

BIOGRAPHIES OF THOSE SLATED FOR THE 2017-2019 LWVIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Officers:

President: Bonnie Cox is a founding member (1981) of the LWV-Jo Daviess County and has served as its president from 1999 to 2001 and again from 2010 to 2016. She was elected to the board of LWV-Illinois in 2013. She's proud of the role the LWV-Jo Daviess County has played in developing a "Water Resource Management Plan" for Jo Daviess County, a project that was awarded the Effective Community Engagement Award at the LWV-US Convention in 2016. She also spearheaded the organization of the LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization founded in 2015. Bonnie is retired from a career as mental health therapist and teacher. She resides with her husband John (a proud and dedicated LWV member since 1981) in historic Galena. They are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren.

Vice President: Sharon Alter has been a League member since the 1990s and served as 2015-2017 LWVIL Board Director/Voter Service Co-Chair and 2013-2015 LWVIL Board Director/Issues Co-Chair. As 2015-2017 Voter Service Co-Chair, she (1) drafted a successful \$50,000 grant proposal (with Mary Schaafsma & Jan Dorner) from McCormick Foundation; (2) updated/revised 30-page Illinois Student Vote for Fall 2016 elections; (3) assisted with League Fall 2016 high school mock elections; (4) worked with Just Democracy coalition in support of automatic voter registration in Illinois; (5) was LWVIL liaison with BallotReady voter information. As 2015-2017 Development Committee member, Sharon was co-chair of 2015 LWVIL State of the State and has been 2016-2018 LWVIL Fundraiser Co-Chair for LWVUS 2018 Convention in Chicago. In addition, she has been 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 LWVIL Nominating Committee member, Equal Rights Amendment Issue Specialist, and member of ad hoc 100th Anniversary Committee. In Fall 2015, she conducted briefing on LWVUS Constitutional Convention Study for LWV Chicago. Previously, Sharon was LWVIL Pension Study Committee Chair and LWVIL Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) Study Co-Chair. She is Professor Emeritus of History & Political Science at William Rainey Harper in Palatine.

Vice President: Hilary Denk has served on the Board of LWVIL since June of 2015 as Co-Chair of the Issues Committee, and in that capacity has pursued the implementation of the position adopted at the 2015 Convention regarding consolidation of governmental entities. She has convened a sub-committee to utilize the position for review of legislation and assist local Leagues in education and advocacy on this hotly contested regional and state issue, as well representing LWVIL with Transform Illinois. Hilary is assisting the Lake County League in developing a template for replicating their successful program increasing statewide use of the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, managed in Illinois by the Lurie Healthcare System and supported partially by Joyce Foundation funding, to be used in other states in the region supported by the Joyce Foundation. Hilary has faithfully attended and contributed to the State Board of Director's meetings and Issues Committee meetings, chairs the Bylaws Review Committee for the 2017 Convention and was the lead organizer for the 2017 Issues Briefing.

Hilary authored the chapter about the progressive income tax in the locally published book, "Chicago Is Not Broke- Funding the City We Deserve", and since the book launch last July, has participated in ten local events, including a Chicago City Hall press conference she organized where the LWVIL President and LWV of Chicago President both spoke. Several Leagues are also hosting events featuring this book, now in its second printing. Hilary has also assisted with membership development and the 2016 State of State fundraiser. Prior to joining the LWVIL Board, Hilary was Co-President of the LWV of Downers Grove, Woodridge & Lisle and still holds a local board position as Program Co-Chair. Hilary has been a licensed attorney for 25 years, a trained mediator for 10 years and is Vice President of the Board of Directors for SCARCE, a DuPage County environmental education and policy organization. She is married to her sainted salesman husband, John, and has two untypical teenage children who like each other and talk to adults. In her spare time, Hilary loves to take flower photos, watch movies and read murder mysteries.

Vice President: In 2008, **Jean Pierce** served on the US League's committee to prepare materials for the study of the Federal Role in Education. She wrote the materials on issues regarding funding and equity. In 2010, Jean was asked to assist Claire McIntyre as an educational funding specialist for the Issues Committee of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. In that capacity, she helped create materials and deliver presentations regarding the need for a State Constitutional Amendment for a Graduated Rate Income Tax. More recently, she co-chaired the study to update the LWVIL charter school position. For the past two years, she has served on the state board as co-chair of the Issues Committee. Locally, she serves on the Central Kane County League's Board. Beyond the League, she is Social Justice Chair for her Unitarian church and Treasurer for the Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice. She lives in Geneva, IL with her husband, Lou, a retired attorney.

Vice President: Erin Rooper: After retiring in 2001 as a high school English teacher for 32 years, Erin later joined the Homewood-Flossmoor Area LWV in 2005. She served as Membership Chair 2007-2009, was Co-President 2009-2010, President 2010-2013, and Co-President again for 2015-17. She joined the LWVIL State Board in 2013 and has worked with Membership and coordinated the state's MLD program. Erin also volunteers as co-chair of the Arts & Environment Committee for her church, writes a column for the retired teachers' district semi-annual newsletter, and enjoys traveling with her husband George, also a member of the H-F Area League. They have five grandchildren.

Treasurer: Olemuel Ashford has been in the IT Industry for over 20 years and as that industry changes, he has changed roles to meet the needs of the time period while relying on the skills built from previous experiences. He has had the opportunity to be the leader of some wonderful teams; as well as be a contributing member of many others. He enjoys giving back to various community and social organizations across a range of social issues. As a member of the League of Women Voters of McLean County, he has served as Treasurer and is currently serving as the President-Elect. Additionally, he has held board/leadership roles as Secretary of Black Data Processing Association of Central Illinois, Captain of a local USTA tennis team, Treasurer of

Prairie Pride Coalition, and a coordinator for a club that cooks breakfast at a local homeless shelter. In his free time, he enjoys tennis, sand volleyball, and home improvement projects.

Secretary: Corinne Joyner has been a member of the Coles County League since 1986. She served as President, Vice President, Co-President and Secretary. She has also been active on the Voter Service Committee, organizing candidates' forums and serving as election judge. From 2015-2017, she served as LWVIL Board Director/Membership Committee Co-Chair. Corrine is a consultant for the Senior Help Insurance Program in Coles County, volunteers at Habitat for Humanity (her husband was the founder of Coles County Habitat for Humanity), Hedwig Haus (home for homeless women), and spent fifteen years as a gerontologist. In 2016 she was one of four recipients of the Public Service Jefferson Award in East Central Illinois. She is very active in her church and the community. She lives in Charleston with her husband, Al. They have two grown sons.

Board Members at Large:

Meg Murphy lives in Bloomington, where she's been active with the League of Women Voters McLean County since June, 2016. She works full-time as a project manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise and is a part-time student in the MS in Technology program at Illinois State University. She also volunteers with several other great organizations locally, including teaching Sunday School and volunteering with the Religious Equality group at Hope United Methodist Church, assisting with operations of the Penguin Project of McLean County, and participating in the Young Alumni Network of Illinois State. She loves living in Bloomington, is passionate about serving the community, and is excited to have an impact on a state level with the League.

Michelle Ratledge is a member of the Naperville league. She grew up in a small town in Central Illinois. She has a degree in Political Science. Despite practicing law for thirteen years, Michelle still has a deep and abiding fascination with our government. Outside of work, Michelle is an avid reader. Michelle looks forward to serving the members of the League.

Lali Watt has over thirty years of wide-ranging experience in Public Accounting, non-profit organizations and with a multi-national Corporation. She is multi-lingual and multi-cultural, having lived and studied in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. Lali has extensive experience in developing non-profit boards, strategic planning, communication plans and training. She has served as a local elected official and led a successful grassroots referendum effort to save a historic building and open land. Lali was named a "Pathfinder CPA" by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and honored as an Unsung Heroine by the Cook County Commission. Lali is a past President of the Angelic Organics Learning Center and currently serves on the board of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute and as VP of the board of The Talking Farm. Lali is a past President of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette and currently serves as the Advocacy Chair. She is also on the Communications Committee and the Housing Interest Group of the Cook County LWV and on the Audit Committee of the National LWV.

Nominating Committee:

Chair: Syvia Tillman joined LWVH-F in 1999 after retiring from various positions in State Government for twenty-four years. My interest in government and its many facets stemmed from childhood and thus participating in the League of Women Voters' mission to educate and advocate was a natural progression following a career in these endeavors. I have had the privilege and honor of serving three terms as president of the HF League and am now serving a fourth "gig" as co-president. Served six plus years on the LWVIL Board as a member, vice-president of Membership and vice-president of Issues and Action. Currently, a vocal participant on the LWVIL Issues Committee and the LWVH-F representative to the Cook County League.

Mary Klonowski is a retired teacher and a long time League member who has served two terms on the Board of Directors of LWVIL. In 2014 she organized the LWVIL electronic Voter Guide. Currently, she is the LWVIL co-Issues Specialist on Gun Violence Prevention and Secretary of the LWVIL Issues Committee as well as co-President of the La Grange Area League. Past experience in the League includes Program Chair, Voter Service Chair and Treasurer of her local League.

Michelle Peterson has served on the LWV Glen Ellyn Board in various capacities since joining league in 2005. She has recently served on the LWVIL state board for 2 years on the communication committee. She is a retired teacher who enjoys golf, reading, knitting and traveling. She and her husband enjoy traveling to Madison, Wisconsin to visit their daughter and attend University of Wisconsin football games.