program is free and open to the public.

Save the Date!!!! October 23

LWV will present a program entitled
“Assessing Mental Health in McLean County:
How are we doing?”

October 23 • 7:00 p.m. • McLean County Government Center

Be sure to save the date for this important program!



Dear Members,

It's hard to believe it's October already and autumn is upon us in full force. I'm looking forward to the clear blue skies and cool nights, as well as the beautiful fall colors that paint the landscape around here. I'm also looking forward to an interesting line-up of programs next month.

On Wednesday, October 3rd, we are co-sponsoring a program with the ACLU at the Bloomington Public Library. The topic will be rehabilitation in our Illinois prison system. With the number of incarcerations increasing at an alarming rate, this is an especially important issue for a whole variety of reasons.

On Tuesday, October 23rd we are presenting a program on McLean County mental health services. It will be interesting to learn more about what services they offer, and what, if any, problems they are facing at this time.

Please plan to attend these programs. You'll be glad you did!

As always, we are constantly in need of volunteers to do various things. Next month we need people to cook and help out with our Russian and Ukrainian visitors. We are still in need of a few more governmental observers, as well as study group members. If any of these appeal to you, give me a call or email me at jonilou@insightbb.com I'll explain what's available and get you connected with the right people.

I wish you all a very enjoyable October!

Joni

Congratulations to
PAUL M. HARMON
Recipient of the 2007
Florence Fifer Bohrer Award!

"I enjoy community service, especially at the local level" – Paul Harmon

Paul Harmon, former mayor of Normal, whose community service dates to 1972 when he joined the Normal Planning Commission, has received the 2007 Florence Fifer Bohrer Award.

Harmon's list of governmental and civic activities, along with his community and professional service, is much too long for this limited space !

To name a few of his accomplishments – his two terms as mayor followed two terms on the Normal Town Council.

Harmon was a vice president of the Illinois Municipal League, and served on the boards of the Bloomington -Normal Symphony, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, BroMenn Healthcare Foundation and the Normal Theater.

He also chaired the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council and the Normal Downtown Advisory Committee. He presently serves as chair of the Bloomington - Normal Airport Authority.

Harmon has been an attorney with the Illinois Agricultural Association since 1968 and since 1996 has been general counsel for IAA, Country Insurance & Financial Services and Prairie Farms Dairy.

The award, named after Florence Fifer Bohrer, Illinois' first woman senator and founder of the LWV of McLean County, annually goes to a McLean County resident whose outstanding public service exhibits the values of the League .

The presentation took place September 15th during the League's annual Membership Brunch.

Mary Lynn Edwards, LWV website designer was presented the 'Leaguer of the Year' award for 2007 at the Membership Brunch.

A 20 year member of LWV of McLean County, Mary Lynn was applauded for her excellent work and we were all delighted to hear that our McLean County League received compliments on its new look from as far away as California.

Thanks to Mary Lynn, we can access up-to-date League information, including our newsletters at

www.lwvmclean.org

*"Stay tuned.
We're on the cusp of one of the wildest
& woolliest presidential elections ever."*
– George Gordon
Membership Brunch Speaker

George Gordon entertained and enlightened those attending the LWV Membership Brunch with his presentation, "Election Politics 2008".

His catchy subtitle, "Are We Having Fun Yet?" gave us a hint as to what we'd be hearing, and jokingly mentioned that he "can hardly wait for the Presidential nominating season to begin."

George, a McLean County Board member is Professor Emeritus in Politics & Government from ISU and Adjunct Professor at IWU in Political Science . His teaching talents and witty sense of humor gave us the opportunity to learn a great deal about how elections have developed , while also treating us to a very good time.

The interesting hour long discussion , involving political parties, the history of the caucus system and primary elections, presidential conventions and the Electoral College , prompted audience questions and many back and forth discussions.

His pithy and prescient comments left us well informed and better prepared for the upcoming election. And we had great fun!

The Russians Are Coming! League Hosting Russians November 2nd -10th

McLean County League has an opportunity to participate in a program shared by only two other Leagues in the whole United States.

With a grant from LWVUS and the Open World Leadership Center, our League will host a delegation from Russia of 5 members (including a facilitator), in the program titled "Accountable Governance".

Among the objectives of the Russia Civic Hosting Program are opportunities for the delegates to:

- Acquire an understanding of the important elements of American civil society
- Share ideas and experiences with American counterparts and representatives of government agencies, civic organizations, business community to achieve mutual understanding and benefit
- Acquire an understanding of governance in a democratic society and the rule of law in American society, including concepts of accountability and transparency, separation of powers, and inter-relationships of federal, state, local governments
- Acquire an understanding of roles of American government, civic institutions, free enterprise, and voluntary organizations
- Develop a better understanding of American culture and society and contribute to enhanced American knowledge of Russian society, culture, and institutions
- Establish contact with whom they can develop continuing relationships after returning to Russia

Although we have a committee working on this project, ensuring that these objectives are met will require the help, expertise, and cooperation of the League membership as a whole.

We look to those currently involved in local government and civic organizations for suggestions on activities which relate to the above objectives

We also need help with a number of short-term services such as:

- Provide breakfast and lodging for two delegates
- Assist with driving delegates to and from activities
- Host a small group dinner or luncheon
- Take digital photographs at scheduled events
- Accompany delegates on site visits (specify suggested relevant destination or group)
- Escort delegates on local shopping trip (!)
- Help assemble small welcome gift packages

- Participate in League Welcome Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday evening, November 6th, at the Mennonite Church, 805 S. Cottage Ave., Normal

We hope ALL League members will do this—
Sign up today!!!

If you can help with any of these tasks,
Please contact Anne Nadakavukaren
829-1889 or anadakav@ilstu.edu

With your help, the upcoming visit will be most informative and enjoyable and one our Russian friends and we will long remember.

Message from the Board of Directors of the Sister City Association of Bloomington Normal

Sister City Association is sponsoring two Russian students, Yulia Ivanova and Serguy Chubich who are enrolled at Bloomington High School second semester, 2008. Those of us who have met these fine young people are very impressed and eager to share them with the wider community. They are bright, articulate and could make very interesting presentations to your group. Since 1995 our Sister City exchanges have included medical, business and law personnel, musicians, political leaders, athletes and 24 Russian high school students to name a few.

We would be glad to help arrange programs which may be of special interest to the League.

For further information, please contact Diane Boeck, Education Committee at 454-1371 or Bill White, Speakers' Bureau at 452-5647.

Help the League to Judge the Judges!

League of Women Voters is holding training for volunteers to observe judges in court during the upcoming year. This information will be used in evaluating judicial candidates for Voters Guides that will provide voters with information to help them make decisions in judicial elections.

Training for courtroom observation will be held on Thursday, October 4th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Bank of Illinois Community Room, 200 W. College Avenue in Normal (next to the Normal Public Library). We hope observers will spend two days or half-days observing each of at least two different judges. These observations could be spread over the next six months at the observers' convenience. If you are not sure about your commitment to the observing, you are still invited to the training.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact Dianne Williamson by October 1st 662-6129 or douglas.williamson@insightbb.com

Immigration Position

Agreed to at Convention Caucus

June 23, 2007

- The League of Women Voters of Illinois believes that the State of Illinois should promote local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for immigrants regardless of documentation status. The State of Illinois should support funding efforts for these services by encouraging federal funding and by the use of funds from the state and local governments as well as from the private sector.
- The League of Women Voters of Illinois believes the State of Illinois should promote and fund educational programs and materials that seek to inform all workers, including documented and undocumented immigrants, of their rights in the workplace.
- The League of Women Voters of Illinois believes the State of Illinois should provide "driving certificates" or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensuring that they would have passed a state driving test. The LWVIL also believes the State of Illinois should permit and encourage auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates.
- The League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes the deputization of state and local police to enforce immigration laws in Illinois.
- The League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would penalize landlords for renting to undocumented immigrants.
- The League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would prohibit the issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants.
- The League of Women Voters of Illinois does not support extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

Spotlight on New Members

Judie Bey became a member of League last spring. She has lived in this area for over 30 years and is retired from State Farm. Joining the League is something she has planned to do for a long time because she is interested in the projects that we do.

Kim Campbell is a "native" to our area and is married with two children. She worked in the States Attorney's office for 5 years and is currently the first Assistant States Attorney. Prior to that she was in the Public Defender's office. She joined League as she is interested in community activities and making sure we are exercising our rights and options.

Gary Hoover, a retired actuary from State Farm, has lived here about 35 years. He has been supportive of LWV for many years and appreciates the way the League present issues to the public in an objective and informative way.

Lisa Schaeffer has lived in this community for a year, having moved from the Kankakee area. She is a pharmacist at Meijer, has 4 children, ages 26-16. Lisa has always been interested in women's issues and voting rights and responsibilities. She is looking forward to being involved in our League.

Observe Your Community in Action

Become the 'Eyes and Ears'

of the League

Observing government in action is a great way to become active in the League. You can learn about local government, be involved in our community and provide a valuable service to the League. The time commitment is minimal and no experience is necessary. The observer chair provides training and packets of information to help you do the job.

Once a year, observers report to the membership. If there is an important item, observers report to the League Board, so the Board can consider the issue.

Observers monitor Bloomington City Council, Normal Town Council, McLean County Board, Unit 5 and District 87 School Boards. Observers can also choose to attend board meetings at McLean County Health Department, Heartland Community College, Airport Authority, Water Reclamation District, and Regional Planning Commission.

If you are interested in observing, contact
Observer Chair, Julie Sullivan
309-663-4425 or by email at JulianaLou@aol.com



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF McLEAN COUNTY**

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Normal, Illinois
Permit No. 37

**Reminder –
Membership Renewals
are due September 30th**

Please mail your check to
Membership Chair
Phylis VerSteegh
49 Kenfield Circle
Bloomington, IL 61704

- \$50 Individual member
- \$25 Second household member
- \$25 Full-time student

Bulletin

LWV of McLean County • 2007-2008 PROGRAMS

Programs are held the fourth Tuesday of the month
at McLean County Government Center, Front & East Streetsunless otherwise specified. (Use Front Street entrance)
All meetings are open to the public.

Wednesday, October 3rd – 7:00 p.m.

**Rehabilitation in our Prisons:
Is Illinois Doing Its Job?
Co-sponsoring program with ACLU**
Bloomington Public Library
205 E. Olive Street

Tuesday, October 23rd – 7:00 p.m.

**Assessing Mental Health Services
in McLean County:
How Are We Doing?**

Tuesday, November 6th – 6:00 p.m.

Russian ‘Potluck’ Party
Mennonite Church
805 S. Cottage Ave - Normal

Tuesday, November 27th – 7:00 p.m.

**Fighting Terrorism: Effective
Alternatives to Military Solutions**
ISU Bone Student Center Ballroom

Thursday, January 24th – 7:00 p.m.

**American Democracy:
Just how democratic is it?
ISU Bone Student Center Old Main**

Tuesday, February 26th – 7:00 p.m.

**Political Engagement:
Influencing Local & State Government
and Student Essay Contest Awards**

Tuesday, March 25th

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
Time, Place, Speaker TBA

Tuesday, April 22nd – 7:00 p.m.

**Eco Cities:
How Can We Green Our Community?**

Tuesday, May 20th

Annual Meeting
Time, Place, Speaker TBA