



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

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The Voter, newsletter of the League of Women Voters of McLean County, is published 8 times a year

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The Voter

of McLean County

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May 2014

A Look Ahead:

LWV of McLean County Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 p.m.

- McLean County Government Center
115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington
- Pre-meeting documents on page 6

Help Wanted – Precinct Committees

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.

- Fox Creek Laborer's Hall
2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington
- Precinct Committee vacancies to be filled by County Clerk & Bloomington Elections Commission
- Job description on page 4

YWCA Women of Distinction Banquet

Thursday, May 22, 5:30 p.m.

- Brown Ballroom – ISU Bone Student Center
- Recognizing women's professional & personal achievement
- Several League members nominated this year
- See page 4 for more information

LWVUS 51st Annual Convention

June 6-10, Dallas, Texas

- "Power: Our Voices, Our Votes"
- Watch for report from J.E. Myers in August *Voter*
- Link to national site LWV.org

***Presidents' Letter:* A Special Thank You from Maureen O'Keefe and Kathy Tosh**

As our League year winds down, we'd like to send a special thank you to all of the League and Board members who have contributed so much of their time and talents over the course of this very busy and challenging year. **Your efforts make our League successful!**

You should know our Board of Directors is an extremely talented and hard-working group of volunteers who have put in some overtime this year! We added four new Board members in 2013-14: Emily Vigneri as Treasurer, Judy Valente on Publicity, Susan Alford as Voter Editor, and J.E. Myers on Voter Services, all of whom quickly and effectively learned their new duties and roles. And of course the heart of any local League is its membership, and our Membership Director Becky Hines worked tirelessly to increase our membership ranks. While we were proud to open our year with 125 members, several members were unable to renew. However, thanks to Becky's efforts, we are still able to close April at 139 members strong.

Fundraising Director Dianne Williamson once again orchestrated two successful fundraisers, our Wine Tasting Event in December and the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction in April. As we've mentioned before, 100% of the dues we collect from our members is spent on our League's per member obligations to the U.S. and State Leagues of Women Voters, so it's vital we raise funds to pay for the programs and community outreach efforts we take on each year. And as fantastic as Diane is as our Fund Raiser-in-Chief, she couldn't do it without her committee, League members Martha Everman, Mary Vogel, and Pam Lubeck.

We thank our Voter Services Directors Jim Keeran and J.E. Myers for their fine work this year, but a special nod goes to League member Carol Baker who as usual, was also active in voter registration drives (as well as petition signing drives for the Redistricting Amendment). Laurie Bergner brought us another enlightening year of programs and persuaded Rita Garman, Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court to be our featured speaker at our Annual Dinner. And have you noticed the new look and feel of the *Voter*? New *Voter* Editor Susan Alford has been busy providing both a fresh face and voice to the *Voter*, and she's also made some much needed improvements in the technologies that support it. Web Master Mary Lynn Edwards continues to support and improve our League's web site and Facebook presence; while last but not least, new Board member Judy Valente made sure our programs, studies, and events were well-publicized in the media throughout the year.

Action Director Sally Rudolph and League member (*and President emeritus*) Phylis VerSteegh each led critical studies this year, Sally on mental health services in McLean County and Phylis on the Modified Ward System proposed for Bloomington via a March 2014 referendum. Sally and Phylis each guided study groups of two dozen or more League members! We are all extremely grateful to Sally, Phylis, and their study groups for the thorough and timely work completed on these critical initiatives.

Whether it's giving public speeches or media interviews on the key studies we're conducting or issues we're supporting (e.g., Modified Ward System/ Mental Health studies, Graduated Rate Income Tax, or the proposed Redistricting amendment) Board members and Leaguers have been willing to step up and speak out! So we're sending a special thank you to those who've been active in organizing or speaking in public forums on our League's studies or advocacy efforts, especially: Camille Taylor, Alexis Kalish, J.E. Myers, Phylis VerSteegh, Jan Hood, Judy Valente, Julie Prandi, Judie Bey, Judy Buchanan, Anne Nadakavukaren, Carol Straka, Julie Sullivan, and Glen Ludwig. And for a full listing of everyone in our League who was involved in the very successful local petition circulation efforts in support of the Redistricting amendment, please check out Glen Ludwig's article on page 5 of this issue.

Kathy and I have been working with the Illinois State League this year to identify ways we can continue to grow, thrive, and increase our relevance within our community. It's our strong opinion the strength of any League lies in the commitment and energy of its membership, and we're very grateful that here in McLean County, we've seen ample evidence of a committed and active membership. So whether you've been active on a study, contributed your talents to the Silent Auction, circulated petitions, raised your voice, or supported us with your year-in and year-out membership, we value each and every one of you.

We thank Leaguers Charlette Elm, Judy Poultney, Julie Prandi, Phylis VerSteegh, Diana Hauman, Rose Marsaglia, and Linda Stockton for collaborating with Board members on the Programs, Bylaws, Budget, and Nominating Committees in preparation for our Annual Meeting on May 27. Sadly we'll be saying good-bye to some members of the Board – Camille Taylor and Becky Hines – but happily, we'll also be welcoming new Board members when we meet.

So we close as we opened, by sincerely thanking each of our excellent Board members, and very crucially, our entire active and dedicated membership for all of the successes we've collectively achieved this year.

--Maureen & Kathy

City of Bloomington 2015 Budget: *Observers Special Report*

It has been a long, rough road trying to reach a balanced budget for the City of Bloomington's next fiscal year. We hope you have been watching this "mad budget hearing ride." The *Pantagraph* reporter, Rachel Wells, has provided excellent commentary on this issue. As the finish line nears, our League observers have attempted to recap what has been revealed in the past few weeks of this interesting race to balance the budget.

Lap 1: *Dropping back to November.* A fast start occurred when the council decided to put the pedal to the metal by aggressively increasing contributions to both police and fire pensions (above the state law's required minimum) at a cost of nearly \$1.5 million over the first five years to 2020. However, after 2020, that figure will drop to around \$500,000, thus saving \$70 million in long term costs through 2043. Patty Lynn Silva, City Finance Director, expected that pensions would have received support through an increase in funds from property tax levy, but neither the Mayor nor Council want to increase the property tax.

With a looming deficit ahead, Mayor Renner called for a change of course. He has insisted on finding a way to pay the pension obligation and said he "will not sign a budget without policy priorities to pay the pensions."

Lap 2: *Bumps along the track.* More dollars are going out than coming in to pay increased labor costs. Filling vacated police positions and hiring three more firefighters, paying employee merit increases and funding health care benefits that have not kept up to par have resulted in a structural deficit. All these obligations are considered necessary and amount to nearly \$8 million of a total proposed budget increase topping \$11 million or 6.54%.

Taking a Pit Stop: City Manager David Hales said he has seen opposition or reluctance to raise new revenue; however, how else to deal with a structural deficit, with labor up \$4 million and debt service already cited of \$1.5 million to increase the pension policy? Hales acknowledges the council has struggled to determine consequences of cuts and come to agreement. He asked the council to prioritize items in his budget model, which outlines \$2.5 million in revenue enhancements and \$3.1 million in reductions. Aldermen hosted two town meetings in an effort to get constituent input. Still, as of April 15, there was no solid support for the proposal as a whole, though some members said they were waiting to decide until the council had more discussion.

Lap 3: *Zooming ahead.* The Council held a Special Meeting on Monday, April 21, 2014 and rejected the utility tax increase, but instead adopted a 4-cent/gallon motor fuel tax, an amusement tax and a plan to use \$1.2 million in emergency reserves to balance its budget. Mayor Renner is not in favor of using reserves, wanting the council to come to an agreement on how to solve the long-term structural deficit problem.

Finish Line? On Monday, April 28, aldermen changed positions; the council passed a utility tax on natural gas, water, electricity, and telecommunications, without the use of reserves, thus preventing the mayor's veto. The council members got into a heated discussion and ended up tabling any additional talk of cuts and revenue enhancements.

The city's long-term debt is just so enormous; they are having trouble agreeing on what would be the best solution—though they all say they want to do the right thing. It is a funding problem passed down over the years and not dealt with by prior councils. As things come to light it is obvious that there will be a complex financial impact on Bloomington for many years to come.

Mechanics: *Overtaking the DRS (Drag Reduction System).* The rough road to a final budget shows that it is very important for Leaguers to contact your aldermen about your concerns and priorities. They WANT to hear from you!

You can find your alderman's contact information at the City's website, www.cityblm.org. The website also has E-Notify, where you can sign up to be notified via email when agendas/ packets for all Bloomington Council meetings are posted.

The Yellow Flag: You don't have to be a League observer to attend council meetings. Also, you can view meetings by clicking the live video stream at the bottom of the City's website page.

Finally, for more details about Bloomington's 2015 Proposed Budget time line follow this link: <http://www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=562>

--Carol Baker and Phylis VerSteegh

Garman Sparkles & Auction Shines

What a beautiful night at our Annual Dinner & Silent Auction. Over 100 people enjoyed socializing and bidding during the wonderful buffet. Then we sat back to listen to our guest speaker, Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Rita Garman.



Garman described the importance of diversity and equality in the judicial system. She quoted one of her favorite American attorneys, "there is one human institution that makes a pauper the equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid man the equal of an Einstein, and the ignorant man the equal of any college president. That institution... is a court... in our courts all men are created equal," Atticus Finch (Harper Lee, *To Kill A Mockingbird*)

Thank you to all who attended for making this a successful evening. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the auction and those who bid on them. And a special thank you to the Fundraising Committee: Mary Vogel, Martha Everman, and Pam Lubeck. **They** make it happen. --Diane Williamson

YWCA Women of Distinction League Members Among Nominees

The nominees for the 25th annual YWCA Women of Distinction were announced on April 14. We were pleased to see three League members among the nominees, Dr. Laura Berk, Jan Meadows and Phylis VerSteegh.

We are also pleased to note a whopping 21 members of League are among the Past Women of Distinction recipients. As it is the twenty-fifth anniversary, the past winners will also be honored. Past recipients who are League members include: Dr. Laurie Bergner, Judy Buchanan, Jana Edge, Martha Everman, Laura Furlong, Cheryl Gaines, Myra Gordon, Marlene Gregor, Dr. Sandra Harmon, Hon. Lee Ann Hill, Becky Hines, Janet Hood, Janet S. Hood, Karen Major, Judy Markowitz, Carol Reitan, Hon. Elizabeth Robb, Sally Rudolph, Karen Schmit, Barbara Stuart, and Camille Taylor.

The event is Thursday, May 22 at ISU Bone Student Center, Brown Ballroom. It begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner, keynote speaker and awards at 6:30 p.m. The speaker is Dara Richardson-Heron, MD, who is the CEO of YWCA USA. She is known to be a dynamic speaker. The event is \$55 per person (before May 9). The price goes up after May 9.

The tables for this event are filling up quickly. If you would like to attend please contact Sally Rudolph at LSRUDO@comcast.net or 663-5166 if you have not already done so.

--Sally Rudolph

Precinct Committees Local Representatives Wanted

WHO: Registered VOTERS in McLean County

WHAT: Precinct Committee members to fill precinct committee vacancies. (Vacancies to be filled by both County Clerk and the Bloomington Elections Commission.)

WHEN: Thursday, May 8, 2014

WHERE: Fox Creek Laborer's Hall, 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington (South Veterans Pkwy, R on 6 Points Rd, L on Springfield Rd, L of Fox Creek Rd)

WHY: U.S. political parties need representation at the grassroots level. (Precinct appointees don't need to live in the precinct they represent.)

HOW: Precinct committee members serve important grassroots functions:

- Registering voters
- Passing out campaign literature in your precinct
- Reminding people to VOTE
- Attending their party's meetings.



Both major parties need representation at the precinct level. Please call or e-mail Carol Baker at 820-8131, ckbaker24@gmail.com, with questions and to volunteer for this patriotic, grass roots role in your community.

--Carol Baker

League Action Updates

Independent Map Petition Effort

Many of our League of Women Voters members were active signature seekers during the recent effort to place Independent Map constitutional amendment on the ballot in November. Seventeen of our members captured a total 3159 signatures for an average of 186 signatures each during the long and often challenging effort. Combined with the 65 non-League citizens who joined the Greater Bloomington /Normal region effort, a total of 7037 signatures were captured locally. Thus the LWV activity resulted in 45% of the total local signature collection.

Meredith and Juergen Schroeer were recognized at the April 17 League Fundraiser for being the most active signature capture team during the March-April contest period. The couple generated a total of 297 signatures over the entire campaign. Thanks to the Schroeers for their great accomplishment!

Other LWV members turning in petitions were: Carol Baker, Laurie Bergner, Mary Broad, Jana (Orlyn) Edge, Lynne and Rob Fazzini, Jan Hood, Glen Ludwig, Rose Marsaglia, Anne Nadakavukaren, Maureen O'Keefe, Julie Prandi, Carol Reitan, Sally and Lee Rudolph, Camille Taylor, Phylis VerSteegh, and Mary Zeller.

Thanks to all for your great effort.

At this writing the statewide total has not been released. We have been assured that the grand total delivered on May 1, will be impressive and should be adequate to cover any signatures or petitions deemed to be invalid during the vetting process.

The rage of the foes to ballot placement is being ignited. According to Illinois election law, objectors to a filed petition have 42 business days after the petition filing deadline to lodge an objection, which is June 24. The Board of Elections will finalize the November ballot on Aug. 22. Stay tuned and be ready to become involved in voter education on this critical issue as November approaches.

--Glen Ludwig

Mental Health Study

The Mental Health consensus meeting was held March 25 with about 70 in attendance and very active participation in the process. The Board adopted the following consensus at their April meeting:

MENTAL HEALTH CONSENSUS 2014

The League of Women Voters of McLean County supports:

- Pro-active core leadership, planning, coordination, and collaboration for mental health services in McLean County.
- Funding which is effective to meet needs for a comprehensive continuum of mental health services in McLean County.
- Cradle to grave mental health services for all individuals in McLean County.

The Committee Report has been posted on our League's website <http://lwvmclean.org> or go to [LWV McLean County Mental Health Study](#). The Study Committee will now develop an Action Plan using the consensus to find ways to help improve mental health services in McLean County.

--Sally Rudolph, Study Committee Chair

Help Wanted - Program Ideas

- The LWV's monthly programs are a large part of our mission to inform & educate the community about important issues
- Got an idea for next year's educational programs? Send it to Laurie Bergner at drlaurieb1@frontier.com

Annual Meeting Documentation: Please review and or print the following Program Positions and Bylaws before the Annual Meeting

Local Program Committee Report

Program Committee Members: Charlette Elm, chair; Maureen O'Keefe, Judy Poultney-

The Local Program Committee for the 2014 LWV Annual Meeting met on March 4, 2014 and recommended the following program positions be retained for the 2014-2015 League year (see #1). The committee also suggested revisions in the wording of three positions (see #2). Position revision based on Consensus is included (see #3). In addition, three proposed positions were submitted by League members (see attachment #4 which includes the proposals and responses).

--Respectfully submitted, Charlette Elm, chair

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF McLEAN COUNTY Proposed Local Program Positions 2014-2015

#1 The Committee Recommends Retention of the Following Positions:

COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Adopted 2005, retained through 2014)

League supports:

Administration

- Appointment of all administrative personnel;
- Election of all policymakers

County Board

- Review of the general structure, procedures, committee structure, districts and size with a view toward greater transparency, accessibility to the public and more effective communication within the board;
- Production of a five-year strategic plan required of all county department heads, including budget provisions; presentation of these plans each year to the county board as part of the budget process for accountability purposes;
- Pursuance of intergovernmental agreements that address the issue of land annexation, including transferring road maintenance to the annexing body.

ELECTION COMMISSION (Adopted 2009, retained through 2014)

McLean County should unify its election offices in a County Election Commission.

HOME RULE FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (Adopted 2004, retained through 2014)

League strongly supports provisions in the 1970 Illinois Constitution that allow certain local governments to adopt home rule and opposes any attempt to restrict this option.

JUVENILE JUSTICE/CHILD WELFARE (Adopted 2000...noted in History of Programs - retained through 2014)

League supports cooperation and coordination among agencies and government officials who work with juveniles.

LIVING WAGE (Adopted 2009, retained through 2014)

League supports a living wage for all City of Bloomington employees.

OPTIONS FOR JUSTICE (Adopted 2011, retained through 2014)

League endorses:

- Support efforts to maintain a Drug Court Program, Mental Health Court Program, GPS electronic monitoring, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and its committees.
- Study Victim-Offender Mediation, Day Reporting Center, and 24-hour probation reporting kiosk.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Adopted 2004, retained through 2014)

League supports the following:

Financing the McLean County Health Department

- Primary support from the State of Illinois;
- Increase of the current limit on the local county tax level for the Health Department.

Hiring Practices for the Health Department

- State set minimum standards;
- Open hiring policy, including an equal opportunity statement.

Services

- Continuous evaluation of needs and monitoring of existing programs;
- High priority on services to low-income families;
- Cooperation and coordination between the Department of Public Health and mental health services.

Selection of New Board Members

- County-wide representation;
- Unlimited number of terms for members;
- Application for appointment through the County Board.

Keeping the Public Informed

- Filing of reports in the public libraries;
- Publicizing of services available;
- Publication of board meeting times.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (Adopted 2009, retained through 2014)

League supports an integrated solid waste management strategy that encourages a regional approach to ensure maximum waste reduction, adequate disposal capacity, recycling/reuse program for the entire community.

LOCAL EDUCATION (Adopted 2005, retained through 2014)

League supports:

- Broadly-based measurement of student achievement by teachers and administrators;
- Frequent teacher evaluation by principals or department heads;
- A diverse curriculum made possible, if necessary, by an extended school day.
- Organization of districts for educational benefits to students, administrative efficiency and economy;
- A financial basis for schools in McLean County that can provide a good education for all students.

#2 The Committee Recommends Revisions in the Wording of The Following Positions:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR McLEAN COUNTY (Adopted 2005, retained through 2013)

League supports:

- A written narrative accompanied by maps;
Revision: A written plan accompanied by maps;
 - Development of community support;
 - Preservation of natural resources and prime agricultural land;
 - Enforceable land use ordinances.
-

EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE (Adopted 2004, retained through 2013)

League supports a paramedic service for Bloomington-Normal, funded by a combination of government support and use fees. League opposes a separate taxing district or special assessment.

Revision: League opposes a separate taxing district or special assessment **for paramedic service**.

PUBLIC RECREATION (Adopted 2005, retained through 2013)

League endorses:

- Maintain and improve recreational facilities (national standards based on population are an appropriate goal);
Revision: **Continuous maintenance and improvements** of recreational facilities (national standards based on population are an appropriate goal);
 - Continued development of recreational programs for both large numbers of people and a wide variety;
Revision: Continued development of **a wide variety of recreational programs for all age levels**.
 - Cooperation among government units whenever possible.
-

#3 The Committee Recommends the Following Revision Based on Consensus

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH (Adopted 2000 - Proposed restudy, May 2013)

League supports expansion of community-directed services to children, adolescents and the elderly.

Local study chaired by Sally Rudolph - Consensus was held March 25, 2014.

Action: Vote on New Program Position established through Consensus as follows:

Proposed Revised Position:

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH

The League of Women Voters of McLean County supports:

- Proactive core leadership, planning, coordination, and collaboration for mental health services in McLean County
 - Funding which is effective to meet the needs for a comprehensive continuum of mental health services in McLean County
 - Cradle to grave mental health services for all individuals in McLean County
-

#4 Proposed New Studies and Recommendations:

The Program Committee received six suggestions from membership; all were thoroughly reviewed by the Committee and brought to the Board of Directors at the April Board Meeting. The Program Committee and Board of Directors recommend the following suggestions be brought to membership at the Annual Meeting:

1) WATER RESOURCES Submitted by Carol Reitan

Over and over again we hear that water will be a major resource that people will be worried about - or starting wars about. We need to see what is the condition of water in McLean County.

The questions to study:

- 1) What water resources are available to McLean County for families, farms, recreation, business, etc.
- 2) Are there threats to adequate, good water;
- 3) Are there areas of the county with particular bad problems or very good resources.

Outcome and Committee Recommendation: Anne Nadakavukaren has agreed to chair this study. Program Committee recommends we proceed with a formal program position study.

2) HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY Submitted by Laura Furlong

Rationale: Research has stated that the basic need of shelter is important for people and families to reach their potential. In our area, housing has been stretched with an influx of people external our community and the needs of university students which creates a transient need for housing. Homelessness for a community with abundant resources should be addressed with the focus being on building a network of support for the homeless that includes stable, affordable housing. Affordable, accessible housing in safe neighborhoods is key to people being able to have jobs and security in their lives.

Scope: In reviewing housing needs and solutions in our community, the League would be able to research how lack of affordable housing impacts our community and the success of all of its citizens. There could certainly be opportunities for new collaborations and sharing of resources in the community to address the needs. Also, there may be opportunities for the community to gain knowledge about housing options available that may not currently be used to their fullest potential.

Leadership: Chairpersons could include representatives from homeless shelters, human service providers and community impact partners (i.e. State Farm Philanthropy, United Way, Bloomington Housing Authority).

Recommendation: Proceed with an "Action Study" to understand the issues more clearly. Central Community Action could be a partner in this study. Laura will help us find a chair for the study.

3) ADULT PREVENTATIVE DENTAL CARE

Submitted by Deborah L. Skillrud

Adult preventative dental does not exist for no-income individuals in our community. And, low-income members of our community receive very little preventative dental care. Medicaid, as issued through the Affordable Care Act, currently provides only emergency dental care for one {1} extraction, an X-ray, and an exam.

Preventative dental care for our community's indigent adult population would potentially:

1. lessen the immediate needs for emergency care,
2. avoid the need for fillings and extractions,
3. prevent issues of decay, gum disease and even mouth cancer,
4. improve appearance which may help employability and self-esteem,
5. reduce the need and cost for flippers or dentures.

Several key organizations such as McLean County Health Department (MCHD), Community Health Care Clinic (CHCC), John M. Scott Health Resource Center (JMSHRC) and City of Bloomington Township (COBT), have touched on the subject of preventative dental but nothing has been formalized.

John M. Scott Health Resource Center provides \$200 per fiscal year to qualified adult individuals who receive income (excluding SSI). Ten dentists in Bloomington/Normal see John M. Scott Health clients and provide a 30% discount on preventative services. Drs. Capodice, Doran, Efaw, & Ocletree LLC hold two free dental clinics per year to extraction teeth. These are great collaborated efforts, yet with so many dentists in our community, why are we not doing more free preventative dental care?

I am willing to participate and help recruit a chair. I am unable to be a chair myself because of my commitment at work as Supervisor and Administrator with Township and John M. Scott. Suggestions of a chair and/or committee members for this study are individuals that have not been contacted yet.

I am impressed by the League of Women Voters' thoroughness of study to help resolve issues for the betterment of all people in our community. As with the Mental Health issues, the responsibility to care for the needs of the disadvantaged should be a community-wide effort so that we may avoid placing financial burdens on any one organization or business.

Recommendation: Work with Deb to recruit an action chair and conduct an Action Study.

League of Women Voters of McLean County Bylaws:

Revision: The title of *Vice President* to be changed to *President-Elect*

BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MCLEAN COUNTY

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of McLean County. The local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE II PURPOSES AND POLICY

SECTION 1: Purposes. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of McLean County are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

SECTION 2: Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters of McLean County shall be eligible for membership.

SECTION 2: Types of Membership. **A. Voting Members.** Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues. **B. Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: Number, Manner of Selection, & Terms of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, four elected directors and other appointed directors. One-half of the elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years beginning on June 1 following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Membership Director and Action Director shall be elected in even-numbered years; Voters Services Director and Program Director shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors as they deem necessary to carry out the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year, also beginning June 1 and expiring May 31 following the Annual Meeting. In the event an appointed director does not complete his or her term and it is necessary to fill such position in order to carry out the work of the League, the elected members may appoint a successor to complete the unexpired term until May 31 following the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V, OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Enumeration & Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of McLean County shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the Annual Meetings and take office the following June 1.

-Article V cont. p.12

In addition, the outgoing President may serve a one-year term as President Emeritus with no specified duties other than advisement to the new board. The President and President-Elect shall be elected in odd-numbered years; the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

SECTION 2: The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

SECTION 3: The President-Elect. The President-Elect shall perform such duties as the President and Board may designate. The President-Elect may also chair special committees and studies as directed by the President or Board.

ARTICLE VI, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1: Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of McLean County shall commence on the first day of July each year.

SECTION 2: Dues: A. Dues shall be payable annually in September. Any member who fails to pay dues within four months of September 30 (January 31) shall be dropped from the membership rolls. **B.** A change in the amount of dues shall be published one month in advance of any general meeting and voted upon at that meeting and shall become effective the beginning of the next fiscal year. **C.** Appropriate reductions in local dues may be made for members of the same household and in cases of financial need, as determined by the board. **D.** Any member who has been a member of the League for fifty years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

SECTION 3: Budget. At least two months prior to the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Budget Committee and a chair to prepare a budget for the following year. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair. The proposed budget must be approved by the Board of Directors. The proposed budget must be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 4: Audit. At the end of each two-year term of office of the Treasurer or when there is a change in Treasurer, the Board of Directors shall designate one member of the League of Women Voters of McLean County to audit and examine the books of account of the corporation and to report, in writing, to the Board of Directors the balances and conditions of such books.

ARTICLE VII, MEETINGS

SECTION 1: Membership Meetings. The President or Board may call general meetings of the membership as necessary in addition to the Annual Meeting. Date, time, and place of the meetings shall be determined by the board. Notice of the meetings shall be given to the membership at least seven days prior to the meeting. (NOTE: The requirement for at least three general meetings of the membership yearly has been eliminated.)