



# THE VOTER

Volume 69, Issue 3

March 2016

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Thurs. March 3 at 6 pm.  
**Electing the President**

Wed. March 16  
5 social/5:30 program.  
Drinks & Dialogue.  
**Zika Virus**

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hope you attended our February meetings. Good topics, speakers and questions.

The Immigration Project director Jasmine McGee, J.D., explained at our February 4th meeting, the extremely complicated history of immigration laws and process that immigrants have to navigate to become citizens of the United States. There are many ways that, unknowingly, people wanting citizenship can get on the wrong side of the rules and spend a lot of time and money and without getting results.

Cheryl Parks of Jobs Partnership explained their approach to educating inmates and others on job skills - how to get and keep a job -at our February 17th Drinks & Dialogue. Two successful graduates of the program told their stories and praised the program which has over 120 volunteers and is in 12 prisons, 3 jails, and South Side Mission in Illinois.

Our February 20th Candidates Forum was moderated by Rob Parks and included two contested races. Democratic judicial candidates Joos and Williams participated as did Peoria County Board District 11 Republican candidates Crawford and Adamson at the North Branch Library. Thanks to Rob and our Voter Service Committee for another great candidates forum.

Our League is collecting Redistricting petition signatures on **Saturday mornings in March from 10am-12 at Thirty-thirty Coffee** in Junction City. Thanks to all of you who have signed or turned in completed petitions to get this important reform on the ballot in November. Help us win a signature competition with other Leagues - turn in petitions! Special thanks to Leaguers Gary Stella, Bill Mahl, Shelley Epstein, and Brad McMillan who are also speaking to organizations. And thanks to Thirty-thirty for supporting our effort.

Interested in how the President of the United States actually gets elected?  
*(continued on p.2)*

League member and Peoria County Board Member Allen Mayer will explain and answer questions. It really is interesting how convoluted the process is. Join us on March 3 to ask your questions. And, yes, the LWVUS has a position: change the process to the [direct-popular-vote method which would include abolishing the Electoral College](#).

**VOTE ON MARCH 15th OR EARLIER. No excuse, you can register and vote at that time!**

The March 17th Drinks & Dialogue is on the topic "What is the Zika virus and should we be worried?"

John Baldwin, Director of Corrections for the State of Illinois, will speak and answer questions on "Correcting Corrections in Illinois" at our April 20th Annual Dinner Meeting/Fundraiser. The committee, chaired by Carol Hedeman, is also excited about the location and food at the Waterhouse across from the Riverfront Museum. Raffle tickets are available. This is our main fundraiser for the year.

Many hands make our programs work. Will you help on a committee? What programs or topics are you interested in for next year? We need program ideas - so far: study the city of Peoria Water Company buyout; candidate school (city elections are in a year); presidential election activities to get-out-the-vote; carbon standards for Illinois; sentencing guideline changes; and the storm water utility tax.

The League of Women Voters is a member driven organization of volunteers. We need your opinion.

We Make Democracy Work!

Cheryl Budzinski, President

### **Delegate Petitions to Electoral College - Electing the President of the United States**

**There's a lot more to running for President than you learned in 8th grade civics class (or Season 3 of House of Cards).**

Sure. You know about the Electoral College. You know the difference between a caucus and a primary.

But, what's an unpledged PLEO and why do Democrats have them, but not Republicans? Why do Illinois Republicans have a beauty contest and district level alternate delegates, but Illinois Democrats have a 15% viability threshold and advantaged gender districts? How do delegates get on the ballot (or even get selected without an election)? What's the difference between *Buckley* and *Citizens United*? What makes Nebraska and Maine so different? What happens if the Electoral College ends in a tie?

On Thursday, March 3rd come curious for a lecture, discussion, and details with Allen Mayer, Peoria County Board Member and confessed political junkie. Allen is a graduate of the Illinois Math and Science Academy, received his degree in Political Science with honors from the University of Chicago, and earned his law degree with honors from the University of Illinois. And, he denies any resemblance to Frank Underwood.

**6 pm, Thurs. March 3, at Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) at 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria 61604.**

Bring a friend or a delegate. Free and open to the public.

## **What is the Zika Virus and Should We be Worried?**

The League of Women Voters *March 16<sup>th</sup> Drinks & Dialogue* will discuss the topic, *What is the Zika Virus and Should We be Worried?*

A representative of the Peoria City/County Health Department will provide an update about this new health care threat, including countries and territories with active Zika Virus, symptoms and transmission, prevention, treatment and travel risks. With the Zika Virus in the news many people have concerns about this health threat and the Health Department will provide the latest CDC information and answer questions related to the Zika Virus.

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N Prospect Rd, Peoria Heights. The dialogue about the Zika Virus will be facilitated by League members and lead by a healthcare professional from the Peoria City/County Health Department.

Drinks & Dialogue provides an opportunity for people to share opinions and ideas, ask questions and become more aware of local, state and national issues and the options for making change. There's no cost to participate, and refreshments are available to buy.

Drinks & Dialogue is offered monthly, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, for one hour with the program starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Hearth Restaurant with local, state, and national political topics. (Social at 5pm.) **It's free and open to the public** with refreshments available to purchase.

### **OBSERVER REPORT: Peoria City/County Landfill Committee Meeting, Feb. 17, 2016.**

The Foth Engineering report included over nine observed increases at five groundwater monitoring wells. Two other wells continue ongoing monitoring for chromium.

During cold weather the solar powered leachate pumps have to be turned off as there is no way to heat the pump system. It was pointed out in 2014, 60,000 gallons of leachate were pumped from Landfill 1 and in 2015 thanks to the use of solar pumps in more remote parts of the landfill, 240,000 gallons of leachate had been removed. Less standing water leachate means the landfill contents can decompose more readily and that generates more landfill gas.

Financial reports included monthly projections for 2016 and monthly cash balance data going back to 2012. Finances appear improved, with a cash balance to carry over from 2015. Steve Morris suggested a subcommittee be formed to find out other landfill practices for a reserve contingency fund and other funds. Mr. Morris requested the Chairman form a subcommittee and he volunteered to be on it. Chairman Bergsten asked Steve Van Winkle to be on the subcommittee and also Tim Riegenbach. Lynn Pearson said she thought Rick Fox might want to be on the subcommittee and Mr. Morris said if Rick Fox or Ryan Spain (they were not at the meeting) would want to help that would be fine with him.

The Waste Management report showed January receipt of 12,781.16 tons household waste and 464.67 tons industrial special waste, which is slightly higher than last year. Chris Coulter of PDC, announced that the IEPA Development Permit approval for construction of the new Household Chemical Materials (HCM) Facility was received Feb. 8, 2016.

During public comments, a question was asked about PDC plans for alternate daily cover (ADC) for the new Landfill 3. Chris Coulter, PDC, answered that crushed CRT Glass was not supposed to be in the ADC listing and he would ask that it be removed.

-- Joyce Blumenshine

### Observer Report: Peoria City/County Health Department Board Feb. 8, 2016

The new administrator of the Health Dept. is Gene Huber. The board needs new members. The county appoints one member to the board, so should the City be asked to do likewise? More strategic planning is needed. The next few board meetings will begin at 5:30 pm with the extra half hour to be spent on discussing goals and how to accomplish them.

-- Elliott Murray

*Thank you for your support!*

*We appreciate the financial contributions from all of our members, and want to acknowledge our 2015/16 Susan B. Anthony members:*

<i>Beth Akeson</i>	<i>Shirley Belke</i>
<i>Cheryl &amp; Ron Budzinski</i>	<i>Katherine Coyle</i>
<i>Farrell Davies</i>	<i>Jan &amp; Emil Deissler</i>
<i>Tracy &amp; Rick Fox</i>	<i>Pat Landes</i>
<i>Michael McCuskey</i>	<i>Mary McDade</i>
<i>Elliott Murray</i>	<i>Irene Pritzker</i>
<i>Kathie Raeborn</i>	<i>Sonni &amp; Dick Williams</i>
<i>Bill Poorman</i>	<i>Joan French</i>
<i>Sherry Hillman</i>	<i>Pat Barton</i>

Voter Service conducted a very good Candidates Forum on Feb. 20. We had candidates from two races – The 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Democratic primary candidates and the Peoria County Board District 11 Republican primary candidates.

We had a dynamic moderator Rob Parks, great questions from the audience and only a little confusion.

We are looking forward to greeting new citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony on March 11, but we will not be able to register them to vote as it is a “do not register” time frame before the primary. But they can now register and vote on election day, March 15.

Leaguers registered students at Peoria High School and at Bradley University.

### SPRING FUND RAISER ON APRIL 7

Our Spring Fund Raiser on April 7, 2016 is coming up sooner than you think and our Committee is most excited about the venue and speaker. The Waterhouse Ballroom downtown Peoria, in the Maxam Building will be an experience that you won't want to miss. We look forward to great food and a beautiful view. You can park on the street or in one of the local business' parking lots across from the Maxam Building. I have been to events at the Maxam Building and had no problem finding a place to park.

Please mail in your reservations by **March 29** and make sure your checks are made out to LWVIL EDUCATION FUND, invite your friends and fill a table. (Tables seat 8.) We can also offer you a vegetarian plate, however we do ask that you let us know when you make reservations so we can let our chef know.

We are also very excited about our guest speaker for the evening- **Mr. John Baldwin- the new Director of Corrections for the State of Illinois.** He comes with years of experience and understanding about corrections. I'm looking forward to hearing how he plans to change Illinois' prison system in his talk, "Correcting Corrections in Illinois." Thanks to Ron Budzinski for arranging the speaker.

We will have a cash bar out in the lobby of the second floor ballroom with light appetizers.

Once again this year we are having 3 great raffle prizes. Tickets will be available to purchase at the fund raiser. (You need not be present to win.)

--Carol Hedeman

DINNER PROGRAM



## League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

*invites you to join us for a delicious buffet dinner, stimulating speaker, and conversation at the lovely Waterhouse Ballroom in downtown Peoria.*

(The Waterhouse, Maxam Building, 316 SW Washington St. - across from the Museum.)

**Thursday, April 7, 2016**

### ***"Correcting Corrections in Illinois"***

5:00 Cash Bar • 6:00 Dinner Buffet • 7:00 Speaker  
7:20 Q&A • 8:00 Raffle



Baldwin and Budzinski

#### **Keynote Speaker — John R. Baldwin**

The League of Women Voters is extremely pleased to present Mr. John R. Baldwin, Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, as the keynote speaker of the evening.

John Baldwin was named director of The Illinois Department of Corrections August 14, 2015, by Governor Bruce Rauner. As IDOC director, he is responsible overseeing the management and operations of 35 state prisons, work camps and transition centers as well as the supervision of parolees. IDOC houses 49,000 inmates with a \$1.3 billion dollar annual budget.

RAFFLE

#### **THREE GREAT PRIZES**

Kindle Fire

\$100 gift certificate to PVII restaurant  
\$100 gift certificate to Hearth restaurant.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

*Need not be present to win.*

Raffle license R-29-16

ORDER FORM

Please mail this form before March 25 with your check (payable to LWV Ed Fund) to:  
LWV Treasurer Terri Campion, 1188 County Road 00E, Wyoming, IL 61491

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for dinner @ \$50 for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tables seat eight. Please indicate the names of people you want to be seated with on the back of this form.

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ raffle tickets for \$10 each or 3 raffle tickets for \$25 for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I regret I cannot attend, but am enclosing a gift to the Education Fund of the LWV in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Total amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ \* or use PayPal at our website [www.lwvgrp.org](http://www.lwvgrp.org)

*The dinner is a non-ticketed event. You will receive email confirmation of your dinner and raffle ticket purchases.*

*Raffle tickets will also be available at the dinner.*

**For more information, call Cheryl Budzinski at 263-9594.**



**\*All gifts are tax deductible. \$10 of each \$50 dinner ticket is tax deductible.**

**Proceeds from this event will benefit the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, a 501(c)3 organization.**



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

[www.lwvqp.org](http://www.lwvqp.org)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thurs. March 3 at 6 pm "Delegate Petitions to Electoral College -Electing the President" General Meeting  
Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) at 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria 61604**

**Wed. March 16 at 5pm social/5:30 pm program, Drinks & Dialogue, Zika Virus - Should we be worried?  
The Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N Prospect Rd, Peoria Heights 61616**

**March 15. General primary election at your polling place.  
Remember in Illinois we can register and vote on election day \* Must bring 2 forms of identification  
including one photo ID and something with correct address.**

**Thurs. April 7 at 5 pm Annual dinner and fund raiser. "Correcting Corrections in Illinois."  
The Waterhouse, 316 SW Washington, Peoria 61602.**