



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF McLEAN COUNTY

Co-Presidents

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

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

Membership

Becky Hines
517 Kreitzer Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-828-6140
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. 77 No. 1 of McLean County September 2010

LWV 2010-2011 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 28, 2010 • Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Membership Event and Social

♦ 2010 Bohrer Award presented ♦

Program Speaker: Steve Kossman

RSVP by September 22 • Reservation information inside

October 11, 2010 • 1st Presbyterian Church of Normal
“Iron Jawed Angels”

League Movie night • Details inside

October 26, 2010 • Bloomington Police Department
Changes and Improvements

in McLean County Justice System

*Speakers: Judge Beth Robb, Sheriff Mike Emery,
Judge Rebecca Foley, State’s Attorney Bill Yoder*

November 16, 2010 • ISU Bone Student Center
The Death & Life of American Journalism

Speaker: Bob McChesney

January 25, 2011 • Venue to be announced

Hidden McLean County

Poverty, discrimination and other less known issues

February 22, 2011 • Venue to be announced

Social Services in McLean County

Impacts of cuts in State funding

March 22, 2011 • Venue and time to be announced

Changes in Education in McLean County

Impact of funding changes and ‘No Child Left Behind’

April, 2011 • **Annual Dinner**

May 24, 2011 • **Annual Meeting**

From the desk of . . . Co-Presidents Julie Sullivan and Phylis VerSteegh

In 1920, after a 72 year struggle, the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, became law. That same year, League of Women Voters was founded to educate newly enfranchised women about how to effectively use their votes. Although League has expanded to include membership open to all voters, thorough study on local, state and national issues and advocacy to foster improved government, it has also remained true to the core belief that a well informed voter is an effective voter.

Here in McLean County, the upcoming year promises to provide ample opportunity to become informed, active, and have fun. This year, member programs are focused on McLean County, with topics ranging from what's new in the justice system to the intriguing hidden McLean County. You'll find a complete list of planned programs in this newsletter.

We're also starting a new project – the McLean County Court Observers. For years, Leaguers have watched municipal and county government in action and taking the observer program to the courts is a logical next step. In October, we'll host visitors from Colombia who are coming to watch and learn how local government works. We'll continue to be part of Citizens for Justice Options (CJO), continue to act on the results of last year's local election consensus, and continue to partner with other like-minded organizations to educate ourselves and our community on important governmental issues.

I encourage you to become active in League by taking part in these or other League activities.

We also plan to have some fun. We're kicking off League year at our annual membership event on September 28. This year, we're holding an early evening event with guest speaker Steve Kossman, coordinator of the McLean County League Court Observers project.

On October 11, we're having a League movie night, showing the powerful Iron-Jawed Angels, the story of Alice Paul, an unsung heroine of the suffragette movement.

Whether you're interested in informational programs, helping with an event or joining fellow Leaguers for fun, the League of Women Voters has something for everyone. I hope to see you out and about in League this year.

. . . Julie

LWV of McLean County ▪ Board of Directors ▪ 2010 – 2011

Co-President Julie Sullivan

(309) 663-4425 JulianaLou@aol.com

Publicity Kathleen Tosh

(309) 827-8550 kn.ttosh@comcast.net

Co-President Phylis VerSteegh

(309) 664-5857 phylvs@hotmail.com

Voter Services Yadira Ruiz

(309) 287-4216 yruiz@ywcamclean.org

Immediate Past President Maureen O'Keefe

(309) 258-4233 mokbg@comcast.net

Membership Becky Hines

(309) 828-6140 becky.hines@ywcagreatlakes.org

First VP- Programs Laurie Bergner

(309) 454-3113 drlaurieb1@verizon.net

'Voter' Coordinator Charlette Elm

(309) 664-5857 charelm@msn.com

Second VP- Action Sally Rudolph

(309) 663-5166 LSRUDO@comcast.net

Webmaster Mary Lynn Edwards

(309) 452-2593 papermoon@marys-antiques.com

Secretary Carol Straka

(309) 454-2969 canstr@a5.com

Annual Fundraiser Dianne Williamson

(309) 662-6129 dwill2@comcast.net

Treasurer Linda Stockton

(309) 663-5244 lbstockton@verizon.net

Observers Judie Bey

(309) 662-1774 judiebey@juno.com



“Iron Jawed Angels”

HBO Films brings to the screen the remarkable and little known story of defiant young activists who take the Women’s Suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.

Starring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul and Frances O’Connor as Lucy Burns

Presented by LWV of McLean County
October 11, 2010 ▪ 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Normal
2000 E. College Avenue

Introduction by Sandra Harmon

Free and open to the public

Court Observer Program

Training for volunteers for our new Court Observer Program is set for the week of October 4th.

If you are interested in being a volunteer and attending this training, or in getting more information on this exciting new opportunity, please contact Laurie Bergner at 309-454-3113 or drlaurieb1@verizon.net.

Hosting Columbian Elected Officials

We are expecting to host two Colombian elected officials for three weeks
October 15th – November 7th

If you are interested in serving on the committee to plan their stay, please contact Laurie Bergner at 309-454-3113 or drlaurieb1@verizon.net

Florence Fifer Bohrer Award

This prestigious award is given annually to a member of our community, LWV member or non-member, who has demonstrated a history of significant nonpartisan civic engagement with an emphasis on improving the social welfare of McLean County.

The 2010 Bohrer Award will be presented at our Membership Event and Social
September 28 ▪ Unitarian Universalist Church

OBSERVERS 2010-2011: “The Eyes and Ears of the League”

We welcome the new Observers; offer our thanks to all the participants and always welcome anyone else who is interested.

Unit 5 School Board (2nd) Pam Zimmerman (4th) Amy Mobley McFarland
2nd & 4th Wednesday – 7:00 pm – 1809 Hovey, Normal

District 87 School Board (2nd) Gary Hoover (4th) Judie Bey
2nd & 4th Wednesday – 6:30 pm – Education Services Center, 300 E. Monroe, Bloomington

McLean County Board Anne Eaton
3rd Tuesday – 9:00 am – 115 E. Washington, Bloomington

Normal Town Council (1st) Jana Edge (3rd) Ken Berk
1st & 3rd Monday – 7:00 pm – Normal Town Hall, 100 E. Phoenix, Normal

Bloomington City Council Anne Eaton Jim Parr Marlene Gregor
2nd & 4th Monday – 7:30 pm – Bloomington City Hall, 109 E. Olive, Bloomington
(These members work out their own schedule as to who covers each meeting)

Heartland Community College Judy Poultney Jane Chamberlain (alternate)
3rd Tuesday – 7:00 pm – 1500 W. Raab Rd., Normal

Alternates: Jane Chamberlain (listed above) is also will to attend Normal Town Council meetings.
Martha Everman is available from April to December
Anne Eaton (listed above) is willing to sub wherever needed.

Observer Chair: Judie Bey (309) 662-1774 judiebey@juno.com

CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE OPTIONS

Barbara Stuart and Carol Reitan, co-chairs

The current Citizens for Justice Options (CJO, formerly Alternatives to Jail) is now meeting on an as-need basis, since our major task at present is to observe the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and do whatever possible to help it attain its objectives. To accomplish this, most of the present CJO members serve on CJCC committees, with Carol Reitan serving on the council as a representative of the League.

Chief Judge Elizabeth Robb, chair of CJCC, has announced that the executive committee will now be meeting monthly with committee chairs. This should improve coordination of committee work and clarify committee work goals.

CJO members feel that a full or part-time coordinator would do much to strengthen the establishment of this working council and committees—a coordinator not associated with any justice department, but reporting to the County Administrator. This was one of the Federal consultant recommendations. CJO is currently addressing this proposal by setting up special meetings with key officials to learn their views and to offer advocacy in establishing this position.

Several projects that CJO has backed heavily in the past are doing well.

- 1) Judges are now beginning to use the electronic monitor where appropriate, thus freeing some jail space.
- 2) Drug Court, a four-year-old program, is very effective and well supported by justice officials and the community. This program, utilizing drug therapy among other requirements, will over time free up much jail space, since drug use creates a swinging-door of repeat offenses.
- 3) Mental Health Court has started this spring. We have great hopes for swift progress there, also.

CJO welcomes new members from League and the community.

We meet on 2nd Tuesdays, 4:15 pm, at First United Methodist Church in Normal, on an as-need basis.
Please email Barb or Carol, bffstuart@yahoo.com or car@reitan.info.



League of Women Voters of McLean County

MEMBERSHIP EVENT and SOCIAL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Open House

Unitarian Universalist Church
1613 East Emerson ▪ Bloomington

Join us as we celebrate our past 76 years and begin an exciting new year!

The evening's program beginning at 6:30 pm will be a brief overview
of our League's newly formed **COURT OBSERVER PROJECT**
presented by **Steve Kossman**

and

Presentation of the Florence Fifer Bohrer 2010 Award

Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 22

Detach and mail the form below to:

Becky Hines ▪ 517 Kreitzer Avenue ▪ Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-6140 ▪ bec4523@aol.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

I will attend

I will bring _____ guests

. Sorry, I cannot attend

I wish to join the League. Enclosed is a check for annual dues.

*Please make your check payable to the **League of Women Voters of McLean County***

\$60 Individual member dues

. \$30 Second household member dues

\$30 Full-time student dues

Please send more information to me

Facts about the League

WHAT IS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS?

The League of Women Voters is a multifaceted organization dedicated to keeping our communities strong by giving every person a voice in government. We mobilize citizen action for a better America. The League has more than 100,000 supporters – women and men in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and in more than 1,140 communities around the country. We have been a partner in numerous global democracy initiatives.

WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE DO?

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. This means that the League works through the American political process and with the citizens of this country to bring about constructive change.

- **REGISTER** millions to vote
- **DEFEND** voting rights.
- **MONITOR** government activities from city councils and school boards to state legislatures and the U.S. Congress.
- **TEACH** citizens about their rights and responsibilities.
- **SPONSOR** candidate debates and public issue forums
- **INFORM** through our in-depth and balanced issues forums
- **TAKE ACTION, LOBBY, and TESTIFY** on the issues you care about.
- We help put **LAWS** on the books.

DOES THE LEAGUE SUPPORT PARTIES OR CANDIDATES?

No. Never. The League is political, but strictly non-partisan. Our **members** decide what issues the League will address and what action the League will take on the issues.

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

If you are 18 or older the League needs you. **JOIN** your friends, neighbors, and colleagues in the nationwide grassroots network.

You'll get "inside" in-depth information on the issues through League publications and website...meet the people who make things happen in your community...have a chance to sharpen your skills in any area you choose...make your voice heard in America's political process...help make your community, state and country a better place to live.

HOW DO I BECOME A LEAGUE MEMBER?

There are many ways to join the League.

FILL OUT AND MAIL an application form at a meeting or on our website.

Join us at any level...local, state, or national... and you automatically become a member at every level.

Visit us on the web and join us on Facebook.

www.yourleague.org • www.yourstateleague.org

www.lwv.org • www.facebook.com/leagueofwomensvoters

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Highlights of the Biennial Convention held last June in Atlanta

PROGRAMS – Convention adopted the following:

- A study of the federal role in public education. The study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWWUS staff time.
- A study on privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.
- Convention also adopted the following positions by concurrence on the convention floor:
- An updated Arms Control Position.
- An addition to the LWWUS position on selection of the president: “We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.”
- An addition to the LWWUS Equality of Opportunity position: “The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWWUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWWUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

Convention also supported the following resolutions:

- To support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- To call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.
- To call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
- To add the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution, as adopted by the LWWUS Convention Of 2005. Revised to include the following Principles: Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; and Transparency.
- To call upon LWWUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate improved Medicare for all.
- To call upon the LWWUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWWUS demands that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWWUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.

BUDGET - The proposed PMP rate of \$29.60 was increased to \$29.70 for 2010-2011 by a motion on the convention floor. The PMP rate of \$30.00 for 2011-2012 was adopted as proposed.

A full convention report can be found at the LWWUS website, lwv.org

LWV of McLean County **ELECTION ACTION GROUP** August 2010 Report

Members: Laurie Bergner, Rose Marsaglia, Julie Prandi (Chair), Carol Reitan, Sally Rudolph, Yadira Ruiz

(CC= County Clerk's Office; BEC= Bloomington Election Commission)

A. ELECTION ISSUES

1. More deputy voter registrars: A training session took place on June 24, 2010 for fifteen librarians from four different libraries to be trained as voter registrars. Libraries are open during convenient hours on evenings and on the weekends to register voters.

We thank Yadira for all her work on this!

2. Drivers License Facility: In speaking with the assistant director, we discovered that DLF employees who registered to vote while renewing a license or conducting other business at the DLF for the Nov. 2008 election did not receive their voter cards within a month of registering (CC jurisdiction). This confirmed reports of election judges about voters who said they had registered at the DLF, but were not on the voting lists. We hope such delays in processing DLF registrations at CC will not continue.

3. Voter Purges: A letter to the editor from Julie Prandi was published June 9, 2010, on the subject of the post card voter purge in May. Most voters are not aware of how periodic purges occur. In a June 22 interview with Linda Shriver (CC), we discovered that CC was not complying with two key segments of the NVRA:

a) the August 30, 2010 completion for the CC post card purge (instead of May as previously claimed) did not comply with the NVRA requirement that any program for systematic removal of names of ineligible voters must be completed no later than 90 days prior to the date of a primary or general election (taking into consideration time for a voter to return the confirmation notice sent by forwardable mail when cards could not be delivered to the first address).

b) that CC was removing names from the active voting list only because that person had not voted in the previous two federal elections, according to Linda Shriver. The NVRA states that no one can be removed from the voter rolls only for not voting.

4. Record keeping: When LWV asked BEC and CC for statistics on voter purges, they claimed they had no records on it (i.e., how many names were taken off the active voter list as a result of the last post-card purge). However Section 8 of NVRA requires that States keep and make available for public inspection for a period of at least two years, all records concerning the implementation of programs activities conducted for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy and currency of official lists of eligible voters.

Furthermore NVRA says that the records shall include lists of the names and addresses of all persons to whom confirmation notices are sent, and information concerning whether or not each such person has responded to the notice, as of the date that inspection of the records is made.

This kind of information would have been very helpful. We intend to keep trying to get better statistics on voter purges in McLean County in the future. This is the only way for citizens to monitor how voter rolls are being purged.

5. Rural voters with P.O. boxes and no delivery possible to the physical address: These people do not receive their voter cards. We discovered that this is a problem for rural voters in other counties in Illinois. In our meeting with Linda Shriver, we offered her a contact at the Post Office so that election jurisdictions can get help from the Post Office to link up the physical address to the P.O. Box automatically. This information came from our January 21st meeting with post office officials in Congressman Shock's office.

6. Additional phone lines for election judges to call CC: Linda Shriver said this is no longer a problem; that there are plenty of phone lines now in place for the November 2010 election.

B. TOWARDS A COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

Rose and Julie carried out preliminary interviews with seven County Board members to get their feedback on the League proposal, and answer their questions (interviews with other Board members are being planned). In addition to being aware of disagreements that have hampered operations at CC and BEC in the past, all were concerned about the financial issues and were open to the news that a merger might save a significant amount of money. It would be good to work with County Administrator Lindberg to get a convincing estimate of the savings that could be realized, perhaps with the help of data from the Sangamon County merger. The perception that there would not be enough work year-round, every year, for a CEC needs to be countered; it comes from a limited understanding of what a CEC does. As we solicit the support of the new County Clerk, we need to publicize the fact that the County Clerk can opt to become one of the three County Election Commissioners. There may be opposition to the County Board Chair appointing the Election Commissioners which, according to Illinois election law, occurs without any requirement for advice and consent of the Board.

Confusion under the current system with two election authorities was a prevailing theme. Many agreed that having a CEC would make that agency better able to focus on election work than CC today, which has tax and record keeping mandates. Some Board members brought up voters' confusion and the split of election results that the current system brings (local candidates sometimes have to add up vote tallies from each authority to know an election result). Information for candidates is also not always handled well. Borders that divide CC from BEC precincts are often very irregular, with islands and zig-zags. If you go to a BEC polling place, but are registered with CC, you would not be able to vote because the election judges in BEC have no access to the lists for CC.

While there is still the perception "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"; and while it may prove difficult to abolish BEC, 2011 presents a golden opportunity to create a CEC because in 2012, reapportionment according to the census will bring the terms of all present County Board members to an end.

....Submitted by Julie Prandi, Chair, Election Action Group

League of Women Voters of McLean County Website

Webmaster – Mary Lynn Edwards

Our website is up and running and will reflect this year's activities as information is available. There are several ways the League has used the site over the past few years, so as projects are being planned, check with Mary Lynn if there is a need for an application using the site. For example, for some past elections, we have had the public submit questions for the candidate forums through the site. This summer we put a nomination form for the Bohrer award on the site. There are many creative ways this can be used and I am very willing to work with anyone wishing to do so.

Homepage of the site is: <http://www/lwvmclean.org>

Email Mary Lynn at: webmaster@lwvmclean.org



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
61701
Permit No. 188

In this issue:

- 2010-2011 Program Schedule Pg. 1
- Co-President's Letter Pg. 2
- LWV 2010-2011 Board Pg. 2
- "Iron Jawed Angels" movie Pg. 3
- Court Observer Program Pg. 3
- Hosting Columbian Officials Pg. 3
- Bohrer Award Pg. 3
- LWV 2010-2011 Observers Pg. 4
- Citizens for Justice Options Pg. 4
- Membership Event flyer Pg. 5
- Facts about the League Pg. 6
- LWVUS Biennial Convention Pg. 7
- Election Action Group report Pg. 8
- McLean County LWV website Pg. 9
- Our League in Action Pg.10



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

Since May our League members have:

- Spoken to 25 members of Women in Communications about Sunshine Laws and League;
- Completed a member survey;
- Enjoyed our Annual Dinner and successful fund raiser;
- Sent letters to U.S. Representatives asking them to support the DISCLOSE Act for campaign finance openness;
- Written a letter to the editor to inform people how to maintain their active voting status;
- Coordinated a registrar training session for local librarians;
- Been interviewed about League by radio station WXRJ;
- Honored Phylis VerSteegeh as Leaguer of the Year at our Annual Meeting.