

The Bulletin

Vol. 54, No. 6 March 2008

Events to add to your calendar

- March 29th**, Saturday: Brian Harward, SIUE professor, will speak on the Illinois Constitutional Convention. The talk will be at the Edwardsville Public Library from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. A light lunch will be served.
- April 8th**, Tuesday: LWVEA board meeting at 6 pm at Ellen's home.
- April 19th**, Saturday: At Glen Carbon Senior Citizens Center, Michleen Gerken from the County Extension Service will speak about water.
- May 15th**, Thursday: LWVEA Annual Meeting/Dinner at Martha's Tea Room, beginning at 5:30 pm. Rich Walker will be the speaker
- May 17th**, Saturday: Next LWVEA trash pick-up meeting at the Watershed Nature Parking Lot at 8 am.

A Note from LWVUS: Join us on Facebook.

The League is now on the social networking site, Facebook—and we need your help to get the word out! If you or friends, loved ones or coworkers already have pages on Facebook, ask them to join our cause at http://apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/43588.

Not on Facebook yet? Just go to www.facebook.com and follow the simple instructions. Once you've confirmed your registration, jump to the League page at http://apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/43588.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The ballot for the November 2008 election will ask Illinois voters if our state should hold a Constitutional Convention. Since local Leagues must reach consensus on this question, we have invited Professor Brian Harward from SIUE's Political Science Department to speak about this topic on Saturday, March 29th at 12:30 pm in the meeting room at the Edwardsville Public Library. He will talk about the pros and cons of holding a Constitutional Convention and about the kinds of issues that could be addressed. It is the delegates to the Convention who will determine what issues will be considered. They can include a wide spectrum of topics that will affect Illinois' citizens in very direct ways ranging from changes in the teachers' retirement system to school funding to separation of church and state, eminent domain, stem cell research, legislative redistricting, gun control, and many more important issues.

Help us reach a consensus position for our League and be a better informed voter in the November election. Please join Professor Harward on March 29th at 12:30 at the Edwardsville Public Library for this informative meeting. Just a side note—since the meeting is at 12:30, we are planning to have pizza.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Last month we asked for some input on the menu for our Annual Dinner Meeting, which will be held at Martha's Tea Room on Thursday, May 15th at 6:00 pm. Thus far, we've only heard from eight members, but there's still time to voice your preference. 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 a salad. The cost for that meal will be about \$14 or \$15 per person. In both cases, we'll have beverages and dessert. Please call Judy Thompson at 656-6534 or send an e-mail to illinoislibrarian@yahoo.com and let us know your preference.

Our speaker at this year's Annual Meeting is Alderman Rich Walker, who will talk about his work preserving the history of the Wildey Theatre. The living history project he has organized is a subject about which he is very passionate and knowledgeable, so we're looking forward to a very enlightening program. The April Bulletin will include a reservation form, and we're hoping for a really good turnout for a nice dinner, an interesting talk by Alderman Walker, and an important League meeting.

District 7 Board Of Education

Observed by Meg Oberlag

February 11, 2008 - Members of St. Cecilia's Knights of Columbus presented a check for \$5900 from their Tootsie Roll sales to help students in Special Education.

Greg Roosevelt told of a new automated system for calling substitute teachers by using the internet rather than phoning. It will save time. Cost is \$8,500.

Monica Laurent said the CAC had listened to an update on the Writing Center at EHS and toured the new classrooms in the D wing.

Supt. Hightower announced that the district has received 1.2 million dollars in donations toward making improvements to many of the athletic fields, one of which is artificial turf at the football stadium.

The following changes in administration for 2008-09 were approved: Craig Lauer is retiring; Nancy Spina will replace him as Asst. Supt. For Personnel; Tara Fox replaces Spina as Principal at Woodland with Ryan Ketchem as Assistant Principal; Martha Richey was named Principal at the new Albert Cassens 3-5 Elementary; Pam McBee will replace her as Asst. Principal at Lincoln Middle School; Tara Wells was named Principal at the new Goshen K-2 Elementary; and Kim Jackson will be an Assistant Principal at EHS. Craig Lauer will stay on with the district to help finish the construction projects. Business Manager Dave Courtney's title has been upgraded to Asst. Supt. For Business Operation.

The board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Glen Carbon to allow a temporary road access across Cassens Elementary land while Glen Crossing Road is being renovated. It will allow residents of Fairfield subdivision to get out during construction.

Linda Andre announced a change in the schedule for Driver Education due to new additional state requirements. In order for the students to get their license as close to their 16th birthday as possible, the older Freshmen will get their classroom instruction in the 3rd or 4th quarters and then get behind the wheel sooner than before.

District 7 Board Of Education

Observed by Meg Oberlag

February 25, 2008 - Pat Hulme announced that Sunshine Week sponsored by the Society of Newspaper Editors will take place March 16-22. She said "we have real problems with open meetings. The decision process must not be behind closed doors."

Greg Roosevelt announced that the district will join the Illinois Energy Consortium which will allow us to save about 10% on electric bills. He also said that we have an opportunity to buy a house next door to Nelson Elementary School for \$112,467. This space would allow for more parking, better student drop off/pickup, safer bus parking and traffic flow. After a slide presentation, this was accepted later in the meeting.

Dr. Hightower announced the selection of Mark Bliss as new football coach. He has an impressive resume after 19 years of coaching with 111 wins and 34 losses. He formerly coached in Kansas and Missouri. The board approved this appointment.

The new Driver Education requirements/schedule as presented at the last meeting were approved as was naming Nancy Spina to be an alternate voting member of MISVIC (the Mississippi Valley Insurance Consortium).

Edwardsville City Council Meeting

2/5/08

All present.

Accepted letter of resignation from A.G.Monaco of the Human Relations Commission.

Authorized the mayor to enter into a short term loan agreement with the Bank of America for \$1.1 million.

Approved supplementary MFT resolution for East Schwarz Street project in the amount of \$30,000, which will be reimbursed.

Annexed territory at 12 Springer Woods to the city.

Passed an ordinance amending Chapter 240 to add three new firefighters.

Awarded M Street Complex generator bid to J.F.Fowler in the amount of \$58,498, \$30,000 from this year's budget and \$28,498 from next year's budget.

Edwardsville City Council Meeting

3/6/08

Tippit excused.

Mayor Niebur read a proclamation declaring this Girl Scout Week.

Awarded sole source bid for the purchase of Tyler Technologies Incode Human Resources Information System Software (so that it will integrate with other departments software).

Approved engineering agreements and funding sources for improvements to the Schwarz Street/South Buchanan Street intersection.

Unanimously passed three ordinances creating a Tax Increment Financing District for North Main Street Redevelopment. Alderman Tippit, who has consistently voted against this TIF, was unable to attend tonight's council meeting.

Denied three sign variances from Starbucks, Liberty Tax Service and Daech and Bauer Roofing since they did not conform to the requirements of the city sign ordinance.

LWVEA Board Meeting

The LWVEA board meeting was held March 6, 2008 at 6pm at the home of Ellen Nore. Present were Ellen, Kathy Jones, Judy Thompson, Mary Pearson, Kim Kirn, Carol Gipe, Ruth Ellis, and Carol Gerdt. We discussed the two upcoming program meetings. Brian Harward will speak on Con-Con and Michleen Gerken will speak on water. We discussed the annual meeting to be held on May 15th and choose to give members one more chance for input regarding the type of dinner. Rich Walker will speak about the Wildey Theatre.

The fund raising letter used before Christmas was edited to allow Kim to send to the names on the list that she obtained from the Chamber of Commerce. The 2008-09- budget proposal was discussed and minor changes made. Raising dues to \$50.00, primarily to help defray the PMP (per member payment) charged by the state and national league, was the main change. Judy moved to approve the budget, second was by Carol Gipe. All approved and the budget will appear in the March bulletin for membership review before the annual meeting. The nominating committee report and the program planning report will be in the April bulletin.

The Board also discussed fund raising. Ideas included a yard/bake sale in the fall, donation of large items to the Stephenson House 50/50 sale, hosting a quilt show and holding a 5K run. Planning is ongoing on these projects. The minutes and monthly budget report were approved by consensus. The next board meeting will be held on April 8th at 6pm at the same venue.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Gerdt

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