



# THE VOTER

Volume 69, Issue 6

June 2016

## *Board of Directors*

Cheryl Budzinski, President  
309/253-9594  
president@lwwgp.org

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Sharon Maule, 2<sup>nd</sup> V-Pres.

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Mary Jane Crowell

Carol Hedeman

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Newsletter editor,  
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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday, June 15,  
5:30pm.

Drinks & Dialogue.

**Government  
Information** at  
Lariat Steakhouse

Wednesday, July 20,  
5:30 – 7 pm. **Summer  
Renewal Social.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Seven LWVGP members had an interesting experience helping with the signature verification process of our **ReDistricting petitions** at the State Board of Elections in Springfield May 17-23. We filled 17 of the work shifts. The staff at State Board of Elections was open to our input as we watched at each of the 12 look-up stations, observing about 170 petition signature look-ups per 3 hour shift. Our efforts at collecting petition signatures and checking them means that Redistricting is closer to being on the November ballot as a possible Illinois Constitutional Amendment. There is still a small time frame that signatures could be challenged, but we had 72% validity rate and almost twice as many signatures as needed. And, there is the court battle. Whichever side loses in Cook County Court is expected to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. Independent Map Amendment is confident in our attorneys' assessment of the merits of our petitions.

We want the citizens of Illinois to decide whether politicians should draw the district lines for State Representative and State Senator or whether an independent commission should "draw the lines." Remember the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Arizona's Independent ReDistricting Commission last summer. Thank you to all of you who have helped get us to this place.

**The Annual Meeting of our League** on May 5 had a quorum and voted on our program issues, proposed bylaw amendments, budget, and elected officers and directors for 2016/17. We awarded Farrell Davies and Rick Fox "Leaguers of the Year" awards. Both are newer members of our League, and really "stepped up" bringing successful new projects.

- **Farrell Davies** chaired and oversaw the election administration and processes for the National Vietnam Veterans election of officers and directors at their convention in Springfield. Over 20 volunteers participated. Farrell worked with the Jacksonville, FL League and our VVA contact to create the ballots, tally sheets, etc. to successfully run, record, and count ballots of over 700 delegates.
- **Rick Fox** presented the eTransparency Project to our Board and headed the effort with 14 Leaguers surveying 39 governmental units' websites. Rick, with advice of the committee, determined the questions, how to rate each search, and the importance -

*Presidents Message, continued from page 1.*

- weight- of each question and total "scores." Explanation of the project and process, and "score card" for each governmental website was sent to the Exec Director and to the President of the Board for each of the 39 agencies. This project is summarized on the opening page of our website [www.lwvvp.org](http://www.lwvvp.org). Please visit some of the many local government sites - the changes are wonderful and most governments really appreciated the suggestions.

Please know that we appreciate your membership and whatever time you can give on any and all our activities to try to "Make Democracy Work."

A big thank you goes to Terri Campion, our Treasurer these last few years, and to Board Director Ron Budzinski who will continue to chair Drinks & Dialogue off-Board. And we look forward to our newly elected Treasurer Dick Williams and new Director Sherry Hillman on our League's Board.

Our Summer Renewal Social is set for **Wednesday July 20 at 5:30-7pm**. Ask a friend who might be interested in joining our League to attend with you.

We will put together Candidate Forums or less formal socials this Fall. If you want to work on these Candidate Forums/Socials, please email me. And, we are always looking for locations (free) to hold these functions. If you have suggestions/ connections, please contact me.

We have much work to do in this election year.

-- Cheryl Budzinski, [president@lwvvp.org](mailto:president@lwvvp.org) or cell 253-9594

## How Can Citizens Get Information From Their Government?

Drinks & Dialogue, June 15 – Guests are welcome!

"How Can Citizens Get Information from Their Government" is the topic of discussion for Drinks & Dialogue, a program hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria. The public is invited to participate in the dialogue, at **5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 15**, at the Lariat Steakhouse at 2232 W Glen Ave, Peoria. Social hour begins at 5 p.m.

This dialogue about citizens getting information from their government will open with comments from Peoria City Clerk Beth Ball and City of Peoria Deputy Corporation Counsel Sonni Williams, and be facilitated by League members. Both Clerk Ball and Ms. Williams have extensive experience and knowledge of the most common tool for citizens wanting information - FOIA (Freedom of Information Act).

Regarding this topic, the LWVUS' position is: *The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.*

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. We look forward to seeing you, and guests are welcome.

Inquires may be directed to Cheryl Budzinski, 309-253-9594 or [c\\_budzinski@hotmail.com](mailto:c_budzinski@hotmail.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

- ❖ Our League continues to grow! We are currently at 119 members, a net increase of 58.6% since July 2014!
- ❖ Our Committee is currently focusing on managing the membership renewal process. All of our memberships expire June 30, and we are offering 3 different ways to renew (see article below), including the fun Summer Renewal Social!
- ❖ We invite you to join our Committee as we work to improve the League membership experience. Note that our meeting schedule varies to accommodate all the Committee members' schedules. Please contact Pat Landes, 309-648-3504 or [landes.pat@gmail.com](mailto:landes.pat@gmail.com) to discuss your interest in short or longer term Committee participation. Current opportunities include:

Greeter(s) at League events. Food donations for Summer Renewal Social. Improving the welcome procedure for new members.

## **RENEW RENEW RENEW**

### ***Renew your League of Women Voters' membership (expires June 30)***

*Your membership gives the League the political clout to make democracy work!*

**3 ways to renew, plus more membership categories**

*Please choose the renewal option that works best for you*

1. In person, you are invited\* to attend the:

**Summer Renewal Social, Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 – 7 pm**

**The home of Dave Koehler & Nora Sullivan, 1020 NE Glen Oak, Peoria**

Renew your membership in person w/check or cash, plus celebrate our League's successes this past year & hear about the exciting year coming up. Please bring prospective members.

OR

2. Online, go to [www.lwvvp.org](http://www.lwvvp.org) and use PayPal to renew.

OR

3. By mail, use form here and mail a check payable to LWVGP.

You and your guests are invited to the Summer Renewal Social regardless of which renewal option you choose. And, remember that membership is open to both men and women.

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.

\* RSVP for Summer Renewal Social to Pat Landes, [landes.pat@gmail.com](mailto:landes.pat@gmail.com), 309-648-3504.

*Invitations will be mailed out soon and include pro-rated credit for 2016/17 dues for each new member that has joined since July 1, 2015.*



Become a registrar and help access to voting!  
OLLI Program - Freedom Summer: Voting Rights, Then & Now  
July 2016

THE LWVGP is will be part of the Cinema Conversation on Voting Rights, Then & Now, a 3 part program offered by OLLI at Bradley this summer. If you are interested in registering for the program, go to [bradley.edu/olli](http://bradley.edu/olli) and click on Summer Registration for description and fee.

If you are interested in becoming a registrar, contact Pat Landes at 309-648-3504 or [landes.pat@gmail.com](mailto:landes.pat@gmail.com) to sign up for free add-on to the class on July 21 at 12 pm, Peoria NEXXT Innovation Center to be trained as a registrar.

**OBSERVER REPORT:** Peoria City/County Health Department, May 16, 2016. Strategic planning for PCCHD. There was great interest by the staff to take part in this. There will be two committees. One will be looking at internal operations and the other at its work in the community. Board members are invited to participate.

The agency is terminating the contract with its Environmental Health Software Vendor which was entered into last year. It was found that it wasn't providing the information wanted.

-- Elliott Murray LWVGP Observer

**Voter Service Chair Mary Jane Crowell** reports that Leaguers registered 48 new citizens to vote after their Naturalization Ceremony in Peoria on May 20. We will register new citizens to vote at the next ceremony on July 15. Our members really enjoy the excitement of the new citizens when they register to vote.

Voter Service Committee is working on Candidate Forums for the fall, registering high school students to vote, mock elections in schools, and Get-Out-the-Vote activities. If you are interested in helping, please call Mary Jane at 674-5313.

## League Websites

The national League has two websites - the original site is [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) If you are on that website page, in the upper right of the page is: League Management. If you click that, you go to the "<http://forum.lwv.org/>" site. Mo

- Type "Impact on Issues" in the search box to see the national positions (called Impact on Issues) of LWV.
- At "<http://lwv.org/get-involved>" you may sign up to receive news and action alerts from our national organization specifically about issues you are interested in.

There is good information at the state League's website which is: [LWVIL.org](http://LWVIL.org). On that website, members can sign-up to be notified about issues in Illinois that interest you at "Sign-up for Grassroots Advocates." Just click the link and sign up for any and all of the issue notifications - you must include your contact information.



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**

Monday, June 13, noon, LWVGP Board meeting at the downtown Peoria Library, lower level classroom

Wednesday, June 15, 5pm. Drinks & Dialogue. **Government Information.**  
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria, 61614.

Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 – 7 pm. **Summer Renewal Social.** 1020 NE Glen Oak, Peoria.

Thursday, Sept. 29. **Early voting begins.**