



IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 18TH, WINE TASTING FUND RAISER

Crushed Grapes, 6—9 p.m.

Tickets \$20. a person

Bring your friends, neighbors, spouses

Delicious food, wine basket raffle



FEBRUARY 1ST, LWVIL ANNUAL ISSUES BRIEFING

At the University Center, 525 South State St.

Chicago. 8:30-3p.m. Featured Plenary on redistricting

And another on hydraulic fracturing. Check the LWVIL

Website for further details www.lwvil.org

FEBRUARY 27TH INDEPENDENT MAPS DISCUSSION

**Open meeting for all League members (see page 2)
place to be announced**

MARCH 27TH AGRICULTURE STUDY LWVUS (see page 2)

Consensus Meeting on the Issues for all League members

Edwardsville Library Community Room 7 to 9 p.m.

Affordable Care Act Meeting on November 14th

Twenty one people attended the meeting at the Township Office. Kara Hughes was the guest speaker. She and her cohort had been trained as in-person counselors for the Madison County Health Department. They brought a power presentation on the Affordable Care Act. The training they received included a two day State training and a 20 hour Federal training. They also had to register with the Department of Insurance to receive their final certification. They informed us that, to date, they had assisted some 27 people to register. Yet there are some 26,000 uninsured people in Madison County. A question and answer period followed their presentation. Some participants misunderstood details concerning their status in terms of the ACA. The presenters clarified some misunderstandings among attendees including the fact that Medicare participants are not affected by the ACA.

December 12th Gathering at the home of Ann Stolte

Many thanks to Ann Stolte for hosting our December 12th meeting. She was gracious enough to allow us to meet at her home, even though we had to reschedule due to the inclement weather on December 5th. As a result, we had sixteen people still able to attend. We will also do a better job with directions at future gatherings.

Plowsharing Fund Raiser December 9th

Thanks to all the members who shopped for gifts at the Plowsharing Crafts Store which has opened in Edwardsville. As a result, we made a profit of \$157 dollars. If you have not visited the store it is a fair trade enterprise. It features clothing, jewelry, basketry, greeting cards, coffee and hot chocolate mixes, to name just a few items in their inventory.

INDEPENDENT MAPS—

A nonpartisan, grassroots campaign to put an Illinois Constitutional amendment on the November 4th ballot. The proposed amendment will take redistricting out of the hands of politicians. The amendment calls for the creation of an independent redistricting commission: a group of qualified Illinois citizens who will reflect the state's geographic and demographic diversity.

AGRICULTURAL STUDY LWVUS

We need League members to participate in this study of current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agricultural water pollution, antibiotics in livestock and accurate food labeling. The LWVUS has published information for this study and members are needed on the committee. If you are interested in helping in the study, email Evie Gorski at egorski5@gmail.com

We are planning to have a consensus meeting for the membership on March 27th at the Edwardsville Library at 7 p.m.



OTHER IMPORTANT Dates

April 24th Film:

Iron Jawed Angels

Edwardsville Library

6 p.m.

Discussion led by

Ellen Nore

May : Annual Meet-
ing

Date to be an-
nounced

LWVEA BOARD MEMBERS

Evie Gorski—President egoski5@gmail.com

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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, contact Lorraine at the above email address.

VOTER REGISTRATION REMINDER

League members who are involved with voter registration should be aware that the law Suffrage@17 was passed and signed during the summer. Any citizen who will be 18 by the general election on November 4, 2014 can register to vote and is eligible to vote in the March 18 primary.

Voter Registration schedule for the March 18 Primary

Feb 18th—Last day to register

Feb 19—First day grace period registration & voting

March 3—First day early voting

March 13—Last day mail ballot applications accepted

March 16-17—in person absentee voting

March 17— last day mail ballot can be postmarked

March 18—Election Day

District 7 Board of Education Observed by Meg Oberlag

November 13, 2013—The Board recognized the EHS soccer team that won the State AAA championship.

Finance chair, Brad Hewitt, reported that we will end the school year with a balanced budget, but expect to be 3.4 million short next year. Since there is really no place left to trim, we're asking the administration to prepare a plan for the next few years. Supt. Hightower replied that he had been looking for ways to stabilize the budget and will bring possible options to the next meeting. He also said that more and more corporations are appealing their tax bills, thus depriving us of some money. He mentioned Regions Financial and Best Buy as two of these. Our lawyer will look into this.

Regarding our curriculum, Hightower said that our research has shown that many students do not take the advanced math courses at EHS. We will beef up the math curriculum in grades 4,5,6 and offer Math Seminars in grades 9 through 12 for those who are having trouble keeping up. We plan to accelerate in grades 7 and 8 so that some students will be able to take Geometry in 9th grade if deired.

The EHS English Dept. will offer three new year-long courses: Freshman Literature and Composition, Sophomore World Literature and Junior American Literature. Reading Seminars will be offered during the Exploratory Period in grades 6,7,8 and at the high school where needed. These proposals will be voted on at the next meeting.

us at www.edwardsvillearealeague.org

League of Women Voters of the
Edwardsville Area
P.O. Box 841
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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