

The Bulletin

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November/December 2010

Important Dates at a Glance:

Thursday, December 9, 2010 7:00 – 9:00pm

Holiday Party at the home of Evie Gorski

Thursday, January 6, 2010 7:00pm

Monthly Board Meeting. 1st Thursday of each month.

Saturday, January 22, 2011 5:00 - 700pm

Fundraiser: Wine and Beer Tasting at Crushed Grapes. Watch for more information to come.

Thursday, February 3, 2011 7:30pm

Program Planning Meeting. Meet at Ellen Nordhauser's home to plan the local program for the upcoming year. Board meeting at 7:00pm, prior to this event.

Thursday, March 3, 2011 7:00pm

Monthly Board Meeting.

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:00pm

Iron Jawed Angels. Celebrate Women's History Month by viewing Katja von Garnier's documentary. This film tells the remarkable story of young suffragist activists, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, who fought for American women's right to vote. Edwardsville Public Library, Community Room.

Saturday, May 21, 2011 7:00pm

Annual Meeting. Save the date!

****** HOLIDAY PARTY ******

Members will meet at the home of Evie Gorski for our yearly, holiday celebration. The Board will provide light snacks and drinks. Please bring a protein food item to donate to the Edwardsville Food Pantry. Ginger McCall will review creative plans to revisit the league publication, Living Lightly on the Earth.

Karen Buescher, Treasurer, reports that we received \$465 in "extra" contributions from members when they paid their yearly dues! We thank the members who made these contributions.

Tour of the Recycling Plant

On Friday, September 17th, nine members of the League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville area, along with two members of the Edwardsville Cool Cities Committee visited the Resource Management Company in Earth City. This is the company that takes all the community recycle materials from Allied Waste. The visit was arranged through the efforts of Leah Dettmers, Madison County Waste Management Coordinator. The group spent two hours with Garry Gilliam, sales manager for the company. He pointed out that many of the employees who leave the assembly line are now driving fork lifts of the packaged materials.



The trip was very enlightening. Recycled glass, steel and aluminum are bought from the company by many industries here and in other states. The facility was very impressive. Mr. Gilliam explained through the use of film and cameras placed throughout the company how automation has improved the speed and accuracy of the process of recycling. Glass is crushed and steel, aluminum and paper are sorted by fine screening and magnets as materials are passed along conveyor belts. As materials pass onto the conveyors initially, workers watch the conveyors

for items not meant for recycling. The group then walked into the area where the conveyors were running to watch the live process. At the end of our tour, we all agreed that this was a very rewarding experience. It is reassuring to know that the recycling of our waste products is saving money, and resources for people right here in our area. – submitted by Lorraine and Chris Krusa



E.H.S. Mock Election

On October 26th, students from EHS government and U.S. History classes voted in a mock election for Illinois offices, for the representative in Congress, 19th Congressional District, and for the U.S. Senator. The election was held in the media center of the high school using equipment from the Madison County Clerk's office.

Twenty-four students volunteered to be election judges and received extra credit from their honors' U.S. History teacher, Jeff Gall. Mark Von Nida, Madison County Clerk, trained the students, Meg Oberlag, and Evie Gorski to use the early voting machines which are all computerized, no paper and punching required! Carol Reinking also worked a shift during the election.

423 students voted which included freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The students were extremely professional and well-behaved. The day went smoothly and all machines worked the entire day.

– submitted by Evie Gorski... (who did a wonderful job of coordinating this event and was undaunted by the short planning time determined by the election schedule)

Roadside pick-up

Thank you to League members who helped with roadside pick-up on November 20th - including Lorraine Krusa, Carol and Tom Gipe, Mary Pearson, and Rachel Tompkins. A special thanks is extended to Ellen Nordhauser, who has coordinated this activity, since inception, with the City of Edwardsville. The next pick-up will be scheduled after the leaves have been removed by the city (we know that additional items to recycle lurk below).

October Meet-and-Greet

The October 13th Meet-and-Greet for the November candidates, at the Glen Carbon Senior Center, was well attended by both candidates and the public. Thank you to the Voter Services committee (notably Judy Thompson, Carol Gipe, Meg Oberlag, and Kathy Jones) for organizing this event and to Rachel Tompkins and Ellen Nordhauser, current committee co-chairs.

Responsible Budget Committee

New Board member, Barb Kinsella, has been appointed to be our liaison with the Responsible Budget Committee. Barb attended a coalition meeting, at the SIU-E

campus in East St. Louis, in October. She will keep us informed about ways that we can work with this committee to help reform the Illinois state budget.

LWVIL view on Gaming Expansion

Gaming Expansion is being discussed during this year's Fall Veto Session in Springfield.

The LWVIL OPPOSES the use of gaming as a solution to Illinois' fiscal problems.

GAMBLING: NO CURE FOR STATE'S FISCAL ILLS

Based on the State Fiscal Policy position, the League of Women Voters of Illinois has prepared the following statement opposing gambling as a solution to Illinois' fiscal problems.

The recent focus on the possibility of riverboats in Chicago and the suburbs distracts attention from the real fiscal problems that Illinois must address: a revenue system that is outmoded and structurally flawed, grows less than the economy and is therefore unable to provide stable funding for state programs and services from one year to the next, and unfairly burdens the poor. The League opposes gambling as a solution to the state's fiscal problems for the following reasons:

1. Gambling revenue is only a small slice of the state revenue pie. In FY1993, the total net revenue from gambling for Illinois state government comprised only 2.4 percent of the total state revenue of \$29 billion.
2. Gambling revenue has low natural growth potential. It does not contribute to the ability of the state revenue system to capture and reflect long-term economic growth or to provide stable funding for state services and programs.
 - Revenues from horse racing and the lottery have been the lottery have been relatively stagnant since 1986, experiencing single digit growth rates (or declines). FY1993 saw the second decline in the past three years in lottery receipts. Introduction of new games and higher prices have been necessary to maintain public interest in the lottery.
 - Noting that Illinoisans wager a relatively high portion of their personal income in comparison to people in other states, the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission (IEFC) projects that Illinois may be nearing its gaming saturation point when the portion of income people are willing to gamble will have reached its limit.
 - The introduction of riverboats in Illinois has resulted in increased growth of overall gambling revenue, but continued growth is forecast only for the near future. According to the IEFC, "as the State nears its saturation point and as surrounding states also jump aboard the gambling bandwagon, revenue from gambling will likely begin to level off, resulting in increased competition between the various forms for the gaming dollar."
3. Gambling is a regressive approach to raising revenue, disproportionately impacting those with lower incomes, and does not improve the overall progressivity of Illinois' revenue system.

Expansion of riverboats in Illinois would be one more stop-gap measure to shore up lagging revenue growth and one more excuse for lawmakers to avoid long-term solutions while Illinois' fiscal health continues to deteriorate.

Sources: Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission, Wagering in Illinois, January 1994; Iris J. Lav, Relentless Decline: Illinois' Structural Revenue Deficit, March 1993; Jim Nowlan, "Fool's gold of Illinois governments," Tax Facts, September 1993.. For more information, email issues@lwvil.org

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

November 8, 2010 – The big news of the night concerned the partnership of District 7 with the Edwardsville Arts Council to establish an art gallery at EHS. It will occupy the southeast corner of the D wing. The only other area schools to have galleries are John Burroughs in Ladue and New Trier Township H.S. in northern Illinois. Jackie Dezort and Steve Hartman presented the idea to the Board. The EAC will fund the renovation of the area, staffing and program planning. There are many benefits to come from this for both the District and the EAC. If the plan is accepted at the next Board meeting the gallery will open next spring.

October 25, 2010 – A very interesting report on solar panels was presented. Supt. Hightower said that in 2009 a solar panel had been installed at EHS South. It was a 1 KW solar system. Recently a grant was received that will allow District 7 to install four more panels that are 100 times the size of that first one. They will be installed at Liberty Middle School and three elementary schools – Cassens, Goshen and Worden. The panels will be located on top of the buildings and not visible from the street. They will be paid for by \$500,000 from the Illinois Dept. of Commerce, \$350,000 from the installers (Day and Night Solar and JF Electric) and \$75,000 by the district which will be recovered by savings within three years.

Bob Eaton of Day and Night Solar said that the first one saved 46% more than predicted. The new panels will save almost \$13,000 a year plus income that we will make from selling SREC (Solar Renewable Energy Credits) to utility companies. Dr. Andre said that we have incorporated solar energy into our science courses to help students get into the new college majors in this technology.

Dr. Andre also gave a report about the test results from last spring. The district scored well above the state averages and has improved over the 2009 scores. However, one sub group (special needs) did not make adequate progress in reading so our district failed to meet the No Child Left Behind requirements. If just 25 or 30 students had scores of 5 points better we would have met the goal. In 2011 there will have to be 85% meeting the goals and by 2014 there must be 100% meeting goals. This will be a tough one to meet!!!!

League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area

Meeting Minutes/date: August 19th, 2010

Present: Karen Buescher, Carol Gipe, Evie Gorski, Lorraine Krusa, Kim Kirn, Alison LaMothe, Joanne Nabe, Ellen Nordhauser, Mary Pearson, Rachel Tompkins

Minutes for both May 6 and June 24 were approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report, which showed the LWVEA's overall position to be \$1858 beyond dues, was approved. The Report showed a strong need for fund-raising. Payment per Member to the State and National organization has been paid for the second quarter. Payments for the remaining 3rd and 4th quarters will total \$1800.

Evie Gorski and Karen Buescher were welcomed as new members to the Board. Evie also agreed to chair a committee on fund-raising.

Old Business:

Members were reminded of the August membership meeting held at the home of Lorraine and Chris Krusa on Saturday, from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m.

Leah Dettmers, the County official responsible for recycling in Madison County is arranging for a tour of the recycling operation in Earth City, Missouri.

Living Lightly on the Earth, the LWVEA's pioneering environmental publication from the 1970's, will be updated by a committee composed of Ginger McCall, Carol Gipe, and Jane Klopfenstein.

Evie Gorski will chair the Ways and Means Committee. Voter Services, formerly chaired by Carol Gipe, will be handled by Rachel Tompkins, Chair, and a committee composed of Ellen Nordhauser, Meg Oberlag, and Judy Thompson.

September 25 was set as the date for the monthly Road Cleanup.

Lorraine Krusa has maintained a LWVEA presence at the Goshen Market this summer.

New Business:

The following fund-raising options were discussed:

1. In March, Women's History Month, when the Wildey Theater will be open for events, the LWVEA will show the PBS movie about Women's Suffrage, with a comment by Ellen Nordhauser.
2. A possible wine-tasting event during October was considered. Crushed Grapes or Springers' were suggested as sites.
3. Next summer, the LWVEA will again host the refreshment stand at one of the City Band concerts. It was agreed to raise prices from .50 to \$1.00 for soda and water.
4. A T-Shirt for the LWVEA to sell is being designed by Lorraine Krusa's daughter. Evie Gorski suggested that the shirt carry the slogan, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

The following other items concluded the New Business:

1. On September 20, LWBEA will register voters at the Community Center.
2. On October 6, in a meeting at the Edwardsville Public Library, from 7:00 to 9:--, Judge Barbara Crowder will discuss changes in the Madison County Judicial System.
3. There was some discussion of the Mock Election Event. Several Board members thought that such an event is more worthwhile in a presidential year. Others thought voting in all elections would be encouraged by a mock election.
4. Alison Lamothe confirmed that she is working on a program on early childhood education in District 78.
5. Members discussed a possible replacement for Jeanne Burnworth, who was unable to serve on the Board.

League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area

Meeting Minutes/date: September 16, 2010

Present: Karen Buescher, Evie Gorski, Kathy Jones, Lorraine Krusa, Alison LaMothe, Joanne Nabe, Ellen Nordhauser, Mary Pearson, Rachel Tompkins

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with corrections.

Treasurer Karen Buescher described the method she is using for keeping the League's accounts: cash-on-hand basis.

Announcements:

1. Alison and Lorraine announced the Schedule for League presence at the Goshen Market. Also, they noted that 16 people had signed up to go on the tour of the recycling facility in Earth City, Missouri, on Friday afternoon of September 17. Lorraine will write a summary of the trip.
2. JoAnn announced the Living Lightly on the Earth Committee is meeting. Much of the information in the original pamphlet from the 1970s remains relevant. Included in the new edition will be a survey of which local stores and restaurants feature foods from local growers. Local gardens maintained by restaurants feature foods from local growers. Local gardens maintained by community organizations will also be noted, among them the Rotary garden, the garden at the Madison County Historical Society, and the garden at the Benjamin Stephenson House. Members of the committee are: JoAnn Nabe, Ginger McCall, Jane Klopfenstein, Carol Reinking, and Karen Buescher. Alison LaMothe suggested that parts of the original booklet be included for historical interest and to show how far we have come with environmental consciousness, and she added that the booklet will be good to hand out at the Goshen Market.

Business:

1. Evie Gorski updated information on a proposed Mock Election to be held at Edwardsville High School. Mark Von Nida, County Clerk, had approved the idea. No date had been set, but if the mock election is to take place, it must be scheduled, she noted, by October 30. The League would not be able to register voters at the proposed mock election because the deadline for voter registration is October 6. The School District had notified Evie that they approved the idea.
2. Members discussed hosting a wine-tasting, including beers, in November, but the Board decided that January 22 would be a better date. Cost will be \$150 for wine, with additional cost for including beer. Crushed Grapes would provide the wines and beers, and League members would bring appetizers. The hours would be from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Evie Gorski will get details and, though unable to attend the next meeting, will send a report.
3. By unanimous approval, Barb Kinsella was selected to fill a vacancy on the Board.
4. Since the League hosts two community events, a talk on changes in the Madison County Court by Judge Barbara Crowder on Wednesday, October 6, and a Meet-and-Greet for the Candidates in November elections on Wednesday, October 13, the Board decided not to have a regular meeting during October. A short meeting at 6:30, before Judge Crowder's talk, was scheduled in the Community Room of the Public Library.

**League of Women Voters
Edwardsville Area
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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 \$50.00 include membership in our local, state and national organization. Send your check to Treasurer, LWVEA, P.O. Box 841, Edwardsville, IL 62025-0841

