

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE
EDWARDSVILLE AREA BULLETIN**

www.edwardsvillearealeague.org



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November 2013

*** LWVEA CALENDAR**

NOVEMBER 14TH—THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Presenter: Kara Hughes, ACA Counselor

**7-8:30 P.M. Community Center/
Edwardsville**



DECEMBER 5TH—HOLIDAY PARTY

Anne Stolte's home 7—9 p.m.

32 Hillsboro Rd, Edwardsville.

JANUARY 18th—Saturday, 6—9 p.m. ANNUAL WINE TASTING

Fund Raiser at Crushed Grapes

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Our Board has been busy during the past few months planning programs for the 2013-14 year. At our last general meeting held on Sept 24th at the Edwardsville Police Dept., Police chief Jay Keenen enlightened our members about his job and his dept.

Some highlights of the meeting were:

Mayor Neibur hired him and Mayor Patton can fire him. The department is composed of 37 police officers and 3 women.

Chief Keenen, Chief John Lakin of Glen Carbon, Madison County Sheriff Bob Hertz. Dr. Ed Hightower, Supt. of Edwardsville School District, Administrators from the district, and other members of the community meet on a quarterly basis to discuss safety in the school. Due to shootings in various parts of the country, this Public Safety Committee is very concerned about the students well being.

There has been an increase in car break-ins. Concerning drugs, people using heroin need more to get high. Kids are using prescription drugs and marijuana is easy to obtain. (continued on page 2)

President's Perspective (continued)

Edwardsville now has a prescription drug drop-off container in the lobby of the police department, which is open 24/7. Jeanette Mallon, one of our members, was the first person to drop off a prescription drug.

Edwardsville was the first community in the 70's to implement 911 in the Metro-East.

No prisoners are kept at the Edwardsville Police Dept. They are transferred to the county jail.

Chief Keenen provided us with a printout comparing crimes from August 2012– August 2013. There will be extras at our upcoming meetings in November and December.

There was a total of 36,566 calls made in the 12 month period.

We appreciated Chief Keenen giving up his time and providing us with a very informative evening about our police dept. He definitely understands the importance of service to the community. Hopefully at our next meeting on November 14th, we will have a good turnout for our speaker Kara Hughes, discussing the Affordable Care Act.

Respectfully,

Evie Gorski, President

HOLIDAY PARTY AT ANNE STOLTE'S

Please bring a non-perishable food item for us to donate to the Food Pantry.

If you do not like driving at night, and would like someone to drive you to the party, please do not hesitate to contact Lorraine Krusa at 618-288-2681. She will arrange for a ride for you to and from the celebration.

As usual we will have good food and drink to share.

WATERSHED NEWS

Ellen Nordhauser has done a wonderful job identifying the LWVEA as the official guardians of the road leading to the Watershed. There is a sign indicating that we take care of it. She can always use a few volunteers on the second Saturday of each month, meeting



SUNSHINE WEEK: Making Democracy Work

This week is to be held the week of James Madison's birthday (March 16th). It is a nation wide effort to open up dialogue on the importance of transparency in government. The League of Women Voters can encourage citizens to play an active role in government at all levels.

Suggestions include observer corps activities, a tour of local courts as well as encouraging teachers we may know at elementary, high school and college levels to discuss this important topic.

LWVEA BOARD MEMBERS

Evie Gorski—President egoski5@g.mail.com

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

YES TO INDEPENDENT MAPS

At its Board meeting on Saturday, August 10th, the LWVIL Board voted to support the YES to Independent Maps initiative, a grassroots campaign working to put a redistricting reform amendment on the November 2014 Illinois ballot.

League members are encouraged to participate. If you are interested in passing out petitions, Lorraine Krusa has petitions available. We hope to have the regional representative visit our League in early February.



District 7 Board of Education

Observed by Meg Oberlag

September 23, 2013: This meeting was all about money-as usual. The Board had to adopt a budget with a \$500,000 deficit. In the last few years, cuts have been made and some new revenue earned to allow balanced budgets, but this is no longer possible. The annual increase in property evaluation kept us going, but this is now flat. A new law allows some transfer into the Education Fund, but not for salaries which is the biggest part of the budget.

It is difficult to make concrete plans when we never know what is coming from the State of Illinois. There is probably never going to come a time when we have to make some drastic decisions, such as cutting teachers or programs or asking for a tax increase.

LWVEA appreciates its members. If you have suggestions about this coming year's event planning, please don't hesitate to contact Evie Gorski, president, at:

egorski5@gmail.com

We welcome all suggestions.

Contact us at www.edwardsvillearealeague.org

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