

The Bulletin

Vol. 54, No. 7 April 2008

Annual LWVEA Meeting May 15th, 2008

See page 2 for registration information.

Please join us.

Volunteers Needed Historical Edwardsville Walk

Every year a group of volunteers coordinates a walking tour of downtown Edwardsville for all of the second graders in Edwardsville schools. I am one of the organizers for this event and am in need of volunteers to guide groups of the children. Please believe me,

It is easy and fun!

This year's walk will be Thursday May 1. Guides will be provided a brief script and will be asked to lead a classroom, accompanied by the teacher and several parents from Columbus school to the old Lincoln School on North Main Street. Along the way there will be various actors and posters describing life in old time Edwardsville. Several League members already help with this event. If any of you are interested please contact me at lynch165@att.net or 692-4786. Thank you, Linda Lynch

OUR NEXT FUND-RAISER— WE NEED YOUR HELP!
LEAGUE GARAGE SALE RETURNS THIS SEPTEMBER
PLEASE START SAVING YOUR GOOD QUALITY GIVEAWAY ITEMS
MORE DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S BULLETIN

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING RESERVATIONS

Please join us at Martha's Tea Room at 6:00 pm on Thursday, May 15th for this year's Annual Meeting. Martha's Tea Room is located on Rte. 143 just outside of Edwardsville heading towards Wood River.

Thanks to all who voted on the menu options; the lighter meal received the most votes. Dinner will include: roast beef & cheese and turkey & cheese sandwiches on croissants, homemade tomato florentine soup, tossed salad, and cake. Beverages include coffee, ice tea, and hot tea. No alcoholic beverages will be available.

Our speaker at this year's meeting is Alderman Rich Walker, who will discuss the living history project he has organized to preserve the history of the Wildey Theatre. Alderman Walker is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the Wildey, so we're looking forward to a great talk. We hope you'll take this opportunity to socialize with your fellow League members, have a nice dinner, and participate in this important League meeting.

Please return the form below along with \$15 to Judy Thompson, 928 Chancellor Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025 **by May 1**. Checks should be made payable to LWVEA

I plan to attend the Annual Dinner Meeting:

NAME (S): _____

\$15 per person enclosed: _____ check _____ cash

LWVEA Nominating Committee Report

Office	Nominee	Term Expires
2 nd Vice President	Carol Gipe	June 30, 2010
Treasurer	Ruth Ellis	June 30, 2010
Director	Kathy Jones	June 30, 2010
Director	Ellen Nore	June 30, 2010
Director	Alison Lamothe	June 30, 2010
Director	Meg Oberlag	June 30, 2010

Nominating Committee for 2009: Lynn Thiel, Chair with Joyce Nyerges and Caroline Anderson.
The following officers and directors will continue their terms through June 30, 2009:

President	Lisa Brennan
1 st Vice President	Kim Kirn
Secretary	Carol Gerdt
Director	Mary Pearson
Director	Judy Thompson

Presented by the 2008 Nominating Committee: Angela Farrell, Chair, with Janet Burnett, Ellen Nore, Lynn Thiel and Kathy Jones.

2008-2009 Proposed Local Program

Continued support of the Local Positions from 2007-2008 Program

- Support an effective Human Relations Commission
- Support effective Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Historic Preservation Commissions and encourage the designation of areas and/or sites in the communities as historic landmarks
- Support the recreational systems consensus positions
- Support the governance and quality of education positions that have been developed previously and support appropriate tax propositions after review and further study
- Support the consensus on the City of Edwardsville Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the six approved recommendations
- Support the consensus on the Village of Glen Carbon Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Develop web page content
- Work with the Human Relations Committee advocate for affordable/supportive housing
- Organize an informal meeting on home rule

Recommendations for additional positions for 2008-2009 Programs

- Organize a informational meeting on the local TIF topic
- Continue work on the immigration consensus
- Work on local eminent domain issues
- Work on the Open Meetings Act especially in the area of public education
- Revisit the “green” open meeting booklets from the Attorney General’s office for LWVEA distribution
- Develop an Electronic Communication Position
- Develop a water position
- Develop a Con-Con position
- Work on possible WiFi for Edwardsville

The April Showers Meeting-Join us and bring your friends!

WATER, WATER, WATER

Join us for an informed discussion about water scarcity, bottled water and its environmental impact and water safety! We will hear Michaelleen Gerken, Natural Resources Management Educator from of the University of Illinois Extension, speak on water issues and then taste test various bottled waters, Edwardsville water and award winning City of St. Louis water. You can choose for yourself—tap or bottled water.

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008

TIME: 11:00 AM TO 1 PM

PLACE: GLEN CARBON SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY ROOM, 157 NORTH MAIN, GLEN CARBON, IL (BEHIND VILLAGE HALL IN GLEN CARBON)

COST: FREE!!

SPONSORED BY: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FOR THE EDWARDSVILLE AREA

WHY: TO MAKE YOU AN INFORMED CITIZEN WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR CHOICE OF WATER

The LWVEA sadly notes the passing of a former member, Gerry Thorpe. Gerry joined the league in 1970. She was an avid supporter of women’s rights. Gerry assisted in voter’s registration and enjoyed informing the citizenry of the issues. Gerry often hosted league events in her lovely home at Holiday Shores. Ginger McCall remembers Gerry’s sparkle and her infectious laugh. She will be missed.



Edwardsville Public Library, March 29th, Illinois Constitutional Convention Discussions

The Issue of Calling an Illinois Constitutional Convention

Reported by Carol Reinking

On Saturday, March 29th Professor Brian Harward from SIUE spoke on the issue of calling an Illinois Constitutional Convention. Professor Harward did not give us any answers to the question but he certainly gave us issues to consider before we vote. He pointed out that **if a voter does not vote on the constitutional issue, the ballot would be counted as a “no” vote.**

Professor Harward pointed out that at a convention there always is tension between the public good and pressure group issues. At the 1970 constitutional convention there was a strong grass roots reform movement. Professor Harward did not perceive an atmosphere of reform at this time. Resolution of the tension between the public good and special interests will determine what changes, if any, are proposed for the new constitution.

How delegates are selected for the convention is determined by the General Assembly. Delegates may be selected on a partisan or nonpartisan basis. If the delegates are chosen on a partisan basis it is more likely that the convention will be status quo. Nonpartisan delegates are more likely to be reform oriented. Without a reform mentality it is likely that the convention will consider policy and less likely to act in the public good.

The duration of the convention and delegate pay will influence the outcome of the convention. In theory, a longer convention and less pay for the delegates will attract delegates who can afford to be absent from their work. Therefore, the convention may be more conservation and status quo. Paying delegates more might attract more hourly paid workers who would, in theory, be less conservative. The 1970 convention was about two months in length. Estimated cost for the proposed convention is about 70 million dollars.

The method of ratification of the new document will influence its adoption or rejection. The delegates to the convention will determine if the document will be submitted to the voters as a whole or in pieces as was done at the 1970 convention. Those who “lose” issues in the convention are likely to lobby against adoption. It is more likely that the new constitution will be rejected if it is submitted to the voters as a whole.

After much discussion, those LWVEA members at the meeting split almost evenly regarding calling a constitutional convention. A convention would be a great opportunity for voter education but it would be costly. We would risk losing some policies that we like while not gaining the reforms that we would like to see.

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

March 10, 2008 - Supt. Hightower announced that since all five snow days have been used, the last student day will be Monday, June 2. Graduation remains on June 7th at EHS Gym.

The board approved the calendar for 2009-09 as follows:

August 19 -	1 st day for students
October 17 -	Teacher Institute Day
Nov, 24,25,26	Parent/Teacher conferences
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Christmas vacation
April 6-10	Easter vacation

A bid of \$723,413 was accepted for artificial turf at EHS football field.

Pat Hulme expressed concern about the district’s hiring lawyers to protest tax appeals. Mr. Speciale answered that we intervene when a company seeks to greatly decrease its tax assessment because it lowers the Assessed Valuation that our dollars are based on. (The ones currently being questioned are two parcels in Edwardsville Crossing LLC.)

March 24, 2008 - Mr. Roosevelt (Finance Chair) reported as follows: the new internet system of calling substitute teachers is working very well; the employee health insurance premiums will rise only 5.8% next year instead of the predicted 10%; and the district still does not know how much money to expect from the State, but are hoping for at least a “hold harmless clause” that will assure that we don’t get less than this year.

The board approved the following: continuation of the School Resource Officer program; crossing guards at the two middle schools; more asbestos abatement at Lincoln Middle School (\$23,950); custodial maintenance & grounds equipment at both of the new elementary schools (\$119,537) and other routine bills.

Supt. Hightower said that although the district cannot do anything legally to stop the proposed college student housing PUD just south of Woodland School, we are concerned about several issues. Two reps from Place Properties showed slides and talked about the development. (Note: This was being presented at the same time to the Edw. Plan Commission & Zoning Board and there were many in attendance and many people who spoke against the project. At the end of the meeting both groups approved it.)

John Martin, new food service director as of January, told of the goals and changes he hopes to make. He said that 75% of obese children go on to become obese adults so we will be paying attention to more nutritious foods, such as whole wheat items, no trans fat, no frying (except for French fries), and serving side salad three times a week. He will also be looking into using school colors, new serving counters and other equipment, another food line at EHS, and an automated method whereby parents can pay over the web.

Edwardsville City Council

Observed by Sue Webb

3/18/08

Walker and Niebur excused.

Haroian mayor pro tem.

Approved tourism funds for Movies in the Park (\$2,800)..

Approved tourism funds for the American Legion Fourth of July fireworks (\$10,000).

Approved memorandums of understanding between the city of Edwardsville and Edwardsville Community Unit School District #7 concerning the School Resource Officer and School Crossing Guards.

Approved mowing equipment for the Parks Dept. in the amount of \$15,994. Tippit voted nay since the low bid dealer was in Missouri.

Coming Events

Two dates have been set for the LWVEA roadside trash pickup:

Saturday, May 24, 2008 at 8am and Saturday August 23, 2008 also at 8AM.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE EDWARDSVILLE AREA
PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009**

	FY 2007-08 Estimated Total	FY 2007-08 Budget	FY 2008-2009 Proposed Budget
Income			
Member Dues (@\$50.00)	\$3262.50	\$3105.00	\$3500.00
Contributions			
Members	680.00	500.00	650.00
Non-Members	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising			
New Fundraiser	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
Pasta Dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finance Drive	150.00	1000.00	0.00
Garage Sale	0.00	0.00	300.00
Interest			
Savings	35.59	30.00	35.00
Miscellaneous Income			
Annual Meeting	600.00	600.00	700.00
Holiday Meeting	95.00	300.00	300.00
Total Income	\$4823.09	\$6535.00	\$6485.00

Expenses

Board/Administrative Committees

Board Manuals	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bulletin	487.01	800.00	600.00
Annual Meeting	700.00	700.00	800.00
Holiday Meeting	154.64	400.00	200.00
General Meetings	20.00	50.00	50.00
Membership	128.82	150.00	150.00
President	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publicity/PR	0.00	50.00	50.00
Publications – Membership			
Dir. & Ann. Rep.	100.00	160.00	100.00
Treasurer/Secretary	0.00	60.00	70.00
Vice President	0.00	0.00	0.00

Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Website Creation & Maintenance	253.38	500.00	160.00

General Operating Expenses

Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	95.00	100.00	100.00
P.O. Box Rental	56.00	50.00	60.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00

Fundraising

New Fundraiser	0.00	300.00	300.00
Pasta Dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Finance Drive	0.00	60.00	0.00
Garage Sale	0.00	0.00	50.00

National PMP

(curr. \$26.80 – est. \$28.00 for FY 08-09)

	\$1849.20	\$1849.60	\$1960.00
--	-----------	-----------	-----------

State PMP

(\$24.00)	1656.00	1656.00	1680.00
-----------	---------	---------	---------

Local Program & Position Support

Dist. 7 Schools	0.00	50.00	50.00
Growth	0.00	0.00	0.00
Observers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voter Service	0.00	20.00	50.00
Home Rule	0.00	50.00	20.00
Affordable Housing	0.00	50.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00

Delegate Travel & Affiliations

LWVIL Convention	0.00	0.00	500.00
LWVUS Conv.	1500.00	1500.00	0.00
Workshops/Mtgs.	275.00	50.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00

Total Expenses	\$7275.05	\$8605.60	\$7070.00
-----------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

**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 \$45.00 include membership in our local, state and national organization. Send your check to Treasurer, LWVEA, P.O. Box 841, Edwardsville, IL 62025-08

