



THE VOTER

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May 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thus. May 4, Annual Meeting, Schnucks, 4800 N. University, Peoria.

Wednesday, May 17 5:30 pm. Drinks & Dialogue, Credible News, Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

YOU NEED TO COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, PLEASE!

Participate in our Annual Meeting this **Thursday, May 4** at Schnucks on University Street. We will meet in the Community Room located just past the office counter. Be there at **5:45** to enjoy refreshments and see our new website. The meeting starts at 6pm.

Your input and volunteering to work on an issue determines what we will do in 2017-18. We are a member directed organization.

Some highlights from 2016-17, our League:

- Increased our membership this year from 110 to 160!
- Completed the Local League Study on Public/Private Ownership of the Water Company - chairs: Ryan and Tracy plus committee: Terry, Terry, Gale, Elliott, Cynthia, and Shelley. Thank you.
- Held classes in Oct. at ICC on "Running for Elected Office," partnering with NAACP. 19 students participated
- Held General meetings on: ballot referendums, Sentencing Guidelines, Alternative Voting Systems, LISC's Building Successful Communities, LWVIL planning, Water Study on Public/Private Ownership
- Included 3 medical topics and 5 voting/governmental topics at Drinks & Dialogue and engaged many new participants
- Scheduled a training through Peoria County Election Commission to become voter registrars
- Registered new citizens to vote at three Naturalization Ceremonies and at the Peoria Women's Rally
- Facilitated nine candidate forums in two counties
- Held Mock elections in 8 high schools partnering with Peoria County Elections using real voting equipment
- Developed a new website
- Published articles in Peoria Magazine and editorial in PJStar

What's coming up? Slate of energized officers and directors for the Peoria League 2017-18 year; and classes at ICC on "Your Government, Your Voice" partnered with NAACP Peoria, Young Professionals of Peoria, and Peoria County. Mondays June 5-19 at 6:30- 8:30pm. *Continued, p. 2.*

President's Message, continued: It has been an honor to serve as the President of League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria again. I ask that you join me in giving our President Elect Farrell Davies our full support. Thank you for your membership, your work on issues, new friendships. I look forward to continuing to work with our members and community on issues to Make Democracy Work.

--Cheryl Budzinski, president

Observer Report Peoria Heights Board of Trustees, April 18, 2017

Mayor Allen started the meeting at 6:32. Trustee Harn was absent.

Trustees report on specific areas. Nothing to report for: Economic Development/Village Improvements; Police, Building/Property Maintenance; Fire; Administration/Personnel. Public Works Director Smith reported on Hydrant Flushing schedule and 53% completion of water meter changing.

The following were approved 4-0:

- Peoria Heights fiscal year 2017-18 operations budget - fully balanced.
- 3% salary increase for full-time non-union employees of the village (total cost \$14,808).
- Refurbishment and painting of water tower at Kindman, Toledo, and Galena - lowest responsible bidder T Corp recommended.
- Appointees: Raymond Picl Sr. to Police Commission (3 yr); Bob Spencer to Police Pension Board (2yr); Stephanie Turner as Village Treasurer (4 yr); Catrina Ankenbrand to Planning Commission (3 yr); Michael Woo to Planning Commission (3 yr); Roger Larson to Planning Commission (3 Yr).

Mayor Allen received a plaque, flag, and certificate from the Peoria Heights American Legion for his service to the Legion and community. Meeting adjourned at 6:56.

-- Observer Charles Schneider, Peoria Heights High School, Class of 2018, President

VOTE BY PROXY

This is a proxy slip for the May 4 Annual Meeting. If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to appoint a proxy because: In accordance with LWVGP Bylaws as amended June 2016 state:

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

".....**Section 4.** Quorum - Twenty percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum- which may include up to 5% by written proxy -at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria. Written proxy may be voted only by one proxy per member in attendance. Voting members shall be those members of at least one month's standing."

Written proxy slip, please give to a member attending the Annual Meeting on Thurs. May 4 at 6pm with the following information:

I am a member of at least 30 days and will not be at the Annual LWVGP meeting. I give my proxy privilege for the 2017 LWVGP Annual Meeting to member:

_____ (printed member name who will be absent)

_____ (signature of member who will be absent)

**DRINKS AND DIALOGUE WED., MAY 17: Credible News
5:30 pm at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.**

Where do we get most of our daily news on current events of the day?

With many sources available such as local television, newspapers, radio and major news outlets, such as CNN and Fox News, how can an individual know the news they are hearing is credible and unbiased?

Developments in technology make monitoring information easier with mobile devices. Twitter and Facebook have become a source of information as well. Some of the pressures on news media are to provide more content in shorter time-frame, weak sourcing, and cases of journalists getting caught up in 'becoming part of the story' instead of reporting it.

One common denominator in successful reporting is credibility. Some questions we can ask ourselves regarding credibility:

- Who is the author/reporter? Is this person knowledgeable and respected?
- How is the source of information provided?
- Is the information clear and unbiased?

By gathering information from a variety of news media sources, we can form our own opinion on issues. Don't miss this event at the Lariat Steakhouse in Peoria! Our speaker is Tanya Koonce, News Director for Peoria Public Radio.

Tanya received her BA in Journalism from Eastern Illinois University and started her news career in television; she also worked in state government, managed two political campaigns and operated her own freelance agency before getting her MA at the University of Illinois Springfield in Public Affairs Reporting. In 2001, she became a reporter for WCBU Public Radio, and then news director, overseeing day to day operations of the newsroom. She is currently Treasurer of the Illinois News and Broadcaster Association.

-- Constance Romanus

OBSERVER REPORT: The Peoria Election Commission, April 19. The meeting took place in order to certify the results of the April 4 consolidated general election. The first order of business was to end the tie in the election for Hollis Park District. Mother, Anita Zeine, and son, Russell Zeine, were tied after the April 4 election. It was the first time members of the Commission used the tie-breaker protocol. First, Chairman Collins pulled a party name out of a bag to determine who would draw a number first. Then Anita Zeine drew a four from chits numbered one through ten. Russell Zeine drew a six and was declared the winner.

The Commission approved a change in the hours that the office would be open to the public. Even though staff arrives at 8:00 am, the doors will not open until 8:30 to give staff time to get organized and ready for the day.

There was actually higher voter turnout for the April 4 election than in the last two off-season elections. The percent voting in the city was almost 20%, but because there were more registered voters this year, actual numbers were higher.

After an update on the Brandywine building, the Commission wanted it on the record that they were unhappy with the length of time it has taken to ready the building. Unfortunately, the Commission is not the leaseholder; the County is. Hopefully, things are now on track for remodeling to occur and for a tentative move in date to be planned.

In answer to a question from an attendee, Director Tom Bride explained in detail what determines a valid mail-in ballot. First, the ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day. Then two judges, one from each major party, determine if the signature is a match. If there is any question about the validity of the signature, the voter is given the opportunity to prove that the ballot should count. That is why there is such a gap between Election Day and the day votes are certified.

-- Irene Pritzker



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

Very Important to have your voice at our Annual Meeting this
Thursday!

IMPORTANT DATES

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Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 pm. Drinks & Dialogue, Credible News, Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.

June 9 – 11, LWVIL Convention, Hilton Garden Inn, Chicago O'Hare Airport, 2930 South River Road, DesPlaines, IL