

LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
of Greater Rockford

92nd
Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 14, 2014
Forest Hills Country Club
5135 Forest Hills Road
Rockford, Illinois

9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation

9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

10:00 a.m.

Our Speaker – Michael Mastroianni
President of Rock Valley College

10:30 a.m.

Business Meeting

Reservation and payment must be received by June 10, 2014
\$25.00 for members • \$20.00 for guests

Annual Meeting Speaker

Michael Mastroianni, President of Rock Valley College

Subject: *A Vision for the Future of Rock Valley College*



A lifelong Rockford resident and alumnus of Rock Valley College, Mr. Mastroianni has a broad background in higher education, including serving most recently as interim president. During his sixteen years at RVC, he has led the Management Institute (now known as the Business and Professional Institute), served as Dean of Community Outreach, Associate Vice President of Outreach and Planning, and Vice President of Career and Technical Education and Outreach.

A servant leader, Mr. Mastroianni has held professional roles as a teacher, small business owner, mediator, facilitator, and mentor. His current and past board service in the region includes: Fabricators and Manufacturers Association; Family Counseling Services; YMCA Strong Kids; Manufacturing Advisory Council; Rockford Chamber of Commerce; Rockford Arts Council; Rockford Health Council; Rockford Area Economic Development Council; Workforce Investment Board, and Goodwill. Mr. Mastroianni has demonstrated success within Rock Valley College and in developing and growing community partnerships to identify initiatives for improving economic stability and quality of life.

"Over the last nine months our Board has participated in a presidential search that looked at a number of dynamic individuals who all presented strong ideas on where Rock Valley College should head in the future," said Michael P. Dunn, Jr., RVC Board Chair. "We believe Mike not only shares those strong ideas, but has the background to immediately build on our current momentum. Throughout his role as Interim President, Mike demonstrated to our Board and our community what he will offer as our next President. It has been a pleasure working with him hand in hand, and I look forward to what we will accomplish in the future."

Furnished by Rock Valley College

Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order:

Ann Dempsey, President

Announcements and Recognitions:

Ann Dempsey, President

Motion to Adopt Roberts Rules of Order

Minutes of the June 1, 2013:

Susan Janson

Financial Report:

Martha Pippitt, Treasurer

President's Report:

Ann Dempsey, President

Committee Reports:

Health Committee:

Elaine Pfluger

Local Government Committee:

Paula Lind

Member Services Committee:

Diane Cushing

Voter Services Committee :

Jeanne Claeys

Meeting Reports:

Communications Committee:

Claire McIntyre

Education Committee:

Claire McIntyre

Adjournment

Dues & Annual Meeting Reservations

The Annual Meeting is \$25.00 for members and \$20.00 for guests to attend. **Payment must be made by June 10, 2014 in order to attend the breakfast.**

League Membership fees are due now. There are choices for payment, **mail-in** or **on-line** options are available at http://www.lwvgr.org/join_form.html.

Or MAIL THIS MEMBERSHIP FORM with your check.

**To: Martha Pippitt
3703 Sherbrooke Road
Rockford, IL 61114**

Questions? Contact Martha at dpippitt@sbcglobal.net or 815-636-1974.

Name (s) _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day) _____

Cell phone _____ Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Membership Options

- \$75.00 one member.
 \$110.00 two members, same household.

Other available membership categories:

- Young Member (under 35 years of age) or Student (High School or College) \$40.00
 Carrie Chapman Catt \$125.00
 Susan B. Anthony \$150.00
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton \$200.00
 Julia Lathrop \$300.00

Additional Options

- Annual Meeting is \$25.00 for members or \$20.00 for guests. Guest Name _____
 Written communications sent to members \$12.00 per year.

Dues are not tax deductible. Please write your check to:
League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford

Comments:

League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford
91st Annual Meeting
Forest Hills Country Club
June 1, 2013

Opening Greeting: Karen Fysh, presiding, welcomed the members and guests to the 91st meeting. Diane Cushing introduced the speaker, Joe Haverly, Assistant Professor of Life Sciences at Rock Valley Community College.

Speaker: Professor Haverly spoke on the topic of “Fracking”. He called himself “a realistic environmentalist” and said that science should only be accepted when there are enough facts to support it. He considers who is doing the research, where the funding comes from, and whether there is a conflict of interest. Much of the fracking research comes from the fracking industry. Fracking is a method of obtaining fossil fuels by fracturing rocks deep in the earth by drilling 10,000 feet down, creating a cavity, injecting water, chemicals and sand to fracture rock formations and release natural gas to be captured. Potential concerns include a risk for aquifers being polluted and air pollution. Independent research to provide conclusive answers will take years.

Announcements/Recognitions: 50 yr. members were recognized and the \$500 Margaret Wyeth Scholarship was awarded to Auburn senior Lisa Wilken who plans to attend Depaul University and major in business.

Call to Order: 10:55 AM.

After calling the meeting to order, a motion was made, seconded and approved that we observe Robert’s Rules of Order.

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting: Judy Schultz, Secretary, referred to the minutes in the Annual Meeting packet and asked for approval. Diane moved to amend the minutes, Jean Beal seconded, and the motion carried. Kathy Scarpaci moved to approve the amended minutes, Ann Powell seconded and the motion carried. Changes included “Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting” to **Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting** and “Financial Report and 2010-2011 Budget” to **Financial Report and 2011-2012 Budget**.

Financial Report/2013-2014 Budget: Treasurer Ann Powell referred to the Annual Meeting packet and asked for approval. The Financial Report and Budget were approved for the 2013-2014 year. Membership renewal of \$60 is due July 1, 2013.

Voter Services: Jeanne Claeys cited 600 voters registered in 2012-2013 by 52 registrars. The committee is working on an informational flier.

Local Government: Ann Dempsey said the committee met monthly and hosted televised events and forums to inform voters. The committee plans to update the 1998 election office consolidation study. Members with a financial background are needed on the committee.

Local Program Proposal: Leigh Lakey asked for a motion to accept the Local Program Proposal for 2013-2015. Faye Marcus moved to accept, Marti Keeker seconded and the motion was approved.

By-Laws: Leigh Lakey read the proposed changes to the By-Laws and the motion made by the committee was approved.

Nominating Committee: Joel Cowen presented the 2013-2014 slate of officers. Members were asked for any other nominations. With none presented, the slate was approved.

President: Ann Dempsey; Vice-President: Susan Janson; Secretary: Judy Schultz; Treasurer: Ann Powell; Members-at-Large: Assist. Treasurer: Martha Pippitt, Legislative Liaison: Marla Wilson; Standing Organization Committee Chairs: Voter Services: Jeanne Claeys; Member Services: Diane Cushing; Communications: Claire McIntyre. Board-appointed positions include Voter Editor: Leigh Lakey; Publicity: June Jacobs; Webmaster: Janie Wilson-Cook and Environmental Services: Diane Cushing. A Campaign Finance Reform Committee chair is still needed.

Recognition of out-going President: Susan Janson, on behalf of the membership, thanked Karen Fysh for her years of service as President.

A motion was made and approved for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Judy Schultz, Secretary**

Financial Report
Proposed Budget for 2014-2015

		Year to Date	Budget
		July 2013 - April 2014	2014- 2015
<u>Revenues</u>	Balance 7/1/2013	\$7,872.24	\$3,500
	Dues - Regular, Family, Life, Student	\$4,025.00	\$6,188
	Contributions	\$220.15	\$500
	Young member fund	\$-	\$300
	Fund Raising	\$-	\$700
	Annual Meeting	\$-	\$700
	Holiday Party	\$372.00	\$400
	Bank Interest	\$0.29	\$1
	Grant fund	\$600.00	\$-
	Total	\$13,089.68	\$12,288
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Operating Costs	P.O. Box	\$50.00	\$50
	Insurance	\$85.00	\$150
	Pay Pal Fees	\$5.58	\$25
	Web Site & on line Maintenance Fees	\$465.69	\$270
	Supplies	\$27.99	\$50
	Other Miscellaneous	\$5.00	\$50
Events	Leadership, Convention, Training, & Meetings	\$-	\$1,500
	Events Forums	\$175.00	\$500
	Candidate Forums	\$-	\$100
	Annual Meeting	\$-	\$700
	Fund Raising Expenses	\$-	\$200
	Holiday Party	\$383.96	\$400
Dues	National	\$2,565.00	\$2,558
	State	\$2,945.00	\$2,228
Communications	Constant Contact (Voter)	\$-	\$210
	Postage	\$62.60	\$75
	Copying and printing	\$349.25	\$350
Education	Youth Ground Water Festival	\$100.00	\$100
	Grant Fund	\$418.25	\$-
	Total	\$7,638.32	\$9,515
Net (Income) / Expense		\$(5,451.36)	\$(2,773)
Education Fund	\$514.48		
Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Fund	\$9,080.56		

President's Message

Dear Members,

We have many accomplishments to celebrate as we end this year. Our educational forums, candidate forum, studies and ongoing initiatives, have provided learning experiences for our members and advanced our mission.

As the Board reflects on the past year, we are also focused on planning for next year. As a member, your input and ideas are critical. We will be reaching out to you as members at the annual meeting and online for feedback. Please think about what programs, actions or studies would be meaningful and relevant to you. Please consider increasing your participation in an area of interest to you. We request that you share your ideas for League events and opportunities with a Board member so we can consider them in planning for next year.

You are our League and our Board wants to increase input and participation from the members. Our annual meeting is a great opportunity to share ideas. Guests are always welcome at the annual meeting and we encourage all members to bring a guest who may be interested in the League.

Thank you for helping us plan and deliver our programs this year.

Ann Dempsey

Committee Reports

Communications Committee Report

Claire McIntyre, Chair

Committee members:

Claire McIntyre, Chair and Facebook administrator

June Jacob, Public Relations

Teresa Hill, Voter editor and Facebook administrator

Janie Wilson-Cook, Website administrator and List Server administrator

The focus this year was to get the website updated and the list server up and running again. Janie has very successfully done both. If you have not looked at the website, please do. There is a lot of useful information on it. <http://www.lwvgr.org>

To use the list server to share League related information please email lwvgr-list@lwvgr.net. Also put this address in your email address book. There are guidelines for the list server's use that were sent out before it went live. If you did not receive them, please contact us by the email address below and Janie will send you a copy.

We also have a new email contact for the League. lwvgr22@gmail.com You may contact the League through it.

If you have information you would like to share through the Voter, please contact Teresa through our email address and she will get back to you. Deadline for Voter submissions is the 20th of each month.

Facebook has been receiving numerous hits and likes. We are now up to 72 'likes' (which means that many people follow the page). You can follow our Facebook page by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfGreaterRockford> or by clicking on the Facebook logo on our webpage.

We are exploring the possibility of doing a blog for the Rockford Register Star. The focus for those submissions would be public education on voter rights information or League work pertaining to Rockford (such as the study the Local Government committee did on the Rockford elections offices) and to inform citizens of forum information.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Flynn McIntyre, Chair

Education Committee Report

Claire McIntyre, Chair

Members: Claire McIntyre, Chair, Amanda Hamaker, Glenda Shaver, Faye Marcus, Dyanna Chandler, Joel Cowen, Joan Morton, Justine Walhout, Karen Weedman, Judy Schultz.

The committee schedule was a little light this year as the weather and family issues got the best of us. When we did meet, our focus this year was on the progress the Rockford charter schools have made with an eye towards the re-chartering of Galapagos and Legacy Charters (both have been re-chartered). We met with Dan Woestman of the Rockford Public Schools to discuss the re-charter process, particularly in relation to the progress these schools have or have not made.

In light of the upcoming re-study of the League of Women Voters Illinois charter school position, we will continue to work on charters as our focus and are looking to plan several information study sessions with League members and a possible public forum in cooperation with the American Association for University Women and the Illinois Education Association in preparation for our consensus.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Flynn McIntyre

Health Care Committee Report

Elaine Pfluger, Chair

The Health Care Committee spent the past year educating the public on the Affordable Care Act that went into effect on October 2013. Joel Cowen, a member of our committee, gave a power point presentation explaining the Affordable Care Act in September at the North Suburban Library. In April he gave another presentation *The Affordable Care Act- Where the Law Stands Now* at the Library. We published in the LWV Voter the list of Affordable Health Care provider Navigator help sites to help League members choose their insurance plan.

Our goal for this year was Children's Health. Lynn and Wanda gave a report on the many agencies and groups working on children's mental health in the state and locally. We had

discussions of children's health needs and the agencies that have programs for the significant number of homeless children in Rockford. We learned that asthma and childhood diabetes continues to be the leading identified health problem among students of Rockford School District 205. A large number of teen suicides are by firearms and the concealed carry law in Illinois is a public health issue for us to monitor. We will continue to study how the health committee can help educate the "grass roots" advocates about health and safety needs of the children in Winnebago County.

State of Illinois funding issues for Human Services especially children's health, mental/behavioral health and public safety are monitored by the chairman and Action Alerts of upcoming Legislation are sent to the members. The budget proposal that the Governor put forth means an almost \$900 million cut to the Illinois Department of Human Services. He and other members of the general assembly are pushing for an extension of the income tax increase, so that the critical services our communities need my continue.

In November, we started to have discussion about the health committee sponsoring a forum on *Continuing the Conversation; A Documentary on a Taboo Subject* for the public. We collaborated with the Patient Advocacy staff of the three Rockford Hospitals to show the documentary on April 29 to 55 people at Wesley Willows Town Center and conduct the question/answer panel at the end of the documentary. The producers of the one- hour documentary wanted to change our perception of end of life issues and had three major goals in making the film.

1. To change the current American attitude from one that predominantly views end of- life as a failed medical event to one that sees it as a normal process rich in opportunity for human development
2. To inspire dialogue between patient and doctor, husband and wife, parent and child, minister and parishioner.
3. To encourage medical professionals, healthcare organizations and clergy to take the lead in counseling others

We changed the Health Care meetings to the 2nd Thursday of the month.

2014 calendar: July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 11.

Members of the Committee:

Joel Cowen, Wanda Hoover, Sue Janson, Lynn Liston, Barb Smith, Elaine Pfluger, Chair

Local Government Committee Report

Paula Lind, Chair

Local Government Committee Members

Paula Lind, Chair

Jeanne Claeys

Angie Goral

Chris Hiltrop

Susan Janson

Faye Marcus

Jane McAfee

Martha Pippitt

Ann Powell

Election Office Review Members:

Ann Dempsey

Joel Cowen

The Local Government Committee promotes community vision/leadership by citizens. The Local Government Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The goal of our committee is to educate and inform the community on current and local issues.

In 2013, the Local Government Committee devoted most of its time reviewing and updating the 1998 position on combining the City and County Election offices. The Local Government Committee met with City and County leaders, State Representatives, State Senators, Election Office Directors, as well as Chief Judge Joe McGraw. We reported our conclusions at the League's December meeting.

It was voted on unanimously, along with updated recommendations, that:

Improved election services should be provided to all citizens of Winnebago County.

The League continues to support consolidation of administration of election services into a county-wide commission created by the enactment of State of Illinois enabling legislation with the opportunity for public input before legislation.

The Local Government Committee continues to partner with local agencies and organizations to provide an opportunity for our local candidates to inform the voters and group memberships on their candidacy and platform. Our hope is to promote voter participation.

For the 2014 Primary Season, the Local Government Committee partnered with Rockford Urban Ministries (R.U.M.) and American Association of University Women (AAUW) and co-hosted a Primary Candidate Forum for the elected office of Winnebago County Sheriff. The event was held at Christ United Methodist, moderated by former Winnebago County State's Attorney Paul Logli. The event received generous media attention along with a front-page report by the Rockford Register Star.

The Local Government Committee will be working this fall on Local Candidate Forums, and was most recently asked to coordinate a Congressional Forum in Rockford. Additionally, as the committee is called upon, Local Government will continue to address important issues facing our community.

Member Services Committee Report

Total membership: 94

New members: 3

Active members that have moved out of state: 2

Deaths: 1

50 year members: 8

Diane Cushing, Chair

The membership committee with the help of Teresa Hill's computer skills created an "interest card" that can be cheaply printed up, is small, and can be given to people as they enter events. It gives information about the League and how to contact us. It also has a place for a person to give their name, email or phone number so that we can contact them. We have one new member as a result of the interest card.

The membership committee and/or League members will be hosting at the City Market on August 15, 2014. 6 or 7 League members will hand out our interest card to people as they enter the City Market.

Diane Cushing - Chair
Teresa Hill
Claire McIntyre
Carol Perrin

Voter Services Committee Report

Jeanne Claeys, Chair

Members: Jeanne Claeys, Chair; Dianna Chandler, Diane Cushing, Wanda Hoover, Elsie Janson, Susan Janson, Jane Kelley, Ann Marshall, Janie Wilson-Cook

The Voter Service Committee had a busy July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 year:
As of April 25, 2014, we helped register 495 – 304 students, 39 in grocery stores, and 152 through naturalization.

Our biggest project was our Youth Voter Registration Drive in the Greater Rockford area (Boone and Winnebago Counties) for the March 18, 2014, Primary. As of January 1, 2014, a new law enabled any 17 year old who would be eighteen by the November 4, 2014, General Election, to register and vote in both the March 18, 2014, Primary and the November 4, 2014, General Election. Thanks to an \$800 grant from the national League of Women Voters, which Susan Janson had applied for and was granted, we contacted nineteen schools in Boone and Winnebago Counties.

In January, prior to the February 18 deadline for registering, Susan Janson visited nineteen schools, leaving copies of our new Vote Registration Guide and offering our help in registering students. By the February 18 deadline, thanks to League Deputy Registrars, we had registered 304 young people in eleven schools. Some schools already had Deputy Registrars so did not require our help.

Another major project was our new League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Election Guide that includes all information one needs to vote. This guide will be given to anyone registering and needs only minor changes for each election. Thanks to the efforts of Janie Wilson-Cook, who designed the pamphlet, Susan Janson who contacted the City Board of Elections and the Winnebago County Clerk's office for information regarding each election, and Voter Service members who viewed various versions of the Election Guide.

Every election before the deadline for voter registration, we spend weekends at grocery stores registering. Elsie Janson organizing these registrations, contacting the grocery stores and lining up League Deputy Registers to volunteer. Again this fall we will be registering at

stores, probably September 27-28 and October 4-5 before the October 7 voter registration deadline for the November 4 election.

We always look forward to registering new citizens at the Naturalization ceremonies at the new Federal Court House. In 2013-2014 we registered 152 at three ceremonies (August 16, 2013, December 6, 2013, April 25, 2014).

Plans for the future: The November 4, 2014, election is fast approaching. This May we hope to contact the high schools we missed in February, and this fall we will again be at grocery stores. We usually help the Local Government Committee with their forums and are always open to any organization that wants our help.

Interested in becoming a League Deputy Registrar? You need not be a Voter Service member. With a minimal of training at the City Board of Elections, you can become one. We always have many sites but rarely have enough Deputy Registrars. Contact Jeanne Claey's, phone – 815-226-4642, e-mail – jclaey's@comcast.net

Interested in becoming a Voter Service member? We meet the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn. Our first meeting for the new year will be Thursday, August 7, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the Stockholm Inn. Contact Jeanne Claey's, phone – 815-226-4642, e-mail – jclaey's@comcast.net

Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Committee Report



Jeanne Claey's, Chair
LaTasha Curtis of South Beloit High School is the 2014 Margaret Wyeth \$500.00 Scholarship winner. She plans to attend Southern Illinois University majoring in psychology.

During her high school career, LaTasha has been involved in many activities, both in South Beloit High School and in her community. Her academics are strong, and she has played in both basketball and bowling teams. In her community she is vice-president of the South Beloit Leo Club, the young people's branch of the South Beloit Lions Club. This past year the Leo Club had a coat and toy drive for Christmas and an egg hunt for Easter for needy children. They also collect stuffed animals to give to abused children.

Besides these many activities, LaTasha works part-time at the Fair Oaks Health Center. Her grandmother, who is the provider for LaTasha, is very proud that she has received this scholarship. LaTasha says, "At times we struggle but we make it through. The point of me giving back to my community is so I can lower the amount of people who have to experience the struggle that I have experienced."

The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford congratulates LaTasha on her many achievements.

Jeanne Claey's, Margaret Wyeth Scholarship Coordinator

LWVGR Contacts

President: Ann Dempsey – adempsey@oliverclose.com

Vice-President: Susan Janson – sjjanson@comcast.net

Secretary:

Treasurer: Martha Pippitt – dpippitt@sbcglobal.net

Education: Claire McIntyre – claire.f.mcintyre@gmail.com

Local Government: Paula Lind – plind@twp.rockford.il.us

Voter Services: Jeanne Claeys – jclaeys@comcast.net

Voter Editor/Facebook: Teresa Hill – trusstech@live.com

Website/Listserver: Janie Wilson-Cook – janiewc@mac.com