

The Bulletin

Vol. 54, No. 5 February 2008

Important Dates at a Glance:

February 23, 2008 Trash pick-up, meet at Watershed Nature Center Parking Area at 1pm.

March 6, 2008 Board meeting at 6pm at Ellen's home.

March 29, 2008 Informational meeting: Constitutional Convention, Edwardsville Public Library.

April 2008 TBA, meeting about "Water".

May 15, 2008 Annual League Dinner at Martha's Tea Room. (See question below)

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING QUESTION

This year's Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at Martha's Tea Room (just outside of Edwardsville on Rte. 143) on Thursday evening, May 15th. We are looking for some League consensus on the menu, and we'd like your opinion. We can all have a full dinner, which will include an entrée, such as chicken, two vegetables, a starch (potato or spaghetti), and a salad. The cost of that will be approximately \$19 or \$20 per person. The other alternative is that we can all have a "lighter" meal, which will include two different kinds of sandwiches served on small croissants (e.g., chicken salad, turkey and cheese, roast beef), homemade soup, and salad. The cost for that meal will be about \$14 or \$15 per person. In both cases, we'll have beverages and dessert. We're not asking for reservations yet; we would just like to know which dinner choice members favor so we can select one of the options above. Please call Judy Thompson as 656-6534 or send an e-mail to illinoislibrarian@yahoo.com and let us know your preference.

Madison County Board Meeting
January 16, 2008
Marcia Custer Observer

I Pre-agenda items.

- A. In recognition of his forthcoming retirement, Mr. L. D Kelly from the Zoning Board of Appeals was presented an award for dedication to the citizens of Madison County.
- B. Sandy (?last name)–was recognized for her dedication and service in view of her coming retirement.
- C. Councilman Michael Holiday forwarded a Proclamation declaring Martin Luther King Day (January 21) a County Holiday. The motion was unanimously passed.
- D. An announcement was made that in the future, identification tags would be worn by all County employees as well as County Board Members. Board Member will be given pins with the County Seal.
- E. Barbara McHugh was given 3 minutes to address the Board regarding her concern that County money is being wasted following Zone Ordinance Violations that were not followed-up with disciplinary action. Specifically she has neighbors that “harass” her in a variety of ways that violate Zoning Ordinances, but no cumulative action is taken since each violation is of a different nature.

A discussion followed regarding the distribution of the 7 member Zoning Board.

Observer Note: After the meeting, a Board Member explained that there were some who questioned Dustan’s method of making Committee appointments. Apparently in the past (I don’t know how long ago that might be) the Chair would consult with party Committee Chairs for recommendations for filling appointments, and this no longer happens. I do not know the veracity of this information.

II There was no business of reportable interest during the remainder of the Board Meeting.

Observer Note: Today there were eight appointments, many items of correspondence and about twenty resolutions. There is rarely discussion. The agenda (available to the public) was 37 pages long this month, and Board Members are expected to come to the monthly meetings ready to vote.

IV Adjournment 5:40 PM

Edwardsville City Council 1/15/08
Sue Webb, observer

All present.

Passed a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign an agreement with Madison County and R.L.P. Development for the conveyance, improvement and development of real estate.

At ten minutes this is the shortest council meeting since I have been observing it.

Minutes from LWVEA Board Meeting on February 5, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
at the home of Ellen Nore.

Present: Ruth Ellis, Kathy Jones, Kim Kirn, Ellen Nore, Judy Thompson, Carol Gipe

Kim Kirn (1st Vice President) conducted the meeting in the absence of President, Lisa Brennan.

Kathy Jones reported on the LWVIL State of the State Luncheon she and Robert (husband) attended on January 24, 2008. Held at the Union League Club in Chicago, the focus was on the state of the environment. Awards were presented to people who have made significant contributions in the Chicago area. Lisa Madigan was the keynote speaker. Kathy stated people were pleased someone from the southern part of the state attended. She said it was an enjoyable event. Note: At the last board meeting, it was voted LWVEA would pay for 2 tickets to attend the luncheon. Kathy and husband were in Chicago on that date.

The Board reviewed the recent Candidates' Meeting on Saturday, January 26th, 2008. The following points were made:

- The meeting went very well and was deemed a success.
- There was a sizable crowd.
- Day of the week and time of day seemed to be a factor in attendance.
- There were 4 good candidates who were eager to attend.
- Always use a microphone to make sure audience can hear.
- Use skirts around tables where candidates sit.

There was discussion about upcoming events for the November elections. The following points were made: Begin to plan early – as soon as feasible.

Consider a different venue such as an outdoor meeting at the band shell.

Cover major political races as well as local.

Partner with other groups in the area such as:

AARP, Glen Carbon and Edwardsville senior groups, Collinsville League, The Edwardsville Intelligencer, SIUE, Madison County Bar Association, Sierra Club, United Congregations of Metro East. (This list is a result of brainstorming. Groups will be added as suggested. No definite plans have been made. Dunham Hall at SIU was a suggested site.)

The Constitutional Convention will be on the ballot in November. We will have an informational meeting on March 29th at the library. Judy Thompson will work at finding a speaker on the pros and cons of a CC. A speaker on Home Rule will be part of the program. LWVEA will then have to take a consensus on the CC and get results to the state league by mid-April.

Kim Kirn is planning a meeting on “Water” in April. There will more details as plans be formed.

The Annual Meeting was discussed, and Judy Thompson presented her research on places and prices. The following points were made:

- Prices are high in most area restaurants.
- Catered meals are cheaper, but finding a site is difficult and expensive.
- Getting the membership together is the focus of the event.

After much discussion (the report was detailed with many possible combinations of factors) the board voted to have the annual meeting on Thursday, May 15th, 2008 at Martha’s Tea Room. Judy will secure the space. There are two options for food and the membership will be surveyed in the next bulletin. Options: full dinner at a price of \$18.00 to \$20.00 per person; lighter side buffet (sandwiches, soup, salad) at \$13.00 to \$15.00.

Suggested speakers for the meeting: Rich Walker to talk about changes in Edwardsville and the Wildey Theater. and Stephen Kerber, Archivist at SIUE.

The board directed the Nominating Committee to appoint a replacement for the board position formerly held by Joanne Collins.

Treasurer report was approved. (Gipe moved, Thompson seconded).

No deadline was set for the bulletin.

Trash pick-up is Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Nature Center. Begins at 1:00 p.m.

Ruth Ellis reported one new member and two national level members.

Next board meeting is Thursday, March 6th at 6:00 p.m. at Ellen Nore’s home. (Time may be changed.)

Submitted by M. Carol Gipe

Brennan's Blog February 11, 2008

The League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area continues to provide critical services to residents. In January, Carol Gipe and the Voter Services Committee organized a candidates' forum, which allowed many voters to hear the candidates for Appellate Judge and the Democratic nominee for the 19th Congressional District (who will run against John Shimkus). An enlightening event and well organized.

Also in January, a Programs Planning Meeting was held to decide the important issues our League will focus on in the coming year. Many new members were in attendance and added valuable insights and suggestions.

Kathy Jones, who attended the State of the State Luncheon in Chicago representing our LWVEA, deserves our gratitude. Kathy reported she and her husband learned much and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Make sure to ask her about it next time you see her.

One important decision the League locally must reach consensus on is if the Illinois State Constitutional Convention should be reviewed this year for possible amendments. This opportunity to hold a state constitutional convention is available only every 20 years, and our local League will report our consensus regarding holding such a con/con to the League of Illinois. In addition to reaching consensus ourselves, many members feel this is an important issue which should be explained to citizens. Therefore, a program to reach this objective will be in the works. If you would like more information about the Illinois State Constitutional Convention issue, please visit our state league's site at www.lwvil.org.

Plans for the Annual Meeting are coming together thanks to Judy Thompson and her committee. This year's meeting will be held at a new venue, Martha's Tea House. Sounds like a nice evening.

We continue to grow in numbers. Treasurer Ruth Ellis reports we have an additional two members and more information is forthcoming. Welcome to our League.

Hope you were all able to vote on Super Tuesday. It was an exciting day and a peek at what we might see later in '08.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ciszczon Brennan

LWVEA Holds Candidate's Meeting

On January 26, 2008, LWVEA held a Candidate's Meeting at the Edwardsville Library. The Saturday afternoon event was well attended, and there was media coverage. One of the pluses of these meetings is repeated airing on ECTV Channel 10 cable.

Both candidates and local residents benefit from this service. It helps LWVEA provide information to a lot of voters.

Included in the program were the two Democratic candidates for 5th District Appellate Court, Judy Cates and James Wexstten. There had been some local press on this race prior to the meeting, but both candidates willingly participated and appeared eager to have an opportunity to have further coverage in the Edwardsville area.

The two Democratic candidates for the 19th Congressional District, Daniel Davis and Joe McMEnamin, were both delighted to have an organized forum locally. There had not been much press on these two candidates from Springfield. League members and residents who attended the meeting learned where Danny and Joe stand on several issues, and the audience had a chance to talk informally with them too.

This meeting was successful and carried out one of League's missions – that of providing the community with information about candidates. This is done so we can step closer toward our goal of voters being informed when they cast their ballots.

Thanks to Voter Service Committee members who participated in this event: Moderator, Kim Kirn; Timers, Kathy Jones and Virginia McDole; Screeners, Meg Oberlag and Carol Reinking; Refreshments, Judy Thompson. Their professional demeanor helped set the tone for this meeting.

The Voter Service Committee is one that has a period of high activity, then a period of rest. After the February 5th primary, there is a lull. Soon there will be a lot to do in preparation for the November elections. Store up your energy during the next few months, and get ready to come forth with ideas when the planning meetings begin.

Carol Gipe
Voter Service Chair



Moderator, Kim Kirn, conducting the LWVEA Candidate's Meeting held at the Edwardsville Public Library on January 26^h, 2008 in preparation for the February 5th Primary elections.



Candidate for 19th Congressional District Primary, Joe McMenemy; in the photo on the right, LWVEA members Eric and Jeanne Sturley in attendance.



Candidate for 19th Congressional District Primary, Daniel Davis; in the photo on the right are Kathy Jones and Virginia McDole, LWVEA timers for the event.



Candidates, Judy Cates and James Wexsten, for the 5th District Appellate Court Democratic Primary elections held on Feb.5th, 2008.

Thanks to Voter Services Chair, Carol Gipe for setting up this excellent program and for the photographs. Look for the planning meetings later in the year for the November elections. Your participation is welcome.

**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 62025-0841

