



# THE VOTER

Volume 68, Issue 4

April 2015

## *Board of Directors*

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309/253-9594  
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Mary Jane Crowell, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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Lisa Uphoff, Secretary

Sharon Maule, webmaster

Elaine Hopkins

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Carol Hedeman

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Terry Matthews

Newsletter editor,  
Elaine Hopkins  
[ehopkins7@prodigy.net](mailto:ehopkins7@prodigy.net)

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Apr. 13. Board Meeting. Noon.**  
McClure Branch Library,  
315 W McClure.

**April 15. 5:30 pm. Drinks & Dialogue,**  
Lariat Steakhouse,  
2232 W. Glen, Peoria.

**April 21. Dinner & speaker, 5:30 pm.**  
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232  
W. Glen, Peoria.  
*Continued on p. 6.*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We have an exciting speaker for our annual dinner meeting. Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride will speak on "Money in Judicial Races."

Are we going to allow our justice system to be politicized? It isn't only the Supreme Court races, but in 2011-12 with Citizens United in effect, Illinois ranked 2nd highest in funding of lower court races with \$8.9 million spent. Another reason we should participate in the LWVUS study of our position on money in politics this year.

Thanks to Mary Jane, Pat, the volunteers, our partners, and the candidates, we have had some wonderful candidate forums. And, we have a request for one more depending on what happens in the 18th Congressional District race.

We reached out to three new areas - Dunlap, Pekin, and Washington -continuing to work toward a regional emphasis.

On April 14 Pat and I are meeting with Pekin residents about forming a Pekin Unit of our League. The Pekin Unit would have meetings in Pekin to concentrate on issues of concern to their community as well as participating in LWVGP events. Some Leagues on the west coast have as many as 14 units of local interest.

Please see "Volunteer Opportunities" in the Voter which is a suggestion from our February Program Planning meeting.

This is a big Voter because we give you information for the Annual Business Meeting on **May 7** as prescribed in our By-Laws. We had a lot of food and drink last year at our meeting, a good way to end one year and prepare for the next League year. Hope you can join us at this important meeting. *Details on page 3.*

Call, email, or text me if you want tickets - or buy a table and bring your friends- to the **April 21** dinner and buy raffle tickets. You can also get tickets at our website using PayPal. Cheryl 253-9594 [c\\_budzinski@hotmail.com](mailto:c_budzinski@hotmail.com). -- Cheryl

*Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Kindle Fire, \$100 coupon for Hearth restaurant, and \$100 coupon for PVII restaurant.*

Dinner and stimulating conversation with  
**Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride**  
on  
**The Role of Money in Judicial Races**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2015**  
**Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria, IL**  
**Cash Bar 5:30 pm                      Dinner 6 pm**

**Raffle includes three great prizes: Kindle Fire, \$100 gift certificate to  
Hearth and PV II Restaurants. Tickets \$5 each or 6 for \$25.00.**

*Drawing at the event. Need not be present to win.*

Please mail this form before **April 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 @ \$40 each for a total of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve a table for eight in my name for \$300, (a \$20 discount).

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_ raffle tickets for \$5 each or 6 for \$25 for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for raffle tickets

I regret I cannot attend but am enclosing a gift to the Education Fund of the LWV in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_. (All gifts are tax deductible. \$15 of each \$40 dinner ticket is tax deductible. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_. Or use PayPal at our website, [www.lwvqp.org](http://www.lwvqp.org).

*The dinner is a non-ticketed event. You will receive an email confirmation of your dinner and raffle ticket purchases. Raffle tickets also will be available at the dinner. For more information call Cheryl Budzinski, 309-253-9594.*

**Voter Service** has had a grand spring! We have conducted 7 candidate forums in Peoria, Dunlap, Pekin, East Peoria, and Washington. 42 candidates participated, 436 attended, 24 volunteers worked the forums. Audience ranged from 30 to 92 people. Volunteers are celebrating with a pizza party at Cheryl & Ron's house.

Our next challenge - we look forward to registering newly naturalized citizens at the next (regional) Naturalization Ceremony on Fri. April 24 at 11 am. Around 400 new citizens will become citizens. We will need lots of help! If **YOU** have considered getting trained, **now** is the time to do so. We could use 20 – 30 registrars. Training takes about 30 minutes of your time at the Peoria City Election office or the County Clerk's office. **Get trained** and then tell me you would like to help us. -- Mary Jane Crowell [crowellm@mtco.com](mailto:crowellm@mtco.com) 309-323-5333

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Thursday May 7 at 6 pm; social at 5:30  
IFT-AFT offices at 733 SW Washington St. Peoria 61602  
(bring an appetizer or dessert to share/ or just be there)

### **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

President's remarks  
Minutes of 2014 meeting  
Election of Officers and Board  
Adoption of Program  
\*Consideration of dues increase (*see page5*)  
Adoption of 2015-16 Budget  
Other business from the floor and/or directions to the 2015-16 Board

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

President: Cheryl Budzinski  
2nd V-P: Sharon Maule  
Directors: 1 year terms: Hedy Elliott Gardner, Ron Budzinski, Mary Jane Crowell.  
Directors: 2 year terms: Carol Hedeman, Farrell Davies, Terry Matthews, Gary Stella and a Pekin representative.

Nominating Chair for 2016: Jan Deissler with JoAnne Thomas and Hettie Beers.  
Continuing on the Board are: 1st VP Pat Landes, Treasurer Terri Campion, Secretary Lisa Uphoff, Voter Editor Elaine Hopkins, Joyce Blumenshine (environmental issues).

### **Calendar and recommended programs for 2015-16**

July - Membership renewal social  
Voting Rights Anniversary celebration Aug 6  
General meetings in Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March  
Fall Fundraiser  
Annual Dinner meeting April (fundraiser)  
Annual Business meeting May  
LWVUS Convention in Washington DC in June 2016  
Drinks & Dialogue monthly  
(Spring elections are mostly partisan primary elections & some school board in 2016)

### **Programs/Topics for consideration for 2015-16**

A survey is currently underway to determine best day/time for General Meetings. Please respond if you haven't already. This was emailed on March 19.

Topics: **LWVUS' "Money in Politics"** a position restudy (local consensus report due Feb 2016);  
**Re-Districting petition drive and ballot referendum** for Nov 2016 currently under discussion with LWVIL president named on the state steering committee. (LWVIL Convention vote is critical);  
**Local Issues - LOGO submitted study request for Township of the City of Peoria.**  
Plus from our February Program Planning meeting: criminal Justice, environment, immigration, state convention directives, solar technology, candidate school.

<b>Proposed 2015-16 Budget for LWVGP</b>			
<b>INCOME:</b>			
	Membership Dues	\$4,500.00	(reflects number of current members)
	Fundraising Activities	\$3,240.00	(net number including expenditures)
	Contributions/Donations	\$1,200.00	
	Interest	\$20.00	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,960.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b> (inci previously donated item costs for more accurate expense totals in Membership, Programs, PR)			
<b>Affiliations:</b>			
	LWVUS PMPs*	\$2,520.00	(reflects increased LWVUS payment)
	LWVIL PMPs*	\$2,120.00	
	<b>Total Affiliations Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,640.00</b>	
<b>Board &amp; Administrative:</b>			
	Supplies	\$100.00	
	Postage	\$100.00	
	Printing	\$150.00	(member guide, etc)
	Website	\$220.00	(website hosting and domain)
	Insurance	\$85.00	
	Miscellaneous	\$50.00	
	<b>Total Board/Adm Expenses</b>	<b>\$705.00</b>	
<b>Newsletter:</b>			
	Printing	\$60.00	
	Postage	\$60.00	
	<b>Total Newsletter Expenses</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	(currently donated)
<b>Delegates &amp; Travel</b>			
	Convention	\$2,000.00	(2016 includes 1 to national convention in DC)
	Observer Corps	\$25.00	
	Miscellaneous Meetings	\$120.00	*new(includes 2 attending LWVIL Issues Brief)
	<b>Total Delegates/Travel</b>	<b>\$2,145.00</b>	
<b>Program &amp; Activities:</b>			
	Programs & Activities	\$700.00	(mtg rms, redist & LWVUS study&local study)
	Voter Service	\$50.00	
	Public Relations	\$300.00	(incl. \$5 boosts in Facebook & \$240 advertising)
	Membership	\$300.00	
	<b>Total P &amp; A Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,960.00</b>	

## **Media & Politics topic of April League program (at new location)**

The relationship of media and politics will be discussed at Drinks & Dialogue, a new (this year) program hosted by our League.

The media can be a critical factor in the League's commitment to open, responsive, and effective government brought about by informed, involved citizens.

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue, at **5:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 15** at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria, IL.

The dialogue about media and politics will be opened with comments from Shelley Epstein, a former Journal Star editorial writer and facilitated by League members.

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.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Need voter registrars Friday, April 24 at 11am** We

look forward to registering 400 newly naturalized citizens at the next Naturalization Ceremony. (This is a regional event.) We will need lots of help! If **YOU** have considered getting trained, **now** is the time. We could use 20 – 30 registrars. It takes about 30

minutes of your time at the City Election office or your County Clerk's office. **Get trained** and then call me. Mary Jane Crowell, Voter Service chair, 323-5333



**Need volunteers to oversee an election Friday, July 24 in Springfield at 9am.** We need 25 volunteers to help run the officer and director elections for the national Vietnam Veterans of America convention at the Springfield Convention Center this summer. (Springfield doesn't have a League.) Farrell Davies and Fran Kepler are co-chairing this. (VVA is giving our Ed Fund a generous donation for the work.) farrelldavies2@gmail.com (subject line:VVAvolunteer)

### **\*Dues increase proposal will be voted on by members at the Annual Business Meeting on May 7**

From the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, Illinois: Article VI, Section 2: "Dues will be set at least at the sum of the per member payment (PMP) to the state and national League of Women Voters. Dues for two members at one address and sharing a common household will be one and one-half single members dues." We have kept our dues at just enough to cover our national and state pmp cost. LWVUS is increasing their pmp for 2015-16 by \$1. Our local League does not get any money from our current dues structure and we will incur costs from accepting PayPal payments. As President, I suggest, and the Board agreed to forward to our members for vote that we increase dues \$1 so that LWVGP gets \$1 per member for our operating costs in 2015-16. That would raise our single to \$60 (was \$58 + \$1 increase for national + \$1 for LWVGP); \$90 for household (was \$87 + \$2 national increase + \$1 for LWVGP), and \$31 student (was \$29+\$1 national increase + \$1 for LWVGP.) - Cheryl Budzinski



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**

**April 13. Monday. Noon. Board meeting, McClure Branch Library 315 W. McClure, Peoria, IL.**

**April 14. Tues. 5pm. Interest Meeting to form LWVGP Pekin Unit. YWCA Pekin**

**April 15. Wed. 5:30 pm. Drinks & Dialogue , "Media and Politics"  
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria, IL**

**April 21. Tuesday. 5:30 pm. Dinner with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride.  
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria, IL**

**April 24. Friday. 11 am. Voter Registration at Naturalization Ceremony at Bradley University**

**April 27. Monday. Noon. LOGO. Lakeview Library, study room, 1137 W. Lake, Peoria, IL**

**May 7. Thur. 5:30 pm. Annual Business Meeting, AFT-IFT Office, 733 W. Washington, Peoria, IL.**

**April 7. Consolidated Election.**

**June 6-7. Illinois LWV Convention, Naperville/Lisle, IL.**

**July 24. Friday. 9 am. Election at V.V.A. Convention, Springfield, IL**