



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

Co-Presidents

Julie Sullivan
107 Warner Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-663-4425
info@lwvmclean.org

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

**League of Women Voters
of McLean County Bulletin
is published 8 times a year.**

**The official address of the
League of Women Voters
is 1918 Owens Drive
Bloomington, IL 61701
Telephone: 309-663-5166**

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

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

The Voter

Vol. 76 No. 6 of McLean County March 2010

Tuesday • February 23, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.
ISU Bone Student Center • Old Main Room

TERRORISM AND PEACE PROSPECTS Pakistan, India and Kashmir

Dr. Matthew A. Rosenstein - Associate Director
Program in Arms Control, Disarmament,
and International Security (ACDIS) at University of Illinois

Terrorism isn't just in the Middle East, and doesn't involve only Al Qaeda. Some of the most dramatic – and deadly – terrorist attacks in recent years have taken place in India and Pakistan, and much of it involves fighting over the small territory of Kashmir.

What it's all about and how it affects the United States – broader issues of terrorism and world peace – is the topic of this stimulating talk.

Thursday • April 15, 2010 • 6:00 p.m.
Eastland Suites

ANNUAL DINNER and AUCTION

Speaker: **Frank Mackaman**, Dirksen Center

June 11 - 15, 2010

Marriott Atlanta Marquis
League of Women Voters of the United States
49th National Convention

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK:

★ **A HISTORY OF CHANGE** ★

★ **A FUTURE OF HOPE** ★

Join fellow Leaguers to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

Find information at
LWVUS website >For Members >Council on Convention

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

As involved League members, most of you made your voice count by voting in the February 2 primary. Another critical way to make your voice heard is to complete the census form you will receive in the mail. An accurate census does more than tally who lives in the United States. Census numbers are used to distribute federal funds and to determine how many Representatives go to Congress. Without a complete count, Illinois could lose significant federal money and is in danger of losing a Representative.

A second outcome of the census will be redistricting for the Illinois General Assembly. To ensure representation is fair, Leagues across the State are working to get a Fair Map Amendment on the November 2010 ballot. This initiative is a true grassroots venture and grassroots is what League does best. We encourage you to download a petition and collect signatures.

As well as being heard nationally in the census and state-wide with the Fair Map Amendment, League members have the opportunity to be heard locally. If you have a local public policy issue you think the League of Women Voters of McLean County should study, please submit a program proposal to Gwen Pruyne by March 15 for consideration at the May Annual Meeting. Guidelines for submitting a proposal can be found in this issue.

League works because of you and your involvement. Let's keep it going.

. . . Julie

Help us Reform Illinois Redistricting

Join our petition drive to put the Fair Map Amendment on the November Ballot

The problem under the existing process:

- Illinois legislators create their own legislative districts behind closed doors.
- Either the Democrats or the Republicans gain full control by a hat drawing.
- Districts are drawn to protect incumbents of the winning party.

The solution which the Fair Map Amendment offers:

- Legislative districts would be drawn by an independent commission.
- Maps would be drawn in an open and transparent process, with public input.
- Specific criteria would be used to make the process fairer to all.

What you can do to support the Fair Map Amendment:

- Sign the petition to put the amendment on the November ballot.
Leave us your contact info (link to e-mail)
- Gain more signatures by circulating a petition. Download petitions and instructions.
<http://www.ilfairmap.com/>
- Learn more.(link to Q/A)
- Tell others about the Fair Map Amendment.

2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place

When you get your census form, answer the ten questions. Mail back the form.

It's that easy to be counted. Take action. Complete the census.

Celebrating 90 Years of LWVUS . . . How We Began

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's NAWSA) 50th convention in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified; the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters.

Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

"The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

From the beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women's issues and that education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. For almost 90 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. And it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

From the beginning the League took action on its stands. For several years, through effective lobbying, the League got selected issues included in the platforms of both major political parties and worked for enactment of legislation furthering its program goals. Over the years many procedural changes have been made in the way League program is defined, adopted and structured, but through all the changes the basic concept of study-member agreement-action has remained constant.

As Carrie Chapman Catt noted in 1919,

"Is the (League) political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as other women to join and vote with the party of their choice. They make no pledge otherwise in joining the League."

Information provided by LWVUS, 2009

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

A national leader of the woman suffrage movement, Carrie Chapman Catt was born in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1859 and spent most of her life as a tireless crusader for women's rights.

A gifted organizer, political strategist and public speaker, Catt succeeded Susan B. Anthony as president of the nation's most important suffrage group, The National American Woman Suffrage Association, from 1900-04 and 1915-20.

She transformed the movement into a purposeful organization and led the successful campaign for ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

After passage of the amendment in 1920, Catt helped found and served as first president of the League of Women Voters.

Her concern with women's rights was worldwide, and in 1904 she was elected first president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and served in the post until 1923.

In later years, she was active in the international peace and disarmament movement.

She died in New Rochelle, NY, in 1947.



*Thanks to Sally and Lee Rudolph
for the above photo taken
in Lee's hometown – Ripon, Wisconsin*

It's Your Turn: Call for Proposed Studies 2010

A key philosophy of the League of Women Voters is grassroots citizen involvement. For 76 years, the League of Women Voters of McLean County has studied local issues, has reached consensus, and has taken action to improve our community.

How does our League decide what issues to tackle?

It's up to you. All League members are encouraged to submit proposals for a new study or a re-study of a current program position (found in the Yearbook). At the Annual Meeting, May 25, 2010, League members will be asked to decide whether or not to adopt any proposed studies.

What kinds of issues are appropriate to recommend for study?

A local League study should be in line with the League's mission, should focus on local public policy issues, should lead to a consensus meeting, and, if consensus is reached, should lead to League action. If the proposal is for a re-study of a current local program position, the proposal should reflect changing conditions which warrant re-studying the issue. Issues which have State or National scope are not appropriate for a local League study.

How do I submit a program proposal?

Gwen Pruyne will chair the Program Planning Committee. All proposals must be submitted to her no later than March 15, 2010. Study proposals for 2010-2011 will not be accepted after that date. All proposals must be in writing.

Please note, according to LWVUS protocol, program proposals from the floor at the Annual meeting are not allowed, as the full membership has not been notified. All proposals must be submitted in advance.

What do I include in my proposal?

You must include:

- **Your name and contact information**, including phone number;
- **Title of the proposed study**;
- **Rationale for the proposed study.**
What is the problem and why should our League study this issue?
- **Scope of the study.**
In broad strokes, outline how the proposed study fits the League mission and suggest possibilities for education, consensus and action.
- **Leadership for the study.**
League members have great ideas, but League study and action requires leadership. In the past, several studies have foundered for lack of a leader.
If you propose a study, you must be willing to chair it or be willing to recruit a chair.
Your proposal must include names of possible chairs.

What happens after my proposal is submitted?

- The Program Planning Committee reviews the proposal for conformity to League guidelines. You may be contacted if your proposal needs modification or clarification.
- At the April Board meeting, the Board of Directors reviews the proposal and recommends or does not recommend the proposal for adoption at the Annual Meeting.
- All proposals, recommended and not recommended, are published in the Voter one month before the annual meeting.
- At the Annual Meeting, a majority of the members present and voting adopt or reject the proposal.

Observer's Report

Bloomington Public School Dist. 87 Board of Education

District 87 Board of Education meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Educational Services Center, 300 E. Monroe St. 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:

	John Dirks – President	Millicent Roth – Vice President			
Joe Butcher	Michael Harrison	Steve Perry	Judith Webster	Mary Yount	

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. Three 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. John Dirks 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.

They are also looking at next year with a new superintendent as Bob Nielson is retiring.

-- Submitted by Judie Bey and Pam Lubeck

Observer's Report

Heartland Community College District 540 Board of Trustees

The Heartland Community College (HCC) has campuses in Normal, Lincoln, and Pontiac. The Board consists of seven elected members and a non-voting student member appointed by the HCC Student Government Association. Board members serve 6-year terms; the current trustees are:

Gregg Chadwick, Chair, exp. 2011 Steve Graham, Vice Chair, exp.2013
Larry Littell, exp. 2013 Terry Baggett, exp. 2015 John "Jac" Copes, exp. 2015
Jim White, Secretary, exp. 2011 Harry Dunham, exp. 2013 Kathy Grimes, Student

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. In March 2009, three persons ran for two seats. Terry Baggett of Bloomington and Jac Copes of Heyworth won, each of them opposed to the future baseball stadium being built.

The meeting of the full Board is convened every 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Commons Building at 7 p.m., Room 2012. Each month there is a consent agenda, staff reports and trustee reports. President, Jon Astroth, attends every meeting. He announced his resignation last year after 18 years at HCC and will retire August 2010. In August 2009 the Board approved \$30,000 for a year-long search by the Association of Community College Trustees

Each Board meeting has members of the public and reporter(s) present. Last year many spoke against the controversial baseball stadium and a tax levy. In December 2009, a \$12.59 million tax levy was passed with no opposition: 1/3 of a cent change in tax rate to support the FY2010 budget, meaning an individual's tax bill would increase less than \$2 on a \$150,000 house. At the June meeting Rob Widmer, treasurer, pointed out that investments have been victimized by low interest rates. State funding makes up approximately 10% of the College's \$25.5 million operating budget, while property taxes, tuition and reserves provide the rest.

Noted at the June meeting: The FY2010 budget marks the first time in 18 years that tuition and fees are expected to exceed local tax revenue. Although the true cost of a credit hour is \$400, the students now pay \$95. HCC has had a balanced budget every year, but falling state support and late payments for the last 3 quarters mean raising tuition and raising taxes.

Tuition increases will help: the Board was told in March that the Spring 2009 enrollment was up 8% over last year's total and in August 2009, the Fall enrollment was up 5%, with over 5100 students. Also reported in August was that Community Education classes at HCC served 8700 individuals, up 12% over FY2008.

The College must continue to operate. In June, the Board accepted a 2 year provisional agreement with the full-time faculty union, approved a 3.8% annual salary increase for all college employees not represented by a union, and created a retirement incentive plan.

Over the course of the year, the Board approved funding to repair roadways, parking lot infrastructure, as well as to construct new parking lots. In August, HCC was out of parking spots and opened 2 grassy areas. For the Sports Complex there will be 1200 spaces - overflow would be on-campus parking with persons walking or taking a shuttle. Also in August, the Board approved a contract with SchoolSecure, at a contract cost of \$55,390, for emergency planning and security on campus. The Board is also working on an ID theft protection policy and, in December, approved costs for new lighting - Code Blue Systems - in the parking lots and near new buildings.

Much discussion through the year concerned the new sports stadium. HCC had already committed \$3.5 million (of the \$12 million cost). Groundbreaking for the Cornbelters Stadium was in March 2009. In July, the Board was asked to consider leasing land northwest of the

stadium to the Miracle League, a national baseball program that serves girls and boys with disabilities, ages 5-18. The Board appears favorable to this project but not to a proposal at the November meeting for a baseball business wanting to build on site.

Spring '07 the Board approved a \$60 million expansion with locally funded revenue bonds and through this year saw results. All 6 new facilities should be ready by Summer '10. (1) Storage and Receiving Building opened Fall '08; (2) Child Development Lab opened Feb '09 and had an open house May '09; (3) Instructional Commons and (4) Community Education Center to open Jan '10; (5) Student Fitness and Rec. Center; (6) new wing to the East Campus Student Commons Building. HCC received a portion of a state grant that will further establish the Green Institute which is housed at the Workforce Development Center and, in April, approved a program leading to a Renewable Energy degree.

Over the year, the Board has approved several transfer agreements: accepting the Challenger Learning Center (now housed in #4 above); assuming the radiography program from BroMenn and OSF; SIU-C will allow grads to transfer; Lincoln College will allow students to complete courses applicable to a 3rd year standing at Lincoln; and HCC will continue its truck driving training program even though Richland CC will drop out.

The Board is not shy about controversial matters. At the August 2009 meeting, Terry Baggett was censured for e-mailing an employee encouraging that person to resign. This was not a Board action and one it deemed inappropriate. Mr. Baggett still serves on the Board.

The Board is acting very responsibly for the college and programs that help and impact the public. Take a drive to the north Normal campus – you will be amazed at the growth of this institution!

...Submitted by Judy Poultney

◀◀ Update ▶▶

Citizens for Justice Options

Citizens for Justice Options are pleased, after nine years of advocacy that the following have happened:

- Drug Court has been successful and is accepted by justice officials,
- Mental Health Court is well on the way and is slated to start by the end of 2010
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) started at the end of 2009
- A council very similar CJCC has been advocated by the Citizens for Justice Options since 2001 so we are very pleased that the CJCC is now an established part of McLean County Justice programs.
- A number of the Citizens for Justice Options are now on committees of the Criminal Justice Coordination Council. Carol Reitan is on the 18 member voting Council representing the League. Several other League members are either non-voting members of the Council or on committees.

The Citizens for Justice Options (CJO) is active as there are still other options (than jail) that we need for McLean County.

Barbara Stuart and Carol Reitan, Co-Chairs of the CJO, welcome more League members to the CJO if they are interested in study and advocacy for justice.



Find inside:

- Program Schedule Pg. 1
- Co-President's Letter Pg. 2
- IL Fair Map Amendment
- Census – It's In Our Hands
- 90 Years of LWVUS Pg. 3
- Carrie Chapman Catt memorial
- Proposed Studies for 2010 Pg. 4
- District 87 Board of Education Pg. 5
- Heartland Community College Pg. 6
- Citizens for Justice Options Pg. 7
- Our League in Action Pg.8

INSERT:

International Women's Day
Breakfast Flyer



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

Recently, League members have:

- Sponsored a candidates' forum for the McLean County Clerk's off on January 11 attended by around 100 people;
- Contacted our State Representatives and Senator to support adopting a responsible, balanced budget for Illinois;
- Contacted Senators Durbin and Burris on behalf of LWVUS asking them to vote against the Murkowski Amendment to the Clean Air Act;
- Contacted our Congress members and the President to urge passage of a final health care bill with a strong public option and no discrimination based on gender;
- Distributed a survey of our members to find out what is important to you in League and how League can make membership even more meaningful;
- Completed the U.S. League's Democracy 2010 survey to give National League information on member priorities;
- Continued to work with local government bodies and groups on Complete Census Count 2010;
- Collected petition signatures to put the Fair Map Amendment on the November 2010 ballot;
- Grown our League to 113 members;
- Attended the League of Women Voters of Illinois Issues Briefing 2010 in Chicago on February 6;
- Begun to work on establishing a Court Observer program for McLean County;
- Begun to take action on the election study recommendations to address procedural issues with voter rolls.