



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

Co-Presidents

Maureen O'Keefe
309-258-4233
info@lwvmclean.org

Kathy Tosh
309-829-9111
info@lwvmclean.org

Membership

Becky Hines
309-828-6140
membership@lwvmclean.org

Treasurer

Emily Vigneri
309-532-6932
treasurer@lwvmclean.org

Newsletter

Susan Alford
309-829-1472
bulletin@lwvmclean.org

League of Women Voters of
McLean County Voter Newsletter
is published eight times a year

Official address of League of Women Voters:

1918 Owens Drive
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-663-5166

Websites of League of Women Voters:
McLean County www.lwvmclean.org
State of Illinois www.lwvil.org
National www.lwv.org

In this Issue:

Program Schedule	p. 1
Co-President's Letter	p. 2
Our League in Action	p. 2
Drinks & Dialogues	p. 3
Volunteer Opportunities	p. 3
Membership News	p. 4
Dues Reminder	p. 4
March on Washington	p. 6
Mental Health Study	p. 7
Observer's Report	p. 7

The Voter

of McLean County

Vol. 80 No. 2

October 2013

Save the Date: LWV Programs 2013-14

Social Responsibility of Businesses

Wednesday, October 16, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

- A. Renée Wine Café, 306 N. Center, Bloomington
- First event of our new Drinks & Dialogue series.
See page 3 for details on this and upcoming topics.

Miss Representation

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.

- Normal Theater, 209 W. North St., Normal
- Award-winning film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women.
- Directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom – board member of KQED; member of the *Girl Scouts Healthy Media: Commission for Positive Images of Women and Girls*; advisory board member of Emerge America.

Our State's Attorney Office: The Most Powerful Player in the Legal System?

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

- Normal Public Library Community Room
- Participants will include State's Attorney Jason Chambers; former State's Attorney and judge Ron Dozier; Public Defender Kim Campbell; and local criminal defense attorney Jeff Brown.

Holiday Wine Tasting & Social

Tuesday, December 3, Time TBA

- McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington
- Enjoy fine wine and delectable hors d'oeuvres from A. Renée, shop the Arts Center's Holiday Treasures, and socialize with friends.

From the Desk of Our Co-President:

As is our custom, we kicked off this year's League Calendar with our Annual Fall Membership event on September 23rd. It was gratifying to see how well-attended it was and it was terrific catching up with so many of our current members and meeting prospective new ones. During this year's event, the Board chose to highlight two action priorities the Illinois League of Women Voters has asked local Leagues to address: Redistricting and the Graduated Rate Income Tax (also referred to as GRIT). First, we heard briefly from Pat Landes, our colleague from the Peoria League of Women Voters about the Redistricting petition drive that our League, in collaboration with Peoria, is supporting. And our two primary speakers – Janet Kittlaus who sits on the Illinois League of Women Voters Issues Committee and Kathy Tate-Bradish of the Evanston League of Women Voters – talked about the case for supporting GRIT.

The latter discussion sparked some spirited questions and commentary during and even after the program – which is always a good thing in our opinion! As the meeting broke up, I had the opportunity to talk with several different people and as a result, I'd like to revisit what we mean when we say the League of Women Voters is both non-partisan and political, and what we mean when as Kathy stated during the Grit segment, "The League has now moved into advocacy."

We are non-partisan in that we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate for elective office. That's pretty black and white. We say we're political because the League may choose to actively support or oppose various political issues, but we may only do so after the League has thoroughly studied the issue, (including examining the pros and cons involved), presented the findings of that study to its membership, and finally, reached consensus relative to a position on the issue among League membership. We call those issues which the League has studied and reached consensus on our program positions. All levels of League—U.S., state, and local—arrive at and maintain many program positions.



We strongly believe our program positions represent the League's best judgment of what constitutes "good governance." So, as a League, we feel it's good governance for Illinois to establish an 11-member Independent Redistricting Commission to draw Congressional maps. Likewise, it is the League's position that it's good governance for Illinois to ultimately replace its flat income tax with a progressive one.




Advocacy comes into place only after the League has arrived at a program position. Once a program position has been established, we are free to publically, as a League, advocate for that position, which is what we did at our Fall Membership event. Some members of the audience asked if we'd be having a meeting providing the "pros and cons" of a Graduated Rate Income Tax, and we said we would not. And the reason we wouldn't do so at this point is because League members throughout Illinois have already studied this issue and we've reached our consensus on this position. So from here on, our activity relative to this topic will revolve around using our League's influence to enact our position.

I wish to thank all of the many League members who helped make our Fall Membership event successful, particularly Becky Hines our Membership Director. Also, we appreciate the "heavy lifting" extended by Lee and Sally Rudolph, Joe Alford, Ray Bergner, and Bob Grosse in setting up/taking down/cleaning up!

---Maureen O'Keefe

Our League in Action

-  Began Mental Health Study to recommend improvements for our local community (details on page 7)
-  Held Annual Fall Membership Event, featuring Illinois State League members speaking on the need for a Graduated Rate Income Tax in Illinois (see page 5)

-  Ran Voter Registration Drive at Heartland Community College on September 24th, National Voter Registration Day
-  Advocated for Graduated Rate Income Tax in Letter to Editor from League Co-President (*Pantagraph*, September 26, 2013)
-  Presented Florence Fifer Bohrer Award to Gary Hoover for outstanding community service (see page 5)

Drinks and Dialogues Begins

Join Us October 16 at A. Renée

The League is excited to offer a new Program event called Drinks and Dialogues! This will be a monthly series of informal discussions over drinks after work hours from 5:00-6:30 p.m. There is no RSVP required – just show up!

The first Drinks and Dialogue will be on Wednesday, October 16th at 5:00 p.m. at A. Renée Wine Café, 306 N. Center Street in Bloomington. League member Laura Zimmerman



will be facilitating a discussion on "Social Responsibility of Businesses." She has a special interest in this topic and has selected the following two articles for participants to read prior to the event:

1. [Coca-Cola Responds to "Greenwashing" Charge: Criticism of Plant Bottle is "Half-Empty"](#)
2. [Panera Bread Isn't Just Hungry for Attention](#)

Social networking will be from 5:00-5:30 p.m. and then discussion will begin at 5:30.

Drinks and Dialogues was created to give members an opportunity to get together more often, at a different time that may be more convenient for some. We hope to get to know each other and have a chance to explore timely topics.

If you are interested in facilitating an upcoming discussion or would like to be involved in the Programs subcommittee, **please contact Lacey MacLeod at lacey.marie06@gmail.com**. We will provide an article, film, or topic to discuss and reserve a location.

Save the Date: Future Drinks & Dialogues TBA

Monday, November 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

- Getting Involved In Political Campaigns – *Gretchen Monti and Sally Rudolph* facilitators, location to be announced

Tuesday, December 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

- *Theme and venue to be announced*

Volunteer Opportunities

Join the Observer Corps

The League Observer Corps needs members just like you to be the "eyes and ears" of the League. This is a great way for you to learn more about your community by attending meetings of local governing bodies. Time commitment is minimal, and NO experience is necessary.

Observer Chair, Camille Taylor, is readily available to assist you, and information packets are provided. Periodic reports are submitted to the Voter to keep all members informed.

There are still volunteer opportunities!

We are in need of observers for the following:

- **Unit 5 School Board**
2nd & 4th Wed., 7:00 p.m.
- **McLean County Board Justice Committee**
3rd Tues., 9:00 a.m.
- **Normal Human Relations Commission**
3rd Tues., (Dec. 1st Tues) 5:15 p.m.
- **Heartland Community College**
3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Camille Taylor (309) 310-9852 or email: taylorcr54@yahoo.com

Getting to Know New League Members

Meet & Greet Breakfast October 19

This past summer we had a Meet & Greet for new members. It was a great opportunity to meet each other, learn more about the League, and provide input! In fact, the idea for Drinks and Dialogues (see page 3) came out of that evening's discussion!

So for any of you who have joined the League in the past year, our next New Member Meet & Greet will be breakfast at Janine Toth's home on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. Her address is 2 White Place, Bloomington.

RSVP to Becky Hines, membership chair, bec4523@aol.com.



Membership Reminder!

Dues are due now for our membership year which starts **October 1, 2013**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Detach and Mail to: Becky Hines, 517 Kreitzer Avenue, Bloomington 61701.
Email questions to bec4523@aol.com.

Fall Membership Event



Co-President Maureen O'Keefe addresses members and guests



Kathy Tate-Bradish and Janet Kittlaus present LWVIL position in favor of a Graduated Rate Income Tax

Gary Hoover Receives Florence Fifer Bohrer Award

At the Fall Membership Event on September 23, Gary Hoover was presented the Florence Fifer Bohrer Award. Gary was very pleased to be selected, saying that he knew and respected Fifer Bohrer, learning about her in part through her connection to the Unitarian church of which he is also a member. This award is given annually to an individual or couple who exemplifies the spirit of Florence Fifer Bohrer – a generous and selfless commitment to our community and others. LWV will make a donation to the Community Cancer Center in Hoover's name.

Gary Hoover has been a resident of McLean County for over 40 years and is a member of the League of Women Voters. During that time he has been involved in many civic organizations that benefit the social welfare of McLean County. He



Gary Hoover, 2013 recipient of LWV Florence Fifer Bohrer Award

has been willing to assume leadership positions and is always an active volunteer on projects that enhance the quality of life in our community.

Among the organizations in which Hoover has been active (and some of the leadership positions he has held) are:

- Unitarian Universalist Church, Board President
- Condominium Association, 1st Board President
- Founding member and Board President of:
 - Vladimir/ Canterbury Sister City Organization of Bloomington/ Normal
 - Cubamigos Sister City of Bloomington/ Normal
- Local Compassion and Choices organization, Board President
- McLean County Arts Center, Board member and Human Resources committee chair
- Senior Professionals, Board member and Mentoring committee chair
- Jail Review Committee Observer for LWV
- Observer for District 87 for LWV

He has also been an active supporter of various music, theater, and arts events in the community.

Florence Fifer Bohrer was the first female senator in the Illinois legislature, serving two terms from 1924 to 1932, and founded the local League of Women Voters chapter in 1933.

Leaguer Remembers March on Washington

Mary Broad Participated in Historic 1963 Event

All the wonderful stories and pictures and discussions in the news about the 1963 March on Washington have encouraged me to mention that my husband Stu and I were in that original and exciting event. Stu was a federal employee and was the chair of the Arlington County (VA) Council on Human Relations, a fairly small but active group. We generally worked to eliminate segregation in various settings: Stu participated in sit-ins at drugstore lunch counters, and when possible to get away from tending our 5 small children, I occasionally helped to picket movie theaters that did not admit blacks.

Almost a dozen of our group went to the March on Washington, and found it an exhilarating experience! There was no concern about violence among the marchers, who were dressed in our best and on our best behavior! (However, the White House nearby was surrounded by buses

parked bumper to bumper.) A. Philip Randolph, the main organizer, welcomed us exclaiming how delighted they were to see us, since they hadn't known how many would show up! Bus after bus after bus kept unloading more and more people. We sat on the grass under the trees very near the Lincoln Memorial, and had a good view and easily heard all the speakers, culminating in that remarkable "I have a dream" speech of Martin Luther King's.

I have since read that about one fifth of the 250,000 at the march were white. The babysitter we got that day was a grandmotherly African-American who had no idea of where we were going, and no interest later in hearing about it. It was a great occasion, with considerable impact later on legislation and policies, and I treasure the experience.

--Mary L. Broad

THE HIBBERT R. ROBERTS LECTURE IN PUBLIC POLICY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

MELISSA WEINTRAUB

SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

"Warriors, Prophets, Peacemakers and Disciples: Religious Peace-Building in the Face of Religious-Inspired Violence"

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Old Main Room

Bone Student Center

Illinois State University

This event is sponsored by the Department
of Politics and Government

This lecture is free and open to the public

**A native of Bloomington-Normal, Rabbi
Melissa Weintraub** works on the west bank. She is a noted speaker and educator on Judaism and conflict resolution.

Melissa was the founding director of Encounter, an organization dedicated to strengthening the capacity of the Jewish people to be agents of change in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Weintraub built Encounter from the ground up to an internationally recognized organization. Weintraub was awarded the Grinnell Young Innovator for Social Justice Prize in recognition of her contributions as a young social entrepreneur.

Melissa has lectured and taught in prestigious forums on four continents, and is currently a faculty member for the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. She was ordained as a Conservative Rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary and graduated from Harvard University with a *summa cum laude* degree in Political Theory and Women Studies.

Other League News

Mental Health Study in Full Swing

Our committee is off to a great start with over 20 enthusiastic members. Our goals are to determine what services are lacking in our community and recommend improvements in mental health delivery.

We have identified over 40 agencies and individuals to be interviewed and are in the process of formulating questions we wish to ask. Committee members will be going out in teams of three for the interviews.

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 7 at 7:30 at Westminster Village. Committee members are: Committee members are: Anne Nadakavukaren, J.E. Myers, Judy Buchanan,

Judie Bey, Victoria Harris, Laurie Bergner, Jan Hood, Carol Reitan, Dianne Williamson, Julie Sullivan, Mary Riddle, Judy Poultney, Phylis VerSteegh, Valerie Parker, Judy Valente-Reynard, Seena Bhenda, Martha Everman, Karen Major, Donna Nickels, Barbara Stuart, and Jason Chambers.

Please contact Chair Sally Rudolph if you are interested.

--Sally Rudolph
663-5166

Lsrudo@comcast.net

Observer's Report:

McLean County Jail Review Committee

September 26, 2013

The McLean County Jail Review Committee is a citizens' group whose purpose is to identify areas of concern which may exist relative to the county jail operation and bring those areas of concern to the jail administration and other public officials. The Committee also recommends solutions; seeks support of other organizations; advocates educational and socialization programs; and assists in educating the public regarding matters pertinent to the jail.

The Committee continues to monitor health issues relative to the jail population. To develop a more comprehensive understanding of the issues, the Jail Medical Supervisor (reports directly to County Administrator) and Clinical Nurse Administrator were invited to address the Committee.

There are two certified nurses on duty for each shift. They address all of the in-house

medical needs of the current jail population of 248 inmates. In addition, a dentist visits the jail once per week; a doctor three times per week; and a psychiatrist twice a month. Medications are purchased locally and administered at no cost to the inmates. Those with medical issues not addressable by the medical staff are transported to local medical facilities. Inmates wishing to visit with a nurse are required to complete a request form and are usually seen the day of the request. There is a noticeable increase in the number of inmates who are diabetic and a drop in the number with HIV.

The Jail Review Committee expressed its appreciation for the professionalism and dedication of the nursing staff.

--Gary Hoover
Jail Review Committee

Correction:

Last month the *Voter* stated that the Chocolatier was staying in downtown Bloomington. Actually, the Chocolatier is planning to move to a new Bloomington location, 3 Finance Drive, at a future date (probably after Halloween). *The Voter apologizes for this error.*