

Looking Ahead - March

13 *General* Observer Reports, Part I
27 *Special* View 85th Anniversary DVDs

President's Corner



Dear Leaguers,

The focus of the February primaries, of course, was on the presidential election but several referenda were also on the ballot, including the Urbana Park District tax referendum (which failed by a small margin) and the City of Champaign Township advisory referendum on funding general assistance (which passed). Another UPD referendum could possibly be placed on the November ballot.

As we approach the fall election, the League will be putting together candidate forums. If you would like to assist, give me a call (649-3500) and we will put you on the list. These are valuable opportunities to see the candidates all together, answering the same questions. These events will be televised, but sometimes we can't get the dates and times into the newsletter. You can find the events by looking at the calendar for UPTV, Channel 6 on the City of Urbana website.

The January meeting provided background on the issue of holding another Constitutional Convention in Illinois- a question that will be on the November ballot. The State League is developing a position on the issue and it will be featured at the Issues Day sponsored by the State League and held this year on February 23, 2008 (in Chicago). A number of members are going up to the event. If you want more info, or to arrange a shared ride, give me a call at 649-3500. We will have more follow-up on this issue as November draws near.

Trisha

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www.prairienet.org/lww/

February General Meeting

Program Planning, LWVUS and LWVCC

Every two years, state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study and maintaining our grassroots tradition.

Waiting until the Convention to gather support for issues often results in limited discussion and incomplete information. Furthermore, raising issues at Convention instead of through the Program Planning process dilutes the voices of Leagues that do participate in the process. LWVUS encourages all Leagues to participate early in the formal Program Planning process!

LWVIL's 2007-2008 Local Program is included with this newsletter. Come to the meeting with suggestions for additions or deletions for the program for next year.

The meeting will be held at the Urbana City Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, on Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 12:00 noon. You can bring your brown bag lunch at 11:30.

This meeting will not be televised on UPTV. Parking is available in the metered spaces in the lots to the north and east of the city building, in the parking garage north of Lincoln Square Village, and along the streets.

Observers Corps

The LWVCC March and April general meetings will feature reports from our Observer Corps. In March we will be at the Urbana City Building at noon and in April we will be at Clark-Lindsey Village in the evening. Mary Blair will be contacting all observers soon to schedule the reports.

The Voter, February 2008, Vol. 62, No. 6, published monthly except July and August by the League of Women Voters of Champaign County, IL, PO Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803-0201

Showing of DVD

Interviews done for 85th Anniversary

Clark-Lindsey Viewing

The first DVD, a history of LWVCC discussion among three longtime LWVCC members, Louise Allen, Dorothy O'Neill, and Helen Satterthwaite, was shown on January 24th at Clark-Lindsey. We will gather again at Clark-Lindsey on February 21st and again on March 27th, to view the remaining four programs (two at each meeting). The topics are: *School Finance, Court Watching, Observer Corps, and LWVCC members who have held public office.*

Attendees on January 24th commented and reminisced about the DVD presentation and made suggestions for additional topics from our 85 year history. We might record discussions on these or other topics: *The LWVCC Student Unit; the publication "From Blight to Beauty" which contributed to the creation of the CCDC Foundation; the "Shack Study" on substandard housing in the twin cities; and the 40 year report.*

Can you think of others? Can you help? Please let any Board member know that YOU want to help research and record the fascinating history of our League. All kinds of reading and writing skills are needed, no previous archival or TV experience, and we guarantee that you'll learn a lot along the way!

UPTV Cable Channel 6 Viewing

The five DVDs are being shown on Channel 6 on a rotating basis each Sunday evening at 8 pm. We also plan to have copies available for borrowing.

LWVCC Student Unit

The LWVCC Student Unit has started an exciting spring semester with seven new members. The group is planning to pass a petition to ask the Champaign city government to mandate recycling service at apartments of 4 or more units, just as required in Urbana.

For information on meeting places and dates, contact Sherry DeWan, Student Unit Liaison, at 367-5250.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of Jan Anderson, Alice Pfeffer, Dorothea Smith, Theresa Michelson and Carole Rebeiz will soon begin their work of preparing a slate of officers to be voted upon at the May meeting. Be nice when they call! Say YES!

LWVUS Convention

The National Convention is June 13-17 in Portland, Oregon. LWVCC will send at least one delegate. In the past one or more Student Unit members have also attended conventions. Attendees will report to us at our June meeting. If you are interested in attending the convention, contact Trisha Crowley (359-2514).

PLEASE BRING THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOU TO THE FEBRUARY 14 MEETING

Election Judges

Several LWVCC members serve as election judges in Champaign County. It's a long work day, but rewarding. We thank them for their service.

Judges arrive at 5 am and leave when done - about 8:30 pm or so this time. If you'd like to know more about what the judges do, or how to apply to be an election judge, see:

www.champaigncountyclerk.com/elections/

"The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

2007-2008 LOCAL PROGRAM
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

- I. HUMAN RESOURCES:** Promote equality of opportunity for all persons in Champaign County.
- A. Promote responsible and effective human relations commissions in Champaign County.
 - B. Encourage and support local school districts in the maintenance of appropriate facilities and in the development of programs which enhance the quality of education for all children.
 - C. Promote effective library service for all residents of Champaign County.
 - D. Support and encourage the provision of public health services to all Champaign County residents.
 - E. Promote public understanding of the need to invest in programs that promote the welfare of children.
 - F. Support a Living Wage Policy for Champaign County.
- II. NATURAL RESOURCES:** Promote responsible, carefully considered use and conservation of our natural resources and environment.
- A. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:
 - 1. Support efforts to maintain and improve water quality with special emphasis on intergovernmental agreements.
 - 2. Support measures that contribute to the solution of solid waste disposal problems and are consistent with environmental protection.
 - 3. Encourage and support public taxing bodies in the acquisition and conservation of open spaces, woods, prairies and waterways with special emphasis on cooperative inter-agency working arrangements.
 - 4. Support improved drainage operations, encourage cooperation among the involved units of government, and promote open space and sound environmental quality along drainage ways and streams.
 - B. LAND USE:
 - 1. Support comprehensive and long-range planning within and for Champaign County, with emphasis on preservation of prime farm land, orderly growth, and open spaces.
 - 2. Support responsible zoning encompassing improved visual environment, citizen education and participation in zoning decisions.
 - C. PARKS AND RECREATION: Support continued improvements in administration, financing, program and facilities of parks and recreation in Champaign County.
- III. LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Promote measures to improve structure, quality, and responsiveness of local government, including county government. Encourage intergovernmental cooperation through neighborhood revitalization and through integration of economic, political and social issues.
- IV. JUDICIAL SYSTEM:**
- A. Support maintaining and improving the judicial system in Champaign County including provision for:
 - 1. Courthouse facilities which meet Illinois Supreme Court standards; establishment of the security for the courthouse and individual courtrooms; establishment of special and safe accommodations within the courthouse complex for children connected with judicial proceedings.
 - 2. Adult and juvenile detention Center facilities and programs which meet state standards, including procedures for identification and care of mentally ill detainees.
 - 3. Equal access to the system for all individuals.
 - 4. Balanced and Restorative Justice
 - 5. Alternative Sentencing
 - B. Promote equity in the juvenile justice and educational systems of Champaign County.