



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

President

Maureen O'Keefe
501 Centennial Avenue
Normal, IL 61761
309-258-4233
info@lwvmclean.org

Membership

Phylis VerSteegh
49 Kenfield Circle
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-664-5357
membership@lwvmclean.org

Treasurer

Linda Stockton
19 Brompton Court
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-663-5244
treasurer@lwvmclean.org

Bulletin

Charlette Elm
30 Stonebrook Court
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-664-5857
bulletin@lwvmclean.org

**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

**Site Webmaster
webmaster@lwvmclean.org**



75th Anniversary

Perhaps you read the front-page article in the December 8th Pantagraph that was repeated in last month's VOTER. This is a follow-up with some specifics about our "written oral history." This is not limited to old timers...everyone is invited to tell a story. Tell us the 'Who, What, When, Where & Why' in 1 page (8½x11) or less, if possible. It may be funny or serious or inspirational, or informative, a success (hooray) or a failure (alas).

◀ TELLING IT LIKE IT WAS ▶

- Some Leaguers have already chosen a topic, so we have the following covered: Zap the tax cap • Open meetings
- Grand judicial meeting unification of Bloomington-Normal School merger • LWVUS' 85th anniversary parade
- Mrs. Bohrer • Public transportation study • Russian visit
- A short history • Mentors • Introduction
- Women who were "the first"
- Men who were the first members (non-household.)

There are many important areas remaining for you to write about. Some are: Voter service • Registration • Candidates meetings

- Alternatives to incarceration • Jail review • Juvenile justice
- Drug court • Education and community college
- Child care and other children's issues
- The exciting gun control meeting • Environment
- September Kick-off meetings • Study committees

Does anyone have a list of recipients of the Leaguer of the Year and Bohrer Awards? For more suggestions, there is a partial list of our League's program items since 1960-- available as an e-mail attachment.

For more information and to submit an article, please e-mail history@lwvmclean.org. Please note this deadline: March 17, 2009 (easy date to remember.)

-- Historian, Gwen Pruyne, 201 West Summit, Normal, 452-3707

Dear League Members,

I'm sure we can all agree it's been a challenging winter for us here in the Midwest. Unfortunately, when ice storms struck on the East coast during January, the scheduled speaker for our January program, author Melvin Goodman, was unable to get out of Washington, DC, to deliver his talk on what President Obama needs to know about our intelligence agencies. However, we've been able to reschedule Mr. Goodman on March 31st, and we intend to also offer League members an opportunity to meet Mr. Goodman for coffee the next morning (April 1st). We'll send an email reminder with time and location of the coffee meeting closer to the event.

As of January 31st, we've finalized our current membership roster and we're ready to distribute our Yearbooks for 2009-2010. As always, our Yearbook contains a Directory of League members and up-to-date information (addresses/phone numbers) of our elected officials – from local elected officials on up through 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue! It also provides our Purpose Statement and details on positions League has taken on various issues involving government and public services. Please pick up your copy of the Yearbook at our upcoming monthly programs beginning in March. (We'll mail copies to those of you unable to attend our monthly programs/events.)

Our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, April 9th. Dianne Williamson, who is heading up this event, is organizing an elegant party for our members and guests. Our Board is planning a program around the topic of "The State of our State." Although we solicit donations from local merchants for the Silent Auction, we also know the articles donated by League members are often the most sought after items we receive. Anyone who's been lucky enough to take home Myra Gordon's special tasty treats knows exactly what I'm talking about.

So as always, we're seeking your special donations—items, you knit, sew, crochet, bead, or build, hand-made gift baskets, or the gift of your time and expertise (like gardening!)-- are very much appreciated. Julie Sullivan, 107 Warner Street, Bloomington, is happy to accept any donations you have to offer. Julie's phone number is 309-663-4425.

In March, we'll be celebrating Women's History Month. But guess what organization will be 89 years old on February 14th?

Yes, along with Valentine's Day, League of Women Voters members can

"celebrate this year with a strong commitment to build on the civic energy generated during the 2008 election season by continuing our 89-year history of fostering meaningful citizen participation in our government processes and vigorous public dialogue about public policy issues."

Wishing you warm days ahead as winter wanes and spring approaches...

Maureen

Show Off Your Talents and Help the League!

Help our League raise money for programs and activities at the Annual Dinner & Silent Auction.

League members' contributions are traditionally a hit, so please be part of the *Auction Action* by donating goods and services.

In the past members have

- ♥ baked...*umm, tasty treats*
- ♥ knit...*stitch after lovely stitch*
- ♥ gardened...*busy hands are happy hands*
- ♥ made gift baskets...*unique themes*
- ♥ and other things...*your choice!*

The Dinner and Auction is scheduled Thursday, April 9th, 2009 - at Eastland Suites Conference Center giving us plenty of time to get creative.

If you have questions, or are willing to donate, please get in touch with Julie Sullivan at 663-4425 or silentauction@lwvmclean.org

Thanks in advance for your help.

Notification of a a Proposed Study for Our League

Members of LWV McLean County are invited to submit comments or questions on the proposed study

Elections in McLean County

Let League President Maureen O'Keefe know if you have any objections to our proceeding with this study.

info@lwvmclean.org

A study of elections of 2008 in our county has been proposed which involves looking at the voting process, provisional voting, voter registration, voter purging; and experiences of those who run the election offices for McLean County and the City of Bloomington, as well as deputy registrars, poll watchers, and election judges.

Those interested in helping conduct this study are encouraged to contact Julie Prandi who is chairing the group.

electionstudy@lwvmclean.org

Of potential interest to Leaguers...

13th Annual International Womens' Day Breakfast

**Sponsored by League of Women Voters of McLean County,
American Association of University Women and Soroptomist Club**

Dr. Maria Schmeckle, Speaker

- Sociologist specializing in family relationships and children.
- Early area of study was the complexity of family boundaries in contemporary families.
- Received her doctorate from the University of Southern California in 2001.
- Currently Associate Professor of Sociology at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

Dr. Schmeckle will share her passion for street children and orphans world wide and the program she and her students are building: ***Global Children Outreach***

Saturday, March 7th, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. ▪ Eastland Suites Conference Center

Tickets - \$15 each or Table of 8 / \$110 ▪ RSVP – Carol Reitan, 309-452-1681 or car@reitan.info

Make checks payable to AAUW and mail to: 1319 Chadwick, Normal, IL 61761

Observer's Report: Heartland Community College

The Heartland Community College Board has "the institutional responsibility for governance, operation, and administration of a comprehensive 2 year college program" as stipulated in the Illinois Community College Act (1965). The Board consists of seven members elected by qualified voters and a non-voting student member appointed by the Heartland Community College Student Government Association. Board members serve 6-year terms; the current trustees and term expiration dates are:

Cindy Brand, 2009	Christina Rogers, 2009	Gregg Chadwick, 2011	Steve Graham, 2013
Harry Dunham, 2013	Jim White, 2011	Larry Littell, 2013	Robert M. Smith III, student trustee

The College District 540, founded in 1991, has campuses in Normal, Lincoln and Pontiac. At its biennial organizational meeting, the Board elects a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary. Also sitting on the Board is the Vice-President of Business Services, Rob Widmer, who serves as the appointed Treasurer, and an appointed recording secretary, Laura Mai.

The meeting of the full board is convened every third Tuesday of the month on the second floor of the Commons Building, Room 2012 at 7 p.m. The secretary kindly e-mails the LWV Observer the meeting agenda and all pages pertaining to reports. Each month there is a consent agenda, minutes, staff reports and trustee reports – all followed in an orderly manner, with discussion when warranted. Members respect one another and reports from faculty and other groups are common. President of the College, Jon Astroth, attends every meeting.

At each of the meetings I've attended, there have been audience members observing or waiting to give a report or make a statement. When a controversial topic was up for discussion and vote, the public were allowed to speak for or against without specifically asking to be on the agenda. A newspaper reporter is often present and the news article the following day states what I had observed. I have only observed three meetings so far but each one dealt with topics of great interest to the public.

November 2008:

(1) Jim Hubbard, Director of Facilities, reported on alternative energy initiatives such as geothermal heating and cooling in the Workforce Development Center and New Child Development Laboratory facility; installment of a wind turbine on campus, and using hybrid vehicles.

(2) Work continues towards creating a more diverse student body.

(3) Approved consortium agreement with Midstate College.

(4) Agreed to partner with the Town of Normal at the Linden House Ecology Center.

December 2008:

(1) This meeting was publicized through newspaper notices and letters to the editor concerning raising the tax levy. Members of the public were allowed to speak at the beginning of the meeting. 5 persons stood to speak against the tax increase before the time was cut off – three were local citizens, one a Pontiac City Councilman, one from Lexington. Board members countered with answers saying it would be only a \$.005 or ½ cent increase, HCC is getting less from state government and full-time students will pay \$8 more per class. After the speakers left, I noted that later in the meeting the Tax Levy Resolution passed without comment from any board member!

(2) Approval of funds to upgrade security system protection in parking lots and college buildings.

January 2009:

Another meeting with persons from the community present to express dismay at more expenditures by the Board.

(1) The Board agreed to partner with the Town of Normal and a minor league baseball team for a \$12 million project to build a sports stadium on HCC property that the college will also use. HCC will spend \$3.5 million; Normal will spend \$.5 million, and the rest by the owners. Claims were made that HCC would have no obligation for monetary default if there is failure. The resolution passed with only one "no" vote.

(2) The trustees approved spending more than \$1.7 million on campus capital projects: (a) a \$770,000 renovation of the Student Commons Building; (b) a \$961,000 project to design the lower level of the Community Education Center to house the Challenger Learning Center; (c) approved spending federal grant money to buy lab equipment for the B/N School of Radiography moving to the HCC campus.

The Board is handling very important and very expensive matters in a responsible way that greatly impacts the public. Issues and problems facing the Board in the future will be dealing with what we all face: a shrinking economy.

-- Submitted by Judy Poultney

Observer's Report: Bloomington Public School Dist. 87 Board of Education

The District 87 Board of Education meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Educational Services Center, 300 E. Monroe Street, Bloomington. The seven members of the board are elected at large for four-year terms. The nonpartisan consolidated elections are held on the first Tuesday in April of odd numbered years. More information about the district can be found at: <http://www.district87.org>.

Present members of the board are: Cheryl Jackson – President John Dirks – Vice President
Joe Butcher Michael Harrison Steve Perry Millicent Roth Janet Smith

The board represents a diverse cross section of the community, including gender, age, ethnicity, and occupation. Exceptions are that three of the seven members are State Farm employees and there is no Latino representation. Four of the members are graduates of District 87 schools.

Agendas are clear and available to the public. Meetings begin with a call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance. Cheryl Jackson runs very efficient meetings using Roberts Rules of Order. The atmosphere is business-like, yet cordial. Regularly on the agenda are committee reports and informational administrative reports. There are standing committees and special committees that meet outside of the board meeting and report to the board. After these reports or presentations, board members question and discuss the information presented. The board takes action on many items by consent agenda. Materials for the consent agenda are provided to board members before each meeting. These appear to be items previously presented and discussed, as in all the meetings I attended, they were approved without discussion. Board action on items not included in the consent agenda are discussed and voted on separately. Board members work as a team but are not afraid to disagree, discuss, or ask questions.

Audience attendance varies depending on the issues or business at hand. The room may be packed if there is a divisive issue or if a group is being recognized but generally there are just a few observers. Often on the agenda is recognition of personnel or students. Requests for public presentations must be submitted in writing to the Board President or Superintendent at least 24 hours in advance and are subject to approval. Public comment is taken at the end of each meeting. Special public hearings include time for public comment before action is taken. Press is present and generally reports information accurately.

The board carries out its intended function quite well in an organized and efficient manner. While it is certainly concerned with representing the taxpayers it serves, there is a genuine concern for the well being of students and the educational environment of District 87. Board members are not compensated, so the many hours of work and responsibility are a vital public service. This board is facing difficult decisions concerning budget cuts, while maintaining excellent educational programming.

--Submitted by Pam Lubeck

Education Interest Group to Meet February 23rd

At the LWVIL Issues Briefing on January 31st, a group of League members concerned about education in Illinois met over lunch and formed a committee to work on this issue. There were various suggestions as to how we can better focus and expand our message and it was agreed that we needed to meet again to continue this discussion. Using League's positions on public education as a starting point, our goal is to explore the most effective ways to support quality education in Illinois.

**To this end, we will meet on Monday, February 23rd at 1:00 PM
at the League office at 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago.**

We welcome any and all League members who would like to join us. Please consider joining this effort.

Please contact Claire McIntyre at randymc@charter.net to let her know if you plan to attend. She will forward you the outline of what was discussed at the lunch meeting so that you may bring your input and ideas to share with the group. If you cannot make the meeting on the 23rd but would like to be a part of the discussion in the future, please let Claire know.

Juvenile Justice: How Well Is It Working?

Tuesday, February 24th – 7:00 p.m.

Normal Public Library - 206 W. College

LWV of McLean County and the American Civil Liberties Union are co-sponsoring a program to explore the issue of juvenile justice. There are many juveniles who become part of our criminal justice system. They end up on probation and sometimes in juvenile detention; some even in prisons meant for adults. How well is our juvenile justice system working? How does it compare with other states and other countries? What kind of programs does McLean County provide to its juvenile offenders? These questions will be explored by **Malcolm Young, Lori McCormick** and **Bill Yoder**.

Malcolm Young has been Executive Director of the John Howard Assoc. of Illinois since 2005. He began his career in 1974 as a criminal defense attorney in Chicago, leaving in 1980 for Washington DC. There, he worked for the National Legal Aid & Defender Assoc. til 1984, focusing on sentencing advocacy in criminal courts. In 1986 he founded Sentencing Project to promote alternatives to incarceration and reforms in sentencing law and practice, which evolved into a highly regarded national leader on sentencing research, advocacy, and reform. He returned to Chicago when he assumed his current position at the John Howard Association of Illinois.

Lori McCormick has been Director of Court Services Department since 2008. This position encompasses Adult and Juvenile Probation Services, as well as the Juvenile Detention Center. Her entire criminal justice career has been with McLean County Court Services, beginning June, 1981, when she was hired as a line staff juvenile probation officer. In 1989 she was promoted to Deputy Director of the Juvenile Probation Department where she remained until her recent promotion. She is a member of the executive committee of Youth Impact-Juvenile Justice Council and Illinois Probation & Court Services Assoc.

Bill Yoder has served for 6 years as McLean County State's Attorney, after a position as McLean County Chief Felony Prosecutor and private practice in criminal law. As State's Attorney, Bill has been involved in the development of the McLean County Drug Court, Pre-Trial Screening Program and Truancy Board. He created the sexual assault task force to more effectively seek justice for adult victims of sexual assault. He is currently part of the team exploring Mental Health Issues as they relate to the justice system. Bill is active in Youth Impact, the McLean County Juvenile Justice Council, a council charged with the mission of deterring youth from gang involvement and assisting them to reach their full potential. As a member and past Chairperson of Youth Impact, Bill has been involved in the 2008-2009 updating of the Juvenile Justice Council Delinquency Prevention Plan. The updated plan focuses heavily on early childhood prevention and the importance of parents being engaged in their children's lives as a means to prevent our youth from ever entering the justice system.

What Barack Obama Needs to Know about Intelligence

Tuesday, March 31st – 7:00 p.m.

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.

Former professor of International Security studies and chair of the International Relations Dept. 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.

Co-sponsored by ISU's Global Review, a student organization
dedicated to presenting quality programs to further the understanding of other countries.

Originally scheduled for January 27th and cancelled due to stormy, winter weather in Washington DC which caused airport closings, we are very pleased to welcome Mr. Goodman to Illinois in what we hope will be more 'spring like' weather!

These programs are free and open to the public.

The League of Women Voters of McLean County



Invites You to Our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

**Thursday, April 9th, 2009
Eastland Suites Conference Center**

The evening's schedule:

5:00 – Social hour and bidding on auction items

6:45 – Dinner

7:15 – Presentation: “State of the State”

Speaker: To be announced



Reservation for League of Women Voters of McLean County
Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Thursday, April 9th, 2009 ▪ Eastland Suites Conference Center

Please make reservations by April 2nd

Cost is \$25 per person, includes dinner and dessert.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ # attending

_____ Total due (\$25.00 per person)

Make checks payable to:

LWW McLean County

Mail to:

Linda Stockton

19 Brompton Court

Bloomington, IL 61704

Questions? Call:

Julie Sullivan – 309-663-4425

Dianne Williamson – 309-826-2816

Check choice of entrée:

___ Chicken Sparta – Layered Breast of chicken with filling of sautéed spinach and shallots tossed with sun dried tomatoes and sharp feta cheese. Finished with roasted red pepper and oregano beurre blanc.

___ Stuffed Center Cut Pork Loin – Hand stuffed pork chop centered with poached Granny Smith apple and toasted walnut dressing, topped with a light rosemary sauce.

___ Pesto Pasta Primavera – Cheese stuffed tortellini tossed with sun dried tomato, basil pesto, artichokes, broccoli, sweet bell peppers and garlic Alfredo cream.



Find inside –

- 75th Anniversary request Page 1
- President’s message Page 2
- Annual Dinner Auction Page 3
- Election Study Proposal Page 3
- International Women’s Day Page 3
- Observer – Heartland CC Page 4
- Observer – School Dist. 87 Page 5
- LWVIL Educ. Interest Group Page 5
- Upcoming Programs Page 6
- Annual Dinner Invitation Page 7
- Candidate Forum Schedule Page 8

The Voter

Tuesday, February 24 – 7:00 p.m.

Normal Public Library

Juvenile Justice:

How Well Is It Working?

Sponsored by

LWV of McLean County & ACLU

...of potential interest to Leaguers

Saturday, March 7 – 9:00 a.m.

Eastland Suites Conference Center

International

Womens’ Day Breakfast

*Sponsored by LWV of McLean County,
AAUW and Soroptomist Club*

Tuesday, March 31 – 7:00 p.m.

ISU Bone Student Center – Old Main Room

What Barack Obama

Needs to Know about Intelligence

Sponsored by

LWV of McLean County & ISU Global Review

Candidate Forums

Bloomington Mayor & Aldermen

Wednesday, March 18 – 7:00 p.m.

Bloomington Police Dept. ▪ Osborn Room
305 S. East Street

Anne Nadakavukaren, Moderator

Submit questions for the candidates to
candidatesbloom@lwvmclean.org

Normal Mayor & City Council

Thursday, March 26 – 7:00 p.m.

ISU Bone Student Center ▪ Prairie Room

Professor Robert Bradley, Moderator

Submit questions for the candidates to
candidatesnormal@lwvmclean.org

Elections Tuesday, April 7, 2009

**LWV of McLean County
Annual Dinner and Silent Auction**

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Eastland Suites Conference Center