

# The Bulletin

Vol. 59, No. 2  
March, 2013

## Important Dates at a Glance:

March 20, 2013	7 to 8 pm <i>Wildey Theatre</i>	Forum for Edwardsville Mayoral Candidates Hal Patton and Barb Stamer
	8:to 9 pm <i>Wildey Theatre</i>	City Council Candidates Meet and Greet Three candidates vying for one Ward 8 seat.
March 21, 2013	7 to 9 pm <i>Glen Carbon Community Center</i>	Meet and Greet Four Trustee candidates for three seats Five Library Board candidates for four seats
March 26, 2013	7 to 9 pm <i>Edwardsville High School</i>	Forum for District 7 School Board Candidates Eight candidates for four seats
April 2, 2013	7 to 9 pm <i>Edwardsville Township Bldg.</i>	Meet and Greet Township Supervisor Candidates Barth Legate and Frank Miles
May 2, 2013	5:30 pm <i>LeClaire Room, NO Nelson Complex</i>	Social Hour followed by Annual Meeting Dinner Guest Speaker: Julie Furst-Bowe, SIUE Chancellor

## Dates for the Upcoming Election:

Early Voting begins: Monday, March 27  
Early Voting ends: Friday, April 5  
Election Day: Tuesday, April 9

## **Voter Services Events Planned**

On March 20, 2013, the LWVEA will sponsor a forum for the two candidates for Mayor of Edwardsville at the Wildey Theater. Following that forum, the three candidates for the Ward 6 Alderman position will be offered an opportunity to present their positions to the voters. The event will begin officially at 7:00 p.m., but League members or members of the public are asked to come early if they have questions to submit, and to do so, on index cards, to a group of League Members who will rewrite them, if necessary, for the Moderator to present to the mayoral candidates.

On the following day, March 21, 2013, the LWVEA will hold a Meet and Greet Voter Services event at the Glen Carbon Community/Senior Center, to allow candidates for the Glen Carbon Library Board and for Glen Carbon Village Trustees to present their positions to the voters. Informal discussion/question time with the candidates will then be provided over refreshments. This event will be from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> a Forum for candidates for the Edwardsville School Board will be held at the Edwardsville High School Auditorium. There are four candidates for three in town seats (of which three are incumbents) and three candidates for the regional seat (of which one is an incumbent). Each candidate will present his or her position, and questions will be solicited from the public and from League members, then directed to the candidates by the Moderator, after being reviewed by a committee of League members to ensure a fact-finding tone. This event will also take place at 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, all candidates for Edwardsville Township Trustee positions will be given an opportunity to describe their positions to the voters at 7:00 p.m. at the Edwardsville Township Building. The two candidates for Edwardsville Township Supervisor will also be presenting their backgrounds and positions to the voters on that evening.

## Illinois Pension Reform Study

Twenty-four of the forty League chapters in Illinois participated in the Pension Study and submitted their consensus results by the required November 16, 2012 postmark date. In these twenty-four participating chapters, there were a total of 340 members from various regions of the state of Illinois with an average of 14+ members per participating chapter.

### LWVIL State Pension Reform Position 2013

Recognizing that (a) there is both a revenue problem and a state public pension status problem and (b) that the burdens of changes must be shared by a broad base of stakeholders, the League of Women Voters of Illinois supports:

- Restructuring the five state public pension systems for **Tier 1 EMPLOYEES** hired before January 1, 2011 with an emphasis on a transition period for employees near retirement age to mitigate the impact of any proposed change.
- Assuming such a transition period is established on implementation, LWVIL supports the following reforms:
  - raising the retirement age
  - increasing the minimum years of service requirement for full retirement benefits
  - limiting application of unused sick leave to years of service for pension calculation
  - strengthening anti-spiking provisions
  - reducing pension Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) benefits
  - establishing maximum annual pension benefits.

LWVIL OPPOSES restructuring the five state pension systems for **Tier 1 EMPLOYEES** hired before January 1, 2011 by increasing required employee contributions to state pension plans.

LWVIL SUPPORTS restructuring the five state pension systems for **Tier 1 RETIREES** by reducing pension Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) benefits.

LWVIL SUPPORTS expanding state revenue sources to cover pension obligations by

- applying the Illinois state income tax to all retirement income
- establishing a tax on services
- maintaining the current temporary 5% state income tax as permanent.\*

\* Note: The statement referring maintaining the temporary income tax increase passed in 2011 does not override the LWVIL's long-standing Fiscal Policy position supporting a progressive income tax with a graduated rate.

LWVIL OPPOSES legislation stretching the pension funding ramp beyond 2045.

The League SUPPORTS establishment of a State of Illinois contractual obligation to fund its five public pension systems to enable individual members to sue the State if Illinois does not pay its required pension obligation.

Our **Edwardsville Area chapter** agreed with some of the State League's positions, and disagreed with others. Our chapter supported strengthening anti-spiking provisions, establishing maximum pension benefits, establishing a transition period for employees near retirement age to mitigate the impact of any proposed changes, and establishing a contractual obligation of the State of Illinois to fund its five pension systems. Our chapter did not support raising the retirement age, reducing pension COLA benefits, and increasing early retirement penalties.

Submitted by Carol Reinking

### **YOUR GREEN PLATE?**

A green glass plate with a snowman spreader was left at the Wine and Cheese event.

If it belongs to you,  
please contact Carol Reinking,  
who will be  
pleased to deliver it to you.

League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area

## **2012 HIGHLIGHTS**

- January 21** Fundraiser: Second Annual Wine and beer tasting at Crushed Grapes in Edwardsville
- March 1** Meet and Greet for primary candidates for the US House of Representatives 13th Congressional District at the Glen Carbon Senior Center
- March 8** Edwardsville Comprehensive Land Plan Consensus Meeting (after monthly Board Meeting)
- May 10** Annual Meeting. Dinner catered by Bella Milano and presentation by Glen Carbon Mayor Robert Jackstadt at the LeClaire Room, N.O. Nelson Complex, Edwardsville
- Feb. - November** Monthly roadside trash pickup along Tower Avenue on 3rd Saturday of the month
- May - September** Goshen Market table on 2nd Saturday of the month. Focus: membership outreach and voter registration
- June 14** Fundraiser: Refreshment table at Edwardsville Municipal Band concert in City Park
- September** Members Lorraine Krusa, Yvonne Jordan and Alison Lamothe participated in voter registration drives at Mount Joy Baptist Church, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville High School and Shop and Save.
- September 7-8** Members Lorraine Krusa and Evie Gorski participated in LWVIL leadership development training in Joliet, Illinois
- September 27** Fall membership social and informational meeting regarding local referenda items (Home Rule and Energy Aggregation) at Edwardsville City Hall Council Chambers
- October 4** Meet and Greet for candidates for Madison County offices at the Glen Carbon Senior Center
- October 13** Meet and Greet for Madison County Judicial and County Board candidates at the Main Street Community Center

- October 14,** Members Lorraine Krusa and Evie Gorski presented to a coalition of Scouts, ages 12-16 on the issue of voting, for which they were earning a badge.
- October 23** Meet and Greet for candidates for the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate and the US House of Representatives 13th Congressional District at Woodland Elementary School
- November 2** Mock Election at Edwardsville High School
- November 15** Presentation on Illinois State Pension Systems followed by consensus discussion at the Edwardsville Public Library
- December 6** Annual Holiday Party hosted by Evie Gorski. Attendees donated items for the Phoenix Crisis Center.

## **DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Observed by Meg Oberlag

### **December 17, 2012**

This meeting took place just after the Newtown incident. Two parents asked what the District was doing to improve school safety. Supt. Hightower assured them that there had been a meeting right away to deal with evaluating and beefing up our school security. He said that ours is the only District in the area that has a guard at the front door of each building. He said that when that guard has to do perimeter checks there will always be someone there to sit at the desk. Then he told of the good working relationship with various law agencies and how the students are trained to respond to three Codes: Code Stay (in place), Code Move (go out to safer place) and Code Yellow (isolate in place). He also told of the video systems and cameras which cover inside and outside.

He then went on to speak about mental health and what the District offers, such as 10 social workers, 12 psychologists and 13 nurses. He mentioned the various prevention activities and the Handbook rules about dealing with troubled youth or faculty. If a student is expelled, he cannot return to school without a written letter by a trained person who has evaluated him.

### **January 14, 2013**

The Lincoln School Alumni Association gave \$20,000 toward the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Initiative (PolyVision boards in each room) and St. Cecilia's Church gave \$7,547 for Special Education.

Supt. Hightower announced the new enrollment to be 7,547, which is up 58 since the start of the year. He also announced a new course in broadcast and broadcast journalism which will start next year in conjunction with SIUE. He also thanked the police departments of Edwardsville and Glen Carbon, the Madison County Sheriff's Department, as well as Ben Dickmann, Dave Bopp, Bob Hertz and Don Lask for all they have done over the years to upgrade the security in the District.

Each classroom now has an inside lock and there will soon be panic buttons, alarms and upgrades to camera systems. Discussion of the possibility of having an armed person on site will take place soon. He introduced many of the people who have been working on the Safety Committee and they made brief comments. A very impressive group!

### **February 25, 2013**

Mr. Roosevelt gave an overview of how other schools are handling the lack of state money and repeated the board's commitment to live within our budget.

Dr. Hightower pointed out that Illinois is eight to nine billion in arrears in paying its bills. At the end of this school year, they will probably owe us three million. As it is, we only get about 15 to 18% of our funding from the state. Local taxes will probably be responsible for 79-80% next year. (Remember that our State Constitution says that the state should pay at least 50%.)

Federal funding provides money for Title I, Title II and students with disabilities. The 5% sequester cut will cause a \$200,000 shortfall for these programs where the teachers are already under contract. The extra spending for security is another expense that was unplanned for. Next year the cost of insurance will go up and the teachers will get their 2% raise after a freeze this year. The district will have to come up with a lot of innovative ideas to make up for these things. Hightower said, "We are getting less and less, and having to do more and more."

**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 \$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