

The Bulletin

Vol. 54, No. 4 January 2008

The League of Women of Voters of the Edwardsville Area is hosting a Candidates Meeting on Saturday, January 26th at 1:00 p.m. in the Edwardsville Public Library, lower level.

1:00 pm

- Democratic candidates for 5th District Appellate Judge: Judy Cates; James Wexstten

1:45-2:00 pm

- Democratic candidates for U.S. Representative for 19th Congressional District: Daniel Davis; Joe McMenamin

No Republicans are running for Appellate Court, so the winner on February 5th will be on the bench come November.

The winner in the 19th Congressional District race will face incumbent John Shimkus in the November election.

Early voting is available at the Madison County Administration Building 157 N. Main Street, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Here are the dates and times:

- 8:30-6:00 January 14-18 and 22-25 and 28-31
- 10:00-3:00 Saturdays, January 19th and 26th
- 9:00-12:00 Sundays, January 20th, 21st, and 27th

Brennan's Blog

A note from Lisa Ciszczon Brennan

January already! I'm still amazed at how much our local League accomplishes and how successful we are in so many different respects.

The **2008 elections** are approaching VERY quickly, and Voter Services Chairperson Carol Gipe has been successful again in coordinating a candidates' forum. This will take place **January 26th, 1:00PM, at the Edwardsville Public Library**. Please attend and bring a friend or two.

New members continue to join our efforts. As of our last Annual Meeting, six smart, concerned, and active women have joined our league. Welcome to Carol Juen, Allison Lamothe, Katherine Rose, Debbie Stubban, Barbara Crowder, and Kay Ahaus. I encourage all of you to simply ask friends to join us. Asking is easy, and many people (myself included) feel honored to be asked to join the League.

The LWVEA has also branched out in **activities** as well, becoming increasingly more active **with other local organizations**. For instance, working with the Edwardsville Police Department, we have adopted a road for clean-up. We met once in the fall and are scheduled to meet again **February 23rd** for another clean up. We've also continued developing our working relationship with the United Congregations of the Metro East. Recently, a "silent auction" letter went out to many local attorney's offices, and Board member Kim Kirn is working on a similar fund drive to members of the local area's Chamber of Commerce members. Another example is our outreach begun late in the fall with the Goshen Market on Saturday mornings. At this very popular weekly farmer's market, we offer information about our work and register new voters. This too will continue in spring, and we need volunteers to speak with Goshen Market shoppers. Not only are we working with other organizations, but there is also our virtual outreach and links through our website (www.edwardsvillearealeague.org).

The Annual Meeting is under construction ~ stay tuned for details on when and where this event will take place. All members should make every effort to attend this wonderful dinner, social event, and once-yearly business meeting.

A nominating committee has been formed to nominate a 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and two Directors to the LWVEA Board. Also, a budget committee has been recently formed to prepare next year's budget. This too will be presented at the annual meeting. Please check in regularly to www.edwardsvillearealeague.org for the latest news.

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Christmas Party. Thank you, Linda Lynch, for hosting such a lovely evening.

LWVEA January Board Meeting

The LWVEA board meeting was held at the home of Lisa Brennan on January 10th, 2008 at 5pm. Present were Lisa Brennan, Ruth Ellis, Carol Gipe, Judy Thompson, Kathy Jones, Ellen Nordhouser, Kim Kirn, Mary Pearson and Carol Gerdt.

The treasurer's report and the minutes from last meeting were approved by consensus.

The audit approval letter was approved and filed. Thank you to Linda Lynch for her work on this. Ruth gave us a mid-year report on our budget. There were only a few minor differences. The PMP (per member payment of \$26.80 to National and \$24.00 to State) is \$50.80, which exceeds our dues of \$45.00. Thanks to many members who added donations to their membership fees, which helped to address the shortfall. The possibility of raising dues may be considered at the annual meeting in May.

Budget committee appointments were discussed and three names chosen to be contacted to serve on this committee. Two board members, Ellen Nordhouser and Kathy Jones, volunteered to join Angela Farrell, Janet Burnett and Lynn Thiel on the nomination committee to choose board members for next year. The board would like the committees to meet in February so that a report can be published in the March bulletin to inform the membership before the May annual meeting.

The board members want to thank Linda Lynch for graciously hosting the Christmas party at her house. Linda set out wonderful refreshments and made us all feel welcome in her home. We actually had a brief meeting where we decided to hold debates for the upcoming primaries—more to come on that later. A note was made to send out invitations to members for next year's party instead of the bulletin and phone tree.

We received a thank you note from the Sheltered Care for our gifts. We also received a lovely thank you note from Paula Lawson for our small donation to help defray their costs in coming to help us with running our forums.

To date we have received one donation for our solicitation letter.

We will rewrite the letter and send out copies to the Chamber of Commerce members. Thanks to Susan Lucco, Kim Kirn and all who have worked on this silent fundraiser. Kim also has been in touch with the Chamber of Commerce about a possible co-hosting of a voter service program.

Carol Gipe has been working very hard on organizing the candidates meeting to be held at the Edwardsville Public Library on Jan.26 at 1pm. Please attend. Check out our website calendar for more information. (www.edwardsvillearealeague.org).

We would like to get a group together to volunteer at the KWMU fund raising, but there were too many conflicts.

Our street clean up date is coming soon—February 23rd at 1pm meeting at the Watershed Nature Center.

Judy Thomson has investigated several possibilities of places to hold our annual meeting; none of them are perfect, and she will check out a couple of other possibilities before a decision can be reached. Program suggestions for the event include our League's history display and a power point presentation. A program has not yet been decided upon. Ruth Ellis has agreed to do the Annual Report and Carol Gerdt has offered to do the directory. The meeting will be held on May 15th, 2008.

Kim Kirn is working on a program about water for the end of March or first of April.

Another suggestion for Feb or April is a program about Home Rule. This is not definite yet.

Kim Kirn moved and Carol Gipe seconded a motion to allow \$200 for Kathy and Robert Jones to attend the State of the State Luncheon in Chicago on Jan. 24th. The motion passed. They will provide their own transportation and lodgings.

The meeting was adjourned around 7pm in time for the Program Planning meeting.
Respectfully submitted, Carol Gerdt.

LWVEA Annual Program Planning Meeting

The program-planning meeting commenced at 7 pm on January 10, 2008 at the home of Lisa Brennan.

Present were Lisa Brennan, Ginger McCall, Joann Nabe, Kathy Jones, Angela Ferrell, Carol Juen, Mary Pearson, Kim Kirn, Pat Hulme, Carol Gipe, Allison Lamonthe, Ellen Nordhouser, Judy Thompson, and Carol Gerdt.

The consensus was to keep all of the programs from last year. The local TIF was discussed as a topic. We are working on immigration. Home rule was mentioned, as was local eminent domain issues. The Open Meetings Act is an area where public education could be important. Perhaps revisiting the "green" open meeting booklets from the attorney generals office for LWVEA distribution should be considered.

Electronic Communication Positions, e.g. email, cell phones etc. was deemed an important is to be discussed. Other areas are water (to be more specifically defined), Con-Con (10 year Constitutional Convention) consensus and WiFi for Edwardsville. The LWVEA board will come up with a report for the annual meeting discussions.

Edwardsville City Council Observer Reports

Meeting: 11/20/07

The oath of office was administered to 4 new firefighters/paramedics: Joey Cruz, Thomas Lalor, Matthew Sinnokrak and Jake Sweetman. Also swore in 2 new patrol officers: Derrick Fitzgerald and Jason Hunter.

Dr. Dale Chapman presented an update on the Lewis and Clark Community College. A dedication ceremony for the Jay Hoffman Center which completes the third phase of the complex will be held on December 5th, 2007.

Approved the tax levy estimate of \$7,960,000 and announced a public hearing on December 18, 2007.

Approved 3 budgeted items for the fire department totaling \$31,017.

Approved Ameren IP's plans for decorative streetlights and poles in the Hearthstone Place Subdivision.

Approved the preliminary plat of Club Centre East.

Annexed property at 3703 Blackburn Road, 7430 Leslie Drive, 1120 East Schwarz Street, and 5470 Shady Hollow Lane.

Passed on first reading the annexation of the Hearthstone Subdivision property.

Approved the final plat of Hearthstone Place Phase I.

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[Edwardsville City Council Observer Reports—Continued]

Meeting: 12/4/07

All present.

Approved liquor and tobacco licenses for Helicon Energy Corp. doing business as BP Amoco 301 S. Buchanan.

Accepted the report on redevelopment plan and project for the proposed North Main Street Redevelopment (TIF) Area and approved sending the plan to the affected taxing districts. Also set a public hearing date for January 24, 2008.

Authorized the mayor to sign a loan agreement with Bank of America (Veolia Water North America) for \$1.1 million to pay for infrastructure improvements.

Awarded the final MFT Sidewalk contract to Rite Hospital System, LLC for \$97,040 which is coming in under estimate.

Note: on 11/06/07 all were present and on 11/20/07 aldermen Hummel and Walker were excused.

Meeting: 12/07/07

All present.

Approved a resolution supporting FEMA designation of Edwardsville as a Restoration Zone on the updated flood insurance maps. This will provide for the maintenance and improvement of the levees over a ten year period.

Approved \$37,740 for additional design services and an additional \$25,300 from MFT funds for the Gerber Road Phase 4 project.

Very short meeting as two committees had no items on the agenda

Meeting: 12/18/07

All present.

Approved liquor, tobacco and sidewalk dining licenses for 2008 for the city.

Passed an ordinance assessing taxes for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, also one for the Special Service Area (Lewis-Weber Sewer Project).

Passed three resolutions abating tax levies on bond issues.

Approved purchase of computer hardware for the Fire Dept. which will be paid for from savings in their budget.

Approved a change order for \$25,227 to Keller Construction Inc. For Lincoln, Locust and Tower Avenues improvements which extended them and finishes the project.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

December 17, 2007

Mr. Roosevelt (personnel) went through projections for staffing in 2008-09. There will be 12 new certified teaching positions (11 at the elementary schools) plus other staff such as a nurse, a social worker, 6 food service, psychologists etc. These positions were all included in the bond referendum and we will end the year with a balanced budget.

Mrs. Bertels (building) said all building projects are on schedule and most are under a roof. She showed slides from some of the buildings.

Mr. Roosevelt (finance) told of the proposed new 3-year financial plan which will be voted on at the January 14th meeting. The AV should increase by 10% in 2008-09, but only by 8.5% in the following two years. No increase in state funding will be counted on. The proposed plan includes small deficits in the 2nd and 3rd years, but these may be offset if conditions improve. The district's bond rating has been upped from A- to A which is good news.

The board approved names for the two new elementary schools. The K-2 by Liberty Middle School will be called Goshen Elementary. The 3-5 on Glen Crossing Road will be called the Albert Cassens Elementary.

Dr. Andre told of some new courses to be offered at EHS next year. They are: AP Biology (the 4th AP science course to be offered); Biological Science Application in Animal Science (.5 credit) and in Plant Science (.5 credit); Biological Science in Agriculture; and Introduction to Statistics. Some music courses will have new names. Mixed Chorus will be Concert Choir I, Concert Choir I will be Concert Choir II, and Acappella Choir will be Chamber Singers.

Madison County Board Meeting

December 19, 2007

Marcia Custer, Observer

I Pre-agenda items.

- A. Recognition of Ann Linensfelter (?spelling) for her award from the Illinois Lion's Club Foundation her work in decreasing waste reduction. During the past seven years, under her leadership, 20,000 eye glasses have been recycled.
- B. Two speakers were given 31/2 minutes each to address the County Board, but I was unable to hear either of them.

II Appointment

Arthur Asadorian was appointed to fill the vacancy on the County Board created when Bob Shipley resigned to assume the position of Director of Regional Superintendent of Schools.

III Report from the Regional Superintendent of Schools

Mr Shipley gave a brief report to the Board that apparently is required or highly recommended by the State.

- There are 13 school districts in Madison County, Edwardsville being the largest.
- A new truancy imitative has recently been initiated.
- All schools are being inspected for health and safety issues..
- In June, for the first time, 17 year olds can take the GED
- Shipley notes the help of the sheriff's alternative work program assisting the progression of many students.

III Committee Reports of note:

- A. Kent Scheibel, Chair of the County Institutions Committee, thanked Board Members for gifts to the County Shelter Care Institution.
- C. The County Health Department Committee announced the appointment of Dr Edward Blair to the Health Department Advisory Committee.

IV Adjournment 5:40 PM

Election Day Guide

- **Go to the Right Place**

Poll locations can change. Be sure to locate your polling place before you go to vote. Check www.VOTE411.org or contact the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state.

- **Bring I.D.**

You may need to show I.D. at the polling place. To be safe, bring your driver's license or another photo I.D. In some places, a current utility bill, paycheck or other document that includes your name and street address may also work.

- **Get a Ballot**

Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted. You should be given a provisional ballot or given directions to another polling place.

- **Get Help**

Poll workers are there to help you. They'll show you how to use the voting machine or give you a provisional ballot if you need one. Ask, or read the signs at your polling place, which have instructions, list your voting rights, and say how to file a complaint.

- **Stay and Vote**

You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important!

- **Access to Polls and Voting**

Handicapped or elderly voters who cannot access the polling place can request to vote outside the entrance. Make the request to the election authority the day before the election.

From the League of Women Voters of Illinois website:

<http://www.lwvil.org/ElectionDay.asp>

**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