



THE VOTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

August 10 Board meeting, noon, McClure Branch Library

August 19. Drinks & Dialogue, 5:30-6:30p.m. Hearth Restaurant, Peoria Heights.

Aug. 24. LOGO noon

August 26. "Money in Politics", 6pm AMT

Aug 31. Candidate Forum 18th Cong Dist. candidates
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Normally summers in League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria are pretty calm. Not this year. Please join the discussion.

- August 6 Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of President Johnson signing the **Voting Rights Act** is at the historic Lincoln Branch Library at 6pm. Presentation by Leaguers Mary McDade and Carol May, registering voters, refreshments. Come and bring a friend.
- **Redistricting petitions** are available for you to get your friends' and neighbors' signatures. We also need people to "man" some identified locations/times. *(Completed, notarized petitions can be mailed to me.)*
- Drinks & Dialogue monthly - August 19 at 5:30. **Toxic Chemicals in our Lives.**
- **"Money In Politics"** an LWVUS update study. Wednesday August 26 at 6pm. This study will be our December and January programs.
- 18th Congressional District **Candidate Forum** on Monday, August 31. Want to ask a question? Want to be in the audience? Watch your email for more information. Let's make sure our two candidates hear that we want issue oriented campaigning. And, whoever gets elected, we expect them to decide their votes in Congress based on the merits of an issue, not which political party proposed a solution.
- **Constitutional Amendments** - how have they succeeded and how many have died. There are two ways for them to be proposed - by Congress and by Constitutional Convention. Our November meeting will be devoted to this issue. LWVUS doesn't have a "position" on the issue.

League volunteers and friends conducted the successful election of officers and directors for the **Vietnam Veterans of America** on July 24. Thanks to Farrell Davies, Fran Kepler, and Pat Landes. We had 750 VVA members vote in 90 minutes! Counting was time consuming! Thank you to our many volunteers.

Thank you to Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) for allowing our general meetings to be held at their facilities this year.

I hope you will all commit to voting, working on a committee or an issue, attending meetings, writing or telling your representatives what your views are on issues, participating in socials/ fundraisers and collecting petition signatures to make a change in Illinois.

-- Cheryl Budzinski, President League@lwvgp.org

You Are Invited to the 50th Anniversary Celebration & Time for Action

The Voting Rights Act of 1965

August 6, 2015 from 6 – 7:30 pm

A Celebration at the Historic Lincoln Library, 1312 W. Lincoln Ave., Peoria

Hosted by LWVGP, NAACP, & ACLU

Featured presentation by LWVGP members Mary McDade & Carol May

Free admission, refreshments, and voter registration

*The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation
in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting.*

DRINKS & DIALOGUE, Toxic Chemicals

Wednesday, August 19 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Hearth Restaurant at 4604 N. Prospect Road, Peoria Heights.

The Prevalence of Toxic Chemicals and Lack of Federal Regulations will be discussed at Drinks & Dialogue, a program hosted by our League. Many people are unaware of the toxic chemicals they are exposed to on a regular basis and don't realize that many countries have banned chemicals that are routinely used in the United State. The League is committed to reducing exposure to all pesticides and encourages the use of non-toxic alternatives.

The dialogue about toxic chemicals and the lack of federal regulations will be facilitated by League member Nora Sullivan and opened by **Clare Howard**, the managing editor of the monthly newspaper Community Word and a former Peoria Journal Star reporter, who wrote a three-part series about pesticide drift with a George Polk Investigative Reporting grant funded by the Ford Foundation.

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.

"LWVIL Natural Resources position: PESTICIDES

(1991) The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports the reduction of exposure to all pesticides and urges the use of Non-toxic alternatives. Governmental bodies should encourage a reduction in pesticide use through the promotion of management programs such as integrated pest management, sustainable agriculture and non-toxic control techniques."

Where We Stand, LWVIL

Alternative to Round-Up for weeds in the curbs? Take a gallon of vinegar, add enough salt to cover the bottom of the container, add small amount of dishwashing liquid. Put some in a spray container and spray only where needed.

THE RESULTS ARE IN.....

A dedicated group of 21 LWVGP volunteers went into action "Making Democracy work" on Friday, July 24th in Springfield, IL. Following months of intensive preparation and meetings, the LWVGP conducted the 17th biennial Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) National Board of Directors election. The volunteers successfully conducted both the voting and ballot counting processes for over 750 VVA delegates from nine (9) regions from across the country.

Each two years since 1987, the VVA contacts a League in the area where their biennial convention is held and asks that League to conduct their election. Since a League does not currently exist in Springfield, the LWVGP was contacted and selected to conduct the election. Scott DeArman, Chair of the VVA Election Committee, and his team worked with the LWVGP to prepare for the 2015 election. Fran Kepler and Farrell Davies co-chaired the LWVGP effort with generous and abundant support from Pat Landes and Cheryl Budzinski.

Watching the VVA members come proudly through the voting lines wearing symbols of their war experience, many of us could not help but think back to the country's experience of the war over 50 years ago. We reminisced about our brothers, our husbands, and our friends who had been in the war and about the impact it has had on their lives and their families' lives. We also acknowledged the difficulties that led to the Founding Principle of the VVA, "**Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.**" It was a privilege, therefore, to be there to offer our support to these men and women who served us courageously and selflessly.

The election is over and the results are in. The VVA officially announced and posted their new officers and directors. And, both the LWVGP and the VVA agree that the election process was a great success. Scott DeArman was especially happy to be able to present the results on Friday night instead of Saturday morning as a result of the LWVGP effective and efficient work.

The VVA presented our League with an impressive plaque to thank us. VVA covered the cost of supplies for the election and travel for the volunteers. A contribution of \$1,000 was made to the LWVGP Education Fund for the work the volunteers did to conduct the election.

A special joy and benefit of this project is the chance to talk with other Leagues who have conducted the election in their community. We were fortunate to get support from the Jacksonville, Florida League which conducted the 2013 election. The next election will be conducted in New Orleans, LA in 2017 and the LWVGP will offer support and assistance!

A heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers who worked hard to make the election a success:

Pat Barton, Tom Bencher, David Blumenstock, Al Bumet, Cheryl Buzinski, Farrell Davies, Jan Deissler, Hedy Elliot, Gary Hall, Fran Kepler, Terry Knight, Pat Landes, Bill Mahl, Larry Matthews, Terry Matthews, Sharon Maule, Elliott Murray, Ginny Nailing, Irene Pritzker, Laura Reichel, Phil Salzer.

Final personal thoughts: It is often said that you get more out of a volunteer experience than you put into it. The VVA election was one of those experiences for me. As a new LWVGP member who never conducted an election for anything, I wasn't sure if I could meet the challenge to co-chair the election project. However, I wanted to learn more about the election process and I wanted to give back to those Vietnam Veterans, so I said I would co-chair with an experienced LWVGP member, Fran Kepler. From Day One, I was surrounded with the expertise, support, and information that I needed from this wonderful group of three LWVGP volunteers; Fran Kepler, Pat Landes and Cheryl Budzinski. **My volunteer experience gave me what I hoped for-** I learned about elections and gave back to the veterans- and more- I got to know the LWVGP members better and experienced firsthand the value of the League "Making Democracy work."

-- Farrell Davies

Thank you, thank you!

Pam & Perry Johnson for hosting the Summer Social

Organizing Committee: Jan Deissler, Kathie Raiborn, Sherry Hillman, Cheryl Budzinski,
Carol Hedeman, Pat Landes
Leaguers who provided refreshments

"MONEY IN POLITICS" Meeting, Wednesday, August 26, 6 p.m.

Money in Politics will be examined at our meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26 at the Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) building, 1718 N. Sterling. Local Leagues throughout the United States are studying this national issue.

Do you know: what is "**dark money**," "**PAC**" vs "**SuperPAC**," and the impact of the **Citizens United** ruling by the Supreme Court compared to their earlier rulings?

These impact how money is used to influence the outcomes of political campaigns. Anyone who would like to help the League study this issue, or if you are just curious, you are invited to attend this meeting. If you are interested in helping with this study, contact one of the co-chairs: Irene Pritzker at ipritzker@comcast.net or Terry Matthews at buddyboy2004@sbcglobal.net. For more information, please contact Cheryl Budzinski at 253-9594 or League@lwvgp.org.

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LWVUS Statement on Campaign Finance, 1974 and revised 1982

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. *(This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office - presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. it also may be applied to state and local campaigns.)*

For definitions used in Money in Politics, go to:

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/definitions-money-politics-terms>

18th Congressional District Candidate Forum is scheduled for **August 31**, Monday evening, at Bradley University (time and location TBD.) Mark your calendar and plan to be part of the audience! It will be broadcast live on WCBU radio and is also being co-sponsored by Peoria Journal Star.

REDISTRICTING NEWS - www.MapAmendment.org

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: On Thursday September 3, at 6 pm, at the AMT building, the featured speaker will be **Cynthia Canary** the current Director and Campaign Manager of the Independent Map movement. Ms. Canary also currently serves on The Committee for Economic Development. Canary and political scientist Kent Redfield in 2014 co-authored "Backroom Battles and Partisan Deadlock," a 63 page report about four decades of legislative redistricting in Illinois and documented the highly partisan system lacking in transparency, limiting voter choices and placing political interests ahead of minority voting rights (available online at Change Illinois.) She previously served on the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. Cindi is a graduate of Georgetown University. Please plan to attend, we want to display our commitment and enthusiasm for this significant effort for reform and good government.

What are we doing now to get petition signatures?!

- **Cyd's Gourmet Kitchen Café** in Junction City Shopping Center, Peoria, IL 61614 will be the place for voters to sign redistricting reform petitions, get finished petitions notarized, or pick up petitions from 10 am until noon each Saturday in August, September and October, 2015. Leaguers who are notaries will staff this.
- League volunteers will be at **Lindy's Market**, 110 Washington Square, Washington, IL 61571 on Saturday, Aug. 15 and Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 am-2 pm to collect signatures and hand-out petitions
- League volunteers will be at **Haddad's Supermarket**, 2407 W Rohmann Ave. West Peoria, IL 61604 on Saturday, August 15 from 9 am to noon to collect signatures and hand-out petitions.

The League is collecting signatures to get an Amendment on the November 2016 ballot so the voters can decide if an independent commission should draw the state legislative district lines. Registered voters are encouraged to sign a petition, get a petition to collect signatures, or get their completed petitions notarized and turned in. Over 300,000 valid signatures will be required to place the measure on the Nov. 2016 ballot.

Independent Map Amendment reports that ***over 200,000 signatures have been collected*** so far. We need to get many more signatures!

This good government effort would change the way district lines are drawn for the Illinois House and Senate, from politicians drawing the district lines to an independent commission drawing the district lines. This would stop gerrymandering and hopefully lead to more competitive districts and more candidates running.

Petitions also are available at most Chambers of Commerce offices and notaries are available at those locations. (Call first)

For more information, contact: League@lwvgp.org or www.MapAmendment.org websites.

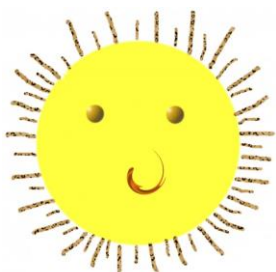
The League supports an Illinois Constitutional Amendment for redistricting for the Illinois General Assembly, and states that the amendment is an important reform essential to bringing transparency, non-partisanship and independence to the redistricting process and ending incumbent protection and voter disenfranchisement.

Voter Service Committee says a hearty thank you to our registrars who staffed the **July 10 Naturalization Ceremonies** on 3 days notice. We registered 46 citizens who came from 27 different countries. That is always a great occasion. There likely will be another ceremony in September.

– Mary Jane Crowell

Thank you for your support!

*We appreciate the financial contributions from all of our members, and want to acknowledge our **Susan B. Anthony** members: Beth Akeson, Cheryl & Ron Budzinski, Katherine Coyle, Farrell Davies, Jan & Emil Deissler, Pat Landes, Michael McCuskey, Mary McDade, Elliott Murray, Irene Pritzker, Kathie Raeborn, Sonni & Dick Williams.*



See a great new Solar Energy Installation at work and Hear Senator David Koehler !

Attend the free LEGISLATIVE SOLAR SOCIAL

WHEN: Saturday, August 8th 10am - 11:30 a.m. with a tour of the school installation optional.

WHERE: Farmington School 212 N. Lightfoot Rd., Farmington, IL.

FEATURING SENATOR DAVID KOEHLER

The Illinois Solar Energy Association, Peoria Area League of Women Voters, and Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club will be hosting a Legislative Solar Social at Farmington School to spread the word about solar energy working in Illinois. This event will function like a Town Hall Meeting with the additional benefit for attendees to have the opportunity to view the school's solar installation and learn about the benefits of living with renewable energy!

Come out and learn more about this impressive solar energy installation in Peoria County. See a model 'solar house' that explains what a typical home solar installation could be.

Open to the public but **registration is requested**: Please register at: www.illinoissolar.org

GENERAL ELECTION in the 18th Congressional District- Sept 10:

Vote now and until Sept. 7 by mail:

Peoria: <http://www.peoriaelections.org/obtain-vote-by-mail--ballot> or call at 309- 494-VOTE (8683).
Tazewell: <http://www.tazewell.com/CountyClerk/CountyClerkElections.html>

Other Dates: Early Voting: Aug. 3 - Sept. 9; Grace Period Voting: Aug. 14 – Sept. 9.

*****Same day registering & voting on Election day is available at all polling places on Sept. 10. (new rule in effect July 2015 in Illinois) *You must bring 2 forms of identification and one must include your correct address **AND** you must be in the correct polling place in order to register & vote on election day.

Some Election Day polling places may have changed for this Special Election. Check for your polling place at:

Peoria: <http://www.peoriaelections.org/where-to-vote>
Tazewell: <http://www.tazewell.com/CountyClerk/CountyClerkElections.html>

Renew your League of Women Voters' membership (expired June 30)

If you weren't able to join us at the Summer Social to renew your membership, you still have time in August!

You can go online, go to www.lwvgp.org and use PayPal to renew
OR

You can renew by mail, using the form below or mailing your check as directed on the form (be sure to include email and phone number please)

Remember, as a member you will receive electronically our newsletter, *The Voter*, and alerts on breaking action in IL and Washington, D.C. You will also have opportunities to:

- Connect with and strengthen our community
- Help shape the policy decisions that affect our lives
- Learn more about and foster dialog on a broad range of issues
- Help preserve our constitutional rights and liberties

Questions? Contact Pat Landes 309-648-3504 or landes.pat@gmail.com

2015/16 League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Mail-in Membership Form, clip or copy

Please select and circle your desired membership category and fill out the following:

Name(s) _____
Mailing address: _____
Primary phone (s) & email address(es) _____

Make check payable to LWVGP for the circled membership amount, and mail this form and check to LWVGP Treasurer:
Terri Campion, 1188 County Road 00E, Wyoming, IL 61491.

Category	Individual	Household
Regular	\$60	\$90
Student/ Young Professional/Scholarship	\$30	n/a
Defenders of Democracy		
• Susan B. Anthony	\$100	\$150
• Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	\$300
• Eleanor Roosevelt	\$300	\$450

Membership categories:

- Household = 2 members living at the same address. Student = full-time student. Young Professional = member 30 or younger
- Scholarship = limited income, contact Membership Chair Pat Landes 309-648-3504
- Defenders of Democracy = increased level of support acknowledged in Voter.

***Thank you, your membership gives the League the political
clout we need to make democracy work!***

Welcome new July members: Beth Akeson, Peoria; Cynthia Hsieh, Peoria; Pat Meisner, Peoria; Kelly Poulos, Peoria; Bill Semmens, Peoria; Dick Williams, Peoria.



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvgp.org

IMPORTANT DATES- Public invited! Bring a friend

August 6. Voting Rights Celebration, 6 – 7 pm, Lincoln Branch Library, 1312 W. Lincoln Ave., Peoria.

August 8. Solar Event, 10am - 11:30 am, Farmington School 212 N. Lightfoot Rd., Farmington, IL.

August 10. Board meeting, noon. McClure Branch Library, 315 W. McClure, Peoria.

August 19. Drinks & Dialogue, 5:30 pm, Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N. Prospect, Rd., Peoria Heights.

August 24. LOGO. Noon.

August 26. "Money in Politics" 6 p.m. AMT Building, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria. **PUBLIC WELCOME!**

August 31. 18th District Congressional Candidates Forum, evening, at Bradley University.

Sept. 3. ReDistricting Explained, Cynthia Canary speaking, 6 p.m. AMT Building, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria.

Sept. 10. Special General Election, 18th District Congressional seat.