

# The Bulletin

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April, 2012

## Important Dates at a Glance:

April 12                      LWVEA Board Meeting.

May 10                      League Annual Meeting. To be held at the LeClaire Room  
at the N.O. Nelson Campus of Lewis & Clark Community  
College.

## Annual Meeting

Please join us at the N.O. Nelson Complex for our 2012 Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm, with dinner served at 6:00. Glen Carbon Mayor Robert Jackstadt will speak about the changes underway in Glen Carbon. The annual meeting will follow his speech. Tickets for the event are \$30, and reservations must be made by May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Lorraine Krusa at 288-2681 if you have questions.

# **LWVEA Proposed Local Program**

2012-2013

1. Support an effective Human Relations Commission
2. Support an effective Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Historic Preservation Commission and encourage the designation of areas and/or sites in the communities as historic landmarks
3. Support the recreation systems consensus positions. The LWVEA also proposes to support possible ways of improving recreational facilities and programming through existing governmental entities, private developers, and/or the creation of a Park district
4. Support the governance and quality of education positions that have been developed previously and support appropriate tax propositions (especially those related to funding, physical facilities, and district boundaries) after review and further study
5. Support the consensus on the Village of Glen Carbon Comprehensive Land Use Plan
6. Support the consensus on the 2010 City of Edwardsville Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Submitted by JoAnn Nabe

## LWVIL - 2012 Local League Legislative Interview Feedback Form

Evie Gorski, Meg Oberlag and Carol Reinking conducted a legislative interview with Rep. Dwight Kay on February 24. He was very easy to talk to and we covered the topics suggested by the LWVIL, as well as other things of interest to us. Here is a brief summary of the topics.

1. **Campaign Finance Reform**: Rep. Dwight Kay (District 112) favors limiting all contributions in both primary and general elections. He favors appointment of judges and has filed a bill for this based on Missouri's plan. As to the question of public funding, he is concerned about where the money would come from.
2. **Health Care**: Kay said that the Governing Board of the Health Benefits Exchange should be made up of outside members who are experts in their fields and not dominated by legislators.
3. **Large-Scale Livestock Facilities**: He is not opposed to large scale facilities if done properly like the one in Carlyle, Illinois (Maschoff Environmental, Inc.)
4. **Immigration**: Rep. Kay's opinion is that Illinois has no jurisdiction over immigration since it is a federal government responsibility.
5. **School Funding**: We were glad to hear that Rep. Kay is interested in school funding and has obtained some of the money owed to our school district.
6. **State Fiscal Policy**: He told us that Illinois has the 18<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and he thinks that stronger leadership and better management are needed. He said that the government of the State of Illinois needs to be downsized and noted two areas that could be easily cut to save money. He wants to abolish various commissions that pay high salaries for very little work and would abolish the Central Management System (CMS) that is in charge of all purchasing contracts. The tax increase has gone mostly toward Medicaid and pensions. Out of a thirty-three billion dollar budget, fifty-one cents of every dollar goes to Medicaid and seven billion goes to pensions.
7. **Climate Change –Green Jobs**: In order to encourage the creation of new jobs in the area of renewable energy, Rep. Kay suggested assistance to small businesses by means of TIF districts, enterprise zones or tax credits.

**Edwardsville Comprehensive Land Use Plan**  
League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area-Consensus Position

The review of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan resulted in a recommendation to endorse the following points addressed in the document:

**Vision**—Livability, Community Character, Shared Direction.

**Livability:** Inclusive Community that provides opportunity for citizens of diverse cultural, racial and economic background.

**Community Character:** We protect and preserve valued open spaces and natural and scenic resources throughout the community; The visual character of the City is enhanced by landscaping, protection of woodlands and tree canopy, and careful attention to the design of roadway, scenic corridors, and public places.

**Shared Direction:** In carefully managing growth, we balance the benefits of economic development to citizens with the need to maintain livability and preserved community character.

**Smart Growth:** Requires that residential development preserve our natural features, such as, vegetation, wildlife, waterways, wetlands, topography, and scenic vistas. City rework design standards to allow streets that are narrower, pedestrian-friendly, traffic calming, and that generate less rainfall runoff, yet provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.

**Living In Place Initiative:** Residential uses allow people to live within walking distance of all the services and opportunities in the Downtown District. Provides potential customers, enlivens area, contributes to safer streets

**Affordable Housing:** The City of Edwardsville will conduct an affordable housing study to determine what an “affordable” range is and then adopt policies based on the recommendations of this study.

**Mixed Use Development:** Traditional downtowns and urban, mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods and centers are recognized as important to the economic health of the area. Redevelopment is actively pursued including infill commercial development.

**Residential Character:** City challenged to provide housing in a manner that creates a sense of community rather than contribute to conventional suburban sprawl.

**Water Supply and Wetland Management:** Promotes an ecosystem-based approach to environmental and land use planning at the watershed level including minimizing impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots) in new development. The city regulates the location of development within the flood plain. Use of native plants in the landscape.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Planning:** Minimizing surface parking through shared parking, mass transit and parking structures in downtown.

**Availability of Public Transportation to Commercial and Residential Districts**

**Historic Preservation Element:** Zoning and land use policies can increase the availability of existing buildings to meet changing uses and demands. Encourage building owners to reinvest in their properties with façade renovation.

**Maintain Local Character:** Creation of sub-area plans to ensure existing historic and architectural districts retain their unique characters through urban conservation overlay districts.

**Parks and Green Space:** Greenbelts serve to protect the development of flood-prone lands, preserving trees and open land in such areas. Encourage an inventory of the ecology, biology and geology of the area to better provide guidance for potential developers. Seek qualitative parcels and land donation for parks of interesting character. Greenbelt sections suitable for bicycle and pedestrian trails should be identified.

**Creating a Development Standards Program:** LEED 2009 for Neighborhood Development Rating System exemplified a way to incentivize unique, sustainable development which promotes a sense of “place”. LWV supports such a system.

**Support the Transition:** of existing, auto-oriented strip commercial areas to compact and connected mixed uses with pedestrian connections between businesses and neighborhoods.

Consensus Statement Drafted by Rachel Tompkins.

District 7 Board of Education Meeting  
March 12, 2012

Observed by Meg Oberlag

Most of the meeting was again concerned with the dire financial situation confronting District 7 (and all other districts in Illinois). Not only is the State way behind in payments, but they are now talking about reducing per pupil dollars from \$6119 to \$5593, cutting out all transportation funding (a blow to our 56 square miles) and asking schools to assume all the pension funding for their employees. It will be interesting to see where these last two ideas go!

Some of the cuts will not be known until after contract negotiations are completed in August, but in order to meet State rules, dismissal notices are being sent to 24 teachers. Some of the reductions affecting 62 positions include eliminating 19 certified staff (10 who are retiring), eliminating extended summer contracts for those who work more than 180 days, cutting 33 non-certified staff, 3 administrators and 7 non-union personnel. There will also be a 4<sup>th</sup> year freeze of administrators' salaries and budget cuts for the following: \$75,000 each for athletics and performing arts, \$80,000 for building and grounds, \$25,500 for drivers education, \$30,000 for service contracts and \$22,500 by eliminating the Collinsville Area Vocational program.

Supt. Hightower concluded by praising local legislators (especially Dwight Kay) who are working the get support for schools.

District 7 Board of Education Meeting  
March 26, 2012

Observed by Meg Oberlag

Dr. Hightower presented two ways in which District 7 can save money while not depriving kids of needed services. The first is to save \$200,000 by not sending 20 special needs kids out of district. Instead, services will be provided at Goshen (primary), Cassens (intermediate) and Liberty Middle School by District staff in conjunction with SIUE. This will take effect August of 2012. In addition, we will discontinue the before/after school childcare contract with the Edw. YMCA. The program will continue as it now exists in each school except that on snow days institute days and so forth, all kids will go to Woodland Elementary for a full day. This will save \$450,000 to \$500,000.

In the summer of 2013-14 the District will offer a weekday childcare program which includes elements of summer school, recreation etc. More information, cost and reservations are available at [www.ecusd7.org](http://www.ecusd7.org). All of these changes will not only save money, but keep some staff members who might otherwise be laid off.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, with the special assistance of Evie Gorski and the Board, announces the following slate of officers and Board members for consideration at the Annual Meeting:

<b>President</b>	Mary Pearson (term expires in 2013)
<b>First Vice-President</b>	Ellen Nore (term expires in 2013)
<b>Second Vice-President</b>	Alison Lamothe (term expires in 2014)
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Reinking (term expires in 2013)
<b>Treasurer</b>	To Be Announced

### Board Members

JoAnn Nabe	(term expires in 2014)
Evie Gorski	(term expires in 2014)
Kathy Jones	(term expires in 2014)
Meg Oberlag	(term expires in 2013)
Rachel Tompkins	(term expires in 2013)
Lorraine Krusa	(term expires in 2013)

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

**League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area  
BOX 841  
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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 \$60.00 (\$85 for two members) include membership in our local, state and national organization. Send your check to Treasurer, LWVEA, P.O. Box 841, Edwardsville, IL 62025-0841