

JUNE 2009

Volume 88

Rockford VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER ROCKFORD

Annual Meeting this Saturday, 9 a.m. Mah-Nah-Tee-See Country Club

ACTION ALERT!! ACTION ALERT!!! ACTION ALERT!!!! ACTION ALERT!!!

Last call to the LWVGR annual meeting this Saturday, June 6. Be on hand to welcome our speaker, Joe Bruscato, newly elected State's Attorney and newest member of the League.

Call or email Ann Powell with your reservation now. Let's give Joe a real League welcome.

Short business meeting follows the food and fun.

CALENDAR

6/6: LWVGR annual meeting at Mah-Nah-Tee-See Country Club, 9 a.m.

6/11: Retirement Party for Ann Powell. 4-6:00 p.m., Auditorium, North Suburban District Library, 6340 N. Second Street. Contact Ann Powell.

6/12: LWVIL convention – Peoria

6/14: Sandra Locke receives the Carrie Catt Chapman award at the state convention.

6/16: Education Committee meets at 9 a.m. at Stockholm Inn

6/19: IR Committee meets at noon, School of Medicine.

8/13: Voter Service potlunk, 5:30 p.m. at Jane McAfee's house

International Relations Committee

I R will meet June 19 at noon at the School of Medicine. We will review highlights from the presentations on

May 9 concerning the importance of international trade to the Rockford area and update the status of proposals

for bringing to justice the supporters of torturing prisoners of war in the previous administration.

Come early for lunch, bring your own, or just join in the discussion.

Elinor Radlund

Save the Date!

You are invited to Ann Powell's Retirement Party on June 11th from 4-6 in the North Suburban Library's auditorium 6340 North Second Street in Loves Park. She has worked at NSLD for 26 years and is calling it quits!

Voter Service Committee

At its last meeting for this fiscal year, Voter Service discussed future plans for 2009-2010. Because there is no election in November, 2009, and major elections in 2010(Governor, U. S. Senate, etc.; Primary February 2, 2010, General November 2, 2010), Voter Service will do limited voter registration in the fall and will attempt to recruit more League members to become Deputy Registrars. It will also help the Local Government Committee with its Six Women Judges Forum on Thursday, October 15, 2009, from 7-9 at NIU's Rockford campus.

The 2009-2010 year will begin with a potluck party at Jane McAfee's at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 13. Anyone interested in joining Voter Service welcome. Our regularly scheduled meetings will resume the first Thursday of every month in September, alternating between early morning meetings at 7:30 a.m. at the College of Medicine and evening meetings at 5:30 p.m. at the Undecided Restaurant. Our September meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, at the Undecided Restaurant.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Jeanne Claeys, Voter Service Committee
 Jeanne Claeys
 jclaeys@rockriver.net

LWVGR CONTACTS

Co-Presidents:

Ann Powell...815-222-8208...ampowell44@yahoo.com
 Leigh Lakey...815-396-8601...chunkybutfunky@rockriver.net

Secretary:

Karen Fysh...815-624-7174...pfeffer43@charter.net

Treasurer:

Susan Dunn...815-540-0999...stcren@hotmail.com

Leadership/Nominating:

Janyce Fadden...815-222-8934...janyce_fadden@yahoo.com

Member Services Chair:

Mary Mc Bernsten...815-398-7985...m.mbernsten@comcast.net

Communications:

Alison Lakey...815-398-8601...m.alison.lakey@gmail.com

Issues and Actions Co-Chairs:

Jane McAfee...815-398-0420...janemcafee1320@sbcglobal.net
 Claire McIntyre...815-623-9004...randymc@charter.net

Environmental Issues Committee Chair:

Diane Cushing...815-877-2386...dc@juno.com

Education Committee Chair:

Claire McIntyre...815-623-9004...randymc@charter.net

Health Care Committee Chair:

Elaine Pfluger...815-395-8716...elainepfluger@sbcglobal.net

International Relations Committee Chair:

Elinor Radlund...815-938-6049...eradlund@att.net

Local Government Committee Chair:

Paula Lind...815-877-4599...plind@twp.rockford.il.us

Voter Services Chair:

Sue Stephens...815-753-7000...sstephens@niu.edu
 Sue Lewandowski...815-877-2287...slewandowski@comcast.net

VOTER Editor:

Deanna Davidson...815-608-9838...davidson.deanna@gmail.com

Education Committee

The Education Committee met on May 19th to discuss the current legislative updates on education funding, charter school initiatives, and a forum proposal requested by Janyce Fadden.

In April, the Education committee hosted a Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition regional meeting with Ralph Martire of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability speaking on the Governor's proposed budget and SB 750 (Education Investment and Revenue Reform Act) followed by a panel discussion of local education, government, and business leaders. Information on Mr. Martire's discussion and the responses of the panel are available by contacting Claire McIntyre. In April the Committee also invited Dr. Patrick Hardy from the proposed Sigma Beta Leadership Charter School and Laurie Preece from the Charter School Initiative to discuss the Sigma Beta proposal.

At the May meeting, the committee agreed that based on that meeting, we would write a letter of support for the proposed charter and that we would also support the proposed GreenTek Charter School proposal. We also plan to invite Janyce to discuss her proposed forum with us at the June meeting. This is still pending.

The next meeting will be June 16th at 9 AM at the Stockholm Inn. All are welcome to attend.
 Claire McIntyre, Chair

Environmental Issues Committee

Smart growth, sensible growth, balanced growth was the topic for our committee meeting on 5-26-09. Frank Schier, editor and publisher of the Rock River Times newspaper spoke with us about that very topic.

Smart growth (conservation design) has entered the mainstream of American thought, civic dialogue, private development, and governance. WHY?

“ -Clean air is a precious resource.

-Clean surface waters are a fundamental component of regional infrastructure, property values and economic attraction.

-Erosion is a principal cause of surface water pollution and loss of productive top soil.

-Wetlands act as filters to purify water runoff and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

-Ground water is a valuable but finite resource worthy of protection, sensible use, and conscious recharge.

-The preservation and conservation of native vegetation, especially forests and woodlands, is beneficial.

-Native wildlife and aquatic life are to be respected.

-Endangered species of all types deserve reasonable protection.

-Productive soils, seemingly in surplus in Illinois, but absent in much of the world, are of global importance.

-Natural beauty at all scales offers a respite to the stress of daily life.

-Nearby natural resources offer educational opportunities to all persons.

-Conservation of energy resources, especially fossil fuel supplies, is of strategic importance.” Quoted from the Winnebago County Balance Growth Initiative of 2002

The Winnebago County 2030 Plan was just approved by the County Board. Much work has been put into creating a smart growth philosophy. It is a “shall” not a “must” document. From here a comprehensive financial plan will be determined and then ordinances will be established to reflect what is in the plan.

**COMMITTEE
NEWS**

**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
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The purpose of the LWVGR shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

