

The Bulletin

Vol. 55, No. 1 August 2008

COMING SOON ! LEAGUE GARAGE SALE

WHEN: Saturday, September 20th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon

WHERE: 344 Sunset Drive, Edwardsville (Meg Oberlag's house)

We're looking for merchandise to sell and volunteers to help at the League's garage sale. Please save good quality household items, decorative items, toys, books, furniture, etc. for our garage sale. We have learned that clothes just don't sell well, so please donate your used clothes to another organization. Any items you wish to donate may be left at Meg Oberlag's house (344 Sunset Drive, Edwardsville) starting Thursday, September 18th. If Meg is not at home, it's fine to leave your donations on the porch. We would appreciate it if you would **put a price on anything you donate**. If you are planning to donate anything large, special, or otherwise significant, please let Judy Thompson (656-6534) know so we can include mention of the item(s) in our publicity.

We need volunteers on:

Friday, September 19th starting at 6:00 pm to organize merchandise and set up

Saturday, September 20th from 7:00 am to 10:00 am and a second shift from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

If you can help at any of these times, please call Ellen Nore at 656-5790.

We're also going to need folding tables to display merchandise and grocery bags. If you can loan us any tables, please let Ellen know, and if you have extra grocery bags, please leave them at Meg's house starting September 18th.

We're looking forward to a fun and, hopefully, profitable day. Please help out however you can.



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

Walk a Mile for Democracy

1 MILE VOTER AWARENESS *FUN WALK*

SATURDAY, September 27th, 2008

- Place:** Goshen Market, Downtown Edwardsville, at the intersection of 2nd Street and St. Louis Street.
- Route:** From the registration table, walk southwest on St. Louis Street, turn east (left) on Vandalia Street, turn north (left) on Main Street to the Senior Citizens Center (water will be provided at this site), and return to the starting point by walking south on 2nd Street.
- Start Time:** 8:00 am – 11:30 am. Walk to be completed by 12:00 pm. Mark Von Nida, County Clerk, will kick off this event at 8:00am.
- Entry Fees:** \$10 per adult and \$5 per student, kindergarten through college (add \$1.00 for XXL). On-site registration, for the same price, will include a T-shirt, if available. T-shirts are guaranteed with registration received by September 20th. Pre-registration will be available at Goshen Market on 9/13/08 and 9/20/08.
- T-shirt Pickup:** On day of the event, from 7:30 – 11:30.

Get Ready for Election Day – November 4th! Voter registration, including change of address or name, will be available at Goshen Market on September 13, September 20, and during the walk. Please bring two forms of identification.

REGISTRATION FORM

Make checks or money orders payable to: LWVEA, Box 841, Edwardsville, IL 62025.
Pre-registration available at Goshen Market, 9/13/08 and 9/20/08

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Shirt Size: **Adult:** S M L XL XXL (\$10.00 adult S, M, L, XL; 11.00 XXL)
 Youth: S M L (\$ 5.00 youth S, M, L)

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy and does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For voter information, or to learn more about The League of Women Voters, view our web page at <http://edwardsvillearealeague.org>

**League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area
President's Report of National Convention 2008
"Reaching New Heights Together"
Portland, OR**

This was my first year to the LWVUS National Convention and the 48th National held. The title, "Reaching New Heights Together" was appropriate on so many levels for me: personally, professionally, and as your representative and voting delegate.

On Saturday morning, I attended two caucuses. The first was "Creating a Department of Peace and Nonviolence" which was overflowing into the hallway. I listened in to their presentation and jumped over to another caucus on "Healthcare Reform: Strategy for the Future." The Department of Peace proposal was a new concept for me, and it was presented by an upstate Illinois contingent from Wheaton.

At 1 PM, the opening plenary session began with a call to order from President Mary Wilson and a ROUSING rendition of the National Anthem by The Honorable Maraget Carter, President Pro Tempore of the Oregon Senate. There were several speakers welcoming us to the convention and a briefing from Parliamentarian Ann Gilton who sternly warned against the excessive use of the red card during debate. There was a report of the Credentials Committee and an Appointment of the Elections Committee. Next, The Honorable Barbara Roberts, First Woman Governor of Oregon, who served from 1991-1995 addressed the convention. Governor Roberts told us that women in Oregon were allowed to vote in 1912 before the rest of the country allowed women this right. She noted the flood of women entering politics after the Equal Rights Amendment failed to pass. She advised women in politics to first give their credentials and only then answer questions on an issue. She spoke frankly about many men's feelings of being intimidated by a single woman as an office holder. Of women in politics today, she said, "We are at the table, and we are changing the menu." Along this idea of change, she shared her idea for a new system of voting primaries in the US. Essentially, the new primary organization would have "clusters" of states, five states to a cluster, and two clusters would hold elections on the first primary date. The clusters would be made up of a mix of small states and large states, and states from differing regions of the country. After a 2 week break, another two clusters would hold primaries. So every two weeks, there would be a total of 10 states holding their primary elections. The order of each cluster voting dates would be selected by a random drawing and after 6 presidential elections, clusters would modify their makeup as needed and then redraw for election dates.

After the former governor's address, we were down to the business of convention. We had a motion to adopt the rules of convention, and tried to have an adoption of the order of business, the convention program, but this brought about a lot of debate. After a spirited dialogue regarding convention rules and agreeing the rules would be for THIS convention only, Mary gave her "State of the League" address. We had a report from the nominating committee which was noteworthy since the first male was nominated for the LWVUS board. We also heard the 1st half of the roll call of states where each state president had 2 minutes to summarize the events and challenges their state league had had over the past two years. The "Dialogue with Delegates and LWVUS Board" was cancelled because of our lengthy dialogue regarding the convention rules. We recessed at about 5:30.

On Sunday, we began the plenary at 9AM. We had motions and debate regarding the board-recommended 2008 Program Planning. Although this was supposed to be a "questions for clarification only," there was still debate. We had a variety of motions and recessed at 12:30.

We reconvened Sunday at 2PM and heard a most delightful speaker, Oregon's governor from 1994-2002, The Honorable John Kitzhaber. What a dynamo speaker who really worked the crowd with a picture of his mom, a League member, and with his innovative ideas presented in "The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century." His powerpoint should soon be available at the LWWUS website. He mentioned a website www.wecandobetter.org as a source for information about his really new look at an old problem. Essentially, he says the current method of solving the health care crisis is to determine just who will foot the bill: pharmaceutical companies, employers, or government. This method, he says, is entirely wrong because it simply funds a system which is inoperable and instead of funding such a system, we need to redesign the system. His ideas were so new and exciting, I hope you will take the time to visit the websites and see what he's working on.

After this speech and presentation, we had discussion and debate of the LWWUS budget and program awards. We also had bylaws presented and adopted. This was presented by Elisabeth MacNamara whom I later met at a workshop. We ran past 5PM again. After dinner, I attended a caucus with Elisabeth about volunteer management. The caucus was very informative and stressed the importance of very quickly putting new members to work and even putting them in leadership positions. I was reminded again of how fortunate I feel to have been involved in our League. Upon personal reflection, I can see how I was personally invited to join (by Ann Stolte), asked to become a registrar, placed with a veteran at my first registrar shift (with Carol Gipe at the YMCA) and then asked to serve first as secretary and then as president. It would seem the Edwardsville Area League wrote the book on managing volunteers! At about 10PM, I met up with the Illinois delegates, Paula Lawson, Sivia, and Jan Czarnik among them in one of their rooms at the Hilton. It was late, but the room was abuzz with excitement and talk. It was great to see Paula and Sivia and nice to meet Jan face to face since we'd been working on the student vote for months by e-mail. I also saw some of the women I met last summer at the state convention.

Monday's plenary began again at 9AM, and by this day, as you can imagine, most of us were tired! However, after the call to order, the Credentials Committee reported the updated numbers: a total of 850 Leagues were represented at this year's convention with 49 states and the District of Columbia sending a total of 684 voting delegates. After a report of the previous day's activities, we heard from a very well informed panel about climate change. A professor from UC-San Diego, a Senior Policy Advisor from Oxfam America, and a Professor of Energy and Society from UC-Berkley all presented. I also attended a workshop on managing league program and another on growing membership.

During the latter, I was again reminded of how well our league is doing in bringing in new members. We truly are a thriving entity. The evening was memorable because of the elegant banquet where I met some wonderful Leaguers from Michigan and from California. Our speaker was a dynamic young attorney who has founded the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver, former Colorado Supreme Court Justice, Rebecca Love Kourlis. Despite feeling like an underachiever after all these great speakers, or maybe because of it, I attended a late night caucus, the last of the convention's, called

"Running Uphill and Winning." Honestly, maybe due to my fatigue, but this last one was humorous though we discussed the serious topic of sexism in politics.

Tuesday was the closing day of the convention, and we began early, at 8:30. We had to finish the roll call of states, got the report on the previous day's business (and we DID accomplish a LOT on Monday), adopted the new PMP, the new budget, acknowledged the outgoing board and elected the new board. We also had a very good address from Mary Wilson reminding us our job is to make sure we have voter guides to educate our voters. She said we can use the LWVUS on-line information in addition to our local information. She also said that this past year there were many new voters to the primaries and **our job was to get those new voters to the general election, help them become life-long voters, and encourage them to become members of the League.** Next, Leaguers from Georgia invited us to the 2010 LWVUS Convention to be held in Atlanta.

I was quite honored to attend this convention and thank you for sending me.

Madison County Board Meeting
August 20, 2008
Marcia Custer Observer

I Pre-agenda items.

- A. Madison County Sheriff's Deputy Kyle R. Doolen was honored for apprehending three youth from Ohio who had fired on a policeman in Effingham and escaped to the West. Deputy Doolan intercepted and chased their car while two passengers opened the car's convertible top and began firing on him. The offender was apprehended in Collinsville after, at great personal risk, Doolan kept up the high speed chase.
- B. Speaker Billy Skaggs from the Madison County Shelter Care Home urged the County Board to reconsider its decision to close the shelter. He also thanked all those who signed petitions to put the issue before the voters in the November election.

III Committee Reports

- A. The Governmental Relations Committee proposed an Ordinance authorizing the County to impose an additional .025% sales tax to raise money to pay for Federally mandated levee improvements. Board Member Hal Patton (R Edwardsville) supported by Judy Kuhn (R Highland) spoke fervently about tabling the motion and putting it on the November Ballot.

Chairman Dunston reprimanded Patton for not pre-requesting an opportunity to speak to an issue. Eighteen Board Members spoke passionately in favor of the motion, and Chairman Dunston said it was "one of the most important things we will do as a County Board". Motion passed with only the two no votes.

- B. The Transportation Committee submitted 13 resolutions. Helen Hawkins spoke (for environmental reasons)in disagreement of the funding agreement for the Gateway Commerce Center Industrial Park, Westway Drive (which passed by a wide margin).
- C. The Chair of the Health Department committee read two proclamations, one for September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and one proclaiming September 3, 2008 as Employee Walk Day (now in its 8th year).
- D. An additional Resolution designated the week of August 25th, 2008 as Workforce Development Week. *(There was no clarification about what this involved)*

IV Adjournment 6:10 PM

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

August 25, 2008 - Mr. Roosevelt reported that the District is scheduled to lose 1.8 million dollars in general state aid this year, but the Hold Harmless clause, which allows districts to receive no less than last year, should be in effect by the end of the year. In the meantime, we'll need to borrow from our internal bank, the Working Cash Fund. He also said that Little Caesar's would be our pizza supplier for this year.

Supt. Hightower gave the following totals for the 5th day enrollment: total is 7,583 (up 158); Kindergarten is 574 (up 82 and largest in school history and which required adding five new classes). Total elementary is 3353 and class sizes are good. K = 20, 1st = 20-21, 2nd = 20, 3rd & 4th = 23 and 5th = 23-25. The new construction has to be credited for these figures and he thanked the board for being diligent and forward thinking to make it happen.

Edwardsville City Council 8/5/08

Sue Webb, observer

8/5/08 Hummel absent

Accepted resignation of Ray Lai, Director of Planning and Zoning effective August 15, 2008.
Granted \$3000 in Tourism Funds to Madison County Arts Council for ARTEAST.

Approved funds for facade improvement to Amy Zupanci for 104 and 106 North Main (Ginger Bread House - new restaurant) in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Approved purchase of LED light conversion units for Fire Dept. for on top of vehicles in the amount \$11,922.

Approved landmark status for the SIUE Religious Center.

Annexed property at 717 Taylor Avenue.

8/19/08 All present.

Approved purchase of one autopulse CPR administration system costing \$14,335. There will eventually be one for each ambulance.

Awarded the pavement marking program to Control Line, Inc. for \$19,117.

Approved the following items from the Recreation, Arts and Special Events Board: Home Builders Assn. Bike Tour 9/13, Newsong Fellowship Street Carnival 9/14, LWVEA Voters Walk 9/27 and Anderson Hospital Run to Save a Life 10/4/08.

Brennan's Blog

Hello, League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area!

As the Summer Olympics close and one major political party opens its convention tonight, the mood in the country is just electrified. I can definitely see the excitement about this year's election when I look at my recent e-mails! We have a plethora of activities in which you can be a part of this historic election year, so let me mention those first.

September 30th is the date County Clerk Mark Von Nida has set for our county's participation date in Illinois Student Vote. On October 30th, student votes throughout the state will be tallied and on the website, www.illinoisstudentvote.org. You may have read about this very large undertaking by LWVIL in the Illinois Voter Summer Edition. I will be meeting with Mark, school administrators, and a Leaguer from Collinsville later this week to finalize details, but please mark your calendars now to help us with this event.

Mary Pearson and her committee have worked very hard to organize LWVEA's first ever Voter Awareness Walk to take place on **September 27**. This is an event which is family oriented and for all ages. I do hope you will join us at Goshen Market that morning to participate or help out.

Speaking of Goshen Market, this was also our first year with a table at the Market. The remaining dates for the League to be at Market are **September 13, 20, and 27**. It's been a fun activity meeting people in our community, providing information about our organization, and even registering a few voters.

Registering voters, for which the League is famous, will be taking place this last week in August at SIUE. Carol Gipe, Voter Services Chair was contacted by the University, and she has helped organize registrars from within our membership. If you are a member and would like to become a registrar, please contact Carol.

Additionally, I will be assisting with Voter Registration Activities at McKendree University. Although that school is in St. Clair County, they have requested our help. I'm meeting with one of their representatives in just a few days to help her pull their events together.

Our garage sale is set to take place at the home of Meg Oberlag on Saturday, **September 20th**. Meg lives in Grandview neighborhood and you can bring items to sell to her home on Friday, September 19th. If you are able to help set up, work a 3 hour shift, or clean up, please contact us.

Carol Gipe has also been working on events with the candidates running for local offices. We will have details for you as soon as they are available to us. Whew! Sounds like the League will definitely be providing Voter Services this year. ☺
Approved landmark status for the SIUE Religious Center.

August Board Meeting

The LWVEA board meeting was held August 20th, 2008 at 7 pm at the home of Ellen Nordhauser. Present were Lisa Brennan, Meg Oberlag, Judy Thompson, Ruth Ellis, Mary Pearson, Allison Lamothe, Carol Gipe and Carol Gerdt. Kim Kim and Kathy Jones were excused.

A correction was noted from the last meeting minutes, which are in the May 08 Bulletin. The grant received by LWVIL for the statewide student voting was approximately \$20,000, not \$200,000 as previously reported.

The Local League Annual Report was passed around for board members to fill in information relating to their area of specialty. Lisa will fax it the State League.

Members will staff a table at Goshen Market on Sept. 13th and Sept. 20th. We will host voter registration and take reservations for the Voter Awareness Walk on Sept. 27th.

The garage sale will be on Sat. Sept. 20th from 8 until noon at the home of Meg Oberlag. Priced items can be dropped off on Thursday and Friday evenings. Tables and plastic bags would be helpful. A group of volunteers will be needed Friday night and on two shifts (7-10 and 10-1pm) on Sat. morning. The early shift will help set up and the late shift will stay to help clean up. Ruth will handle to cash box, Judy will do PR and Ellen will coordinate volunteers. Lisa offered to do stick signs and Mary offered her van for the post yard sale donation to the Goodwill.

Carol Gerdt resigned as LWVEA secretary and bulletin editor effective in September. A motion was made by Judy and seconded by Carol Gipe to have Mary Pearson edit the bulletin and Ellen Nordhauser to be secretary. The motion passed. Carol Gerdt will retain website duties.

Ruth Ellis noted in the Treasurer's Report that the PMP's (per member payments) are \$28 to the national (LWVUS) and \$26 to the state (LWVIL) for a total of \$54. We have 79 members. Due to

a restructuring at the bank, our saving account is now a money market account with \$4449.54 as of Aug. 08. Ellen moved to approve the report and Meg seconded. Motion passed.

Miriam Burns requested support for Downstate Democrats For Change. We all agreed that as a non-partisan organization that we are unable to support this group.

Carol Gipe and Meg Oberlag are working on candidate forums. They are hoping to arrange a debate between Alan Dunston and Hal Patton in the run for Madison Co. Board chairman. They also would like to have other board candidates if possible. Working with the Collinsville League, They are also trying to develop a debate between John Shimkus and Jay Hoffman.

Illinois Student Vote will need volunteers. Lisa and Melissa (from Collinsville) are working on this project. Mark Von Nida is a big supporter. More information can be found at illinoisstudentvote.org.

Judy Thompson reports that she has been giving a letter and brochure to prospective new members. Lisa has been sending a letter to our new members. Lisa suggested a mentoring system would be good. An introductory packet should also be considered. An orientation coffee was also suggested. No action was taken at this time.

Lisa is redoing the program planning review that was incorrectly formatted at the Annual Meeting. She will present this to the board for approval.

The LWVIL workshop in Sept. has been rescheduled to be held in Macomb. Members interested in attending the meetings, please contact Lisa.

The next board meeting is Sept. 17th. at the home of Ellen Nordhauser at 7pm.

Mary gave a report on the Voter Awareness Walk to be held Sept. 27th. Information will be sent home with all District 7 students after Labor Day. Mark Von Nida will do the kick-off at 8 AM on the Sat. morning at Goshen Market. He also may be able to help some with some printing for the project. Volunteers will be needed to help with the registration and to help with the walk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Respectfully submitted, Carol Gerdt, secretary

Note Re: 2008 Annual Meeting

If you did not attend the Annual Meeting in May, and would like a copy of the LWVEA Directory and Annual Report, please contact Ruth Ellis at annieruth55@hotmail.com or 656-8801.

**League of Women Voters
Edwardsville Area
BOX 841
Edwardsville, IL 62025-0841**



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. Membership is open to any U.S. Citizen who is at least 18 years of age. Dues of \$50.00 include membership in our local, state and national organization. Send your check to Treasurer, LWVEA, P.O. Box 841, Edwardsville, IL 62025-08