



League of Women Voters®

SUMMER 2007

THE BATAVIA VOTER

Coming Events:		
Monday, July 16 <i>TBA</i>	Terry Allen's home	Board training
Saturday, July 21 <i>6:00pm</i>	Barbara King's home	Summer picnic
Monday, Sept. 17 <i>7:00</i>	Pat's home	Board meeting
Saturday, Sept. 22 <i>10:00-2:00</i>	Batavia Public Library	Volunteer Fair
Monday, Sept. 24 <i>7:00</i>	Batavia Public Library	Membership Kick-off Bring a guest
Monday, Oct. 15 <i>7:00</i>	Pat's home	Board meeting
Monday, Oct. 22 <i>7:00</i>	Batavia Public Library	Batavia Citizens for Energy Conservation presentation
Monday, Nov. 26 <i>7:00</i>	Batavia Public Library	Kane Co. Housing Authority Coalition presentation

President's Message

I have just returned from attending my very first League of Women Voters Illinois conference. It was truly enlightening for me to attend with all of those ladies that know so much about our government and the way the LWV fits in. There were some very interesting topics being discussed and needless to say I was a little overwhelmed.

It was nice to be able to meet with my counterparts from all over the state and realize that the issues we face in Batavia are not so different from those faced by most other leagues.

Membership Recruitment initiatives programs continue to be a big issue on the national front. There are programs available to local leagues to provide assistance to the state and ultimately the local leagues in helping to increase membership.

That being said, our first meeting in September will be an introduction to the Batavia League of Women Voters, which will include information about what the LWV is all about. I encourage you all to invite a friend... or two or three to attend our September meeting.

Another exciting piece of the convention was *Making Democracy Work* with the *Show Us Amendment*. It is a grassroots petition drive to place an amendment to Article IV of the Illinois Constitution on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot. It is designed to return the people and their input back in to the Illinois Legislative process. More info is available at www.showus.org.

I visited with Anita before I went to the conference. She is recuperating and sends all of you her regards. Please give her a call, drop a note, etc before she and Kenneth leave on their western move to Washington State. We will all truly miss her.

– Patti Lackman



State Convention News

Representatives from 34 Illinois Leagues met for the LWVIL's 53rd State Convention from June 22 – 24 in Matteson, IL. The theme of the convention was "Strengthening Our Roots and Branching Out". The following items were recommended for 2007-2009 program:

I. Readoption of Current Positions

The state Board recommends readopting all current positions.

II. Adoption of Immigration Position Position Statement on Immigration

The League of Women Voters of Illinois:

► believes that the State of Illinois should promote local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for immigrants regardless of documentation status. The State of Illinois should support funding efforts for these services by encouraging federal funding and by the use of funds from the state and local governments as well as from the private sector.

► believes the State of Illinois should promote and fund educational programs and materials that seek to inform all workers, including documented and undocumented immigrants, of their rights in the workplace.

► believes the State of Illinois should provide "driving certificates" or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensuring that they would have passed a state driving test. The LWVIL also believes the State of Illinois should permit and encourage auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates.

► opposes the deputization of state and local police to enforce immigration laws in Illinois.

► opposes legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would penalize landlords for renting to undocumented immigrants.

► opposes legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would prohibit the issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants.

► does not support extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

III. Readopt the Action Focus: Funding of Public Education and Social Services to promote efforts to provide stable, reliable, and adequate revenues for public education and other social services.

IV. Readopt the Action Item: Making Democracy Work

This program will assess and strengthen citizen participation in the state legislative process. The Making Democracy Work action item will include, but not be limited to, efforts to pass the *Show Us Amendment* that would strengthen citizen participation in the legislative process.

V. Readopt the Exploration Item: 2010 State Constitutional Convention.

The state Board recommends that the need for a State Constitutional Convention continue to be investigated.

National News

Membership Recruitment Initiative

Year one of the Membership Recruitment Initiative was a great success! LWVUS is entering year two of a pilot project specifically designed to reach out to potential new members. We've been "testing" new strategies and techniques with local Leagues in 2006-07. In year two we will be testing some of these strategies in partnership with five pilot state Leagues. As the pilot evolves we are sharing information on lessons learned and providing all Leagues with a new way to look at membership recruitment.

The Batavia LWV can be a part of the initiative and will discuss this further at upcoming board meetings. Approximately nine Illinois leagues are needed to participate. Funds and assistance are provided at the State level and then directed to the interested local leagues. The assistance provided would be with advertising, selecting and marketing to a specific age group to try and increase membership, website suggestions, and providing useful resources.

Opportunities for Involvement

The Kane County MH/DD Study group will meet on Tuesday, July 17th from 1:00-3:00. Agenda will include decision on date, time and place to hold Kane County-wide league Fall mental health consensus meeting and will a discussion of the Profile of Care document. This document includes a background of positions, activity, findings and conclusions of work done thus far.

Also, a new subcommittee has been formed for the Kane County Housing Action Coalition which meets the third Wed. of the month at Baker Church in St. Charles. The next meeting is July 18th. If you are interested in this or know others who might be interested, please forward this information to them.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups contact Darlene Bakk at darlenebakk@yahoo.com or (630) 377-8359.



You are invited to attend our

Summer Picnic

When: July 21, 2007

Time: 6:00pm

Where: Barbara & Jim King's home
1178 Chillem Dr., Batavia

RSVP: Barbara at 879-2263

What should I bring: Pot-luck (please ask Barbara what is needed when you RSVP)

Who: League members, spouses and guests are welcome

Reminder

If you have not already paid your membership dues for 2007-2008, please send a check to Pat Pardee. Dues are \$60 for an individual, \$90 for a couple, and \$25 for students.

Meet the LWV Batavia Board

Name: Patricia "Patti" Hayes Lackman

Board position: President

Former positions: Vice President

Number of years in Batavia LWV: 4 yrs.

LWV areas of interest: Voter services, membership, volunteer issues

Professional interests: Retired from the Illinois Dept. of Corrections after 25 years; presently training companies on employment issues including sexual harassment.

Other volunteer interest: School district facilities commission and referendum committee; Calvary Episcopal Church

Family: married for 29 years to Jim and has one daughter, Maggie, who is a sophomore at Batavia High School.

Name: Susan S. Russo,

Board position: Vice President

Former positions: Secretary, 2005-06

Number of years in Batavia LWV: 4 years

LWV areas of interest: Civil liberties/First Amendment rights; second Batavia bridge; environmental issues

Professional interests: Attorney, sole-practitioner concentrating in Estate Planning, Probate and Guardianships, Real Estate and Small Corporations

Other volunteer interest: The Holmstad Management Advisory Committee, Batavia Public Library Foundation, Batavia Public Library Board of Trustees, Aurora YWCA Board of Directors

Hobbies & recreation: Gardening, biking, traveling

Family: Married to Daniel Russo; 2 sons, Christopher (19) and Matthew (17)

Name: Ruth Johnsen

Board position: Finance Committee Chairman

Former positions: President

Number of years in Batavia LWV: 50 years

LWV areas of interest: local government and serving our community's needs

Professional interests: Reporter for the Aurora Beacon; Housing Counselor for the Kane County Office of Economic Opportunity; realtor

Other volunteer interest: Batavia riverwalk, Batavia Toy Store at Christmas serving over 400 children, Plain Dirt Gardeners' plant sale and garden walks, Senior Services Board of Directors, Sanctuary Prayer Chain

Hobbies & recreation: Gardening

Family: married for 63 years, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren!

Name: Pat Pardee

Board position: Treasurer

Former positions: President

Number of years in Batavia LWV: 38 yrs.

LWV areas of interest: Reproductive rights, common law, health, & the environment

Professional interests: Retired

Other volunteer interest: teaching English as a Second Language courses and volunteering at Morton Arboretum

Hobbies & recreation: travel & the outdoors

Family: 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild

Name: Terry Allen

Board position: Secretary & Membership Outreach

Former positions: President & Board member

Number of years in Batavia LWV:

LWV areas of interest: Environmental issues, education funding reform, mental health, & affordable housing

Professional interests: Counseling at the Community Crisis Center of Elgin, YWCA of Elgin, & Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America & now at Timberline Knolls, a residential treatment center for women with addiction and eating disorders.

Other volunteer interest: working with international students studying in the U.S.

Family: Married to Mark Allen and have 4 daughters ages 15, 16, 19, & 22 years.

Name: Lynn Elam

Board position: Board Member

Former positions: member

Number of years in Batavia LWV: 4 years

LWV areas of interest: Increasing voter awareness of current issues

Professional interests: Executive Director Hinsdale Public Library

Other volunteer interest: Batavia Public Library Foundation Board

Hobbies & recreation: Golf, Gardening,

Family: Married; two children

Name: Debbie Prebys

Board position: Communications Chair

Former positions: secretary

Number of years in Batavia LWV: 2 yrs

LWV areas of interest:

Professional interests: Occupational therapist specializing in early intervention.

Other volunteer interest: Many school related committees

Hobbies & recreation: Reading, movies, travel, cooking

Family: Married to Eric; 2 sons, Jake (14) & Nick (12)

