



THE VOTER

Volume 70, Issue 3

February 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thur. Feb. 2, 6 pm,
Ownership of the Water
Company

Sat. Feb. 4, 10:30 am,
Candidate Forum: Peoria
Mayor and Township
Supervisor.

Thur. Feb 16, 6:30pm
Washington Candidate
Forum: Mayor, Aldermen,
Township Highway

Sat. Feb 18, 9am
Consensus Water Study

Thur. Feb 23, 6:30pm
Contested Peoria City
Council Candidate Forum:
At-Large and 4th District

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The League is a non-partisan organization with written "positions" on issues. Some of those issues which our organization has fought and lobbied for, are being changed with the new DC government.

Our national organization was a partner in the Women's March on Washington on January 21. Locally we supported the Peoria Rally to Support the Women's March on DC by participating in the planning and registering voters at the event. Our League has received many calls and emails from people wanting information or wanting to know what to do to support these important issues. Make your voice heard. Go to: <http://lwv.org/blog/get-involved> (click "our work" and "get involved")

Big thank you to Nora Sullivan for organizing our Peoria Rally on Jan 21, her husband Dave Koehler who managed/financed the logistics, and Steve Fairbanks as sound director for the wonderful music and audio system. Nora and Dave are long-time Leaguers. And thanks to League Board member Terry Matthews who made the trip to the DC March. Nora and Terry will present their observations at **Drinks & Dialogue on February 15**. Be there.

Our first candidate forum is on **Saturday, Feb 4** with Connie Romanus coordinating the forum of Peoria mayoral candidates and Peoria Township Supervisor candidates. Thanks to Connie Romanus, Terry Matthews, and Mary Jane Crowell for coordinating the three Candidate Forums for contested Primary races.

We have selected Kassy Kiley to redesign our website on another platform. We are excited about a new format after 12 years on the current platform. We can expect that to be ready by April.

We are cancelling our Annual Dinner/fundraising event this year. We will talk about another event possibly in the summer 2017.

LWVGP's study of water company ownership is the topic of our **Feb 2 and Feb 18** meetings. The resulting position will be applicable to ownership of community systems in our three county area. Members should plan to attend both meetings. The public is welcome at the Feb 2 meeting, but discussion at the consensus meeting February 18 only involves members.

I am scheduling our 2017 Legislative Interviews for February. Anyone interested in participating, please call or email me. State League provides the questions and background information which we have already sent to the 5 legislators we want to interview- Weaver, Koehler, Gordon-Booth, Spain, and Unes. No experience needed to interview. We go in teams of 2-4 Leaguers. Topics this year are: Campaign Finance, Criminal Justice, Education Funding, Environment, and Fiscal issues. (Mon. Feb 27 noon Rep.Gordon-Booth/ 2pm Sen. Koehler.)

--Cheryl Budzinski, president 253-9594 c budzinski@hotmail.com

Will public ownership of a water company benefit the people of Central Illinois?

Our League study committee has looked at several issues regarding public and private ownership of the water distribution systems. We encourage you to attend our meeting on **Thursday, February 2 at 6pm at AMT on Sterling Ave, Peoria**. We will have a panel from the committee who have read about various aspects of water ownership, rates, maintenance of the infrastructure, public health, water supply and quality, and economic viability of the region as it relates to water. (Open to the public.)

Our consensus meeting on the questions listed in our January special edition Voter will be on **February 18 at 9am at 733 SW Washington St, Peoria**. Discussion and participation at our consensus meetings is for members only.

We held a public meeting for input on the issue on September 29, 2016. The topics we had selected to research are: water rates, maintenance of the water system infrastructure, public health, water supply and quality, economic viability of the region, and conservation. Water rates was a priority issue from that meeting.

Monthly water bill for 6000 gallons of usage

City	Monthly bill for 6000 gallons	Source
Peoria	\$55.40	ICC report and IAWC
East Peoria	\$36.12	East Peoria Water Billing Department
Springfield, IL	\$22.77	CWLP web site
Moline, IL	\$41.57	Moline web site and customer service
Joliet, IL	\$26.13	Joliet web site and customer service
Normal, IL	\$42.79	Town of Normal web site
Bloomington, IL	\$33.14	Bloomington web site
St. Charles, MO	\$23.00	St. Charles web site
Indianapolis	\$38.15	Citizen's Water web site
Austin, TX	\$40.73	Austin Water web site and city budget
Bolingbrook	\$86.89	ICC, Bolingbrook Public Works, IAWC
Des Moines	\$28.34	Des Moines Water web site
Huber Heights, OH	\$24.55	Huber Heights web site
Pekin, IL	\$42.39	ICC report and IAWC
Rockford, IL	\$24.71	Rockford web site

We have selected a few of many articles below. View the LWV Monterey, CA position on water - water company ownership is near the end of the position at: <http://lwvmryco.org/water.html>

As League considers whether it is best served by public or private water, a couple of basic questions arise. Who owns the water? What is the value of water? A quick overview can be found at: freshwater.org/wp-content/uploads/joomla/PDFs/critical-water/valueofwater.pdf. If you are interested in delving deeper, much of that information can be traced to a 2005 paper by economist W. Michael Hanemann, which can be read in full at ctec.ufal.br/professor/vap/Valueofwater.pdf.

Ownership of the groundwater? IDOT would talk about the "Rule of Reasonable Use." (<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/iswsdocs/wsp/IllinoisGroundwaterLaw.pdf>)

The Cleveland, Ohio area has been studying water's impact on its local economy for the past several years. Its preliminary conclusion: Water drives the world's economy. If you would like to learn more, check out: www.waterfm.com/the-value-of-water-water-as-an-economic-development-driver/

The issue of transparency in rate changes, usage, and public health issues related to quality was a concern. Changing treatment to add chloramines in Peoria did not require public meeting and there is question about safety. For information see <http://www.blueearthlabs.com/applications/municipal-water-treatment/chloramine-2/>

For more information and resources, please see our website: www.lwvvp.org

To read the Chamber of Commerce CEO Council report, go to: <http://peoriaceocouncil.org/projects/water-objective-study/>

Hope to see you on **Feb 2 at 6pm** for our panel discussion prior to our consensus meeting on **Feb 18 at 9am**. **The resultant position from the consensus can be used to initiate action in other parts of our three county League area as issues arise.**

The Women's Rally and What's Next?

The League of Women Voters **Drinks & Dialogue** meeting on **February 15, 2017** will discuss: "How both the Peoria and Washington D.C. women's rallies were developed, attended, and exceeded expectations." Also, going forward, they will share what might be planned to keep the movement going strong. Leaguer Nora Sullivan, one of the Peoria Rally organizers, will focus on the Peoria activities; and, leaguer Terry Matthews, attending the Washington D.C. rally, will focus on the D.C. activities.

Leaguers attended both Marches and Rallies to register voters and to support LWV positions that are being potentially threatened by the new administration. Some of those LWV positions include:

- Support of the Affordable Care Act
- Immigration Reform - supporting DACA
- Women's Reproductive Health
- Keeping EPA laws
- Fighting Voter Suppression

Knowledge of these marches and rallies and the dialogue to keep the movement going is critical to all LWV members, and the public who also do not want these compromised.

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue on Wednesday, **February 15, 2017, at 5:30PM – 6:30PM, at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2322 W. Glen Ave., Peoria.**

League president, Cheryl Budzinski, will facilitate the dialogue.

There is no cost to participate. Refreshments are available at the Lariat bar for purchase.

ENVIRONMENTAL TEA AND MORE

League members and friends concerned about environmental issues are invited to an "Environmental Interests Tea and More," on **Wednesday, February 8th, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at I Know You Like a Book, 4707 North Prospect Rd, Peoria Heights.**

Wine or beer can be purchased in the store. Nibbles and healthy snacks, hot and cold tea will be provided.

Share your ideas on what environmental issues matter to you. Our discussion will include possible Earth Day related activities and a handout of recent League environmental news.

For more information phone Joyce Blumenshine, 309-688-0950, <joblumen@yahoo.com>.

CANDIDATE FORUMS for the PRIMARY ELECTION

Peoria Candidate Forum on Feb. 4, 2017

The League will host a candidate forum for contested primary races for Peoria mayor and Peoria Township Supervisor, from **10:30 to 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Peoria Public Library North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria.** Connie Romanus, Coordinator; Terry Bibo Knight, moderator
Candidates for Peoria mayor expected to appear are Jim Ardis, G. Marie Kennell, and Couri Thomas.
Candidates for Peoria Township Supervisor expected to appear are Frank Abdnour, Michael Aiello, Harvey Burnett, Evonne Fleming, Clyde Gulley Jr., Sam Joseph and Daniel Sullivan.

Washington Candidate Forum on Feb. 16, 2017

The Washington, IL candidate forum includes the races for mayor, alderman, and highway commissioner. It takes place at **6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb. 16, in the Washington High School Multipurpose Room,** (Jefferson Street entrance) Washington 61571. Terry Matthews, Coordinator; Sonni Williams, Moderator.
Mayor: Gary Manier, Donald Volk;
Alderman Ward 2: Brett Adams, David Stark
Alderman Ward 4: Daniel Cobb, Christopher Nichols
Highway Commissioner: Bill Murphy, Scott Weaver

Peoria Candidate Forum on Feb. 23, 2017

Candidate forum for Peoria City Council contested races in District 4 and At-Large takes place at **Universalist Unitarian Church (UJ Church) at 6:30-8pm on Thurs. Feb.23.** Mary Jane Crowell, Coordinator.
Candidates for At-Large (vote for one or two): Robert Hanauer, Zachary Oyler, Sid Rickriegel, John L. Kelly, Scott Kelsey, and Amr Elsamny
Candidates for District 4 (vote for one): Mike Eddlemon, Benjamin Thornton, Jim Montelongo.

These events are free and open to the public. Bring your friends.

Observer Report: Peoria Election Commission, January 10, 2017: The Peoria Election Commission held their monthly board meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the Election Commission offices. The meeting started with the board officially signing a decision made the day before concerning an objection to the petitions of a Chillicothe Park District candidate. Most of the remainder of the meeting concerned the upcoming primary election on February 28.

Executive Director Tom Bride presented a list of polling place changes that would eliminate single precinct locations and provide better access for voters. Two locations are still being finalized, and moves to the Lake Camelot Clubhouse will be deferred until construction on the bridge leading to the subdivision is completed. All senior living facilities that would lose their polling places would receive enough invitations for mail-in ballots. This has worked well at other senior living facilities in the past. The consolidation of polling places would save considerable money since there would be a reduction of between 85 and 91 judges.

Since early voting begins on January 19, hours for the permanent early polling place at the downtown Election Commission had to be approved so that notification could be publicized. The board also voted to add 2 ½ days of early voting at ICC North, from February 23 through the 25th.

The April election will cause interesting complications for election workers. Those precincts that will not have a primary will start early voting on February 23, but those that do have a primary will start early voting on March 11. There could be as many as 600 different ballot configurations throughout the county for the April election.

-- Irene Pritzker

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Membership is growing for the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria. We've added 27 new members since our League year began in July 2016, which includes the 6 new members for this month listed below:

- ♦ Mary Ardapple Dierker
- ♦ John & Mary Ellen Brady
- ♦ Chrissy Malson
- ♦ Megan & Emily Pulley

Thank you for your support

Since 100% of regular dues' payment goes to the LWVIL and LWVUS, we need to raise money through fundraisers and donations to pay for our operating expenses. At this time we would like to acknowledge those members that selected the Defenders of Democracy membership category as a way to donate to LWVGP. Thank you for your additional support!

Eleanor Roosevelt Members:

Lori Hanson
Tracy & Rick Fox

Carrie Chapman Catt members:

Carol & Allan Hedeman
Elliott Murray
Lisa Uphoff

Susan B. Anthony members:

- Bettsey Barhorst
- Shirley Belke (Life Member)
- Joyce Blumenshine & David Trachtenbarg
- Jerry Brady
- Cheryl & Ron Budzinski
- Katherine Coyle
- Nancy Clemmer (Life Member)
- Farrell Davies
- Jan & Emil Deissler
- Sherry Hillman
- Dave Koehler & Nora Sullivan
- Sue Ann Kortkamp
- Pat Landes
- Kathleen Leson
- Larry & Terry Matthews
- Michael McCuskey
- Roberta Parks
- Irene Pritzker
- Kathie Raiborn
- Carolyn Shepherd
- Sandy Stemler
- Connie Torrey-Romanus
- Sonni & Dick Williams

FUTURE NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Voter registrars: here are the dates for the 3 naturalization ceremonies: April 7, June 16, Sept 20 at 11 am. There will be about 500 citizens at the Civic Center on Sept 20, so we will need lots of registrars that day. Do try to reserve it, please.

-- Mary Jane Crowell



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

- Thursday, Feb. 2, 6-7pm. Public Ownership of the Water Company,**
AMT Auditorium, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria. 61604
- Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30-11:45am, Candidate Forum - Peoria Mayor and Township Supervisor**
Peoria Public Library North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria (behind Menards off Allen Road).
- Wednesday, Feb. 8, 4-5pm, Environmental Tea,**
at I Know You Like a Book, 4707 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights. 61616
- Thursday, Feb. 9, 6-8:30pm, NAACP's Candidate Forum - Peoria Mayor and Township Supervisor**
Ward Chapel AME, 511 N Richard Allen Dr, Peoria, IL 61605
- Wednesday, Feb. 15, 5:30-6:30p.m. Drinks & Dialogue, The Women's March and Rally- What Next?,**
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave. 61604
- Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:30-8pm, Candidate Forum - Washington Mayor, Alderman, and Township Highway**
Washington High School Multipurpose Room, (Jefferson Street entrance) Washington 61571.
- Saturday, Feb. 18, 9-10:30am, Water Company Ownership, Consensus Meeting.**
IFT Offices, 733 SW Washington, Peoria 61602 (for members only).
- Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:30-8pm. Candidate Forum - Peoria City Council At-large and 4th District seats,**
Universalist Unitarian Church 3000 W Richwoods Blvd. 61604
- Tuesday, Feb. 28, Primary election.**
- Tuesday, March 14, 6:30pm. Candidate Forum - Peoria Heights Mayor & Trustees,**
including ICC Candidate Introductions; co-sponsored with Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce & LWVGP
- Thursday, March 16, 6:30-8pm. Candidate Forum - Dunlap School Board, including ICC Candidate intros**
- Tuesday, April 5, Consolidated Election.**