

The Bulletin

Vol. 58, No. 1
February, 2012

Important Dates at a Glance:

February 18, 2012	Roadside Pickup (well needed at this time- a lot of trash observed on the road side).
February 27	Women Studies talk, SIUE.
March 1	Meet & Greet for 13 th Congressional District Candidates, at the Glen Carbon Senior/Community Center.
March 8	LWVEA Board Meeting - Land Plan Consensus, Local Program review, and By-Laws review will be held at this meeting; General Membership is invited to attend.
April 3	LWVEA Board Meeting.
May 10	League Annual Meeting. To be held at the LeClaire room at LCCC, with Tom Jackstadt, Mayor of Glen Carbon, as the featured speaker. Save the Date!

Important Dates for the 2012 Primary Election:

February 21, 2012	Last day to register to vote
February 27-March 15, 2012	Early voting
March 20, 2012	ELECTION DAY



Upcoming Talk at SIUE

LWVEA members are cordially invited to attend a presentation by Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgarner, co-editors of *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future* and *Grassroots: A Field Guide to Feminist Activism*. This event is sponsored by the SIUE Women's Studies program. To be held on February 26, 2012, at 6 pm in the SIUE Morris University Center.

Meet and Greet Primary Candidates For the 13th Congressional District

On Thursday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m., the Edwardsville Area League of Women Voters will host a Meet and Greet at the Glen Carbon Senior Center for candidates for the House of Representatives seat in Illinois' 13th Congressional District. David Gill, a Democrat, will be joined by Republicans Michael Firsching and Frank Metzger, who are challenging incumbent Republican Congressman Tim Johnson in the primary election to be held on March 20. Mr. Phil Bloomer, a member of Representative Johnson's Staff will stand in for the incumbent. Candidates will make a statement of their reasons for seeking the office, and then, the floor will be open for questions and comments from members of the audience. Coffee and cookies will be available.

Fond Farewell

The members of the League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area would like to say farewell to Jeanne "Boots" Mudge Sturley. Jeanne is our last remaining charter member of the Edwardsville Area League. Thanks to her and other enthusiastic, determined women, the idea of a League of Women Voters in Edwardsville came to fruition. The criteria for starting up a League were detailed and required a great deal of work. Our League came into existence in 1955. Fifty seven years later, Jeanne is moving to Bloomington, Indiana to be near her daughter.

Her contact information is:

Jeanne G. Sturley
2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 024
Bloomington, IN 47408
Phone: 812-369-4212
E-mail: eajbsturley@att.net

Thanks Jeanne for all your work the past 57 years! Enjoy your new home.

Voter Registration at Mt. Joy Baptist Church

On January 28th, League members Yvonne Jordan and Lorraine Krusa participated in a voter registration drive at Mt. Joy Baptist Church in Edwardsville. The church will hold several other opportunities for people to register before the fall elections. We will post the dates when they are finalized. Mt. Joy plans to send out letters to the more than 4,000 residents of Madison County who are not yet registered, and we will again participate at the church at the dates to be announced. Thanks to Mt. Joy for this service to our County.

Highlights of the January 2012 Board Meeting

Lorraine Krusa reported that \$661.18 was our net profit from the wine and cheese fundraiser. This total was \$200.00 more than last year.

The annual meeting will be May 10th in the Leclaire Room at the N.O. Nelson complex.

There will be a trash pick up on Saturday February 18th. Meet at the Watershed Nature Center.

A meet and greet candidates meeting will be held at the Glen Carbon Senior/Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on March 1st. Candidates from the 13th legislative district will attend: David Gill, Mike Firsching, Frank Metzger and Phil Bloomer, who will represent Tim Johnson.

Local program planning and by-laws revision will be discussed at the March 8th board meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Meg Oberlag and Carol Reinking will complete legislative interviews with State Senator Bill Haine and State Representative Dwight Kay.

LWVEA 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

- January 22** Fundraiser: Wine and beer tasting at Crushed Grapes in Edwardsville
- March 18** Meet and Greet for the candidates for offices in Glen Carbon at the Glen Carbon Senior Center
- March 21** Meet and Greet for the candidates for Aldermanic positions in wards 1, 3, 5 and 7 at the Edwardsville Public Library
- April 3** Candidate Forum at Worden Elementary School
- April 30** Public discussion led by Master Gardeners Duwane Nickle and Bill Klopfensteinn focused on starting a community vegetable garden for the Edwardsville area at the University of Illinois Extension, Madison County
- May 18** Annual Meeting. Dinner catered by Bella Milano and presentation by Mayor Gary Neibur at the N.O. Nelson Complex, Edwardsville
- May - November** Monthly roadside trash pickup along Tower Avenue on 3rd Saturday of the month
- May - October** Goshen Market table on 2nd Saturday of the month. Focus: membership outreach and voter registration.
- June 16** Fundraiser: Refreshment table at Edwardsville Municipal Band concert in City Park
- June 25** Fundraiser: Yard sale in Grandview subdivision, Edwardsville
- September 26** Public forum: *Local Efforts to Recycle Waste: How Successful?* at the Edwardsville Public Library
- October 20** Education Consensus Meeting concerning the role of federal funding for public schools
- October 27** Voter education program and mock election for Cub Scout Pack 31 at Eden United Church of Christ in Edwardsville
- November 21** Presentation by Scott Hanson regarding changes to the Edwardsville Comprehensive Plan in 2010 at the Edwardsville Public Library

District 7 Board of Education Meeting
December 19, 2011

Observed by Meg Oberlag

Glen Carbon Mayor Jackstadt reviewed the process of getting Sam's Club to locate in Glen Carbon on property recently occupied by Four Flags Motors. The ground is contaminated with creosote and there is mine subsidence. There were many back and forth negotiations until an agreement was reached in early December and it will not be a TIF district. The various taxing districts will receive revenue and Ed Hightower thanked the Mayor and the Village of Glen Carbon for working that out. Sam's will open in mid-2013 after spending nearly 30 million.

Supt. Hightower again pointed out the dire financial situation. The State of Illinois paid us 17 million in 2006-07 and is now only sending 12 million. Funding from local property tax provides 76% of our budget. However, the Board will not ask for a tax increase and approved a levy that will keep our tax rate at \$4.05 – the lowest of all schools in our area. In January, the Board will work out a budget that reduces 3 million for the 2012-13 school year.

District 7 Board of Education Meeting
January 23, 2012

Observed by Meg Oberlag

Supt. Hightower again gave an overview of the dire situation with State of Illinois funding (see Dec. 19th report). The State owes us \$2.3 million for this year and is five months behind in payments. They are talking about cutting all funding for transportation and that would be disastrous for District 7 which covers 185 square miles. Local revenue growth has also gone negative. Hightower said that citizens should write their legislators to ask that they at least keep the \$6119 per student foundation level.

Since the Board is committed to not asking citizens for a tax increase, plans are underway to cut \$3 million from the 2012-13 budget. All areas will be reduced, but no program will be completely cut out. Nothing specific was mentioned, but the following areas were listed: cut 28 certified teachers, non-replacement of 7 retirees, reduction in administration/support areas, cut 33 aides, and cuts in Collinsville Area Vocational Center, driver's education, athletics and performing arts. After the District bargains with the three unions, a specific list of cuts will be presented at the March 12 meeting.

50 People Attended Wine and Cheese Event

Saturday, January 21st was great night for our local League. This was a team effort by the Board, our members, and community.

The food was outstanding with culinary delights provided by the Board. Jim Coode, the manager at Crushed Grapes, donated a \$50 wine and a goodies basket. A raffle was held raising \$62. Mr. Coode also gave a short talk comparing wine tasting to our political system of electing candidates. Just like wines, citizens want to find out everything they can about the politicians. Voters give the candidates a taste and sometimes they do not like the taste and they spit it out, and look for a different one.

Alison Lamothe created a poster detailing the League's 2011 meeting, studies, projects, and fundraiser. This information was beneficial to both League and community members.

Another big thank you to JoAnn Nabe, Meg Oberlag, Carol Reinking, and Lorraine Krusa for assisting at the ticket table. Our net profit was \$661.18.

Thank you, members for attending this event and inviting family and friends. The evening was a success because so many members participated in various ways. What a fun way to raise money and enjoy our membership!

Submitted by,
Evie Gorski, Fundraiser Chair

A brown folding table (4 foot by 20 inches) was left after the garage sale in the Fall. Call Meg at 656-4508 to claim ownership.

**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