



The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

THE VOTER

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May 2016

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, May 5, 6 pm.
Annual Business Meeting, (Community Room) at Schnucks at 4800 N University Peoria 61614. **Join us at 5:30 for social with refreshments!**

Wednesday, May 18, at 5:30 Drinks & Dialogue.
Social - Emotional Learning at Lariat Steakhouse in Peoria

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our April Dinner Meeting was a success. Our speaker John Baldwin, who heads the IL Dept of Corrections, was interesting and took many questions from the audience. Besides being the Director of IDOC overseeing a \$1.3billion budget, Mr. Baldwin participates on the Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform who issued 14 recommendations late 2015. The Commission now is considering reforms in sentencing, community corrections, racial impact of sentencing, problem-solving courts, and sentencing enhancements. These changes are to affect the Governor's mandated 25% reduction of inmates in state prisons, and will have the potential to change many aspects of communities including local and state costs. Speaker Baldwin suggested that Leaguers can participate with the Commission by emailing suggestions or attending meetings. Commission's website: www.icjia.org/cjreform2015/index.html

A big thanks to the dinner/fundraising committee chaired by Carol Hedeman. Good speaker, good venue, and great food.

Thanks to League Board Member Gary Stella for leading a rousing discussion with one of our biggest turnouts for Drinks & Dialogue on "How should we elect our county board chair?" Former Peoria County Chair Stella and current Tazewell County Board Chair David Zimmerman talked about the two methods used. Tazewell County elects its chair county-wide. Peoria's chairman is selected every two years by the currently elected Board Members. Former Peoria County Board Chair Sharon Kennedy added a lot to the discussion. Many questions and some answers kept everyone very engaged in the discussion. Thanks to Nora Sullivan for facilitating.

The last of our redistricting petitions have been submitted to Independent Map Amendment headquarters. We collected signatures and petitions at both of the Thirty-Thirty Coffee locations just before the deadline. The legislature announced its independent commission plan recently which as a legislative Constitutional Amendment can include things our "citizen led effort" cannot include, such as Congressional District redistricting. However, as of this writing day, a different (weaker) IL Senate bill may end the IL House's superior redistricting bill, Rep. Frank's bill. Leaguer Brad McMillan continues to keep his eye on these efforts for us.

Our League's e-Transparency Project results are on the opening page of our website www.lwvgrp.org Thanks to Leaguer Rick Fox for chairing this effort and to the 14 League volunteers who searched websites. Response has been very positive -except for two who were defensive. Rick will explain the project at the Annual Meeting.

May 18th Drinks & Dialogue on the topic "How will behavior in the Peoria Public Schools be impacted by Social-Emotional Learning?" Superintendent Dr. Kherat will present.

Our Annual Business Meeting is Thursday, May 5 at Schnucks grocery store in the Community Room (5:30 social, 6pm meeting.) **Please come to the meeting. We determine our programs/topics for next year which keeps us relevant to YOU and all our members' interests.** We need a quorum of members.

Rick Fox, chair for our e-Transparency Project, will give an overview of this much talked about work. Two awards will be presented. WE NEED A QUORUM FOR THE ITEMS TO BE VOTED ON. Members, please come to the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

The League of Women Voters is a member driven organization of volunteers.

"We Make Democracy Work!"

---Cheryl Budzinski, President

Annual Business Meeting Agenda

We must have a quorum to vote on some of the items.

Thursday May 5 at 6pm (social at 5:30)

Schnucks' Community Room, 4800 N University, Peoria 61614

- I. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year.
 - II. Elect Officers and Directors, and members of the Nominating Committee.
 - III. Adopt budget.
 - IV. By-laws revisions
 - V. Minutes from 2015 meeting
 - VI. Awards
 - VII. e-Transparency Project
 - VIII. Old Business
 - IX. New Business
 - X. Directions to the Board
 - XI. Adjourn
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DRINKS & DIALOGUE MAY 18: How will Student Behavior in the Peoria Public Schools be Impacted by Social-Emotional Learning?

The League of Women Voters Drinks & Dialogue event on May 18 will discuss the topic of social-emotional learning and how it might relate to the ELITE program presently being implemented in some of the schools in Peoria School District 150.

Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent of Schools, will be the presenter.

For many years local citizens and those in surrounding communities have pointed to student discipline as the major reason families leave the Peoria district. Under the guidance of Kherat, this new program is being implemented will hopefully treat the cause of misbehavior in the classroom.

Social-Emotional Learning is a strategy for eliminating some and decreasing other trouble-some behaviors. Come hear and discuss S-E Learning and its possible connection to ELITE.

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue on Wednesday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m., at the **Lariat Steakhouse 2232 W Glenn Ave**, Peoria. League member Jan Deissler will facilitate the dialogue. No cost to participate. Refreshments are available to purchase.

-- Jan Deissler

Save the Date!!!
Wednesday, July 20 from 5:30-7pm

Mark your calendars now for our League's annual Summer Renewal Social on July 20, 5:30 – 7 pm at the home of League members Nora Sullivan & Dave Koehler. This will be a fun evening to easily renew your membership, celebrate our accomplishments, and look forward to another exciting League year of making democracy work!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bettsey Barhorst ★ Susan Krummel ★ Gina Brooks ★ Billy Halstead

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:**

Beth Akeson	Shirley Belke	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	Sherry Hillman	Bill Poorman
Joan French	Tracy & Rick Fox	Pat Barton
Bettsey Barhorst		

Illinois Needs Action on Federal Clean Power Plan

The federal Clean Power Plan is the most substantial initiative the United States has begun to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that are changing our climate.

States are to develop their own plans to meet targets for CO2 reduction. The Peoria League Board voted to participate in public meetings on our state plan, however, these now appear to be on hold. League members are encouraged to phone Governor Bruce Rauner's office at 217-782-0244 to urge that he proceed with development of the Illinois Clean Power Plan.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency needs to proceed with public hearings as intended to hear local citizen comments on air quality and environmental impacts of coal-fired power plants, other CO2 sources, and climate concerns.

Earlier this year the federal Supreme Court found in favor of a challenge to the U.S. rule and temporarily halted implementation of the plan while a lower appeals court hears a case, which is scheduled for June. Twenty-seven coal, gas and oil producing states and the power industry are challenging implementation of the federal plan through lower courts.

The National League of Women Voters lists implementation of the Clean Power Plan as one of our national 2016 priorities, and has worked for years to push the federal government to develop and implement this historic plan.

-- Joyce Blumenshine

SPRING FUND-RAISER BIG SUCCESS

Our Spring Fund Raiser was a great evening and good turnout. Waterhouse is a beautiful place and space in downtown Peoria and the service was excellent. The food was outstanding. Hopefully we can repeat as nice an evening again next Spring.

Our speaker John Baldwin, Director of The Illinois Department of Corrections, was an interesting and informative speaker. As IDOC director he is responsible overseeing the management and operations of 35 state prisons work camps and transitions centers as well as the supervision of parolees, and handling a \$1.3 billion annual budget. Thank you to Ron Budzinski for arranging this fine speaker.

I want to thank my committee who planned the event and made this such a lovely evening. Mary Ellen Clancy donated all the fresh flowers on our tables. Ron Budzinski arranged for the speaker and program. Terri Campion managed the money and paperwork for the raffle and 501c3. Cheryl Budzinski, Pat Landes, and Farrell Davies arranged for printing, inviting organizations and individuals, selling raffle tickets, writing letters and media releases, etc. Webmaster Sharon Maule posted the invitation and initiated PayPal. Elaine Hopkins helped with the media releases and Voter insert. Thanks to all, what a great team. Thanks to Al Harkrader for taking photos. Fran Kepler helped to get League volunteers at the check-in and directing people to their tables. The volunteers were Hettie Beers, Nancy Clemmer, Jan Deissler, Joyce Harant, Pat Barton, Elliott Murray, Jean Sanger and Bill Mahl who took care of the redistricting table. There were so many other things people did that it's too numerous to mention. Thanks to a great team.

We had 84 reservations for dinner. The event included a raffle. The raffle winners: Valda Shipp - Kindle Fire 16GB; Yvonne Greer- Hearth Restaurant gift certificate; and, Laura Turner- PVII Restaurant gift certificate. We cleared \$2,004 on the event with the majority of that from the raffle.

The staff at the Waterhouse set the space up beautifully and were one of the best teams I have worked with. Without their cooperation things would not have gone so well. Thanks to all of them.

Hope to see you at next year's LWV Fund Raiser.

--Carol Hedeman, Chairperson.

Register Voters This Year!

New members - consider taking the training to become Voter Registrars. Training is easy and takes less than an hour. You should be trained by the county you live in. Tazewell citizens, call Tazewell Co Clerk's office 477-2267. Peoria city and county, call Peoria Election Commission 494-8683. Arrange a time and day at those offices to be trained. Once you are a registrar, you can register people from any county in Illinois.

The League registers many citizens to vote. Our new League members enjoy registering new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremonies which are usually held at the Federal Courthouse in Peoria or the downtown library in Peoria. We also register students at high schools, Bradley University, and I.C.C. Our next Naturalization Ceremony is: **Friday, May 20** at 11am at the downtown Peoria library. Once you become a registrar, call me to be notified when registrars are needed. I keep the League list.

-- Mary Jane Crowell, Chair Voter Service -674-5313



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

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May 18, 5:30 pm, Drinks & Dialogue, "Social/Emotional Learning" - Dr. Kherat, speaker
Lariat Steakhouse 2232 W Glen Ave. Peoria 61614 (new location!)

July 20, 5:30 p.m. Summer Renewal Social, Koehler residence, details TBA.