

Looking Ahead - November

9 *General* State of the State

Illinois has no November election this year. We vote next in a primary election on February 5, 2008

President's Corner



Dear Leaguers,

This is a time to celebrate our League.

Our 85th Anniversary Celebration is just around the corner! More details are in this newsletter, but remember **this isn't just a meeting; it's a party**. Cindi Canary is a great speaker and the topic of Springfield politics may be distressful but it sure is fascinating. Thanks to Deb Rugg, the Chair, and the whole 85th Anniversary Committee.

You may have friends who would be equally fascinated. I will be plugging the Celebration on an appearance on WILL-AM radio - Celeste Quinn's show on Oct. 4, 2007 at 2:45 to 2:58.

Thanks to Betty Segal for her great work on the Who's Who. She has revamped it for readability and has done a great job single-handedly. Take a look at it. It should have come to your mailbox already. I know it's a very much appreciated booklet, because my secretary kept bugging me for the new one. Betty is also the newest member of the County Public Health District Board, as well as being our Publicity chair so she's one busy lady.

The meeting on September 20, 2007 on "Judging the Judges". was a great presentation by Laurie Bergner from McLean County League of Women Voters. I hope you heard it. McLean will have a Voter's Guide for Judicial election in Nov. 2008. We will have such a Guide, too, if members will volunteer to work on the project. So far three Board members (myself, Shirley Stillinger and Peg Flynn) have volunteered. If you heard Laurie you already know there's some work to do to accomplish this. Please contact me by email (tcrowley9491@gmail.com) or phone (649-3500) if

you are interested. The more that judicial elections become nasty partisan slugfests, the more difficult it will be for citizens to perceive judges as fair and impartial.

I hope to see you all at our October 11th Luncheon.

Trisha

Trisha Crowley, 359-2514, tcrowley9491@gmail.com

Who's Who

The 2007-2008 Who's Who in Government was released at our September meeting and is now in the hands of most members, government officials, libraries and citizens. Deliveries are ongoing this month by our Observers and by other volunteers.

A facsimile of Who's Who with some clickable links is now online at our Prairienet website, though the format is still under construction. See it there now and throughout the year at www.prairienet.org/lwv/.

Who's Who Editor Betty Segal had a busy summer reformatting the book and updating content. We owe great thanks to Betty and to expert typist Patti Fairbanks for another fine publication.

Who's Who was printed with the generous contribution of Carle Foundation Hospital and Carle Clinic Association

We should all be proud of this publication and its contribution to making government accessible and responsive in our community.

You can pick up a free copy at the reference desk of libraries in Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul, Saint Joseph, Tolono and Mahomet.

<http://www.prairienet.org/lwv/>

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Meet Our October Speaker,
Cindi Canary

Cynthia Canary is the founding director of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) a statewide non-partisan, education and advocacy project. ICPR, which was established by the late Senator Paul Simon, conducts research and advocates reforms to promote civic participation, address the role of money in politics and encourage accountability in government. ICPR was actively involved in the passage of the groundbreaking 2003 Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act and the 2005 Omnibus Elections Reform Act. ICPR addresses a range of issues including campaign finance reform, governmental ethics, judicial independence, elections administration and media reform. ICPR maintains an award-winning website and campaign finance database at www.ilcampaign.org

Previously, Cindi was Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, where she led the successful effort to implement the National Voter Registration Act in Illinois. She has also worked in the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association and has had experience in both state and local government.

Canary serves on the boards of the Chicago Appleseed Foundation and as president of the Mikva Challenge Grant Foundation. She is a member of the University of Illinois National Selection Committee for the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award, the National Justice at Stake Campaign, and the National Center for State Court's Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Campaign Conduct. Canary also coordinates the Midwest Democracy Network, a five state collaborative devoted to enhancing governmental practices and public participation throughout the Midwest.

Canary who the Chicago Tribune describes as "the state's most vocal advocate for good government" is a nationally known speaker and writer. She is a frequent media commentator on campaign finance, elections, ethics and judicial reform. Canary received a B.A. in political science from Hampshire College and did her graduate work at Georgetown University.

October Luncheon Meeting
Celebrating Our 85th Anniversary

The October general meeting of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County will be a celebration of its founding in October, 1922. The luncheon meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m., October 11, 2007, at Kennedy's Stone Creek Upstairs Event Center in Urbana. The program for the event reflects the League's long interest in the actions of elected officials. Cindi Canary, Executive Director, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, will speak on "Beyond Family Feud: Drama, Trauma & Sometimes Hilarity of the 2007 Illinois Legislative Session." Reservations are required for this luncheon, and members of the public are welcome to attend. Contact the program chairman at 217-367-7180 or at DebRugg@aol.com.

When 50 women met in 1922 on the University of Illinois campus to found the Champaign County chapter of the League of Women Voters, they had had the right to vote for only two years. In the 85 years since its founding, this chapter – like all League chapters – has sought to promote informed voting and active participation in government. The Champaign County League financially supports and encourages local student membership in the League through a bequest from Rena Ullmann.

A nonpartisan organization, the League never supports individual candidates or political parties. It does take stands on government issues selected by its membership for study, consensus, and action. Among the issues it has studied and taken action on during its 85-year history are sanitary landfills, the status of African-Americans in the county, county land use problems, drainage districts, local courts, and issues related to children's welfare. These actions resulted in numerous government and private programs to correct the issues that the League had identified and worked to correct. The Champaign County League remains committed to taking a lead in identifying measures to improve our community.

Membership is open to all citizens, women and men, of voting age, and includes three levels of organization: local, state, and national. The League is supported financially by its members and by contributions from the community it serves.

More Who's Who

Board Watchers - Have you taken copies of *Who's Who* to the board you watch? Get copies from Betty Segal in Rantoul (893-3080) or Margaret Olson in Urbana (344-6390), or contact Mary Blair (367-0578) who may be able to help round some up for you if Betty or Margaret are unavailable.

Board watchers, also call Margaret Olson at 344-6390 or mjolson@prairienet.org during the year to report changes to "your" boards so that corrections and additions can be added to the online version. We should have fewer updates this year since there is no November election and the February election is a primary.

Betty Segal, 893-3080, bssegal@mindspring.com

Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee will be having a convocation of all local environmental groups. We will meet October 29, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Urbana Free Library. We will be discussing ways to facilitate communication among the groups on local issues that are of concern to a number of the groups. That should enable the groups to coordinate actions and responses.

Anyone interested in this project should attend.

Carolyn Casady-Trimble, 367-6499,
carolyntrimble@insightbb.com

85th Anniversary

Programs to be on UPTV?

We very much hope so. "Due to circumstances beyond our control" the tapes of the programs which were supposed to be run on UPTV a month ago have not been available to us. We have been told that plans are back on track and will let you know on the website as soon as the schedule is available.

<http://www.prairienet.org/lwv/>

LWVUS Immigration Study

The League of Women Voters has recently launched a two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered will include:

- * business and economic effects and impact
- * diversity
- * effects of global interdependence on migration
- * motivation of refugees, asylees and other immigrants

The Immigration Study is to include the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration.

We have now reached the member agreement phase of the LWVUS Immigration Study, the time when Leagues prepare to take consensus. Grassroots agreement on positions is one of the League's greatest strengths. Preparing for and taking consensus is hard work, but worthwhile. The resulting position will allow the organization to affect national policy for years to come, just as we have been doing in other areas for 87 years – it's part of the organization's history. Go online at www.lwv.org to learn more.

6

Happy 85th, LWVCC

Anniversary Luncheon Information:

217-367-7180

Observers - 2007-08

Champaign

City Council	Deborah Townsend
Historic Preservation Comm.	Janice Swenson
	Sara Stevenson
Human Relations Comm.	Marilyn Bobak
Library Board	Jean Peters
Plan Commission	Peg Flynn
Board of Education - Unit 4	Trisha Crowley
	Barbara Scott
Park Board	Dorothy O'Neill

Urbana

City Council	Mary Blair
Historic Preservation Comm	Gerald Brighton
Human Relations Comm	Amy Kummerow
Library Board	Beth Chato
Plan Commission	Susan Taylor
Board of Education - Dist 116	Grace Schoedel
Park Board	Maureen McCord

Savoy

Village Board	Amanda Sheffer
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Champaign County

County Board	Margaret Olson
Housing Authority	Helen Parker
Mental Health Board	Mary Kay Pleck
Regional Planning Comm.	Nancy Morse
Zoning Board of Appeals	Margaret Johnson

Taxing Districts

C-U Mass Transit District	Sherry DeWan
	Ruth Fisher
County Board of Health	Carol Shupp
	Ann Smith
Forest Preserve Board	Diana Stroud
Parkland College Dist 505	Dorothea Smith
Public Health District - C-U	Shirley Stillinger
U-C Sanitary District	Betty Segal
	James Campbell

Other

C-U Joint Cable & Telecomm. Commission	Stuart Levy
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Attention Observers: Please pick up the new *Who's Who* for your boards if you have not done so already. Call Mary Blair to report once you have made your deliveries.

Mary Blair, Observer Corps Chair, 367-0578

Election Calendar

2007 - 2008 General Primary Election Calendar

Aug 7, 2007

First day to circulate petitions to run for office.

Oct 29, 2007

First day to file original nomination papers in the office of the local election official or Board.

Nov 5, 2007

Last day to file by 5 p.m.

Dec 27, 2007

First day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail or in person for reason of absence from county of residence.

Jan 8, 2008

Last day to register to vote by deputy registrars.

Jan 9, 2008

Grace Period Registration begins at office of election authority or place designated by election authority.

Jan 14, 2008

Early Voting begins at office of election authority or site(s) designated by election authority.

Jan 22, 2008

Grace Period Registration and Grace Period Voting end.

Jan 31, 2008

Voting ends.

Feb 5, 2008

General Primary Election Day.

Feb 7, 2008

Registration reopens.

from: www.lwvil.org/election_calendar/index.html

LWVCC Remembers ~~~

LWVCC 50-year member **Hermie Kruidenier**, passed away on September 4, 2007. Born in Philadelphia, she had lived in Urbana since 1948. She served as League President from 1965-67 and was actively involved in many organizations and activities locally. She is survived by six sons and daughters-in-law and 12 grandchildren.

Bland Palmore of Urbana, died September 5, 2007. She was born in New York City. She was an avid gardener and was active in many community activities. She is survived by her husband, Julian, a son, a daughter, stepmother, two brothers and a sister.