



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

**Co-Presidents**

Joni Painter  
1903 Hedgewood Drive  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-662-8413

[jonilou@insightbb.com](mailto:jonilou@insightbb.com)

Maureen O'Keefe  
501 Centennial Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761

309-258-4233  
[mmokbg@insightbb.com](mailto:mmokbg@insightbb.com)

**Bulletin**

Charlette Elm  
30 Stonebrook Court  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-664-5857

[mcharelm@msn.com](mailto:mcharelm@msn.com)

**Membership**

Phylis VerSteegh  
49 Kenfield Circle  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-664-5357

[pjversteegh@hotmail.com](mailto:pjversteegh@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Myra Gordon  
2 Kent Drive  
Normal, 61761  
309-452-8530

[menviromyra@insightbb.com](mailto:menviromyra@insightbb.com)

**League of Women Voters  
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**The official address of the  
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is 1918 Owens Drive  
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**Telephone: 309-663-5166**

**New web site!**

[www.lwvmclean.org](http://www.lwvmclean.org)

# Bulletin

Vol. 74 No. 3

November 2007

## **Assessing Mental Health Services in McLean County: How are we doing?"**

This program will take a broad look at  
mental health services in McLean County, including:

- Kinds of services offered
- How state funding changes are impacting services
- The role of local governmental mental health authorities in planning, evaluating and contracting for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services
- The mentally ill in our justice system.

***Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
McLean County Government Center***

Participants are: **Dr. Scott Hamilton**  
Medical Director, Center for Human Services

**Tom Barr**  
Executive Director, Center for Human Services

**Bob Keller**  
Director, McLean County Health Department

**Judge Beth Robb**  
Chief Judge, 11th Circuit Court

*This program is free and open to the public.*

***Save the Date!!!!***

***Special program coming in November***

**“Fighting Terrorism:  
Effective Alternatives to Military Solutions”**

November 27 ▪ 7:00 p.m.

ISU Bone Student Center ▪ Old Main Room

***Be sure to save the date for this important program!***

Dear Members,

We've had quite an eventful fall so far! Our Annual Membership Brunch was very well attended. The board provided wonderful food and George Gordon gave a thought provoking talk on Election Politics.

We had a good crowd for the program presented by our League and the ACLU on Rehabilitation in Illinois Prisons. James Sayles, an ex-offender, gave a riveting testimony of what the system was like for him from the inside out, how he was able to better himself and finally find success. Laurie Bergner did a nice job of moderating the panel which also included Father Thomas Sorg Shea from St. Patrick's Church and Malcolm Young from the John Howard Association.

I am currently looking forward to hearing a program on October 23rd about Mental Health in McLean County. It will be held at the Government Center at 7:00 p.m. It promises to be an interesting and informative evening. I encourage you all to attend.

Looking on to November, we will be hosting five Russian gentlemen for a week beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>. If any of you would like to attend the Potluck we are hosting for them at the Mennonite Church, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., please sign up with me or Anne Nadakavukaren. The more the merrier!

Also, on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we will be joining with Leagues nationwide in presenting a forum on a safer, more compassionate world: Fighting Terrorism—Effective Alternatives to Military Solutions. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. at ISU's Bone Student Center Ballroom. This program is co-sponsored by ISU, *Our Voices Together*, and LWVUS. We have a great line-up of internationally recognized speakers for this event. You won't want to miss it.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and that always gets me thinking about what I'm thankful for. This year I'm especially grateful for the dedicated, hard-working board members and volunteers who eagerly pitch in to help with the many projects and programs we have going on. I'm proud to say we're a very active League. We get a lot done, but it takes a lot of help. Heartfelt thanks to all who get involved. You make our League what it is.

There will be no newsletter or programs in December, so I want to wish you all a happy holiday season, and best wishes for a productive and prosperous 2008!

Joni



## **VOTER SERVICES**

### **Early Voting**

This coming year promises to be a busy and exciting one with many opportunities for LWV members to get involved in election activities.

Once again, the McLean County Clerk's office would like our help with early voting. This will be conducted at four sites in the county –

**County Clerk's office in the Gov't Center  
Town of Normal City Hall  
Heartland Bank & Trust of Chenoa  
Freestar Bank in Downs**

Early voting begins on January 14, 2008 and goes through January 31, 2008.  
Voting hours generally run 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F in all locations  
and 8:00 a.m. to Noon Saturdays at the County Clerk's office only.

If you would like to volunteer a few hours a day or a week to help with Early Voting, please contact:  
Voter Services Chair, Barb Case (309) 557-0222 or [case5020@yahoo.com](mailto:case5020@yahoo.com).

In addition, the County Clerk's office is conducting Election Judge training in November and is deputizing assistant voter registrars. For more information on times and dates, please contact:  
Megan Nelson at (309) 888-5190 or [megan.nelson@mcleancountyl.gov](mailto:megan.nelson@mcleancountyl.gov).

### **Important Dates**

<b>October 29 - November 5, 2007</b>	File original nomination papers at local election offices.
<b>December 26, 2007</b>	First day to apply for an absentee ballot
<b>January 8, 2008</b>	Last day to register voters by deputy registrars
<b>January 9 - January 22, 2008</b>	Grace period registration at election authority offices
<b>January 9 - January 22, 2008</b>	Grace period voting at election authority offices
<b>January 14 - January 31, 2008</b>	Early voting
<b>February 5, 2008</b>	General Primary Election
<b>February 7, 2008</b>	Voter registration reopens

### **Project Vote Smart Bus Tour**

Project Vote Smart is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization that collects and distributes information on elected officials and candidates for public office, including issue positions, voting records and financial contributors.

The Project Vote Smart bus tour will be stopping in Bloomington -Normal on Monday, January 14, 2008. At this point we are looking for a place on the IWU campus that will provide visibility and parking. To check out these worthwhile organizations, go to [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org).

## Spotlight on New Members

**Carol Baker** migrated here from Iowa in 1984, earned her Master's in Reading Ed at ISU. Since 1993, she has been providing a variety of academic support services at Heartland Community College as instructor, a tutor and test assistant. Carol is a member of the Bloomington Cultural Commission, a volunteer at Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts and is an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Normal. She enjoys dance, music, and theater events. She has 2 sons and 2 grandchildren living in Iowa City.

**Gardenia Harris** is an Assistant Professor at ISU in the School of Social Work where she primarily teaches social welfare policy courses. She has been in Normal for four years, is a long-time admirer of the League's, and joined the League in hopes of having a positive impact on the community by becoming more informed about community issues.

**Janet M. Hood**, an executive assistant at BroMenn Healthcare, has lived in this area for about 30 years. She is interested in League programs and wants to learn more about local, state and national issues.

**Matt Litwiller** grew up in Normal and returned to the area after receiving a degree in Information Systems from Purdue University. He lives in Danvers with wife Lynn and children Noah and Emma and works as an IT Architect for State Farm. He joined the League of Women Voters after learning about it from a friend. He is a Deputy Voter Registrar and is passionate about increasing the ranks of informed voters in McLean County.

**Lynda Walters** has lived here over 30 years. She recently retired from teaching elementary and junior high in Unit 87. Her husband is a retired counselor; they have two daughters and five grandchildren. She has friends in the League and is interested in the programs we have presented recently.

**Amy Wiens** is a State Farm transplant from Kansas whose favorite pastime is traveling. She moved to central Illinois in 1998 after finishing her MBA at Wichita State University. Aside from work and travel, she can usually be found volunteering, hiking with her Labrador retriever, or playing volleyball.

### 'Second Household' New Members

**John Case** is President and CEO of Electrolux Inc. He's active in United Way and Special Olympics.

**Roger Elm** is retired as Sales and Marketing Executive with Schieffelin & Somerset, Inc., a world wide premium spirits producer.

**Bob O'Keefe** is employed at State Farm Insurance Companies in the Communications function of the Learning and Development Department.

**Jerry VerSteegh** is retired as Marketing Communications Manager of Growmark, Inc.

**Larry Weiss** is General Manager and VP of the Connoisseur Media group of radio stations in Bloomington/Normal.

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### Be an Observer – *Become the 'Eyes and Ears' of the League*

- Observe government in action
- Be involved in our community
- Minimal time commitment
- Learn about local government
- Provide valuable service to LWV
- No experience is necessary

The observer chair provides training and packets of information to help you do the job

There is one opening to observe the Normal Town Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and one opening for the Bloomington City Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in either position, please contact  
Observer Chair, Julie Sullivan at 309-663-4425 or by email at [JulianaLou@aol.com](mailto:JulianaLou@aol.com)

### Please welcome the following 2007-2008 League Observers

Cathy Weiss – Unit 5 School Board  
Lynda Walters & Lisa Shaefer – District 87 School Board  
Jana Edge – Normal Town Council  
Phylis VerSteegh – McLean County Board  
Carol Baker – Bloomington City Council  
Charlette Elm – Heartland Community College

**Mark Your Calendars  
for these Upcoming Programs**

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**Tuesday - November 27 - 7:00 p.m.  
ISU Bone Student Center▪ Old Main Room**

**“Fighting Terrorism:  
Effective Alternatives to Military Solutions”**

Participants in this special program are:

**Melvin Goodman**

Ex-CIA senior analyst on Russia  
Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy  
Teacher of International Relations at John Hopkins University

**Suraya Sadeed**

Executive Director of Help the Afghan Children,  
a non profit organization that helps create  
a vibrant organizational system in Afghanistan

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**Thursday - January 24 - 7:00 p.m.  
ISU Bone Student Center▪ Old Main Room**

**“Government Secrecy in Wartime”**

Presented by **Geoffrey Stone**

University of Chicago law faculty member since 1973, dean of the Law School from 1987-1993 and provost from 1993-2002, Mr. Stone received his B.S. in 1968 from U of Pennsylvania and Law degree from U of Chicago in 1971. Editor-in-chief of the Law Review, Law clerk to Judge J. Skelly Wright of U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and to Justice William J. Brennan Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court, Mr. Stone was admitted to the New York Bar in 1972. He teaches constitutional law and evidence and writes principally in the field of constitutional law.

Mr. Stone's books have received multiple awards in the fields of history, political science, public affairs and 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. He is chief editor of a 15-volume series, *Inalienable Rights*, and is working on a new book, *Sexing the Constitution*, exploring the historical evolution in western culture of the intersection of sex, religion, and law.

Mr. Stone is a member of the national Board of Directors of the American Constitution Society, the Nat'l Advisory Council of the ACLU, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, member of the American Law Institute, member of the Straight for Equality Project of PFLAG, and Chair of the Board of the Chicago Children's Choir.

In the past, he has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Ass'n of American Law Schools, Board of Advisers of the National Ass'n of Public Interest Law, Advisory Board of the Legal Aid Society, on the Boards of Directors of the U of Chicago Hospitals, the Renaissance Society, the Smart Museum, and a member of the Board of Governors of Argonne National Laboratory.

*Look forward to an enlightening and educational program of great interest to all League members.*

**League Dinner for Russian Delegation**

**Tuesday - November 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m.**

**Menonite Church - 805 S. Cottage – Normal**

On Tuesday evening, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, League will host a special potluck “Welcome” dinner for Russians visiting our community that week. The five delegates, all men, are from diverse backgrounds and different cities (none from Vladimir, however!). All are visiting the U.S. for the first time and have expressed interest in learning as much as possible about American civic life and seeing how local government and citizens interact to promote democracy. They are eager to meet ordinary citizens and see how we live, work, vote, and deal with the issues we all have in common.

Although numerous activities have been scheduled for our guests relating to the theme “Accountable Governance”, Tuesday's event will be the only opportunity for them to meet a broad cross-section of League members and to get a flavor of what we, as an organization, are all about, so we're hoping for an excellent turnout of members for the occasion. The event will also give the delegates a chance to tell Leaguers about themselves and why they were eager to be part of the Russian Civic Hosting Program created by the Open World Leadership Center.

Our request for help from members issued at the fall brunch resulted in an offer from Roger Elm to prepare a meat dish sufficient to feed all comers (thank you, Roger!), so other members are asked to bring salads, vegetables, desserts.

In order to know how much meat to buy, how many tables to set and allow time to make necessary arrangements, we are asking that Leaguers planning to attend please contact

Anne Nadakavukaren at  
(309) 829-1889 or [anadakav@ilstu.edu](mailto:anadakav@ilstu.edu)  
**as soon as possible!**

The first Tuesday of the month isn't usually part of the League schedule, so we're making a special request that you all make an effort to attend this event. Show the delegates that they truly are welcome in McLean County!



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

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

**LWV  
of McLean County  
2007-2008  
PROGRAMS**

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Programs are held the  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at  
**McLean County  
Government Center**  
Front & East Streets  
unless otherwise specified.  
(Use Front Street entrance)

All meetings  
are open to the public

# Bulletin

Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 p.m.  
**Assessing Mental Health Services  
in McLean County:  
How Are We Doing?**

Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.  
**Russian ‘Potluck’ Party**  
Mennonite Church  
805 S. Cottage. Ave - Normal

Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.  
**Fighting Terrorism: Effective  
Alternatives to Military Solutions**  
ISU Bone Student Center Old Main

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.  
**Government Secrecy in Wartime**  
ISU Bone Student Center Old Main

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.  
**Political Engagement:  
Influencing Local & State Government**  
and  
**Student Essay Contest Awards**

Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Annual Dinner & Silent Auction**  
Time, Place, Speaker TBA

Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 p.m.  
**Eco Cities:  
How Can We Green  
Our Community?**

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Annual Meeting**  
Time, Place, Speaker TBA