



# The Batavia Voter

## September 2009

### CALENDAR

**September 19** - Volunteer Fair, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00. p.m., Batavia Public Library (BPL). See information on page 2.

**September 28** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL Conference Room. Film about genetically modified crops, "The World According to Monsanto," with presentation by League Member Marlene Bedard. Background on page 3.

**October 5** - Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL Group Study Room

**October 7** - State-Wide Mental Health Rally, Noon - 1:00, Thompson Center, Chicago. Information from LWVIL.

**October 26** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL. Merger Update presented by President Susan Russo. Details on page 4.

**December 7** - Holiday Party and Fundraiser, 7:00 p.m. Details in next Voter - save the date!

**December 14** - Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL Group Study Room

**January 25, 2010** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL. Discussion of Final Report of the Batavia Citizens Advisory Committee on Additional River Crossings

**February 8** - Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL Group Study Room

**February 22** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL. History of the Batavia LWV presented by Barbara King and Lynn Elam

**March 22** - Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BPL. Environmental Program presented by Ann Drover and Betsy Zinser

**April 12** - Board Meeting-7:00 p.m., BPL Group Study Room

**April 26 (TENTATIVE)** - Annual Meeting. Details to come.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear League Members,

Congratulations to LWV Batavia and LWV Geneva-St. Charles for receiving a SPOTLIGHT on LEAGUE ACHIEVEMENT Award at the 2009 LWVIL Convention!!

This award was presented for the Mega Candidates' Forum held on January 8, 2008 for the 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District vacant seat. The Forum drew a crowd of almost 600 and reached even more citizens through public access television and widespread publicity.

Special thanks go to Patti Lackman, LWV Batavia Voter Services Chair, and Janet Safanda, LWV Geneva-St. Charles Voter Services Chair, for organizing this Forum. And hearty thanks to ALL of you members who helped make this Forum so successful!

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A big thank you goes to Barbara King for hosting a lovely picnic on July 31, 2009 and to Patti Lackman for helping Barbara with this event. The weather couldn't have been more perfect, and food and conversation were delightful!

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LWV Batavia will be hosting a variety of activities, programs and events in the upcoming year. Please check out the dates and times published in this issue of the *Bulletin* and mark your calendars.

In particular, please note that a membership meeting will be held on October 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming merger of LWV Batavia and LWV Geneva-St. Charles. This meeting will give each member an opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and get involved in the merger process.

This year will be one of change. It will also be one of growth. Together, we will make it a very successful year!

Susan Russo

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***LWV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with the eighth annual LWV Volunteer Fair on Saturday, September 19. Co-chairs Barbara King (630- 879- 2263) and Patti Lackman (630- 879-1539) would like to hear from any league members who have a couple hours to help on fair day, or on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> from noon - 5:00 p.m., when several participants set up their displays. Registrars are especially needed for the voter registration table on Saturday from 10:00 - 2:00. Call Barbara or Patti to ask questions or volunteer to help.***

**More about the September 28 meeting, 7:00 p.m., Batavia Public Library**

**“THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MONSANTO”**

**Be sure to come and view this thought-provoking documentary film that** discusses Monsanto’s start as a manufacturer of agricultural chemicals and its growth into an agribusiness. It tells of the gap between claims that these chemicals were safe and the reality of illness and death of those exposed to them. It also speaks of Monsanto’s take-over of all varieties of food seeds and their rush for ownership of all genetically modified crops (GMOs).

With interviews from several countries around the world, the film illustrates the cycle of GMO crops: High seed prices every year, borrowing to pay for seed, bankruptcy and the dire consequences of poor crop years. It also addresses the issue of dairy products from cows treated with Monsanto’s genetically engineered bovine growth hormone which may increase the risk of cancer and other diseases, especially in children. Already banned in most industrialized nations, it has been approved for use in the US.

League member Marlene Bedard, who is active in the Sierra Club and is a long-time champion of environmental causes, will introduce the film and answer questions about why Monsanto has become a poster child for corporate influence in government and technology.

**\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\***

**2009 – 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE PAID BY OCTOBER 1, 2009!**

Individual \$60.00; two at same address, \$90.00 for both

**If you owe dues, please bring your check to the September 28 meeting or mail it to:**

Batavia League of Women Voters  
P. O. Box 611  
Batavia, IL 60510

***Per the By-Laws, any member with dues unpaid by October 1 shall be dropped.***

## More about the October 26 meeting, 7:00 p.m., Batavia Public Library

### UPDATE ON THE BATAVIA-GENEVA-ST. CHARLES MERGER

All members are urged to come to this important meeting about the future of our league, a progress report on the merger of the Batavia and Geneva - St. Charles leagues to form the League of Women Voters of Central Kane County (LWVCKC).

Topics to be addressed:

- Answer your questions and concerns
- Assign members to a Reading Committee to review and evaluate a draft of the new by-laws
- Develop a Program Committee for the LWVCKC
- Organize a Nominating Committee to work with Geneva-St. Charles LWV's Nominating Committee
- Explain the procedures to be followed at the 2010 Annual Meeting, when our membership will be asked to approve the creation of the new league

President Susan Russo, a member of the merger committee, will be the presenter.

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### VOTER SERVICE NEWS

Voter Service Chair Patti Lackman reports that activities relating to next year's election cycle are already under way. A recent joint meeting with the Geneva - St. Charles LWV Voter Service Committee included a review of the "empty chair policy" (i.e., what happens if one of two candidates for an office declines to participate in a League forum, or cancels at the last minute: Can we, in fairness, allow the remaining candidate to speak?). Preliminary plans were also set in motion for a Candidates Forum prior to the February 2, 2010, General Primary Election. Since the candidate filing deadline is November 2, 2009, it is not yet known how many candidates there will be or which offices will be contested. However, a January forum is assumed to be likely with date and place to be determined.

Voter service activities are the cornerstone of the league. Anyone interested in helping out in this important area – which includes voter registration, candidate forums, and voter education projects – should contact Patti at 630-879-1539.