



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF McLEAN COUNTY

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

**LWVIL – www.lwvil.org
LWVUS – www.lwv.org**

The Voter

Vol. 76 No. 3 of McLean County November 2009

Tuesday • October 27, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

HEALTH CARE: National and Local Issues

ISU Bone Student Center Ballroom

Panel Discussion featuring national speaker

Wendell Potter

Senior Fellow on Health Care with the Center for Media and Democracy
Former Vice President, CIGNA Insurance Company
Guest appearances on
CNN, NPR, Bill Moyers Journal, News Hour with Jim Lehrer

Panelists

Shirley Drazewski Exec. Director of the Community Health Care Clinic
Roger Hunt President and CEO of BroMenn Healthcare System
Jane Turley Faculty, ISU Department of Health Sciences

Wednesday • November 18, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

International Intervention in Humanitarian Crises: Balancing Nations' Sovereign Power and Human Rights

ISU Bone Student Center • Prairie Room

Speaker: **Gillian Martin Sorensen**
Senior Advisor, UN Foundation

Tuesday • January 26, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.

Higher Education in Illinois Past, Present and Future

Venue to be announced

Tuesday • February 23, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.

Terrorism and Peace Prospects Pakistan, India and Kashmir

Venue to be announced

Tuesday • April 15, 2010 • 6:00 p.m.

Annual Dinner and Auction

Eastland Suites

Speaker: **Frank Mackaman**
Dirksen Center

From the desk of . . . Co-Presidents Julie Sullivan and Maureen O'Keefe

Dear League Members,

It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving turkey and December festivities are just around the corner. Also, just around the corner is what some have dubbed "the season of giving." For many, that means giving money, but there are other ways to help. As we look forward to 2010, here's a list of eleven suggestions you can use to contribute to the League of McLean County.

1. Renew your League membership. Your support is vital.
2. Attend a League program (and bring a friend).
3. Take action. Write a letter to the editor or contact elected officials (as a private individual) in support of a League position.
4. Donate to the LWV McLean County Education Fund. Contributions are tax-deductible and are used to promote education, membership and voters' services activities.
5. Volunteer for a League activity. League success depends on volunteers, either for one-time events or longer-term committees and projects.
6. Sponsor a student member. Student dues are only \$30 per year.
7. Get five League membership brochures and give them to five friends.
8. Become a League Observer. Learn about local governing bodies and share your knowledge with other League members.
9. Get out the vote. Serve as a deputy registrar or election judge. Encourage others to vote and be politically active.
10. Attend League's Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction on April 15, 2010. Proceeds benefit LWV programs and activities. Donate an item, hand-crafted or otherwise for the Auction.
11. Talk about League and what we do. Our best advertising is word-of-mouth from members.

Our League continues to thrive because our members are involved. For more information on how you can help, contact Julie Sullivan or Maureen O'Keefe.

. . . Julie

Members Can Now Update Their Own Contact Information

Keeping the member database up-to-date and accurate helps us all! Any member can update his/her own contact information by selecting any webpage from the "For Members" menu on our national website and then selecting the "Update Your Information" menu item.

After you login with your personal email address and password, you will be taken to your "My League" (McLean County profile) webpage where you can change any of your personal contact information. Select the "Submit Changes" button when you are finished. Using the menu on the left-hand side of the page, you can also subscribe or unsubscribe to any League-sponsored list and/or indicate the issue areas that are of interest to you."

Of potential interest to League --- Compassion and Choices of McLean County

Tuesday, November 17 • 7:00 pm • Normal Library
The Fall Program will feature the showing of a video, "Dying Wish", in which a terminally ill doctor's wish was to show others that what is called "patient refusal of nutrition and hydration" resulted in a gentle death, a death with dignity. The doctor's own death is documented.

A panel of experts will field questions from the audience.

We hope you will mark this date on your calendar and look for a more detailed announcement.

League of Women Voters of McLean County
MEMBERSHIP

★ **75th Anniversary Celebration** ★
A Success!

Over 100 members and guests enjoyed an open house at the Unitarian Church on September 22, 2009. We celebrated the 75th year of our McLean County League and enjoyed the membership kickoff event for the year. Gwen Pruyne gave a wonderful program about the history of the local League and included other members with interesting stories to tell. Several community members spoke about the importance of the League to McLean County. Thanks to everyone who helped with the event and to all who attended.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The following people
have recently joined the League

Candace Armstrong	Judy Markowitz
Stacey Downey	Michael McFarland
Debbie Fox	Kathy Michael
Betty Jones	Geoffrey Tompkins
Bekah Litchfield	Janine Toth
Marcia Marino	Drake Zimmerman

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Phylis VerSteegh, Membership Chair, would like to have a committee to help with ideas of member recruitment and retention. This committee will meet next month to plan membership activities for the coming year.

Please contact Phylis at 309-824-1508 or phylvs@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining this committee.

DUES ARE DUE

Please remember that your 2009-2010 dues are now payable. If you haven't already paid, please send \$60 payable to –
McLean County League of Women Voters
and mail to:

Membership Chair, Phylis VerSteegh
49 Kenfield Circle, Bloomington 61704

League of Women Voters of McLean County
VOTER SERVICES

Yadira Ruiz, Voter Services Chair, is seeking members to assist with planning upcoming candidate forums for the 2010 Primaries. The first meeting will take place at 3:00pm on Tuesday November 17, 2009 at the YWCA McLean County in the large conference room. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Yadira at yruiz@ywcamclean.org or 309-287-4216

**League Receives Grant for
EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Committee Members needed**

Our League is delighted to be one of only six Leagues across the nation to have received a grant from LWVUS on "Connecting Future Legislators with Civil Society." Two fellows from Colombia, South America, will be with our community for 3½ weeks from April 6 til May 2 to learn about how our government works. They will have internships with the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington, nongovernmental organizations and other groups to fit their interests. We will also take them to Chicago and Springfield as well as local events.

Laurie Bergner will be chairing the committee to work on this. She needs committee members to help! Please contact her if you are interested in being a part of this exciting opportunity!

**League Begins Study for
COURT WATCHING PROJECT**

League is studying the possibility of bringing a Court Watching Project to our community. A committee is being formed to work on this, looking at other court watching programs around the country, connecting with other interested groups in our community, and researching training.

We are excited about this opportunity and would love to have anyone who is interested join us on this project. Please contact:

Laurie Bergner • 309-454-3113
drlaurieb1@verizon.net

HEALTH CARE: National and Local Issues

Tuesday ▪ October 27, 2009 ▪ 7:00 p.m. ▪ ISU Bone Student Center Ballroom

The program will begin with a presentation by Wendell Potter, who will join the panel for a discussion covering topics such as:

- Current state of health care in McLean County
- What the health care proposals will mean for our community

Co-sponsored by: **Campaign for Better Health Care** **Interfaith Social Justice Network**
Student Health Information Management Assn

Wendell Potter has served since May 2009 as Senior Fellow on Health Care with the Center for Media and Democracy. After a 20-year career as a corporate public relations executive, last year he left his job as head of communications for one of the nation's largest health insurers to try his hand at helping socially responsible organizations, including those advocating for meaningful health care reform, achieve their goals. Based in Philadelphia, Potter now provides strategic communications counsel & planning services as an independent consultant. He speaks out on both the need for a fundamental overhaul of the American health care system and the dangers to American democracy and society of the decline of the media as watchdog, which has contributed to the growing and increasingly unchecked influence of corporate PR.

Before his big switch, Wendell held a variety of positions at CIGNA Corporation over 15 years, serving most recently as head of corporate communications and as the company's chief corporate spokesman. Prior to joining CIGNA, Potter headed communications at Humana Inc., a large for-profit health insurer. Before that he was director of public relations and advertising for The Baptist Health System of East Tenn. He has been a partner in an Atlanta public relations firm, press secretary to a Democratic nominee for governor of Tennessee and a lobbyist in Washington for the organizers of the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville and served as a member of the public relations and international marketing team for the Fair and traveled to Europe, Africa and South America on country recruitment missions.

Wendell also was a journalist. He was as a reporter for Scripps-Howard's paper in Memphis; wrote about Memphis businesses and local government before going to Nashville to cover the governor's office and state legislature. He was promoted to Scripps-Howard News Bureau in Washington where he covered Congress, White House, Supreme Court and wrote a weekly political column. He is a native of Tennessee, earned a BA degree in communications at the U of Tenn in Knoxville, did postgraduate work in journalism and public relations. He holds an APR, which means he is accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America, and is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Press Club in Washington.

Shirley Drazewski has been a nurse for 30 years, has held many nursing and management positions in Chicago and Bloomington/Normal area. She has been certified in five areas of nursing, including that of Nursing Education Specialist. Ms. Drazewski has been the Executive Director of the Community Health Care Clinic since 2002 and enjoys the variety and challenges her position offers. She is currently Vice President of the Illinois Free Clinic Association.

Having graduated from Mennonite Nursing School and Illinois Wesleyan University, she feels it is important that the Clinic provides nursing students and other students with learning opportunities in community health – an area of healthcare that is critical to our healthcare system, yet often overlooked by young professionals.

Roger Hunt is Pres. and CEO of BroMenn Healthcare System, a not-for profit healthcare organization that includes BroMenn Regional Medical Center, Eureka Community Hospital, BroMenn Medical Group, Illinois Heart & Lung Assoc., BroMenn Foundation & BroMenn Provider Network. He has served as a leader in health care delivery for more than 30 years and has led major organizational restructuring and improvement as a consultant and chief executive officer of hospitals and healthcare systems in the US and Canada. Prior to BroMenn, Hunt was principal of Hunt Healthcare, a progressive healthcare management consulting practice specializing in strategic planning, business development, interim management and operations improvement.

Mr. Hunt is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and served as Regent for Illinois and Indiana. He serves on many health organization and philanthropic boards and holds an MBA from George Washington Univ. and BA from DePauw University. Locally, he is a member of the Main Street Commission, Vice President of the IL Symphony Orchestra and board member of McLean County Chamber of Commerce and Community Cancer Center. He is a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and Bloomington Kiwanis.

Jane Turley is a faculty member in the Department of Health Sciences at Illinois State University in Normal and a member of the McLean County Board of Health.

INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES: Balancing Nations' Sovereign Power and Human Rights

Wednesday • November 18, 2009 • 7:00 p.m. • ISU Bone Student Center Prairie Room

Gillian Sorensen, now Senior Advisor/National Advocate at the United Nations Foundation, has had a long career working with and for the UN.

- From 1997-2003, she served as Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations on appointment by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. She was responsible for outreach to civil society, including NGOs committed to peace, justice, development and human rights.
- From 1993-1996, she served as Special Adviser for Public Policy on appointment by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, where she led the global commemoration of the UN's Fiftieth Anniversary and the coordination of the UN50 Summit at Headquarters in New York with 180 Heads of Government participating.
- From 1978-1990, she was the New York City Commissioner for the United Nations, head of the City's liaison with the world's largest diplomatic community, on appointment by Mayor Edward Koch. Her responsibilities related to diplomatic security and immunity, housing and education, and other cultural and business contacts between the host city and over 30,000 diplomats. She was referred to by *The New York Times* as "The Diplomat's Diplomat" for her work at this time.

Mrs. Sorensen is a graduate of Smith College and studied at the Sorbonne. She has been a Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government (Institute of Politics) at Harvard University. She is a frequent speaker on United Nations issues and the US-UN relationship. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Women's Foreign Policy Group. In addition to her public service, she has been a delegate to three national Presidential conventions.

The United Nations Foundation was launched in 1998 by Ted Turner's historic billion dollar gift to help further the goals of the United Nations. The Foundation is an independent, public charity that seeks to inform and educate Americans about the UN and US-UN issues, with a focus on the environment, children's health and human rights in the developing world.

ELECTION COMMISSION CONSENSUS

On October 6, our League held a meeting to respond to two consensus questions asking, first, whether the **Bloomington Election Commission** should be eliminated and, second, if the BEC is eliminated, should a **County Election Commission** be established rather than the County Clerk's office automatically becoming the election authority for McLean County.

After thoughtful discussion, League members reached consensus supporting both questions. On October 13, the League Board officially approved the position statement:

McLean County should unify its election offices in a County Election Commission.

Members taking part in the meeting raised several points to support this position.

1. Cost Savings: Voting under one authority would be less costly.

2. Eliminate Confusion: Having a single election authority would eliminate confusion about registration and voting; and make maintaining voter registration after moving from Bloomington to Normal easier. The University population moves from Normal to Bloomington and students don't realize that they need to re-register.

3. Appointed rather than an elected officials: Elections should be run by a County Election Commission, which always has an appointed director and commissioners, instead of by an elected official like the County Clerk. Appointed officials can be fired if they don't work out, but we have to wait until the next election to vote a County Clerk out of office. League position since the '70s supports the position that policy administrators, such as those supervising election activities, should be appointed (in contrast policy makers, such as legislators, should be elected). History in McLean County demonstrates competent appointments.

4. More Professional, better qualified: An appointed position is likely to be more qualified and professional than an elected one. Election Commissions have a single focus; they are specialized and dedicated to serving the voters. The County clerk wears many hats (taxes, records, and elections) and may be spread too thin.

5. Feasibility of Election Commission: State law makes it difficult to establish a County Election Commission because rejection of the Bloomington City Election Commission must come first. Our community needs and hopes to obtain the support of the McLean County Board and the Bloomington City Council to achieve a County Election Commission.

A big "Thank you" to everyone who helped make our League's 75th Anniversary Celebration and Membership Kickoff Open House a success



Delighted committee members – Kathy Tosh, Maureen O'Keefe, Phyllis VerSteegh, Linda Stockton, Charlette Elm, Dianne Williamson

About 100 League members and invited guests enjoyed socializing at the event held at the Unitarian Church on Tuesday, September 22.

We welcome all the new members and enjoyed renewing friendships with some long-time and former members. Gwen Pruyne and her invited speakers did an outstanding job of helping us remember important past League events.

We hope all members will continue to help us carry on the League traditions of encouraging informed and active participation in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.



Linda Stockton, Yadira Ruiz and Joni Painter at the Welcome Desk

Long-Time Member and League Historian Gwen Pruyne recounted the history of League in McLean County



Community speakers reminded us of the positive impact the League has had in McLean County

- Rep. **Dan Brady** presented League with a State Proclamation in honor of the 75th Anniversary.
- **Bloomington City Council** and **Normal Town Council** issued Proclamations honoring League on its 75th Anniversary.
- Retired Circuit Court Judge **John Freese** discussed the League's influence on Judicial System initiatives.
- Appellate Judge **James Knecht** stressed the importance of an informed Electorate.
- Former Bloomington Mayor **Judy Markowitz** talked about how membership in League inspired her to run for public office.
- **Carol Reitan** talked about the impact League Observers have had locally.
- **Mike Swartz** of the Farm Bureau recounted League/Farm Bureau partnerships.

Garrett and Sandy Scott were the recipients of the 2009 Florence Fifer Bohrer Award



Anne Nadakavukaren, Julie Prandi and Rose Marsaglia dressed in period costumes in remembrance of League founder Florence Fifer Bohrer – even big girls play dress up!



The cake was modeled after a quilt which featured logos of LWW past and present made by Charlette Elm in celebration of our 75th anniversary



Former Presidents Myra Gordon, Carol Reitan and Donna Nickels

State Rep Dan Brady presents League with a State Proclamation in honor of our Anniversary



Garrett and Sandy Scott were the 2009 recipients of the Florence Fifer Bohrer Award. Garrett accepted the award on their behalf.



Phylis VerSteegh, Membership Chair, did an outstanding job organizing the Anniversary Party and Membership Open House



Laurie Bergner and Julie Prandi give an unforgettable League spin to "I'm Just a Girl That Can't Say No"

See you next year at
our 76th Membership
Open House...
It'll be a Party!

----- TIME FOR ACTION -----

Help bring meaningful **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM** to Illinois

Call the **CHANGE Illinois!** Hotline, 800-719-3020, and tell your state senator and state representative that we need meaningful Campaign Contribution Limits that include contributions from legislative leaders and political parties. **LWVIL** is a member of **CHANGE Illinois**, a coalition of civic, business, labor, professional, non-profit and philanthropic organizations that advocates for campaign reform.

CHANGE Illinois! believes an uneven system that affords only legislative caucuses or political parties unlimited transfers will make those organizations more powerful because they will be able to send unparalleled contributions to selected committees or individuals. Illinois' campaign finance system should encourage candidate independence and diversity by evenly limiting transfers from all entities.

An efficient and effective law to control contributions should include the following elements:

- The system must be applied fairly to all political parties and interests;
- Limits should be reasonable and applied to all individual and PAC contributions to candidates and parties;
- The limits should apply to fund transfers among political committees, as well as coordinated expenditures on behalf of a candidate;
- Limits on contributions to candidates should be applied by each election cycle;
- The system should have more complete and frequent disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; and
- There should be a strengthened oversight agency with sufficient authority and resources to enforce the law, conduct random audits, and investigate and impose penalties for violations.

LWVIL has been working on Campaign Finance issues in Illinois since 1995. This is our best chance to get meaningful Campaign Finance Reform legislation through the Illinois General Assembly.

Use the power of your voice! Tell your legislators we need meaningful campaign contribution limits that include contributions from legislative leaders and political parties. For more information about the campaign contribution limits, please visit www.changeil.org.

RESPONSIBLE BUDGET COALITION

League of Women Voters of Illinois has joined with the Responsible Budget Coalition, a powerful statewide coalition which believes there is a promising and responsible answer to Illinois' fiscal quagmire.

Most League activities on fiscal reform will now be in concert with this overarching organization. We encourage local Leagues to join with other organizations in your area who have signed on to the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC), stepping in, if necessary, to lead the way. You can access information about the RBC by accessing Voices4kids website where you will find a link entitled: [getinvolved/statebudgetactioncenter](http://www.voices4kids.org/getinvolved/statebudgetactioncenter).

What is the Responsible Budget Coalition? The RBC is a powerful new statewide campaign that is committed to building the support needed to solve Illinois' budget crisis, prevent further harmful cuts to essential public services, save jobs, eliminate the state's long-term structural deficit and provide struggling Illinoisans with relief from regressive taxation. (Voices4Kids) Please read through the State Budget Action Center to understand why legislation supporting a balanced income tax such as HB 174 SA2 proposes will protect children and families.

Some particularly helpful links are:

Talking Points: http://www.voices4kids.org/getinvolved/files/TalkingPoints_9_21.pdf

Upcoming Advocacy Events: http://www.voices4kids.org/getinvolved/files/Event%20List_091809.pdf

RBC Sign on Form: http://www.voices4kids.org/getinvolved/files/RBC_signon.pdf

WHAT YOUR LEAGUE CAN DO

- Learn about the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) by going directly to www.voices4kids.org and clicking on State Budget Action Center.
- Share this information with your own League members.
- Contact LWVIL Issue Specialists Jan Kay or Claire McIntyre for more information or Sheena Panoor, Community Outreach Organizer for Voices for Illinois Children, to arrange for a speaker from the RBC.
- Contact other organizations in your area who are coalition members to work with them to plan events such as Public Education forums or to coordinate letters to the editor or legislator contact.
- A plan to have a different group of coalition members visit your legislators at different times will help keep the issue in front of them.
- Sign on as an individual League or supporter of the RBC and encourage other interested organizations to do the same.
- Ask your local paper for a meeting with their editorial board to discuss principles and talking points of the RBC.
- Please don't forget to share information about your activities and the outcomes with Jan Kay, Claire McIntyre, or LWVIL Issues VP, Kim Reed.
- If you have questions, please contact us. Your ideas may spark an activity in another area.

**There are many ways
to add your voice.
As a member of
LWV of McLean County,
please choose one
or more
of these options.
Drop us a note
and let us know
how you've chimed in!"**

**Maureen O'Keefe
Julie Sullivan**

The RBC Membership (and growing)

Access Living ~ Action Now ~ Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc. ~ AFSCME Council 31 ~ AFSCME Retirees Chapter 31 ~ AIDS Foundation of Chicago ~ Alternative Schools Network ~ Anixter Center ~ The ARC of Illinois ~ Bethany for Children & Families ~ Business & Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) ~ The Center ~ Center for Tax & Budget Accountability ~ Chestnut Health Systems ~ Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness ~ Chicago Coalition for the Homeless ~ Chicago Jobs Council ~ Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network ~ Citizen Action/Illinois ~ Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European & Latino Immigrants of IL ~ Connections for Abused Women and their Children ~ ED-RED (Education-Research-Development) ~ Family Focus ~ Federation for Community Schools ~ Gads Hill Center ~ Grassroots Collaborative ~ Grow Your Own Illinois ~ Health and Disability Advocates ~ Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights ~ Hesus House/PADS, Inc. ~ The Hope Institute for Children and Families ~ Housing Action Illinois ~ Housing Options of Evanston ~ Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention ~ Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans ~ Illinois Association for Gifted Children ~ Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights ~ Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition ~ Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living ~ Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs ~ Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA) ~ Lakeside Community Development Corporation ~ Large Unit District Association ~ League of Women Voters Illinois ~ Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND) ~ Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois ~ Lutheran Social Services of Illinois ~ NAMI of Greater Chicago ~ National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Illinois Chapter ~ Planned Parenthood of Illinois ~ Project IRENE ~ Project Oz ~ Protestants for the Common Good ~ Sargent Shriver Nat'l Center on Poverty Law ~ SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana ~ SEIU Illinois Council ~ South Cooperative Organization for Public Education ~ SouthSTAR Services ~ Supportive Housing Providers Association ~ Thresholds ~ UNITE HERE Local 1 ~ United Power for Action and Justice ~ Voices for Illinois Children ~ Women Employed ~ Youth Guidance ~ Youth Network Council ~ Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition

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Citizens for Justice Options (CJO)

Formerly “Alternatives to Jail Committee”, a Community Committee initiated by the League in 2000

In 2000, Barbara Stuart proposed a League study of alternatives to jail. The determining factor – and opportunity! – was County interest in building costly, unneeded jail space. Carol Reitan strongly supported the proposal and was subsequently named co-chair.

Created by the League as a community coalition, a mixed group (originally Alternatives to Jail) has worked on the issue for nine years. A League/community core (now Citizens for Justice Options) has remained: Laurie Bergner, Bob Hathway, Jack Porter, Sally Rudolph, Tom Shea, Bob Sutherland, Jayne Zeller, and co-chairs, Stuart and Reitan. Recently, the committee especially regrets the death of Francis Irvin and the loss of League member Katherine Hurst, who moved away.

The committee first organized a court watch to study the bond-setting process for new detainees. They also met with the Peoria firm AZT, hired by the County to plan a jail expansion. CJO succeeded in increasing AZT emphasis on the use of alternatives. CJO studied U.S. Justice information, visited other counties, and hosted several forums which introduced successful local programs that were reducing jail overcrowding. CJO then presented an extensive formal report to the County Board, detailing such programs as electronic monitoring, victim-offender mediation – twelve in all.

Under State’s Attorney Charles Reynard, CJO’s first program, **Victim-Offender Dialog and Mediation (VODM)**, was formed, using Reitan’s CSI organization and trained volunteers. Unfortunately, under a later state’s attorney, this very effective restorative justice program was discontinued. At present, CJO is attempting a reinstatement, beginning with information from state expert Sally Wolf. CJO also gained County Board approval and funding of **electronic monitoring**. Although actual use was two years in coming, it has now begun. Unfortunately, our advocacy for using **kiosks** to maintain 24/7 probation contact availability has failed. Two outstanding programs for positive change have succeeded.

In 2001, through the National Association of Counties (NACo) and a federal grant, Stuart recruited the national jail-alternatives expert, Dennis Maloney, for an intensive day with press, justice officials, and community. He left behind a strong desire to replicate his Community Justice program. As a result, Chief Judge John Freese convened a pilot Community Justice Council (with Bard representing CJO), which outlined several alternative programs in its ten months.

Since Maloney’s program did not survive without him, NACo helped us find a strong, **sustainable community justice structure** in Minnesota, which we then adapted to local needs. However, action was postponed, since, under Chief Judge Beth Robb, the county was creating the **drug court**, after much CJO and Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) action. (Other CJO goals – mental health court and family court – are in the offing.) We are quite proud of the County’s fine drug court, and of having Tom Shea represent us on their board.

In 2008, newly elected sheriff, Mike Emery, recruited two federal experts on jail population. When they learned of our proposed community justice by-laws and organization chart, they were excited.

Community Justice Coordinating Council had the first meeting Oct. 1st. Of 19 voting members, all but a representative of the Chamber, head of ISU Criminal Justice, PATH director and Carol Reitan (League representative) are Justice Officials. There are 18 non-voting members, six are non-justice members. Officers are: President Elizabeth Robb, Chief Judge, 1st Vice-chair Mike Emery, Sheriff, 2nd Vice-chair Bill Yoder, State’s Attorney and Secretary Lori McCormick.

Five committees are open to citizens:

- 1 - Booking and Bond Policies and Procedures – Chair, Greg Allen, Jail Superintendent
- 2 - Case Disposition – Chair, Bill Yoder, State’s Attorney
- 3 - Specialized Courts – Chair, Kent Crutcher, Normal Police Chief
- 4 - Finance Compliance – Chair, Don Everhart, Circuit Clerk
- 5 - Juvenile Justice – Chair, Lori McCormick, director Court Services-Probation

CJO hopes there will be League members and other citizens interested in applying for appointment to one of the committees. Send applications to: William Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator
Law & Justice Center Rm 507, 104 W. Front St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

. . . Submitted by Barbara Findley Stuart and Carol Reitan

CENSUS PROJECT

Peoria League of Women Voters presented a program on the upcoming Census.

Mary Schaafsma from LWVIL gave the presentation; following are some **INTERESTING FACTS:**

- Illinois lost one congressional seat in the 2000 census, and this time we could possibly lose two more seats. That also affects the make-up of the Electoral College.
- More than \$400 billion federal dollars will be allocated after the Census and it will be spent on important state and local services and programs, including hospital and school construction, roads and public transportation, public safety and social and human services.
- Approximately \$1000.00 in federal dollars will be given for each person counted.
- It costs about \$15.00 per household to mail out the forms. It costs about \$100.00 per household to send an enumerator out if they don't send back their mail-in form. Those \$100.00 visits add up fast.
- The 2010 Census questionnaire only asks 10 questions.
- By law, Census information cannot be shared with anyone and is kept confidential for 72 years. Census workers take an oath and face heavy fines and jail time if they violate the oath.
- If just 100 people in Bloomington/Normal fail to respond to the Census 2010 questionnaire, our community will lose approximately \$1 million in federal funding over a ten-year period.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LEAGUE INVOLVEMENT

- Contact your Department of Planning to see if a Complete Count Committee has been established. If yes, volunteer for the Committee. If not, encourage the county to do so or establish one yourself.
- Offer to help local officials get the word out about the importance of Census 2010.
- Put the Census and Redistricting Project on the agenda for one of your unit meetings.
- Sponsor a public forum on why Census 2010 and the redistricting efforts which follow are critical.
- Write a Letter to the Editor, particularly in response to news reports which undermine or are critical of the principles underlying the Census.
- Take note of relevant interesting news articles and pass them along to friends and colleagues.

Great emphasis was put on contacting under-reached populations such as immigrants and off-campus students – Identifying target groups, getting together with community leaders and organizations to get the word out credibly. “Credibly,” means using Hispanics to reach out to the Hispanic community, East Indians to reach out the East Indian community, etc.

As directed by League, I have been pulling together a **COALITION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS.**

- Rick Nolan, Planning Commission – I gave him materials the Census Bureau put out for pulling together a Complete Count Committee which he will study, then help plan the Agenda for our first meeting and arrange for the meeting room (probably at the Farm Bureau building on Hershey Rd.)
- Mayors Chris Koos and Steve Stockton agreed that this is very important and provided names of several others who will attend the meeting and help anyway they can: Geoff Fruin-Assistant City Manager-Normal, Terry Lindberg-County Administrator, Tracey Colvert-Bloomington, Jason Nippa-ISU Democrats, Barb Adkins-Bloomington. I told Mayor Stockton that I would like to use his and Mayor Koos's faces and voices for possible public service announcements about the importance of the Census. He is agreeable to this and is happy to help us in any way he can.
- Christine Howe, head of the Immigration Project, is willing to partner with us to get the word out. Materials are ready for the Hispanic community and they will help individuals fill out forms if needed.
- Mike Williams, head of the local NAACP, is willing to help. John Elliot will be our NAACP contact.
- I plan to contact ISU and Wesleyan Student Services and College Republicans and Democrats.

I am very impressed by the eager attitudes of all the people I have met with. It makes me proud to be from this community.

... Submitted by Joni Painter



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

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-----OUR LEAGUE IN ACTION-----

This month, League has:

- Celebrated our 75th anniversary (Find more photos at: <http://www.lwvmclean.org/lwvanniversary/lwv75th.html>)
- Established the Marge Busey Scholarship to encourage student membership
- Honored Garrett and Sandra Scott as recipients of the Bohrer Award
- Reached consensus in support of a single County Election Commission for McLean County
- Grown to 126 members...and still growing
- Presented a well-attended program on the state of Illinois government
- Begun work on the True Count Census 2010 project to support full participation in the 2010 Census and, thus, accurate redistricting, with Joni Painter as chair
- Partnered with Soroptimists and AAUW to co-sponsor International Women's Day Breakfast which will take place in March, 2010
- Began to develop a court watching program, Laurie Bergner heads the effort
- Listed what good campaign contributions limits legislation should include
- Declared 'Time for Action' on Campaign Finance Reform
- Reported that LWVIL joined with the Responsible Budget Coalition
- Encouraged members to read about the State Budget Action Center on www.voices4kids.org
- Promoted League members becoming involved in McLean County's Justice Coordinating Council