

## Looking Ahead - June 2008

- 13-17 LWVUS Convention, Portland, OR  
26 Potluck Luncheon, honoring past presidents.  
Report from LWVUS convention.
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### President's Corner



Dear Leaguers,

The Annual Meeting will be May 22 at Silvercreek Restaurant. Our speaker that night will be Vernon Burton, who has written extensively about the Civil War and is a recognized Lincoln scholar. Please reserve your space in advance. It's cheaper to reserve in advance and we're better able to plan. We hope to see you there.

This is my last newsletter as President, and it was certainly an honor to serve with such outstanding women (and men). Everyone on the Board works so hard but there is some special recognitions I would like to make. First to Deb Rugg who took the idea for a 85th Anniversary Celebration and ran with it. It was a wonderful event, with Deb's inexhaustible energy pulled it all together. Also thanks to Louise Allen, Dorothy O'Neill and Helen Satterthwaite for putting together DVD programs on our League history. We still have several to view and we hope to make watching these an event for summer when we do not have regular member meetings. Three other people have given outstanding service to the League this year: Carole Rebeiz, Betty Segal and Theresa Michelson. Carole, as President next year faces lots more challenges, but I'm sure she will do an excellent job. Betty took over the Who's Who and completed the entire project herself. She said she wanted to do it the first time herself so she knew how it worked, but please respond to her call for assistance this year as this is not a one person project. Theresa is unfailingly willing to always take on another job and doing it enthusiastically and in a timely way. Thanks also to Margaret Olson, who does an enormous amount of work getting the Voter out each month, along with a myriad of tasks she volunteers for. Mary Blair continues finding Observers, and keeping track of them, for this important program. Joan Miller

continues with the Court Watching program with the Law School. Mary Kay Pleck as Treasurer and Antje Kolodziej as Secretary contribute with those essential functions and I'd like to thank them too.

Whenever you start thanking a few, you realize how many more people there were who helped to make this year go by so fast. There are many others who contributed this year to the League, by bringing us programs, taking care of coffee and tea at meetings, handling renewals, serving on the Board and providing ideas, and working with students. Thanks to all the League volunteers, who exemplify what League is all about.

Trisha

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

Annual Meeting - May 22, 2008

Speaker: Vernon Burton, Lincoln Scholar

LWVCC will hold its annual business meeting on May 22, 2008 at the Silvercreek Restaurant, 402 N. Race St., Urbana. The event will be in the Garden Room and is open to the public.

We are pleased to have as speaker Vernon Burton from the University of Illinois who will speak on "*America in the Age of Lincoln and Today*"

If at all possible, make a reservation using the form elsewhere in this newsletter. Dessert will be \$10 if you pay in advance by May 17, and \$13 if you pay at the door. Call Theresa at 344-4078 if you are attending and paying at the door. We do need to know numbers.

The Annual Business Meeting of the membership will follow Mr. Burton's presentation. Members will be asked to approve the LWVCC local program and the budget for 2008-2009; to vote for an amendment to our By-Laws; and will elect new officers.

Please bring the Annual Meeting insert from this newsletter with you to the meeting.

*The Voter*, May 2008, Vol. 62, No 9, published monthly  
except July and August by the League of Women Voters of  
Champaign County, IL, PO Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803-0201

## Annual Meeting - Our Speaker

Speaking on “America in the Age of Lincoln and Today” at the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County will be **Vernon Burton**, University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar and Professor of History, African American Studies, and Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His most recent book, *The Age of Lincoln*, received the Chicago Tribune’s 2007 Heartland Literary Award for nonfiction and was a selection for Book of the Month Club, History Book Club, and Military Book Club.

The meeting will be held May 22, 2008, at Silvercreek Restaurant, 402 N. Race Street, in Urbana. Registration and dessert will begin at 6:45 p.m., followed by the program at 7:30 p.m.. Reservations are required. There is a charge of \$10 if paid in advance, or \$13 if paid at the meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend. *We need to know the number of attendees by May 17. If you plan to come and are not mailing your payment, RSVP to Theresa at 344-4078.*

In addition to *The Age of Lincoln*, Burton is author or editor of thirteen other books, including *In My Father’s House Are Many Mansions: Family and community in Edgefield, South Carolina--a detailed analysis of a community*; “A Gentleman and An Officer”: *A Military and Social History of James B. Griffin’s Civil War—a study of one man’s role in the Civil War*; and *The Free Flag of Cuba: The Last Novel of Lucy Holcombe Pickens—an examination of American filibustering in Cuba*. Recognized for his teaching, Burton was selected nationwide as the 1999 U.S. Research and Doctoral University Professor of the Year (presented by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education). In 2004 he received the American Historical Association’s Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Prize. Within the University of Illinois he has won teaching awards at the department, school, college, and campus levels and received the 2006 Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement. Currently, Burton is also Director of the Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science and Associate Director for Humanities and Social Sciences at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, where he is a Senior Research scientist.

## Observer Corps

Thanks to all of our observers for their reports to us at the past two meetings. If you missed hearing any report, Mary Blair can let you read them.

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Mary Blair, Observer Corps Chair, 367-0578

## LWVIL Phonathon 2008

Every Dollar Counts!

Eight LWVCC volunteers worked almost 40 hours over three days on Phonathon 2008. We made calls, wrote Thank You and Pledge notes, counted, sorted and tallied the results.

Thank you (gracias mucho!) to callers/helpers Alora Bowles, Trisha Crowley, Sherry DeWan, Lois Gullerud, Antje Kolodziej, Carole Rebeiz, Diana Stroud and Susan Taylor, who brought in \$1900 for LWVIL and at least \$400 for our League.

But wait, there’s more - it’s not too late for YOU to help out if you have not yet contributed! Every contribution, no matter how small, helps both the state and our local Leagues. We will get 20% of all donations received by LWVIL from November 2007 through May 9, 2008. So you have may still be able to help us out. Please make your checks payable to LWVIL (General fund, not tax-deductible) or to LWVIL-Ed Fund (tax-deductible), putting ‘from LWVCC’ on the memo line, and send to:

LWVIL  
332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite #1150  
Chicago, IL 60604

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## Volunteers Needed for Who’s Who

Betty Segal, editor of Who’s Who, would like help in June with calling local government agencies for current information on government officials and board members. Also, she would like proofreading help in late July and early August. If you would be available at either time, please phone Betty at 893-3080 or e-mail her at [bssegal@mindspring.com](mailto:bssegal@mindspring.com).

**From lwv.org - The Latest - New York Times Editorial Cites League's Work to Protect Voters' Rights, May 2, 2000**

go to - [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) - to get the link to the following:

Editorial Observer - Voting Rights Are Too Important to Leave to the States

By ADAM COHEN - Published: May 2, 2008 at <http://www.nytimes.com>

It would be hard for Florida to surpass its disastrous performance in the 2000 election, but give the Sunshine State credit for trying. Its latest assault on democracy: a law threatening volunteer groups with crippling fines if they make small mistakes in registering voters. The law seems clearly aimed at keeping new voters — especially minorities and the poor — off the rolls. And it is working. The League of Women Voters, which has registered Florida voters since 1939, has called off its registration drive this year.

Florida is not the only state trying to stop eligible people from voting. Georgia passed a law in 2005 that made voters pay for their voter ID cards — a modern poll tax. The fee was eventually removed, but the law could still block as many as 300,000 registered voters without the right ID from casting ballots. In 2004, Ohio ordered counties to throw out voter registration forms that were not on thick enough paper.

It is chilling to think that state legislators and election officials would intentionally try to make it harder for Americans to vote, but they always have — with poll taxes, literacy tests and gerrymandering. There was a time when the Supreme Court regularly struck these restrictions down. In 1966, it held Virginia's \$1.50 poll tax unconstitutional. In 1972, it ruled that Tennessee's one-year residency requirement for voting violated the Constitution.

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**Read the entire editorial in the New York Times for May 2. It can be found online if you register (free) at [newyorktimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)**

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League of Women Voters of Champaign County Annual Meeting  
**Thursday, May 22, 2008, 6:45 PM**  
**Silvercreek Restaurant, 402 N. Race St., Urbana**  
**\$10 per person (\$13 at door)**

**Featuring** Vernon Burton, Abraham Lincoln Scholar, **speaking on:**  
"America in the Age of Lincoln and Today"

**Please make reservations by Saturday, May 17.**

We need to know the number of attendees. If you plan to come and are not mailing in this form, please telephone Theresa at 344-4078 to let her know you will be attending.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert, coffee, tea for \_\_\_\_ persons @ \$10 per person \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Please mail your check (payable to "LWVCC") with this form to arrive by May 17 to:  
LWVCC, PO Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803-0201