



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF McLEAN COUNTY

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**New web site!
www.lwvmclean.org**

The Voter

Vol. 75 No. 7 Of McLean County April-May 2009

The Patriot Act Revisited:

*An effective tool for fighting terrorism
or a threat to civil liberties?*

**American Civil Liberties Union and LWV of McLean County
are co-sponsoring a program to re-examine the Patriot Act**

Now eight years old, parts of it are up for renewal this year, so it is time to look at it again.

- What parts are up for renewal, and should they be renewed or revised?
- Will President Obama's commitment to following the rule of law make any difference in the answers to these questions?

We have two distinguished speakers to help us understand the Patriot Act and the answers to these questions.

David Risley has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of Illinois for over 25 years, currently serving as the district's anti-terrorism coordinator. From November 2005 through August 2006 he served a temporary assignment as an attorney-advisor to the Iraqi High Tribunal, assisting in the investigation and prosecution of Saddam Hussein and high-ranking members of his former regime for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Prior to that, he was the district's lead drug task force attorney. He is currently prosecuting *United States v. al-Maari*, a Peoria, Illinois, case in which the defendant is charged with providing material support to al-Queda.

Edwin C. Yohnka is the Director of Communications and Public Policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. On behalf of the ACLU of IL, Yohnka appears regularly on television and radio programs in Illinois and throughout the nation to speak out on a myriad of issues, ranging from racial profiling and the inequities of the criminal justice system, to matters relating to religious liberty and Internet privacy. He also is widely cited in newspapers and publications on legal and legislative matters related to the ACLU of Illinois' priorities.

Dr. Robert Bradley, ISU Professor of Politics and Government will serve as Moderator.

**This program will be held
Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bloomington Public Library
It is free and open to the public.**

From the desk of...

Co-President Maureen O'Keefe

Dear League Members,

As you may have noted in this month's Illinois Voter, the Illinois League of Women Voters State Convention will be held beginning Friday June 12 (with Pre-Convention Workshops) through Sunday, June 14. You may attend as much or as little of the Convention as fits your schedule, but we do urge you to attend as much of it as possible, especially since it's being held right here in Central Illinois at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in Peoria.

Board Secretary Julie Prandi (828-3230 or jprandi@iwu.edu) is coordinating registration for all members of our League who wish to attend, so please contact Julie directly if you are interested in attending any/all of the Convention. We'd like to complete our registration well ahead of the May 20th deadline, so please contact Julie on or before May 8th if you wish to attend.

I wish to extend my deep appreciation for all League members who contributed to the success of this year's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Thank you to League members who donated Auction items even though you were unable to attend. I sincerely appreciate the work of all Board members who solicited Auction items, helped with setting up beforehand, and continued working throughout the evening. Dianne Williamson did an amazing job in organizing the entire event from set-up to conclusion, and she's assured me she relied heavily on Phylis VerSteegh, Charlette Elm, Linda Stockton and Julie Sullivan – a crew who stepped in and did "whatever it took" to coordinate and execute this event.

A special thanks to Sally Rudolph who secured an excellent speaker for our program, McLean County Board Chairman Matt Sorensen, who delivered an extremely lively and informative talk, which I think we might have titled, "McLean County Board 101." I'm sure we'll be asking for a return engagement from Matt during next year's series of programs.

And last but not least, Charlette Elm created a truly spectacular quilt commemorating our League's history, an item on display during the evening and which she's donated to our League. We'll be proudly displaying it at all future League-sponsored programs/events.

If any of you happened to catch the editorial in the April 12 edition of The Pantagraph, you'll have noticed an endorsement of House Bill 24, "sponsored by state Rep. Harry Osterman, D-Chicago, which would limit contributions from individuals to \$2,300. Corporations, labor organizations and associations could contribute no more than \$5,000. The bill has 22 co-sponsors." (Senate Bill 1768, sponsored by Sen. Heather Steans, D-Chicago, was also introduced this legislative session and it closely mirrors federal campaign finance laws.) As noted in the editorial, to date, "no Pantagraph-area lawmakers have signed on as co-sponsors. I also draw your attention to the fact that "these bills are being supported by a coalition of groups that includes the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform and the League of Women Voters of Illinois who are pushing for campaign contribution limits under the banner of CHANGE Illinois." I urge all members to support these bills by making your views known to your House and Senate representatives. Please refer to your new Yearbook (mailed to League members the week of April 13) for the addresses of your Illinois House and Senate representatives.

Finally, our League's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 26, at the Government Center (upstairs conference room) at 7:00 p.m. As always, we'll be voting for our new slate of officers and attending to other League matters – budget, programs, and revisions to our by-laws. Remember to bring the Annual Meeting packet (pages 5-12 in this Voter issue) for reference with you.

We also use this meeting to honor our "Leaguer of the Year." If you have a nominee you wish to receive this award, please send the information to me.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in May!

Maureen

Observer's Report: **Bloomington City Council**

The Bloomington City Council is composed of a Mayor, elected at large, and nine (9) Aldermen, one per ward. Steve Stockton is mayor. There are nine (9) wards of the City of Bloomington. Alderman are:

- Ward 1 – Bernard Anderson
(replacing Allen Gibson 5/1/09)
- Ward 2 – David Sage
- Ward 3 – Kevin Huetter
- Ward 4 – Judith Stearns
- Ward 5 – Jennifer McDade
(replacing Jim Finnegan 5/1/09)
- Ward 6 – Karen Schmidt
- Ward 7 – Steven Purcell
- Ward 8 – John Hanson
- Ward 9 – Jim Fruin

Candidates for elected offices of the City of Bloomington are elected for four-year terms. City council members are elected at a consolidated municipal election and, upon qualifying, take office on the May 1 following their election.

Regular meetings of the City Council are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers of Bloomington City Hall. The Council may set a special meeting to complete the unfinished business of an adjourned meeting. City Council meetings and additional work session meetings are open to the public and are handicapped accessible.

All reports, communications, ordinances, resolutions, contract documents, or other matters must be submitted to the Council no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday preceding each Council meeting. (Bloomington City Code).

A number of citizens regularly attend city council meetings and when special interest items appear on the agenda, attendance is usually high. Opportunity for public comment is included as well as news media questions or comments on "regular agenda" items. Bloomington residents can be active participants in council meetings and work sessions and can offer suggestions to aldermen. The mayor and council need to continue to be candid with taxpayers and completely open in the process.

The City of Bloomington's website contains extensive information about city council proceedings, including minutes, a record of motions and votes, bios of council members and a link to WJBC 2 for live broadcasts of council meetings. Go to <http://www.cityblm.org/>. Full council packets (agenda and supporting documentation for all items) are now available on the website.

News stories published over the past year in *The Pantagraph* have been collected in a binder for those interested in reading through them.

Strengths and Challenges of the Bloomington City Council over the past year were summarized by *The Pantagraph* reporter MK Guetersloh in the January 4, 2009 issue.

Growth Bloomington's population, which stood at about 75,000 in a 2006 special census, is expected to exceed 92,000 by 2025 which means more city services.

Budgeting The city faced tough budget years for 2008-09 and 2009-10. The current downturn in the economy is expected to keep sales tax revenue from growing while the need for services persists.

Loss of institutional knowledge The City Council offered early retirement to about 100 of its 650 full-time employees who are 50 years old or older with a minimum of 20 years of service in the IL Municipal Retirement Fund. In the water department, for example, four retiring employees will mean a loss of more than 80 years of cumulative experience. Many departments, including finance, police and public service, have lost their directors.

Economic development The City Council wants to target small commercial growth by bringing in businesses with 100 to 300 employees to help diversify the city's economic base.

Emerald ash borer This little bug is anticipated to do a lot of damage to the city's trees and its budget. About 3,400 ash trees owned and maintained by the city will need to be removed as the emerald ash borer infestation grows.

The city is estimating the total cost will be about \$3 million, but officials are trying to break up the cost by spending about \$300,000 a year for 10 years to remove the trees.

Four planning studies The city has participated in studies about where to locate an east-side highway and improving the appearance of the Main Street Corridor through the Twin Cities. Also, the city has started its own studies to create redevelopment plans for downtown and the west side. The City Council has adopted some of the plans already and soon will have to look at finding the money in the city's budget to pay for some of the programs.

The Main Street Corridor form-based code dictates the zoning types of future businesses and buildings to be built along the Main Street Corridor and would affect new construction or major renovation projects at existing structures. Concern by business owners has resulted in some adaptations of the plan since several business owners argue that restrictive regulations and city control of virtually everything that happens on this property is a detriment to the corridor plan.

Water The council approved spending \$90,000 to study methods to help better control nitrates and phosphates that come into Lake Bloomington from the septic sewer systems from that area. While the septic systems control bacteria, the Water Director said they do not control nitrates and phosphates which are a concern for the lake. Most contaminants in the lake come from field runoff, but homes may be a part of the problem the city can control.

The city has long-term plans to develop a second water supply by drilling into the Mahomet Aquifer on the western side of McLean County. The plan started in the early 1990s after severe droughts reduced the city's primary water supply, Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake. The city has started on interim plans to look for wells south of Bloomington on city property near the Den at Fox Creek Golf Course and north of Bloomington at Hudson on city property near the lakes.

Elections Six members of the council, including the mayor, were elected on April 7. Aldermen in wards 3 and 9 were unopposed in their re-election bids. Aldermen in wards 1 and 5 are new to the council on May 1.

Mayor Steve Stockton faced two challengers in his bid for a second term, Tari Renner, a political science professor at IWU and Eric Decossas, a business analyst from State Farm. The new city manager has a four-month contract with the city because under state law his contract cannot run longer than the mayor's term.

Upon submission of this report for the newsletter, final outcome of the mayoral election was not certain. Stockton was ahead by 11 votes after election night count. After provisional and absentee ballots are counted, a recount could be called.

Budgeting woes continue to top the list of challenges for the city and City Manager, David Hales, proposed cuts of \$6-\$8 million due to falling sales tax revenue and increasing spending requests from departments. The city's reserves have been depleted. As a general policy set by the council, the city should have an extra \$10 million to help pay bills or cover emergencies. It could take years to build the reserve back to that amount.

In April, two departments were merged, Parks and Recreation/Cultural District and Public Works encompassing public service, engineering and vehicle maintenance. Both mergers resulted in elimination of higher salaried director positions.

40-60 job cuts are proposed during the coming fiscal year. Payroll is targeted because salaries and benefits account for about 59% of the general fund.

On April 13, the Council adopted a balanced budget of \$77 million which includes about \$3 million in payroll cuts. Anticipated cuts had been higher but aldermen wanted several programs saved and layoffs delayed until May 30.

The City Manager took the cue from the Council to continue looking for other ways to save as the next fiscal season gets underway.

Ongoing financial struggles of the city promise to go on for a long time and continue to consume the time and energy of the city council and the administration.

Submitted by
Carol Baker and Phylis VerSteegh,
Bloomington City Council Observers

League of Women Voters of McLean County

2009 Annual Meeting

Tuesday ▪ May 26th ▪ 7:00 p.m.

McLean County Government Center ▪ Front & East Streets in Bloomington

Issues of Importance to be considered at LWV Annual Meeting

2009 – 2010 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee would like to propose the following slate of officers for the upcoming year:

Co-Presidents: Maureen O’Keefe (1 year)
Julie Sullivan (2 years)

Vice President – Programs: Laurie Bergner
Secretary: Carol Straka
‘The Voter’ Bulletin: Charlette Elm
Observers: Judie Bey (1 year term)
Webmaster: Mary Lynn Edwards
Voter Service*: Yadira Ruiz

2010-2011 Nominating Committee – Chair: Jane Turley
Members: Gary Hoover, Carol Baker

Submitted by Joni Painter – 2009-2010 Nominating Committee

Thank you all for your willingness to serve!

*The bylaws may be changed to reflect that Voter Services is now an appointed directorship.

Proposed Budget 2009-2010

BUDGET CATEGORY

Beginning Balance \$ 9,530.00
General Account
Checking & Savings
Judicial Grant \$ 2,044.00
Jeans Account \$ 885.00

INCOME

Dues paid @ \$60 Full \$ 6,480.00
\$30 for Second
Members contribution
Money making projects \$ 3,500.00
Judicial 0
Jeans Session fun 0
Transfer from LWVIL 0
Balance \$1,123.29
Total Income \$22,439.00

LWVUS Education Fund \$ 1,123.29

EXPENDITURES

Membership and Kick-off Event \$ 300.00
Hospitality \$ 200.00
Program Expenses/Study \$ 2,200.00
Publicity \$ 100.00
Insurance \$ 150.00
Supplies \$ 100.00
Postage \$ 900.00
Internet site \$ 100.00
Printing \$ 1,000.00
Convention \$ 2,500.00
Workshops \$ 300.00
Voter Service \$ 200.00
LWVIL PMP 26.00 \$ 2,834.00
LWVUS PMP 29.20 \$ 3,048.00
Awards/Gifts \$ 250.00
Judicial Grant \$ 1,500.00
Money making projects Events \$ 1,500.00
Jean Sessions Funds – Essays prizes 0
Observer \$ 50.00
Carry-over General Fund \$ 2,079.00
Carry Over Judicial Fund \$ 2,043.00
Carry Over Jean Sessions \$ 885.00
Total Expenditures \$22,439.00

LWV of McLean County – PROGRAM POSITIONS

(Changes to be considered are in ***Boldface Italics***)

Official local program policy positions of LWV of McLean County, representing the consensus opinion of our membership and formal approval by the Board of Directors, are as follows:

HOME RULE FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR BLM-NORMAL (Adopted 2004)

League strongly supports provisions in the 1970 Illinois Constitution that allow certain local governments to adopt home rule and opposes any attempt to restrict this option.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Adopted 2005)

Administration

- Appointment of all administrative personnel
- Election of all policymakers

County Board

- Review of the general structure, procedures, committee structure, districts and size with a view toward greater transparency, accessibility to the public and more effective communication within the board
- Production of a five-year strategic plan required of all county department heads, including budget provisions; presentation of these plans each year to the county board as part of the budget process for accountability purposes
- Pursuance of intergovernmental agreements that address the issue of land annexation, including transferring road maintenance to the annexing body

ALTERNATIVES TO JAIL

- Support for efforts to maintain a Drug Court Program for McLean County
- Study Mental Health Court, Victim-Offender Mediation, GPS electronic monitoring, Day Reporting Center, and Community Justice Committee

JUVENILE JUSTICE / CHILD WELFARE

- Cooperation and coordination among agencies and government officials who work with juveniles

PUBLIC RECREATION

- Maintain and improve recreational facilities (national standards based on population are an appropriate goal)
- Continued development of recreational programs for both large numbers of people and a wide variety
- Cooperation among government units whenever possible

LOCAL EDUCATION

- Broadly-based measurement of student achievement by teachers, parents and students, using both behavioral objectives and standardized tests
- Frequent teacher evaluation by principals or department heads, with official procedures for participation by parents
- A diverse curriculum made possible, if necessary, by an extended school day
- Organization of districts for educational benefit to students, administrative efficiency, economy
- A financial basis for schools in McLean County that can provide a good education for all students
- Merger of Districts 87 and 5

WATER CONSERVATION

- Government action to promote water conservation
- Public education about the need for conservation
- Fair rate system that encourages conservation

PUBLIC HEALTH

Financing the McLean County Health Department

- Primary support from the State of Illinois
- Increase of the current limit on the local county tax level for the Health Department

Hiring practices for the County Health Department

- State-set minimum standards
- Open hiring policy, including an equal opportunity statement

Services

- Continuous evaluation of needs and monitoring of existing programs
- High priority on services to low-income families
- Cooperation and coordination between the Department of Public Health and mental health services

Selection of new board members

- County-wide representation
- Unlimited number of terms for members
- Application for appointment through the County Board

Keeping the public informed

- Filing of reports in the public libraries
- Publicizing of services available
- Publication of board meeting times

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (*To be reviewed: Should this be general Energy Efficiency Study including use of and reduction of waste, recycling, building codes, zoning & subdivision codes*)

- An integrated solid waste management strategy that encourages a regional approach to ensure maximum waste reduction and adequate disposal capacity, recycling/reuse program for the entire community.

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH (*To be reviewed*)

- Expansion of community-directed services to children, adolescents, and the elderly

EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE (*Formal plea for study at annual meeting – Cost, response time and rural services need to be examined*)

- A paramedic service for Bloomington-Normal, funded by a combination of government support and use fees

(League opposes a separate taxing district or special assessment)

LAND USE (*Adopted 2006*) (*To be reviewed – Formal plea for study at annual meeting*)

Local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances and issues regarding urban sprawl and affordable housing.

The scope will include but shall not be limited to:

- ***Current state of affordable housing and urban growth in McLean County***
- ***Role of government at all levels in managing land use in McLean County***
- ***Role of the private sector in meeting housing needs and directing growth***
- ***Innovative smart growth ideas and practices and how they could be encouraged in McLean County***

Some questions that could be considered in the study:

- ***How could higher density housing be encouraged?***
- ***How could developers be encouraged to re-develop the "holes" in Bloomington/Normal?***
- ***How could developers be encouraged to develop more affordable housing?***
- ***What role should the cities and McLean County governments have in any of the above?***
- ***What is flexible zoning and should it be encouraged?***
- ***What is inclusionary zoning and what role could it play in promoting affordable housing?***
- ***What changes in local zoning ordinances are needed regarding affordable housing and urban sprawl?***
- ***Is more cooperation between local units of government needed?***

LWVIL and LWVUS Program Positions • Federal and State Elected Officials
may be found in the LWV of McLean County 2009 Yearbook
or on the League website: www.lwvmclean.org

ELECTION 2008 STUDY GROUP

(Approved by Board November, 2008; to be reviewed and approved by membership)

Having completed interviews of the heads of the two election authorities in McLean County and a member of the State Board of Elections, our Study Group is in the midst of phone surveys of election judges and poll watchers regarding how the 2008 voting at polling places went; as well as of deputy registrars during 2008.

Integral to our study will also be an analysis of Illinois election-related laws (many statutes, very complicated). For background we will be looking at problems with registration and the voting process as reported across the nation. We will also be examining two counties outside of our own:

Springfield – switched from the County Election Commission to the County Clerk as election authority

DuPage – switched from a County Clerk with election duties to a County Elections Commission

Our question is, why did they change, and how are things going since the change was made. Whereas nine counties in Illinois presently have Election Commissions running their elections, the overwhelming majority have County Clerks who run elections in addition to all the record keeping they do. County Clerks are elected officials, whereas County Election Commissions are appointed by the President of a County Board. Currently, McLean County has an election commission for the City of Bloomington; and elections run by the County Clerk's office for Normal and the rest of McLean County.

Those who are supporting the work of our Study Group now include: Sally Rudolph, Carole Straka, Carole Reitan, Rose Marsaglia, Joni Painter, Mary Zeller, Laurie Bergner and Jerry Andrew

If you are interested in joining this study group,
please contact Study coordinator Julie Prandi jprandi@iwu.edu

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MCLEAN COUNTY

(Changes to be considered are in *Underlined Italics*)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of McLean County. The local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Sec. 1. Purposes. *The purposes of the LWVUS are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.*

Sec. 2. Political Policy. *The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.*

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Eligibility. *Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.*

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

A. Voting Members. *Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.*

B. Associate Members. *All others who join the League shall be associate members.*

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: Number, Manner of Selection, & Terms of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, *four* elected Directors and not more than *four* appointed Directors. One-half of the elected Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years beginning on June 1 following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding *four*, as they deem necessary to carry out the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year also beginning June 1 and expiring May 31 following the Annual Meeting. In the event an appointed Director does not complete his or her term and it is necessary to fill such position in order to carry out the work of the League the elected members may appoint a successor to complete the unexpired term until May 31 following the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2: Qualifications. *No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or Director of this organization unless the person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of McLean County.*

SECTION 3: Vacancies. *Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors; a member so elected shall serve until May 31 following the next Annual Meeting. Three consecutive absences from Board meetings without valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.*

SECTION 4: Powers & Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 5: Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.

SECTION 6: Quorum. *Five* of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Enumeration & Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of McLean County shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the Annual Meetings and take office the following June 1. In addition, the outgoing President or Co-President may serve a one-year term as President Emeritus with no specified duties other than advisement to the new Board. The President (or one of the Co-Presidents), Vice President-Programs and Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years. The Second Co-President (if any), the Vice President-Action, and the Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years.

SECTION 2: The President(s). The President(s) shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President(s) may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The President(s) shall be ex-officio members of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President(s) shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

SECTION 3: The Vice Presidents. The Vice President-Programs and the Vice-President-Action shall perform such duties as the President(s) and Board may designate.

SECTION 4: The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President(s), all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

SECTION 5: The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 6: The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President(s), the Vice President-Programs, the Vice President-Action, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The President may call a meeting of the Executive Committee to transact necessary business and the Executive Committee may act for the Board in emergencies. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 7: Special Committees. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary. The Board shall appoint one or more chairs for any special committee.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1: Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of McLean County shall commence on the first day of July each year.

SECTION 2: Dues:

A. Dues shall be payable annually in September. Any member who fails to pay dues within three months of September 30 (December 31) shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

B. A change in the amount of dues shall be published one month in advance of any general meeting and voted upon at that meeting and shall become effective the beginning of the next fiscal year.

C. Appropriate reductions in local dues may be made for Members of the same household and in cases of financial need, as determined by the Board.

D. Any member who has been a member of the League for fifty years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

SECTION 3: Budget. At least two months prior to the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Budget Committee and a chair to prepare a budget for the following year. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair. The proposed budget must be approved by the Board of Directors. The proposed budget must be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 4: Audit. At the end of each two-year term of office of the Treasurer, the Board of Directors may designate two members of the League of Women Voters of McLean County to audit and examine the books of account of the corporation and to report, in writing, to the Board of Directors the balances and conditions of such books.

SECTION 5: Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of dissolution for any cause of the League of Women Voters of McLean County, all monies, securities, and assets which may, at the time of the dissolution, be owned by the League of Women Voters of McLean County, shall be delivered to the League of Women Voters of Illinois, as Trustee. The League of Women Voters of Illinois, as Trustee, shall have the power to convert or sell all personal property and hold the proceeds of such sale or conversion, together with all the monies and securities, for a period of ten years. If during the ten year period, a new League of Women Voters of McLean County is established, all monies, securities, and assets shall be turned over to said League or organization. If no League is established during the ten year period after the dissolution of the League of Women Voters of McLean County, the League of Women Voters of Illinois shall dispose of all the monies, securities and assets to such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

SECTION 1: Membership Meetings. There shall be at least three general meetings of the membership each year in addition to the Annual Meeting. Time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 15 and May 30, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall:

- A. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- B. Elect Officers, Directors, and members of the Nominating Committee;
- C. Adopt a budget; and
- D. Transact such other business as may properly come before it.

SECTION 3: Quorum. Ten members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the membership of the League of Women Voters of McLean County.

ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members: three members (who are not Board members) elected by the membership, and two Board members appointed by the Board of Directors.

A. Each year the Nominating Committee shall nominate a chair and two members, who shall not be members of the Board of Directors, for election at the Annual Meeting to serve on the Nominating Committee in the following year.

B. The Board of Directors shall appoint two Board members at its first meeting after taking office to serve on the Nominating Committee.

C. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

D. Any member of the League of Women Voters of McLean County may suggest to the Nominating Committee persons for nomination for Officer, Director, or member of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 2: Report of the Nominating Committee & Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. In the event a nominee, or incumbent member of the Board whose term continues for another year, becomes unable to serve after publication of the slate, the required one month notification shall be waived and the Nominating Committee will complete the list of nominees. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of the report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting members.

SECTION 3: Elections. The election shall be by ballot. If there is but one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM

SECTION 1: Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

SECTION 2: Program. The program of the League of Women Voters of McLean County shall consist of those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

SECTION 3: Action by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:

- A. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations submitted by the voting members at the regularly scheduled Board meeting in the month prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.

B. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.

C. A majority vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.

D. Recommendations for the program submitted by voting members before the Board meeting in the month prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that: (1) The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote; and (2) The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a three-fifths vote.

SECTION 4: Program Changes. Changes in the program in case of altered conditions may be made, provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general meeting at which the change is to be discussed and final action is to be taken by the membership.

SECTION 5: Emergency Items. Emergency items on the local agenda may be adopted by a three-fifths majority of the members of the Board of Directors present and voting at a regular Board meeting.

SECTION 6: Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of McLean County only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X – NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION & COUNCIL

SECTION 1: National Convention. The membership of the Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of McLean County under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

SECTION 2: State Convention. The membership or the Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of McLean County under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

SECTION 3: State Council. Two delegates shall represent the League of Women Voters of McLean County at State Council under provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended by a three-fifths vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the Amendments are submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Last Amended May 20, 2008

The League has submitted the proposed changes to the by-laws for legal review.

Final analysis will be available prior to the Annual Meeting in order to assure the membership that rules and regulations are being followed and are handled appropriately.

Observer's Report: **Normal Town Council**

The Normal Town Council consists of the Mayor and 6 Council members. For meetings each of them has an assigned place in a U-shaped seating arrangement along with the Corporation Counsel, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Town Clerk.

Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month. The agenda, a detailed report containing the agenda, many pages of details, minutes and a video of the meeting are available on line at <http://www.normal.org/Gov/Council/AM/meetings.asp>

The video is shown Tuesdays and Saturdays following the actual meeting at 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Comcast public access TV channel 20.

Occasionally the Normal Liquor Commission, which has the same membership as the Council, meets prior to the Council meeting. They grant liquor licenses, issue fines and reprimands, and sometimes revoke licenses.

Meetings are covered by The Pantagraph and the ISU Vidette.

A typical audience is 15-20 people, including Town of Normal staff, ISU students, and Town of Normal citizens. Town staff members, and occasionally others, are sometimes invited to speak to the Council from a table at the open end of the U-shaped seating arrangement. Usually, this is at the request of City Manager Mark Peterson to assist him in providing details about an agenda item. There is provision for citizen input at Council meetings, as indicated by this from the Town of Normal website:

<http://www.normal.org/Gov/Council/index.asp>

If you wish to appear at a Council meeting to support or oppose an issue, please contact:

City Manager Mark Peterson
mpeterson@normal.org (309) 454-9503

-or-

Assistant City Manager Pam Reece
preece@normal.org (309) 454-9503

However, such appearances are infrequent.

The Council employs a trick, the Omnibus Vote Agenda that helps to shorten meetings. Non-controversial agenda items are placed on this agenda list and one vote is used to pass the whole list. For example, the February 16th meeting agenda had 7 omnibus agenda items

(after a withdrawal), including the approval of the minutes. If one of the Council members has issues with an item or believes that it needs further explanation, then it is removed from the list and it is discussed separately.

One of the omnibus items (Town of Normal expenditures, a Police Department expenditure of \$49.99 for K9 dog food from Petco) was removed from the February 16 list because Councilman Fritzen had a question about it. However, the item was quickly passed after the question was answered.

Occasionally, most of the agenda will be on the Omnibus Vote Agenda, and the meeting will be less than 30 minutes, but sometimes meetings last close to two hours.

Mayor Koos does a good job of conducting the meetings. He moves the agenda along while allowing for discussion of each item. Council members seem well-informed on the issues – they do their homework. Most agenda items pass either unanimously or with one dissenting vote, but there are sometimes items that are voted down. The general atmosphere at the meetings is cordial. According to one observer, the Council operates better now than in previous years and also better than the Bloomington Council. Usually, all Council members are present, and sometimes when they are out of town they are still able to participate with an electronic connection.

Once in a while there are issues that arouse strong sentiments among Normal citizens. An example is the rezoning of property at the southwest corner of Bradford and Raab Rd., just south of the new Constitution Trail Centre and near the intersection of I-55 and Main St.

The issue was first considered at a meeting of the Normal Planning Commission, where testimony from neighbors was sufficient to get a 3-2 vote against rezoning from residential to commercial. A week and a half later it was on the Normal Town Council agenda with a recommendation from the Town of Normal staff to go against the Planning Commission and rezone the property. A sizable group from the neighborhood attended with signs that they held up when the rezoning item was being discussed. Having already had their say before the Normal Planning Commission, they were not invited to speak at the Council

meeting. They made their strong feelings apparent, and they were especially upset when the Council voted unanimously to rezone the property, but there was no effort to disrupt the meeting.

The rationale of the Council can be seen in the minutes of the meeting, which state that "if it were not redeveloped in a commercial development at this time" the now-vacant property "could fall into disrepair and become a hazard, both physically and visually."

Development of Uptown Normal has been a prime topic for Council meetings. Bids for the work on the roundabout, now called Uptown Circle, came in almost a million dollars over the amount allocated. Town staff was assigned to come up with ways to cut costs while preserving essential features. Proposed savings included deletion of the water feature and use of concrete instead of paving stones, but both of these cuts were voted down in close votes by the Town Council. Nevertheless, staff efforts did succeed in trimming most of the million dollar deficit on the

roundabout. That is, there's a happy ending in the sense that essential features of the round-about are retained without breaking the budget.

Mayor Koos, the Council members, City Manager Peterson, and his staff make an effort to communicate their visions for the town, especially on controversial agenda items. Before the close vote to retain the water feature and the paving stones for the roundabout, all of the seven voting members explained their views, with three of them saying they needed to cut expenses to match the budget and the other four saying they needed to retain features that are important to the design for Uptown Normal.

This is democracy in action, with the issues being discussed in a cordial, rational environment. It is fascinating to realize that, when we see the water feature and the paving stones, the close vote could have gone the other way and deleted them.

Submitted by
Ken Berk and Jana Edge
Normal Town Council Observers

Everyone Counts...On League and In League

54th LWVIL Convention ▪ June 12-14, 2009 ▪ Par-A-Dice Hotel ▪ Peoria

- Help with the cost of registration will be provided by the League
- Registration deadline is May 20 – Rooms must be booked by May 14
- Registration form and workshop list can be found in **LWV Illinois Voter** and at: www.lwvil.org/convention09/RegistrationForm09.pdf
- For more information, contact Julie Prandi at (309) 828-3230

Convention 2009 Weekend-in-Brief

Note: All voting will occur on Sunday

REGISTRATION	Friday, starting at Noon for the Workshops and 4:00 for the Convention Saturday and Sunday starting at 7:30 am; closed during the sessions
WORKSHOPS	Friday Pre-Convention: 1:00-2:30 and 2:45-4:15 Saturday Lunch Workshops: 12:15-1:45 Caucus Schedule: as arranged by local Leagues and Committee Chairs
PLENARY SESSIONS	Saturday Morning and Afternoon; Sunday Morning
FUN STUFF	Friday afternoon – Optional Tour of Peoria and Reception Friday evening – Awards and Speaker: Amanda Vinicky Saturday evening – Carrie Chapman Catt Award and Speaker: Frank Mackaman Silent Auction – Friday and Saturday evening State Board Hospitality Suite nightly till 11:00 pm

Don't miss this opportunity!

75th Anniversary Celebration

Interested in helping to plan the LWV of McLean County's Special Anniversary Program which will take place in September, 2009?

Please contact:

Maureen O'Keefe – 258-4233

Gwen Pryne – 352-3707

Phylis VerSteeh – 664-5357

A story from League history...

“From 1969-1982, I was Bulletin editor. The League had a secondhand mimeograph machine which we kept in our basement. I had to type the Bulletin pages on stencils and correct my mistakes with a special kind of ink. The biggest Bulletin I ever typed had 24 pages. Many of them had information for the annual meeting. To run all those pages off on the mimeograph machine was a big job. My husband and son often helped me crank the machine.”

...Roelie Homan

Please note: 75th Anniversary Presidential Roster in the 2009 Yearbook...
The correct spelling for the 1979-81 President is – ‘Linda Huizinga’

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION DINNER

We are pleased that the 2009 list of YWCA Women of Distinction nominees includes five members of the League of Women Voters of McLean County. Congratulations to –

Nancy Armstrong □ **Lee Ann Hill** □ **Janet S. Hood** □ **Linda Stockton** □ **Phylis VerSteeh**

Also, past winners of the award who are League members are –

Dr. Laurie Bergner – Judy Buchanan – Dr. Alice L. Ebel (deceased)
Jana Edge – Cheryl Gaines – Marlene Gregor – Dr. Sandra Harmon – Janet M. Hood
Ruth Ann Lipic – Dr. Dixie Mills – Carol Reitan – Honorable Elizabeth Robb
Sally Rudolph – Karen Schmidt – Barbara Stuart

Nearly 20% of our membership is on the list of past awardees or nominees!

The awards banquet will be Thursday, May 21, at Illinois State University, Bone Student Center in the Brown Ballroom. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm with dinner and keynote speaker beginning at 6:30 pm.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the awards dinner and features Tierney Cahill as the speaker. Ms. Cahill was a sixth-grade teacher in Reno, Nevada, whose students in a civics lesson challenged her to run for Congress. Her memoir, “Ms Cahill for Congress” was released October, 2008. Her story is a true inspiration—not only showing the value of education and civic duty, but also how one person can change the lives of others.

Sally Rudolph will put together League tables of eight for the event in honor of our nominees - Spouses are also invited!

Deadline to receive your checks is Thursday, May 7. After that, the price increases to \$60

Please mail your reservations to: Sally Rudolph – 1918 Owens Drive – Bloomington, IL 61701

Reserve _____ seat(s) at \$50 per person Check: Enclosed and made payable to YWCA Foundation for \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ City, State, Zip _____

The main entrée will be pork tenderloin. Please specify any special restrictions or dietary preferences:



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

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

**League of Women Voters
of McLean County
ANNUAL MEETING**
*Tuesday, May 26, 2009
McLean County Gov't Center*

All League members
are encouraged to attend
this important annual event.

Please remember to bring
pages 5-12 of The Voter
as they contain information
regarding the issues for review.

The Voter
Vol. 75 No. 7 Of McLean County April-May 2009

**Should Congress
Reauthorize
the Patriot Act**
Speakers:
Ed Yohnka & David Risley

Sponsored by:
**American Civil Liberties Union
LWV of McLean County**

**Tuesday, April 28 – 7:00 pm
Bloomington Public Library**
This program is free and open to the public

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Thursday, May 14 – 10:00 a.m. ▪ Springfield
Stratton Building – Room 413 (across from the Capitol)

LOBBY DAY

... League in Action ...

Meet and lobby your State Legislators at work

Urge them to support:

- Responsible fiscal policy - income and tax increases to provide adequate, sustainable funding for education and social services
- Meaningful campaign finance and ethics reforms
- Other important pending legislation

How:

- Meet "Leaguers" from other Illinois Leagues
- Hear an update on how to lobby and status of specific legislation

Who:

- YOU! Please email or phone Mo Ormiston if you plan to attend.
312-939-5935 ext. 37 or mormiston@lwvil.org