



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

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**League of Women Voters  
of McLean County Bulletin  
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**The official address of the  
League of Women Voters  
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Telephone: 309-663-5166**

**New web site!**

**www.lwvmclean.org**

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

# The Voter

Vol. 78 No. 6 of McLean County March 2012

## LWV 2011 - 2012 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### Candidate Forums

- Details on page 2 •

Thursday • March 8 • 7:00 pm  
Illinois Wesleyan University • Hansen Student Center

### Immigration and National Policy

Co-sponsored with Illinois Wesleyan University  
*See page 4 for more information on this event*

Wednesday • April 4 • 7:00 pm  
Normal Public Library • Community Room

### Reining in Big Brother in the Age of Personal Technology

Co-sponsored with American Civil Liberties Union  
Speakers: **Ed Yohnka**, ACLU IL Communications Director  
**Representative**, US Attorney's Office in Central IL  
*See page 4 for more information on this event*

Tuesday • April 17, 2012 • 5:00 pm  
Holiday Inn Hotel • 3202 E. Empire • Bloomington

### LWV of McLean County Annual Dinner and Auction

Speakers: **Paul Harmon**, Airport Authority Chairman  
**Carl Olson**, CIRA Executive Director

Tuesday • May 22, 2012  
**LWV of McLean County  
Annual Meeting**

From the desk of . . . Co-Presidents Phylis VerSteegh and Maureen O'Keefe

LWV of McLean County enjoyed sort of a month off in December when we didn't have any stated meetings and we all had extra time to spend with family and friends. We did have a great fund raiser in December at A. Renee. It was such fun and so successful that we will probably repeat it next year. We will keep you posted.

Now we're back into the swing of League activities and getting ready for the March 20 primary election. We are registering new voters and getting ready for informational candidate forums. A Voters Guide will be posted on our website. We are starting to interview local legislators and getting several other studies formed and underway. We're sponsoring the International Women's Day breakfast. Our annual dinner and annual meeting are right around the corner. We have some fabulous monthly programs this spring. Nominations are open for next year's board positions. Please contact me if you are interested. Yes, we are busy!

We're moving as quickly as possible into the electronic age. This Voter is now electronic. We are on Facebook and our website is kept current. Remember to check them often. I hope you will be able to take part in some of League's activities.

. . . Phylis

**League of Women Voters of McLean County  
CANDIDATE FORUMS**

**McLean County Auditor ▪ McLean County Recorder**

**Tuesday • February 28 • 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
ISU Schroeder Hall • Room 242**

**State's Attorney ▪ 11th Circuit Judge**

**Tuesday • March 6 • 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
ISU Schroeder Hall • Room 130**

Schroeder Hall is located on the southeast corner of College and University

Parking is available in the Bone Student Center lot,  
across the street north of Schroeder Hall

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For candidate information,  
go to [www.lwvmclean.org](http://www.lwvmclean.org) and click on '2012 Voters Guide'

...submitted by Jim Keeran, Voter Services chair

## **“Media and the Courts”**

Our January program, "Media and the Courts," was a great success.

The topic and the participants, which included Appellate Court Justice Jim Knecht, Public Defender Kim Campbell, Pantagraph Courts Reporter Edith Brady-Lunny, and ISU Communications Professor Dr. Maria Moore, drew an enthusiastic audience which included a number of judges and others from the law and justice community.

By coincidence, the Illinois Supreme Court had announced that courts could participate in a pilot project for having television cameras in the courtroom.

This timing led to great interest in that topic and was among many that were discussed among the panelists, who varied in their welcoming of cameras in the courtroom.

Other discussions revolved around whether media coverage sometimes compromised defendants' getting a fair trial and how media does and should help to educate the public on justice issues.

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## **League of Women Voters of Illinois 2012 Issues Briefing**

Four LWV of McLean County members attended the annual Issues Briefing held January 28<sup>th</sup> at the state League office. Several workshops were held on important topics –

Policy, Politics and Progress in Protecting our Food Supply, Large Scale Livestock Facilities, the national privatization study, a legislative review and Illinois Pension Reform.

All workshops were informative and educational.

### ***New LWV of McLean County Members:***

Michelle Anderson  
2000 N. Linden #N338  
Normal, IL 61761  
(309) 824-6338  
micglf@yahoo.com

Jennifer Sedbrook  
2 Kenyon Court  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
(309) 828-2815  
jsedbrook@yahoo.com

Britney Villhauer  
23139 US Hwy 150  
Downs, IL 61736  
bjvillhauer@yahoo.com

## **Colombia: Violence and Beyond Violence: Government, Politics and Culture**

Here's the program you've been waiting for! We all met the three lovely young women from Colombia, who we hosted for three weeks in October, 2010. Laurie Bergner had an exchange visit to Colombia last March, and she's ready to tell us all about it.

Come hear the inside story of the government, politics and culture of this fascinating country. Find out about the guerillas and paramilitary, assassinations and bombings... but get beyond that to the rest of the story that we rarely hear about.

The program will be held in late March • Date to be confirmed shortly

Moses Montefiore Temple • 102 Robinhood Lane • Bloomington

To spice up the pot, we're having a chili dinner too!

Dinner at 5:30 pm • Program begins at 6:30 pm • All for free!

## **Immigration and National Policy: How Federal Laws are Affecting our Local Communities**

...will be the topic of a program that the League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring with several Illinois Wesleyan University groups, including...

**Latin America Area Studies Team • Amnesty International  
Spanish & Latino Student Association • Student Peace Fellows • Multicultural Programs**

This important program will help us understand how the federal immigration and deportation issues are impacting our own community, including businesses, law enforcement and schools.

Participants will include -

**Mark Curran**, Lake County Sheriff who was featured on Frontline's "Lost in Detention"  
**Carline Tapia-Ruano**, a distinguished Chicago immigration attorney  
**Arturo Garcia**, IWU professor

Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.  
Hansen Student Center, 300 Beecher Street on IWU Campus

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## **Reining in Big Brother in the Era of Personal Technology**

...the enticing title for the April program which the League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring with the American Civil Liberties Union.

As personal technology gets more widely used, it brings special issues for civil liberties. A recent Supreme Court decision dealt with the use of GPS devices for tracking suspected drug dealers.

Participants will include -

**Edwin Yohnka**, Director of Communications and Public Policy for the ACLU of Illinois, and a representative from the U.S. Attorney's office.

Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Normal Public Library's Community Room

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## **International Women's Day Breakfast**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal

With over 1,000 activities worldwide, International Women's Day recognizes the achievements of women who gather to impact global and local issues.

This event is sponsored by:

- Soroptomists International of Bloomington-Normal
- League of Women Voters of McLean County
- Women in Communications

During this event, we will celebrate the diversity of our community and explore how we can work together to strengthen and enrich the lives of our citizenry. The public is invited.

Tickets - \$25.00

For reservations contact Karen Fleming – kmfleming1973@gmail.com -or- (309) 454-2513

Facebook: McLean County International Women's Day

(See attached flyer)

## **It's Your Turn: CALL FOR PROPOSED STUDIES 2012**

A key philosophy of the League of Women Voters is grassroots citizen involvement.

For 78 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 22, 2012, 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?** All proposals must be submitted to Phylis VerSteegh no later than March 12, 2012. Study proposals for 2012-2013 will not be accepted after that date. All proposals must be in writing.

Please note that, 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.

# LWV of McLean County Silent Auction is approaching in April *We Need Your Help!*

Our League will be holding a Silent Auction Fundraiser on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Bloomington (across Route 9 from the Central Illinois Regional Airport - CIRA). Our speakers will be Paul Harmon and Carl Olson who will discuss the airport, its impact on the community, and the economics of proposed upcoming changes at CIRA.

So what's a streamlined Silent Auction? Our experience with Silent Auctions has taught us that a modest number of items such as gift certificates to theater events, hotels, and restaurants packaged in gift baskets featuring unique themes are very well received. Therefore, we're planning to bring back some of the crowd pleasers from Silent Auctions we've done in the past including:

- ***Sophisticated Lady:*** Jewelry, note cards, symphony tickets, crystal, restaurant certificate, etc.
- ***To Be or Not to Be. An Evening Under the Stars:*** An evening at the Shakespeare Festival
- ***Bubble Up:*** Bubble bath, candles, and a hotel gift certificate
- ***Some Romantic Evening:*** Wine basket and hotel gift certificate
- ***Drama Glow:*** Candles, candle sticks, and theater tickets
- ***Happy Mothers Day:*** Mother's Day Brunch and soaps/bath items
- ***Days of Wine and Roses.*** Wine basket with food items, restaurant certificate(s)
- ***What's Cooking?:*** Kitchen and food items, including cook books
- ***Get Fit:*** Gift certificates from area businesses that focus on fitness

How can you help?

We always welcome member donations. Our Board members and the fund raising committee do a good job of securing gift certificates from area businesses, but we need your help in adding items to the baskets we'll be creating for the auction. We welcome any items you wish to donate, but if you're not sure what to donate, we have some ideas in mind!

## **So what can you donate?**

- Wine is always a good filler for baskets, as well as wine glasses
- Pretty baskets or other containers (i.e., fancy gift boxes) that we can use to package and present our auction items
- Jewelry (new or used in good condition), scarves
- Candles, candle sticks, decorative tart burners, votives, tarts, etc.
- Packaged food and/or snacks: Chocolates, olive oil, assorted vinegars, spreads, crackers, cookies, mixed nuts, etc.
- Soaps, bubble bath, bath oils, shower gels, bath accessories
- Pretty note cards of any kind.

Some members have donated their beautiful hand-made note cards. Planners/journals

- Coffee and/or tins of tea
- Flower vases/flower arrangements
- Any gift certificates you choose to donate...

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We are happy to arrange for individuals to pick up your auction items if necessary. So if you have donations for our League's 2012 Silent Auction Fundraiser, please contact:

Maureen O'Keefe ▪ 501 Centennial Avenue ▪ Normal, IL 61761  
Daytime: 309-766-1277 ▪ Evening: 309-258-4233 ▪ Email: [mokbg@comcast.net](mailto:mokbg@comcast.net)

## ***Voter Registration and March 20, 2012 Primary Election***

Voter registration for the Primary Election officially closed on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. However, there are three additional opportunities to cast a ballot...

### **Early Voting – February 27 through March 15, 2012**

Registered voters may vote in both the County Clerk and Bloomington Election Commission offices Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### **Grace Period Voting – February 22 through March 13, 2012**

McLean County citizens (outside the city of Bloomington) can go to the County Clerk's office to register and/or change address. If they intend to vote, they must vote in person at that time.

Bloomington citizens may go to the Bloomington Election Commission office to register and/or change address and apply for an absentee ballot in order to vote.

Times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

### **Absentee Voting – February 9 through March 19, 2012**

Absentee ballots may be requested on-line or in person beginning February 9, 2012.

Ballots must be postmarked by midnight, March 19, 2012  
and received in the election office within 14 days following the election.

## **NOTICE TO ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

### ***All precinct polling places are accessible to persons with disabilities***

Voter Assist Terminals will be available in all polling places in McLean County and City of Bloomington. In extreme situations, with prior notification, judges are available to assist you in your vehicle at the polls.

### **For more information:**

- City of Bloomington residents can go to [www.becvote.org](http://www.becvote.org).
- All other McLean County residents go to [www.mcleancountyil.gov](http://www.mcleancountyil.gov) to the County Clerk Election site.
- Contact the McLean County Clerk's Office at 309-888-5588.
- Bloomington Election Commission Office at 309-888-5136.



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

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

This month League members have:

- Continued an active observer program of local boards;
- Continued to take part in our court observer program;
- Attended the state Issues Briefing meeting at the state League office;
- Conducted a successful voter registration drive at Heartland Community College;
- Prepared for interviewing local legislators;
- Prepared for primary candidate forums.

**PLEASE VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AND BECOME A FRIEND**

**OUR WEBSITE IS [www.lwvmclean.org](http://www.lwvmclean.org)**