

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE EDWARDSVILLE AREA

[www.edwardsvillearealeague.org](http://www.edwardsvillearealeague.org)



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June/ July 2013

## DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

**April 28, 2013** – This was the final board meeting for Greg Roosevelt and Bob Perica. State Rep. Dwight Kay was there to present certificates of appreciation for their twelve years of public service. He said that District 7 is known in Springfield as a “premier” district. Jill Bertels also gave them a plaque from the board and Supt. Hightower gave words of thanks.

John Davin gave a report about the Agricultural Program at EHS. There are fifty students in the FFA (Future Farmers of America) club and they participate in many contests and activities. They raised \$23,000 for college scholarships for their members. The students will monitor the landscaping around our school buildings, calculate cost of materials etc. and will actually do some of the needed work.

**May 1, 2013** – Judge Ann Callis administered the oath of office to all the board members which included the newly elected Jeff Miller and Lelan Olsen. The Board then voted for the following officers: Jill Bertels, president; Brad Hewitt, vice president; and Monica Laurent, secretary. New committees will be announced at the next meeting.

Textbook fees will be raised as follows: \$70 to \$80 at the elementary schools, \$80 to \$90 for the middle schools and \$90 to \$100 at the high school. Drivers Ed will rise from \$175 to \$250.

Participation fees for athletics and performing arts will rise from \$50 to \$100 at the high school and from \$25 to \$50 at the middle schools. No student will pay more than \$200. This will raise \$210,000. They then voted on class sizes, some of which will need another teacher. And they voted to issue up to 5 million (if needed) to meet expenses until property tax and State money comes in. Illinois will owe the District 1.5 to 2 million by the end of June.

The Board also voted to increase lunch fees (up 10 cents at middle schools and high school and up 20 cents at the elementary schools) to meet the requirements of the Hungry Kids Lunch Program, and to join a co-op for food purchases which should save seven to ten percent.

**May 13, 2013** - Prior to the meeting, Supt. Hightower gave a 3 hour update on District finances for the Board, both old and new. It is not a pretty picture and will only get worse if the State of Illinois shifts the pension burden to the school districts.

The Edwardsville Rotary Club presented a check for \$20,000 to the District toward the Poly Vision whiteboards that are being installed in the classrooms. Dr. Andre reviewed proposed changes in the 2013-14 Student Handbook, many of which concern safety procedures. This will be voted on at the May 28th meeting.

## *“Dates to Remember”*

*August 1st, League Board meets to plan for the year’s events*

*September 24th: National Registration to Vote Day*

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- Celebrating 100 years of women’s suffrage in Illinois
- Welcome new members to our League

# **LWVIL CONVENTION**

**Normal, Illinois June 7--9, 2013**

Report by Lorraine Krusa

I attended as a delegate on June 8th and 9th. On Saturday Roll Call, I summarized the events we had sponsored during the election year including the Mock Election at Edwardsville High School, registering students to vote at SIUE and the high school.; sponsoring the Mayoral Candidates Forum as well as the forum for the Board of Education and the various Meet and Greet Events. We were singled out and given an award for our work.

On Sunday the Membership Report indicated that the League in Illinois had grown .3% in the past two years.

The Following Recommended Program Items for 2013-2014 were voted on and approved: 1. Study/Update LWVIL position on Charter Schools; 2. Readopt Action focus on Climate Change; Readopt Action Focus on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform; Adopt Action focus on Gun Violence Prevention; Adopt Action focus on Voting Rights; Readopt Action Focus on Redistricting Reform.

The LWVIL Position on State Pension Reform was tabled after much discussion of the pros and cons of the position.

Those opposed pointed out that only 18 of the 36 Leagues in Illinois had sent in a consensus report. Finally a standing vote was taken and the position was tabled by a majority vote.

Edwardsville Concert  
in the Park, June 13th

Thanks to all the members who donated drinks and cookies and cakes to our table. Special thanks to Mary Pearson, Rachel Tompkins and Carol Gipe for their work at the table.

This is a once a year fund raiser that also offers us visibility in the community.

## Welcome to new members

Carol Meek

Benna Denué

Larry Miller

William Mudge

Alison Reeves

Helen Holbert

Jennifer King

Vicki Van Tuyle

Welcome Back to

Barbara Crowder

Susan Young



### Convention Theme

## 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Leagues across the State of Illinois are marking the 100th anniversary this year of the bill that gave women suffrage in Illinois in June 1913. Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi to grant suffrage seven years ahead of the 19th amendment ratified in 1920. Once the Illinois bill was passed, the eastern seaboard states saw that women voting was a force for political change and the final push for national suffrage gained momentum.

## **LWVEA NEW & CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS**

**President Evie Gorski**

**1st Vice President Mary Pearson**

**2nd Vice President Alison Lamothe**

**Treasurer Barbara Kinsella**

**Secretary Lorraine Krusa**

**Director Kathy Jones**

**Director JoAnn Nabe**

**Director Ellen Nordhauser**

**Director Rachel Tompkins**

**Director Yvonne Jordan**

**Director Sylvia Frank**

Contact us at [www.edwardsvillearealeague.org](http://www.edwardsvillearealeague.org)

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**The LWVEA**

appreciates its members. If you have suggestions about this coming year's event planning, please don't hesitate to contact Evie Gorski at: [egorski5@gmail.com](mailto:egorski5@gmail.com)

**We welcome all suggestions.**

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