



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

**LWV**  
of McLean County  
...  
**Annual Dinner  
& Silent Auction**

---

Eastland Suites  
Conference Center

**April 9, 2009**  
*Please note  
the change of date!*



**Tuesday, January 27 – 7:00 p.m.**  
ISU Bone Student Center • Old Main Room

**What the Next President  
Needs to Know about Intelligence**

*Melvin Goodman, Speaker*

**Co-sponsored by ISU**

**Saturday, March 7**  
Eastland Suites Conference Center

**International Womens' Day Brunch**  
Presented by LWV of McLean County,  
AAUW and Soroptomist Club

**Dr. Maria Schmeackle, Speaker**  
More information on page 5

**Tuesday, February 24 – 7:00 p.m.**  
Normal Public Library

**Juvenile Justice:  
How Well Is It Working?**

*Malcolm Young, Executive Director*  
John Howard Assn, a prison watchdog group  
and  
*Lori McCormick*  
of Court Services in McLean County  
will speak on issues such as  
sentencing for juveniles and programs  
for juveniles convicted of crimes.

**Candidate Forums**

**Wednesday, March 18 – 7:00 p.m.**  
Osburn Room • 305 So. East Street

**Bloomington Mayor & Aldermen**  
*Anne Nadakavukaren, Moderator*  
• • •

**Thursday, March 26 – 7:00 p.m.**  
ISU Alumni Center • 1101 No. Main Street

**Normal Mayor & City Council**  
*Professor Robert Bradley, Moderator*  
• • •

**Elections – Tuesday, April 7**



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

**President**

Maureen O'Keefe  
501 Centennial Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761  
309-258-4233  
[mokbg@comcast.net](mailto:mokbg@comcast.net)

**Bulletin**

Charlette Elm  
30 Stonebrook Court  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-664-5857  
[charelm@msn.com](mailto:charelm@msn.com)

**Membership**

Phyllis VerSteegh  
49 Kenfield Circle  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-664-5357  
[pjversteegh@hotmail.com](mailto:pjversteegh@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Linda Stockton  
19 Brompton Court  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-663-5244  
[Linda.Stockton.A4Q2@statefarm.com](mailto:Linda.Stockton.A4Q2@statefarm.com)

**The Voter  
of McLean County  
is published by  
League of Women Voters  
of McLean County  
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](http://www.lwvmclean.org)

# The Voter

Tuesday, January 27 – 7:00 p.m.

## **What Barack Obama Needs to Know about Intelligence**

ISU Bone Student Center – Old Main Room

Speaker: **Melvin Goodman**

League of Women Voters of McLean County is presenting a forum that addresses an area of crucial importance – what our new President will need to know to deal with the CIA and the intelligence community.

On the operational side are issues regarding secret prisons, torture, abuse, and renditions. On the intelligence side are such notable failures as the need for the Iraq war and the failure to avert the 9/11 attack on the United States. These have been among the most crucial questions of our time and have greatly affected our ability to make foreign policy decisions and our reputation in the world.

LWV brings a distinguished speaker to address these issues. **Melvin Goodman**, former CIA and State Department analyst on Russian affairs, is a senior fellow at the Center for International Policy and Director of the Center's National Security Project. He is the author of two books:

- *Bush League Diplomacy: How the Neoconservatives are Putting the Nation At Risk*
- *Failure of Intelligence: the Decline and Fall of the CIA.*

A former professor of International Security studies and chair of the International Relations department at the National War College, Goodman currently teaches International Relations at Johns Hopkins University. He has appeared on the PBS program 'The News Hour with Jim Lehrer', as well as numerous television and radio shows.

This program is co-sponsored by LWV of McLean County and ISU's Global Review, a student organization dedicated to presenting quality programs to further the understanding of other countries.

The program is free and open to the public.

Dear League Members,

The second half of our League year is already upon us! And as always, there will be many opportunities for our League to fulfill its mission to educate and advocate! In April voters in Bloomington and Normal will be going to the polls to participate in this year's mayoral and City Council elections. Our League is teaming up with the ISU Senior Professionals to present candidate forums in March to prepare voters for this election. League member Anne Nadakavukaren will moderate the Bloomington City Council forum and ISU Professor Bob Bradley (Politics and Government) will moderate the Normal Town Council forum. (See this bulletin for more information.)

On January 27<sup>th</sup> author and former CIA analyst Melvin A. Goodman will be our featured speaker on a program we're co-sponsoring with Illinois State University covering what President-elect Obama needs to know about America's intelligence community and its intelligence gathering practices as he takes over leadership of our country. We're inviting League members to meet Mr. Goodman over coffee the next morning in a venue where we can continue this discussion with Mr. Goodman. Our bulletin editor, Charlette Elm, will host this event, so please let her know if you're interested in attending. (We'll send an email reminder as well.)

Board member Julie Prandi has agreed to lead a study on behalf of our League to examine the pros and cons of creating a county Election Commission which would be appointed by the president of the County Board, and would consist of three members (which could include the County Clerk). This study is just getting underway this month; we'll keep you informed of our progress.

In November, League member Charline Watts attended our Board meeting to discuss what are known as "clean elections" in several states. After much discussion, our Board approved a motion for the McLean County LWV to propose the Illinois League of Women Voters adopt as an action focus for 2009-2011 the advocacy of clean elections, i.e., voter-owned elections as an effective way of preserving government "of, by, and for the people." This matter should be taken up during the state convention this June.

Many of you may have seen the front-page coverage our League received in the Pantagraph (December 8) when several Leaguers met at Gwen Pruyne's home to review her treasure trove of League memorabilia and to reminisce about our League's very distinguished history in McLean County. We're celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year which we'll highlight during our Annual Dinner in April.

And finally, you may have noticed that we've officially changed the name of this bulletin to its proper name, "The Voter." Our thanks to League member Joni Painter who in working with the Illinois State League this year on a variety of tasks, uncovered guidelines for League publications. We think the new title accurately reflects our focus on voters—and our mission to both educate citizens and advocate on behalf of McLean County voters.

My best regards to all of you and wishing you all a happy and fulfilling New Year.

**Maureen**

The League organization extends its sympathy to Mary Lynn Edwards and her family on the passing of their son, Thomas. We offer our most heartfelt condolences.

# League of Women Voters of McLean County

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1933-2008

To commemorate the McLean County League of Women Voters' 75th birthday, the chapter is planning to collectively compose a history of the chapter. If the meeting that took place Sunday at the Normal home of longtime member Gwen Pruyne is any indication, they will have no shortage of tales to tell.

Florence Fifer Bohrer, the first woman elected to the Illinois state senate, founded the chapter in Nov. 1933.

The 12 female members and two male members of the local chapter who gathered Sunday at Pruyne's residence enjoyed birthday cake and shared memories of their chapter-related activities.

Many at the meeting fondly remembered Alice Ebel, former member of the league and the first woman elected to the McLean County Board of Supervisors. Ebel served on the board from 1961 to 1977. "Alice Ebel said the County Board was a boys' club," said George Gordon, chapter member and current member of the McLean County Board. So eager were the men of the board to exclude her from a certain meeting that they held it in the men's restroom of the county courthouse, he remembered her telling him.

Barbara Stuart, chapter member and also a former member of the County Board seemed to relate. "They tried to talk over me," she said. "Louder, of course." Stuart recalled fellow chapter member Elaine Perillo's efforts in the 1990s to encourage the state's attorney's office and county judges to initiate a drug court for addicts accused of minor crimes. The McLean County circuit court convened its first session of drug court in August of 2006.

Pruyne passed around a sheet asking everyone to sign up to write a short article related to the chapter's history. "I want them to write the articles as though they're telling the story," she said. Pruyne said the league was ahead of the times in its work for the environment. "We were very early on the environment," she said. The Clean Air Act of 1963 and the Clean Water Act of 1972 were promoted by the league, she said.

Chapter member Anne Nadakavukaran of Bloomington said she served on a number of local committees on soil erosion in the early 1980s when the topic was a "big issue" in Illinois. She said a delegate from another organization entered the room where the meeting was to be held, assumed she was a secretary and asked her to make coffee.

Written by Bridget Flynn - Pantagraph Publishing Co., Copyright © 2008, All rights reserved.



The members of the League of Women Voters gathered in Normal on Sunday afternoon to discuss the history of the LWV on the 75th Anniversary of the organization. Carol Reitan, center, jokes with Myra and George Gordon, all of Normal during the open house. (The Pantagraph / LORI ANN COOK) (December 7, 2008)

---

**Continue the Celebration at the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction**

Thursday, April 9, 2009 at Eastland Suites Conference Center in Bloomington

Watch for details and reservation form in upcoming newsletters

## Observers Report: McLean County Board

The McLean County Board is organized into ten districts. There are two representatives elected for each district. The 20 representatives for each district are as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 - Stan Hoselton (R) / Dan Cavallini (R)             | 2 - Matt Sorenson (R) / Jim Soeldner (R)  |
| 3 - George Wendt (R) / Diane Bostic (R)               | 4 - Laurie Wollrab (D) / Duane Moss (D)   |
| 5 - William Caisley (R) / Sondra "Sonny" O'Connor (R) | 6 - George Gordon (D) / John McIntyre (R) |
| 7 - John Butler (R) / Bette Rackauskas (R)            | 8 - Tari Renner (D) / Paul Segobiano (D)  |
| 9 - Eric Rankin (D) / Cathy Ahart (D)                 | 10 - Bob Nuckolls (R) / Ben Owens (R)     |

Matt Sorenson is the Chairman of the Board.

*I would like to point out that six members of the McLean County Board are also members of League of Women Voters. Way to represent!!*

A map of your district can be found at <http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/countyboard/BoardMaps.htm>

Board members serve a four-year term, but elections are every two years. So, every two years someone from your district will be up for election. The next election will be in 2010. Some years they have reapportioned and all were elected at the same time, but they drew straws (or something like that) to determine which ten people only served two-year terms.

A fairly good cross-section of the community is represented. Men and women, young and old, business people, housewives, farmers, and college professors are all included in the mix. With 7 Democrats and 13 Republicans, different political and philosophical views are represented, and generally they all get along well. They tend to view things on their own merit and are non-partisan in their decision making.

A meeting of the full board is convened every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 9:00 on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Gov't Building in downtown Bloomington. They follow a consent agenda. Most of their business is hammered out during committee meetings that are held at various times during the month. A schedule of their meetings can be found at [http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/elected\\_and\\_appointed/countyboard/schedule.aspx](http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/elected_and_appointed/countyboard/schedule.aspx)

These are the various committees:

- |                      |                           |                            |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| *Executive Committee | *Finance Committee        | *Justice Committee         |
| *Property Committee  | *Transportation Committee | *Land Use Committee        |
| *Rules Subcommittee  | *Legislative Subcommittee | *Liquor Control Commission |

All of the minutes for each committee meeting are recorded and compiled into a booklet, along with the agenda, and given to members several days before each full board meeting. The booklets are usually about 300 pages long and can also be found online at the County Board website.

The atmosphere of the board meetings is rather business-like. Matt Sorenson runs them efficiently with adherence to Roberts Rules of Order. Generally an attitude of teamwork prevails, but people aren't afraid to disagree with one another. Things are decided fairly in a civil manner by taking a vote.

Every meeting begins with a call to order, the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer or devotions. The pace of the meetings is swift and predictable. Some have been as short as 20 minutes; others have lasted over 2 hours. Mostly they are short, presentations and programs make the meetings last longer.

Depending on the topics discussed each month, audience attendance ebbs and flows. The public may NOT provide input without clearing it beforehand with the board and being placed on the agenda.

The board does indeed carry out its intended function. As I said before, most of the decision-making occurs during the separate committee meetings which makes for limited visibility and public insight into the process. It does, however, cut down on time spent and is an efficient way to get business done.

The salary range for County Board members is approximately \$4,300. Members of the Executive Committee get around \$5,400, and the County Board Chairman earns roughly \$9,000 per year. Considering all the work and responsibility involved, being a County Board representative is truly a public service.

-- Submitted by Joni Painter

## Education Observers Needed

If you're interested in learning what goes on at School Boards, there are openings for League Observers. One School Board opening is to observe District 87 on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There is also an opening for the Unit 5 School Board on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in either position and would like more information, please contact Observer Chair, Julie Sullivan, at 309/663-4425 or email - JulianaLou@aol.com.

*Please welcome new Observer – Pam Zimmerman – Unit 5 School Board*

---

## International Womens' Day Brunch

*Saturday, March 7 • Eastland Suites Conference Center*

**Presented by LWV of McLean County,  
American Association of University Women and Soroptomist Club**

***Dr. Maria Schmeackle, Speaker***

Dr. Maria Schmeackle is a sociologist specializing in family relationships and children. Her early area of study was the complexity of family boundaries in contemporary families. More recently, she has been focusing on children who lack adequate family support: street children and orphans worldwide. She spent the summer of 2007 in Brazil, learning Portuguese and volunteering in a project serving 420 at-risk youth in Rio de Janeiro. Upon her return, she collaborated with her students to create a program called Global Children Outreach, and a web site at [www.globalchildrenoutreach.ilstu.edu](http://www.globalchildrenoutreach.ilstu.edu).

Dr. Schmeackle received her doctorate from the University of Southern California in 2001. She is currently Associate Professor of Sociology at Illinois State University, in Normal, Illinois.

---

## Spotlight on New Members

**Al Blair**, has lived in this area since 1970 and joined the League to become a better educated voter. He sees the League as a place where issues are discussed and debated. He has two sons, one serving in the US Army and the other finishing a Mathematics degree at ISU.

**Marabeth Clapp** is from Massachusetts and has lived in this community for 16 years. She is the Assistant Vice President for Business Services at ISU, has two daughters and one granddaughter. Marabeth sees LWV as an opportunity to learn about and contribute to our community.

**Judith Valente-Reynard**, a journalist, poet and essayist from Chicago, has been in the community since 2005 and is married to Charles Reynard. She has always had an interest in politics and government and joined the League to learn more about her new community.

**Jim Soeldner** has always lived in Ellsworth and married his high school sweetheart. They have two children and four grandchildren. He has been the Dawson Township supervisor for 24 years and is a newly elected McLean County Board member. He thinks LWV has a reputation of being fair and balanced in its debating of issues and feels he could learn from our meetings.

**Pam Zimmerman** has lived in Bloomington 17 years and has three children. She is a CPA and a Certified Financial Planner. Last year she was selected to attend Leadership Illinois and became more interested in local government. She hopes membership in LWV will help her understand various political issues that affect our daily lives.

**Reminder: Deadline for current dues is Friday, January 23rd**