

THE VOTER

Volume 70, Issue 5

April 2017

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Terry Matthews

Gary Stella

Newsletter editor,
Elaine Hopkins
ehopkins7@prodigy.net

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs., April 6, 6 pm
"LISC in Peoria -
Transforming
Neighborhoods"
at AMT 1718 N Sterling.

Wed. April 19, 5:30pm D
& D "Neighborhood Safety
Act"
Rep Gordon Booth.

Thurs. May 4, 6 pm
Annual Meeting, at
Schnucks Comm. Room.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who helped with our candidate forums recently and last Fall. Our League has depth of volunteers to do these forums. Our League's coordinators who plan the forums and contact candidates & volunteers include: Mary Jane Crowell, Connie Romanus, Terry Matthews, Farrell Davies, Pat Landes, Irene Pritzker, and myself. Moderators use their sense of humor to add to the sometimes dry topics. Those folks are: Roberta Parks, Sonni Williams, Terri Champion, Lisa Uphoff, Gary Stella, Tanya Koonce, Terry Bibo, and Pat Landes. Many volunteers are involved to: time responses, greet candidates and the public, collect questions, vet questions, set-up and take-down the spaces. Thank you all. I have heard many wonderful comments about our forums and the thanks should go to you. LWVGP has become very respected in our ability to conduct successful forums.

Farrell, Sharon, Dick, and I have been working on our League's new website with our web designer. We are trying to make it easy to find information and volunteer opportunities as well as being readable on our electronic devices. Hope to have the new website "up" the first week of April. Same address: www.lwgvp.org

Connie Romanus and I attended the LWVIL Issues Briefing. Interesting speakers and topics. Check out the LWVIL.org website for an overview.

At our May 4 Annual Meeting, we want to hear from you, our members, about topics for the 2017-18 League year and what topics you will volunteer to work on. Action items, a study, a panel discussions, TFA's (Time for Action alerts), government Observers, on-going meetings, etc., all need volunteers.

Please plan to join us on **Thursday, May 4 at 6pm at Schnucks**. We will elect next year's officers and approve the budget as well as the calendar of events and action items for the year. We will also enjoy some refreshments and meet other members who are committed to Making Democracy Work. We need a quorum of 20% of our members to conduct business. There is a proxy slip in this newsletter to sign and give to another member if you can't make the meeting. Yes, there is a limit of one proxy slip per member attending.

Cheryl Budzinski

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Our League continues to grow. We have 7 new members since the last Voter. Thanks to Pat Landes and new co-chairs Jan Deissler & Linda Millen and the membership committee we now have 153 members. It is apparent people are looking for educational programming as well as involvement in voter services. Members have been involved in a number of candidate forums not only in Peoria, but through the Greater Peoria area. Thanks to all who join and jump in to assist.

We welcome new members from the past month:

- James Runyan
- Mary Peifer
- Joy Rennich
- Brittney Ferrero
- Velma Watson
- Cecily Scott Martin
- Rachel Reliford

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

Local Study
League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, IL

LWVGP studied ownership of the water distribution system beginning in early 2016 and determined its position in 2017.

POSITION

Water is a necessary resource for human life, not a commodity. The most important attributes of a water utility are: transparency; local control of rates and quality among other issues; local governance which is co-located with the water supply and service area; public oversight; high quality service; competitive rates.

The LWVGP believes financial analysis of public ownership of a water utility is warranted.

LWVGP supports ownership of the water and its distribution system that:

- Is committed to Central Illinois' water needs as a priority.
- Charges water rates that reflect local costs and local infrastructure maintenance.
- Is committed to transparency to insure information is easily accessible to the public about the rates, cost, supply and quality of Central Illinois' water and distribution system, including maintenance is most important.
- Allows water quality standards to be determined locally.
- Protects the San Koty aquifer and Illinois River for the use by future generations.
- Can use water more effectively as an economic development tool under local control to meet local needs.

OBJECTIVES

Water Rates

1. The price of residential water must be competitive with other local communities.
2. Water rates must be set based on expenses specifically in our service area.
3. The public must be notified of rate setting. Requests for changes to the rates must be explained at local meetings and online.
4. A detailed breakdown of current and projected costs specific to our local supply and service area must accompany all rate setting and change requests.
5. Capital costs for locally sourced water treatment and distribution must be available to the public.
6. Water rates must be set locally rather than by an appointed state board in Springfield.

Water Supply & Quality

1. Information on water source (aquifer and river) reductions from water usage must be easily accessed in order to allocate resources more equitably and better plan for the future.
2. Consideration of water-intensive business and industrial customers must include whether they jeopardize water availability.
3. Local approval must be required if local water is exported out of the area to safeguard our water supply and put Central Illinois' needs first.
4. Easy access to local water quality test results should be available.
5. The ability to implement drinking water quality standards more stringent than state or federal standards should be possible.

Maintenance of Water System Infrastructure to Include:

1. Eliminating water loss in the distribution system should be a priority.
2. Adopting the latest proven water treatment technologies.

Public Health

1. Local drinking water standards should change as the scientific consensus on what constitutes safe drinking water changes.
2. Local water analysis results should be included in public health reports and be available online.
3. Local meetings should be held and online explanations be developed to inform the public about possible health concerns with water treatment changes and water quality results.

Water System Encourages Economic Viability of the Region by:

1. Using water availability to direct future growth of the city and region.
2. Using water availability to promote business development.
3. Having a well-run customer support function able to respond quickly to complaints.
4. Having a skilled, responsive management team to support the needs of local businesses via an open and transparent decision-making process.
5. Considering public ownership of a water system as a positive aspect of economic viability versus a national corporation as a negative with regards to economic development.

Water Conservation:

1. Is important for future generations of Central Illinois residents.
2. Should include incentives for customers to reduce their water usage by the water company.

Approved by Board of Directors of The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria
March 13, 2017

Please attend our April General Meeting to hear Angela Bolden, Program Officer of LISC -Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Greater Peoria- explain the "best kept secret in Peoria."

Thursday, April 6 at 6-7pm at Advanced Medical Transport (AMT)

"Since 2012, Greater Peoria LISC has been working in Peoria and the surrounding areas to transform neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunities - good places to live, work, do business, and raise a family." (LISC Peoria website: www.lisc.org)

LISC equips struggling communities with the capital, program strategy and know-how to become places where people can thrive. It combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to achieve sustainable change in the communities it serves. Since 1980, LISC has invested \$17.4 billion across the country to build or rehab 350,000 affordable homes and apartments and develop 55 million square feet of retail, community and educational space. In Peoria, LISC is working with residents, non-profit organizations, and local government to revitalize the South Side and East Bluff to improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents. For more, visit www.lisc.org.

From "Impact on Issues 2016-18" LWVUS: "Housing should be designed to meet human needs and should be built with amenities that will encourage economic integration within apartment buildings as well as within neighborhoods. Publicly assisted housing should be included in viable, balanced communities, with provision for quality public services and facilities, including schools, transportation, recreation, etc., that will encourage integration and stability."

"Everyone should hear this story." Pat Landes

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 6:00 pm**

Schnucks Community Room, 4800 N University, Peoria

Agenda

- I. Welcome by Cheryl Budzinski
- II. Election of Officers and Directors, and members of the Nominating Committee
- III. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year- Farrell Davies
- IV. Adopt budget
- V. Accept minutes from May 5, 2016
- VI. Award
- VII. Formally adopt position on Public Ownership of Water
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Directions to the Board
- XI. Adjourn

Nominating Committee slate of officers and directors for 2017-18:

President: Farrell Davies
1st V-P: Terry Matthews
2nd V-P: Sharon Maule
Directors: Connie Romanus; Valda Shipp; Gary Stella; Jan Deissler

Nominating Committee for 2018-19: Cheryl Budzinski, chair; Shelly Epstein and Irene Pritzker

Proposed 2017-2018 Local Program

July 2017- Summer Social (Membership Chairs Jan and Linda)
Aug 16, 2017 - Drinks & Dialogue
Sept 7, 2017- Consolidation of Government Services (Cheryl)
Sept 20, 2017- Drinks & Dialogue
Oct 5, 2017 -Panel discussion of recreation marijuana as a revenue stream for Illinois
Oct 18, 2017 - Drinks & Dialogue
Nov 2, 2017 - Pension Reform panel discussion
Nov 15, 2017- To Be Determined
Dec 7, 2017 - No meeting
Dec 20, 2017 - No Drinks & Dialogue
Jan (Sat) 6, or 13, or 20, 2018 - breakfast planning meeting for LWVUS and local with members
Jan 17, 2018 - Drinks & Dialogue
Feb 1, 2018 - Status of work re: Worst place in US for Blacks to live, re: education, housing, and services
Feb 21, 2018 - Drinks & Dialogue
March 1, 2018 - Open Meetings Act/ eTransparency/Sunshine Week
March 21, - Drink & Dialogue
April 2018 - Dinner/fundraiser
April 18, 2018 - Drinks & Dialogue
May 5, 2018 - Annual LWVGP Meeting
May 16, 2018-Drinks & Dialogue
Potential local "Study" Issues

1. How are local people selected to be appointed to fill open government seats.
2. Peoria County Board Chair - should he/she be elected countywide or selected by peers?

Local "Action" Issues: Water Ownership Position; environmental issue (such as banning high PAC sealants);
?your idea?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	2016/2017 FY Proposed Budget							
2				2015-2016	2016-2017		Ed Fund	2017-18
3				ACTUAL	BUDGET	to Jan 2017	to Jan 2017	PROPOSED
4	INCOME:							
5		Membership Dues		\$5,675.00	\$5,800.00	\$ 9,167.43		\$ 8,122.00
6		Fundraising Activities		\$1,683.44	\$3,000.00			\$ 1,473.00
7		Ed Fund		\$3,120.00				
8		Contributions/Donations		\$732.00	\$700.00		\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
9		LWVIL REDISTR		\$750.00				
10		Interest		\$57.02	\$55.00	\$ 41.72		\$ 30.00
11		TOTAL INCOME		\$12,017.46	\$9,555.00	\$ 9,209.15		\$ 10,825.00
12	EXPENSES:							
13		Affiliation						
14		LWVUS PMPs*		\$2,573.98	\$3,010.00	\$ 1,256.00	\$ 1,256.00	\$ 3,000.00
15		LWVIL PMPs*		\$2,119.50	\$2,820.00	\$ 1,589.62	\$ 529.00	\$ 2,400.00
16		UMR						\$ 25.00
17		Total Affiliations		\$4,693.48	\$5,830.00	\$ 2,907.6	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 5,425.00
18								
19		Board & Administrative:						
20		Supplies		\$0.00	\$100.00			\$ 100.00
21		Postage		\$0.00	\$75.00			\$ 100.00
22		Printing		\$29.00	\$150.00			\$ 150.00
23		Website		\$200.00	\$225.00	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
24		Insurance		\$115.00	\$115.00	\$ 115.00		\$ 85.00
25		Misc. & Affiliation		\$0.00	\$75.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
26		Total B & A		\$344.00	\$740.00	\$ 1,227.37		\$ 785.00
27								
28		Newslette						
29		Printing		\$0.00	\$60.00	\$ 60.00		\$ 60.00
30		Postage		\$0.00	\$60.00	\$ 60.00		\$ 60.00
31		Total Newsletter		\$0.00	\$120.00	\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00
32								
33		Delegates & Travel						
34		Conventions		\$1,492.40	\$1,200.00	\$ 130.00		\$ 3,000.00
35		Observer Corps		\$0.00	\$25.00			\$ 25.00
36		Miscellaneous		\$1,119.44	\$390.00	\$ 265.26		\$ 120.00
37		Total D & T		\$2,611.84	\$1,615.00			\$ 3,145.00
38								
39		Program & Activities:						
40		Programs &		\$948.70	\$500.00	\$ 130.00		\$ 700.00
41		Voter Service		\$15.90	\$50.00			\$ 50.00
42		Public Relations		\$280.13	\$300.00			\$ 300.00
43		Membership		\$326.15	\$400.00	\$ 265.26		\$ 300.00
44		Total P & A		\$1,570.88	\$1,250.00			\$ 1,350.00
45		TOTAL EXPENSES		\$9,220.20	\$9,555.00	\$		\$ 10,825.00
46	Note A	based on 89 single memberships and 28 family memberships (2/3 and						
47		2016-17 income number should not include donated amt						
48	NoteB	Website design \$750 and \$300 weebly server/software annual t						

The Impact of the Neighborhood Safety Act
and How the Act Can Make Communities Safer and Reduce Overuse of Prisons

Wednesday, April 19, at 5:30 p.m., at the Lariat Club, 2232 West Glen, Peoria.

The League of Women Voters Drinks & Dialogue program on April 19, will discuss the Neighborhood Safety Act and how it will impact victims and perpetrators of violent crime. This bill was introduced into the Illinois House of Representatives by Representative Jehan Gordon Booth and was recently signed into law by the governor.

Sponsor Il. Rep. Jehan Gordon Booth will be leading the discussion.

The legislation will offer trauma recovery services for victims of crime by establishing a pilot program to provide support services to victims of violent crimes, including counseling, financial assistance, help relocating and guidance as they try to navigate the legal system.

The Neighborhood Safety Act also provides inmates with the opportunity for rehabilitation services, including job training and substance abuse programs. It also gives judges the freedom to give appropriate sentences, with the hope that the state can see a reduction of 25% in the state prison population by the year 2025. The League of Women Voters has historically taken positions for safety of individuals and communities and for changes in sentencing guidelines.

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue on Wednesday, April 19, at 5:30 p.m., at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 West Glen. League member Jan Deissler will facilitate the dialogue.

There is no cost to participate. Refreshments are available to purchase.

Observer Report – SPRINGDALE CEMETERY BOARD

Al Andrews who recently retired from the management authority was given a service award for his dedicated service to Springdale.

The manager's report included that he:

- is contacting holders of unused mausoleum crypts looking to identify available inventory.
- is investigating to identify equipment to scan the historic records with the hope of electronically storing information to help preserve information and reduce use of the historic documents.
- has decided that the dedication of the new entrance will not happen in conjunction with this year's Memorial Day program because of scheduling complexity.
- is looking at a possible opportunity for the cemetery that he is investigating because local funeral directors have unclaimed remains.
- will be scheduling individual meetings with new authority directors to discuss various topics.
- also reported:
 - Mausoleum Roof condition & repair options ranging from \$60,000 for full replacement to \$3,000 patching. Patching recommended.
 - Prospect Road Entrance Project. First phase done. Next phase approved at last meeting was discovered to be \$8,000 over budget. Negotiated, 3 contract reductions to get back to budget. Based on discussion at previous meeting, performance bonds were removed retroactively from front gate project.
 - Tree & stump removal contract under negotiation by the manager.
 - Pet Cemetery Program no progress, because access is a problem, with erosion on the road.

-- Rick D Fox, Observer

Observer Report: PEORIA CITY COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE

The first City County Landfill Committee meeting chaired by County Board member Steve Morris was on March 15th. Mr Morris's appointment was announced at the February meeting. Past chairman Les Bergsten continues his many years of service with the committee as an appointed citizen member. Sharon Williams is on Landfill Committee to replace County Board member Lynn Scott Pearson who did not run for re-election to the County Board.

Discussion continued on issues regarding free residential pick-up truck size loads of trash that are brought to the landfill. This topic began several months ago when Mr. Morris raised concern about a resident who phoned him saying they were charged an excessive amount for discarding a couch. Landfill management reported on further researching their records and finding that less than 2% of citizen pick-up loads are charged a fee and that typically bringing just a couch would not result in a fee. There are instances when the gate is very busy or it could be possible an error occurred resulting in the cost. A fee does get applied when the load is a ton or more. A \$5. fee is assessed if a citizen brings in more than one pick-up load a week. It was pointed out that the number of free pick-up loads has gone up over the years, while county population has not.

About 15,000 citizen pick-up loads of trash were received at the landfill. It is unusual for a landfill to provide free loads to local residents year-round. The comment was made that many citizens may not realize bulky items can be picked up at the curb by phoning the garbage hauler ahead of time. Citizens can phone the County Recycling Office for more information on options.

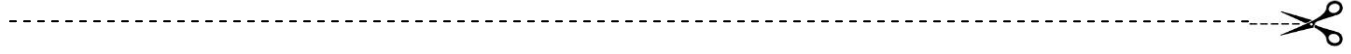
– Joyce Blumenshine, Observer

Report: PEORIA HEIGHTS CANDIDATE FORUM, March 14.

The League co-sponsored a candidate forum with Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce on March 14 at the Peoria Heights Village Hall. Candidates for following public offices were introduced: Library Board; School Board; Village Clerk, and 4 candidates for Richwoods Township positions. In addition, 5 candidates for Illinois Community College Board of Trustees gave 2 minute presentations. The candidate for Mayor and two of the four candidates for Village Board Trustee participated in the forum responding to questions from the audience. Approximately 45 people attended this event. Thank you to Terri Campion, Moderator, Gary Stella, Bill Semmens, Peter Kobak, and Sherry Hillman, as well as Chamber members who were greeters.

This was a successful event, and I thank our volunteers, the candidates and the audience.

– Constance Romanus



This is a proxy slip for the May 4 Annual Meeting. If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to appoint a proxy because: In accordance with LWVGP Bylaws as amended June 2016 state:

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

".....**Section 4.** Quorum - Twenty percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum- which may include up to 5% by written proxy -at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria. Written proxy may be voted only by one proxy per member in attendance. Voting members shall be those members of at least one month's standing."

Written proxy slip, please give to a member attending the Annual Meeting on Thurs. May 4 at 6pm with the following information:

I am a member of at least 30 days and will not be at the Annual LWVGP meeting. I give my proxy privilege for the 2017 LWVGP Annual Meeting to member:

_____ (printed member name who will be absent)

_____ (signature of member who will be absent)



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, March 30, 3pm. ICC Candidate Forum

at East Peoria Campus Lecture/Recital Hall (127F).

Saturday, April 1, 10:30am - 12:30. Candidate Forum includes At-Large & 5th District Peoria City Council and Peoria Township Supervisor

Peoria Public Library North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria

Tuesday, April 4, 6am - 7pm at your polling place Consolidated Election.

Thursday, April 6, 6pm. General Meeting - LISC -Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Greater Peoria exploring its changes in East Bluff and South Peoria

Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) 1718 N Sterling, Peoria

Wednesday, April 19, 5:30 pm. Drinks & Dialogue - How The Neighborhood Safety Act Can Make Communities Safer and Reduce Overuse of Prisons presented by IL House sponsor Rep Gordon-Booth

Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.

Thursday, May 4, 6pm, Annual Business Meeting of LWVGP,

Schnucks, 4800 N University, Peoria.

June 9 – 11, LWVIL Convention, Hilton Garden Inn, Chicago O'Hare Airport