



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

### Co-Presidents

Phylis VerSteegh  
49 Kenfield Circle  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-664-5357  
info@lwvmclean.org

Maureen O'Keefe  
501 Centennial Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761  
309-258-4233  
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

The Voter, the bulletin  
of LWV of McLean County  
is published 8 times a year

The official address of the  
LWV of McLean County 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. 78 No. 8 of McLean County May 2012

## LWV 2012 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday • May 1, 2012 • Noon

League of Women Voters of Illinois  
**2012**

*State of the State*

**LUNCHEON**

Union League Club - 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Sheila Simon**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

For registration and more information see attached flyer-  
**State of the State Luncheon.pdf**

Tuesday • May 22, 2012 • 7:00 p.m.

McLean County Government Center  
Front & East Streets, Bloomington

League of Women Voters of McLean County  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

▪ Find details on page 2 in Co-President's letter ▪

Thursday • May 24, 2012

ISU Bone Student Center • Brown Ballroom • Normal

**Women of Distinction  
Awards Banquet**

5:30 pm - Social Hour

6:30 pm - Dinner ♦ Awards Presentation

Keynote Speaker: **Isabel Wilkerson**

*Pulitzer Prize Winning Author*

▪ More information on page 2 ▪

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

It's hard to believe that we will soon wind down another League year.

Thank you to so many members for their help and commitment to League. I also want to give a special "thanks" to the 2011-2012 Board of Directors who have gone above and beyond to help keep our League on track, on task, and thriving. We have accomplished lots!

I also want to invite you all to the Annual Meeting on May 22 to continue the work of the League by electing officers, adopting a budget, amending bylaws and establishing studies and program positions. Your voice at this Annual Meeting is very important.

Information regarding the Annual Meeting will be sent to you in a couple of days. Remember that we no longer provide hard copies of the Voter so please review all Annual Meeting information prior to attending the meeting or, better yet, print it and bring it with you. See you all at 7:00 p.m. at the Government Center on May 22.

. . . Phylis

---

### • • • New Member • • •

**Cheree Johnson**  
2202 Rainbow Ave. #2  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-706-2961  
ccj769@yahoo.com

Becky Hines, LWV of McLean County Membership Chair, reports that we currently have a total of **124 members**.

---

### • • • Women of Distinction Awards Banquet • • •

Each year, we get some League tables together for the YWCA's Women of distinction banquet. We are proud that two League members, Myra Gordon and Joni Painter were nominated this year. Both are past-presidents of the League of Women Voters of McLean County. We are also proud to have several past recipients among our membership.

The banquet is Thursday, May 24 at ISU, the Bone Student Center/Brown ballroom. It begins at 5:30 with a Social Hour followed at 6:30 PM with dinner, the keynote speaker and awards. The speaker is author and Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson. Wilkerson spent 15 years and interviewed more than 1,200 people for her bestseller "The Warmth of Other Suns", a work of nonfiction that tells the epic story of three people who made the decision to leave the south and migrate to the north in what came to be known as the Great Migration.

I have read this book and it is fantastic! I am really looking forward to hearing Ms. Wilkerson speak.

I will take reservations and put together some League tables to honor Myra and Joni. They are \$50 per person by May 11 and \$60 per person if after May 11. The absolute deadline is May 18. I am going to put my deadline of May 8 for you to send your checks to me.

Sally Rudolph - 1918 Owens Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701

Please indicate your dinner choice on your check.

The choices are: 1) Creole crusted salmon; 2) Cajun chicken; 3) vegetarian.

For more information, contact Sally at 309-663-5166 or LSRUDO@comcast.net

YWCA website at [www.ywcamclean.org](http://www.ywcamclean.org)

# Colombia: Violence and Beyond the Violence: The Struggle for Democracy

---

On March 28, Laurie Bergner presented information on last's year's exchange trip to Colombia, as well as special facts about the country, focusing on the government and challenges to democracy.

With the second largest population in Latin America of 46 million, it has a 91% literacy rate, a skilled competitive labor force, a growing GDP and tourism, wonderful food and warm, hospitable people. It is also proud of having one of the longest histories of democracy in South America, as well as a recent 1990 Constitution that protects the rights of minorities.

Despite its long history as a democracy, Colombia struggles with some of the largest discrepancies between its rich and poor, with terrible poverty and the largest number of displaced persons in the world!

With 45% of its financial resources devoted to its capital, Bogota, the rest of the country suffers from poorer quality services, including schools.

Corruption also drains its attempts to improve the infrastructure. Low technology for its voting services and the selling of votes also adds to corruption.

A long history of violence with its military, paramilitary and guerillas has improved in cities and many roads between cities, leading to a sense of more security in the cities, something that ex-President Uribe (2002-2010) achieved during his terms in office. But it was achieved by killing many guerillas, while empowering the paramilitary forces, which now cooperate with the military.

Both the guerillas and the paramilitaries continue to control certain parts of the land, and to engage in some parts of the drug trafficking, but they are less visible to ordinary citizens, especially in cities.

Colombia is a fascinating country to visit. The people are incredibly hospitable, opening their homes to visitors. Laurie was able to stay in four different homes, which included 4 of the 5 different social strata.

They are devoted to improving their country. Their 1990 "new" Constitution includes many human rights. Now they are challenged to put the new Constitution into effect, making use of these new rights.

The new president, Santos, appears to be of higher quality than Uribe, trying to attack corruption and to return land to the displaced. Powerful forces are arrayed against him, including conditions that support the lucrative drug trade, as well as international agriculture and infrastructure projects that reduce the probability of land being returned to the displaced.

Some say that the United States' huge financial aid over the last decade, totaling 8 billion dollars, the third largest amount of aid that we give, has not been well-used.

Trying to eradicate coca fields has disrupted the cocaine business, but it cannot eradicate it.

Some suggest that giving money for education and economic development would result in real reduction of the drug trade and of violence in the long run.

. . . Thanks to Laurie Bergner for submitting this article on her Colombia experiences

# Reining in Big Brother in the Era of Personal Technology

---

Sponsored by **American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and LWV of McLean County**

**Edwin Yohnka**, Director of Communications and Public Policy for the ACLU of Illinois spoke to a roomful of attendees at the Normal Public Library meeting on April 4.

Those who didn't get a chance to hear him speak missed some important information that every American ought to know. Following are some things he said that call for serious consideration regarding privacy rights and security.

## ***Did you know?***

- The Inspector General of the United States reports abuses of Patriot Act powers; yet, ten years later, through two administrations, the Patriot Act is still the law.
- The President can order wiretapping of Americans if information gathered leads to belief there is a threat to national security.
- Surveillance of individuals in our country has far reaching consequences. Computers search through large amounts of wiretapped information for key words...without knowing who the individual is. . .with help of telecoms that are given immunity for violating the privacy of their customers. . .without their knowledge and without a warrant. . .and yet the practice continues in the interest of the national security program.
- Elements of surveillance in our society are limited to the Federal government, but also occur in law enforcement agencies that have created "fusion centers" for sharing of information; i.e., cell phone tracking. Telecoms have created departments that respond to these requests.
- Chicago has the most surveillance of any city in the U.S. . . . cameras with facial recognition technology. . .are able to track movement . . . and is integrated into one large system and monitored by a group of people.

When considering a recent Supreme Court 5-4 ruling to maintain security of police so they can stop people for strip search, Yohnka remarked there is a lack of understanding of what personal privacy means, and suggests it is hard to get people to care when there is not adequate thought given to the consequences.

Edwin Yohnka, who has been a popular speaker at other League meetings, says privacy means different things to different people. Even so, we have allowed Facebook and other technologies to compromise our privacy.

For a better understanding of the issues, Yohnka recommends reading,

**Nothing to Hide: The False Tradeoff between Privacy and Security**

by **Daniel J. Solove** (May 31, 2011).

. . . Thanks to Carol Baker for submitting these notes

# League of Women Voters of McLean County 2012 Annual Fundraising Event

---

A sold out crowd enjoyed our Annual Gala held April 17<sup>th</sup> at Bloomington's Holiday Inn Hotel, with delicious hors d'oeuvres catered by Baxter's American Grille.

Attendees also had the opportunity to bid on a number of gift baskets in the Silent Auction that were generously provided by local merchants and League members.

An enthusiastic audience of over 75 people heard a discussion by Paul Harmon, Chairman of the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority and Carl Olson, Executive Director of the Airport.

They presented a lively, informative review of the Central Illinois Regional Airport past, present and future with details and antidotes regarding operations and improvements as well as airport management and funding.

New airline service from both Allegiant and Frontier were discussed as well as modernization of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) procedures and facilities.

Here in Blm-Normal we are fortunate to have one of the fastest growing and most consumer friendly regional airports in the country.

Carl Olson and Paul Harmon



I would like to thank all of you who attended our LWV Annual Dinner and Auction on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. Because of your participation, we had a very successful event.

A special thanks to our speakers, Paul Harmon and Carl Olsen, who helped us understand how the airport operates, and reminded us what a supportive community this is.

Thank you again and we hope to see you at future League programs and events.

I would also like to thank the members of our Fundraising Committee for their excellent work...  
Martha Everman, Pam Lubeck, Maureen O'Keefe, Linda Stockton, Kathy Tosh, Mary Vogel

... Dianne Williamson, Annual Fundraiser Chair

## Observers' Meeting

**Saturday • May 12, 2012 • 9:30 a.m. • Panera Bread • 1401 S Veterans Parkway • Bloomington**

This meeting is for all current Observers; all those who may be interested in being an Observer during the 2012-2013 year and also anyone who wants to learn more about being an Observer.

Barbara Nafziger • Observer Chair • 309-888-5210

### **Observers – *The 'Eyes and Ears' of the League***

Observe government in action • Learn about local government  
Be involved in our community • Provide valuable service to LWV

**McLean County Board • Unit 5 School Board • District 87 School Board  
Heartland Community College • Normal Town Council • Bloomington City Council**



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

30 Stonebrook Ct., Bloomington, IL 61704

**In this issue:**

- State of the State Luncheon Pg. 1
- Annual Meeting reminder Pg. 1
- Women of Distinction Banquet Pg. 1
- Co-President's Letter Pg. 2
- Membership information Pg. 2
- 'Colombia' program review Pg. 3
- 'Reining in Big Brother' notes Pg. 4
- 'Annual Dinner/Auction' review Pg. 5
- Observers Meeting Pg. 5
- Our League in Action Pg. 6



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

This month our members have:

- Continued to observe many local boards;
- Promoted and observed Earth Hour;
- Conducted interviews with Representative Dan Brady and State Senator Bill Brady;
- Contacted representatives about issues important to our members;
- Enjoyed a chili supper and an interesting program on Colombia;
- Co-sponsored a program on Reigning in Big Brother in the Age of Personal Technology with ACLU;
- Held our Annual Dinner and silent auction;
- And we're ready for the Annual Meeting on May 22!

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK**  
**OUR WEBSITE IS [www.lwvmclean.org](http://www.lwvmclean.org)!**