

THE VOTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, July 13,
5:30 pm, sTransparency
Group, Schnucks on
University & Glen. Peoria.

Wednesday, July 19 5:30
pm. Membership Renewal
Event, Peoria Women's
Club, 301 NE Madison,
Peoria.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the recent LWVIL 2017 Convention, the LWVUS Executive Director, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, shared a new transformational vision meant to be a wakeup call to each and every League and its members. **The vision: To unabashedly reclaim the League of Women Voters role in the American election process by 2020.**

While Ms. Harris recalled and extolled the League's rich history of leadership in the election process, she also warned us about the consequences of a continued diminishing role of the League in this process today.

So, the question we need to ask is, ***"What can the LWVGP and its members do to make this transformational vision a reality?"***

We need to engage, lead, attend, participate, join, support, speak, write, read, plan, inform, educate, study, research....in other words, **ACT!** Multiple, meaningful opportunities to act are found in *The Voter* and online at www.lwwgp.org.

In these publications, you will find a number of activities and programs along with contact information about how to get involved. Please take the time to seriously consider these activities/programs. If you have questions, comments, and/or ideas to share, please contact me or the listed contact person.

Join us to **"Make democracy work"** by reclaiming our role in the American election process!

-- Farrell Davies, President

LWVIL 2017 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Speakers: Wylecia Wiggs Harris, LWVUS Executive Director offered an inspiring speech titled "Diversity in the league". She challenged each League to reach out to recruit members that reflect the diversity of the people living in their community. Offering additional insight into diversity and its role in our society was speaker Kyra Kyles, media executive and former editor-in-chief Ebony Magazine, who spoke about "Changing the Narrative in Discussions of Race".

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Convention Highlights, continued: Ms. Harris delivered an appeal to League members to diligently work to reestablish its role in “Making Democracy Work”. Her appeal is stated in this transformational vision: **“To unabashedly reclaim the League of Women Voters role in the American election process by 2020.”**

Per Member Per Month (PMP): Following lengthy discussion, the delegates voted to keep the PMP the same for the first year with a \$2 increase for the second year.

Program Planning: Delegates approved the following Action Foci for 2017-2019:

- Election laws including Voting Right, Redistricting, and Campaign Finance
- Environmental Issues
- ERA
- Fiscal Policies with a focus on Education and Human Services
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Healthcare and Reproductive Choices
- Immigration

-- Farrell Davies

Report: The LWVIL State Convention

Attending the 58th LWVIL State Convention was very interesting. Parliamentary procedure was the order of the weekend as proposed changes in bylaws were reviewed in preparation for vote by delegates on Sunday. Members were passionate, as well as respectful of other opinions as they spoke to their concerns. I appreciated the opportunity to attend as a delegate for the LWVGP. Several caucuses were held on Saturday and Sunday before the plenary sessions.

I attended the session on ‘Unprecedented Environmental Challenges to our Water’ presented by the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region and LWV Michigan Region. The group worked with agricultural communities to identify sources of phosphorus and nitrogen end products to reduce pollution of streams, lakes and rivers in area.

They received grant funds from 1 Mississippi to purchase models to educate students and communities on sources of pollution as well as methods to reduce these agricultural by-products in water sources. The Watershed Game and Train the Trainer Workshops are part of their approach to spreading awareness to other communities and LWV throughout the Mississippi River Valley.

-- Constance Romanus

LWVIL Convention Adopts Criminal Justice Position Update

At the Chicago LWVIL Convention on June 11, 2017, the delegates voted to update the State League’s position on criminal justice. The proposal came out of a caucus and had so much support that it was adopted by the full body as a program item.

The League’s criminal justice position was last updated in 1995, and, with Gov. Bruce Rauner signing the Bail Reform Act on June 9, 2017, the position introduced 22 years ago has become out of date.

In 1995, the League supported a bail bond system to ensure court appearances. With the Bail Reform Act, cash bail will no longer be a requirement for nonviolent misdemeanors or low-level felonies like DUI’s, theft, prostitution, or

drug possession. Instead of cash bail, the court is now allowed to consider electronic home monitoring, orders of protection, curfews, drug and mental health treatment, and in-person reporting.

Much has changed in the criminal justice system since the League's last position was written. Now, there are new assessment tools like the pre-trial Public Safety Assessment, which provides a numerical score for flight and safety risk as well as for re-offending.

Also, the recent Bail Reform Act does not address dangerous offenders who can easily post bond and use jail as a revolving door. Then there are the mentally ill that make up a sizable percentage of jail detainees. Thus, a new State League criminal justice position seems to be very much needed.

If anyone is interested in serving on this state committee to update the criminal justice position, please contact Janet Kittlaus, LWVIL Criminal Justice Issues Specialist, at jki031@northwestern.edu. The committee is looking for volunteers statewide.

-- Sandy Stemler

Elected County Auditors are Rare in Illinois

Only 17 of the 102 counties in Illinois have elected County Auditors. However, only 20 counties in Illinois are eligible by statute to have elected Auditors. Population of the county must be 75,000 - 3,000,000 to have an elected county auditor. Both Peoria and Tazewell Counties have elected County Auditor positions.

If you are interested in looking at whether Peoria and Tazewell Counties should have elected County Auditors, a newly forming League committee wants your help.

Yes, our League had an official position for many years on this issue: "The Auditor, the Coroner, and the Recorder of Deeds for Peoria County should be appointed rather than elected." However, several years ago the position was re-studied resulting in a change to:

"The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria urges continuing study exploring cooperation and sharing of responsibilities between local governmental units for the purpose of reducing local government costs and providing better services to all the citizens of the area."

Please email or call me if you are interested in working on this committee.

--Cheryl Budzinski, Chair, Local Government Committee
309-253-9594 or c_budzinski@hotmail.com

Observer Report: Peoria Heights Village Board of Trustees, June 20, 2017

Mayor Phelan started the meeting at 6:30. All Trustees were present. Trustee reports:

- a) Trustees report on specific areas: Only Public Works had a report - On June 27 from 8 am to 3:30 pm, the Forrest Park Hill will be closed.

Comments from the audience: none

New Business, passed unanimously:

- a) Cancellation of regularly scheduled Village Board Meeting which would have been on the holiday, July 4.

- b) Changed departmental meetings in June, July, and August to Mondays at 6:30 pm in the months of June and July, and Monday at 6:00 pm in August.
- c) Approval to Bid Properties located at 1101 E. Sciota and 419 E. Marietta for selling.
- d) Recognition of Service: Lyle Benefield, Peoria Heights District Manager of Walgreens, for his 40 years of service to the Peoria Heights community was presented with a certificate.
- e)

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

-- Observer Charles Schneider, Peoria Heights High School, Class of 2018, President

Observer Report: Springdale Cemetery Board, June 20, 2017

The manager reported that the "Records Preservation" project is behind desired plan. The mausoleum crypt project is working to mark vacant crypts to make sales easier. Previously planned staff employment reviews and wage adjustments were recently completed. Overdue accounts amount to \$6,300 and work is underway to address them appropriately.

The manager is proposing August 4 for dedication of the new entrance. The City of Peoria spent 40 or 50 hours doing drainage investigation; the manager sent a list of related priorities he feels he needs help from City to the public works director.

In response to the rupture of the office sewer line while boring a wire to the new cell tower the contractor will pay \$5,823. Another mausoleum door painting has been completed by Mr. Kettleborough. The Peoria County Coroner has requested a ceremony for unclaimed remains in the proposed scattering garden. The Manger is suggesting that they proceed with this as a first step in implementing this new area.

New directors were elected:

Steve Kerr - Chairman, Bob Manning - Vice-chairman, same Garth Madison - Secretary & James Stuttle - Treasurer.

-- Observer Rick Fox

Observer Report: Peoria Election Commission June 13, 2017

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 13. For the first time, Chief Judge Paul Gilfillin sat in on the meeting. The Board approved training for both Director Tom Bride and his assistant Elizabeth Gannon. Tom will be attending an Annual Conference where he will gain recertification. Elizabeth will receive four days of training on new software.

The Governor has indicated that he will sign automatic registration into law (he had not yet as of this writing). Tom Bride is looking forward to receiving registrations electronically instead of on paper. This will lead to cheaper processing and fewer errors, omissions, etc.

Although the rent on the Brandywine property has increased from \$3,000 to \$3,075 per month, the contract with Dewberry is ready to be signed. This is pending the acceptance of the asbestos removal and anything else that the landlord was to repair.

Tom will be preparing a budget to send to the County Board by August, as per the intergovernmental agreement. He is also looking to compare election costs before and after consolidation.

-- Observer Irene Pritzker

Observer Report: The Peoria City/County Landfill Committee, June 21, 2017

At the 3 pm meeting at Peoria City Hall Room 404. Chairman Steve Morris welcomed new City Council member Zach Oyler to the committee. He was appointed to take the city representative position held previously by Councilman Tim Riegenbach.

The Foth Engineering report included their detailed assessment of the remaining capacity of the current landfill Cell 2. This landfill is operated by Waste Management. It is expected to reach capacity sometime between 2020 and 2021 and has about 1.4 million cubic yards remaining.

May landfill leachate removal was 29,000 gallons which shows definite improvement from the 5,000 gallons pulled off last year at the same time. A contract for continued engineering services from Foth was approved for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, based on performance criteria. It was noted Foth reduced their new year costs below the previous year. Currently they are 91.7% through their current contract year with current expenditures at 87.9% of their approved budget. Foth operates and maintains the 90 acre leachate collection system and the landfill gas collection and control system consisting of 69 wells, along with a utility flare gas disposal system. They conduct testing and other compliance and guidance services as necessary.

Waste Management reported 17,028.49 tons municipal garbage received at Cell 2 in May and 1,277.95 tons special waste. Year to date receipts are 75,502.08 tons compared to 78,069.90 tons for the same time period in 2016. The PDC report indicated that IEPA has approved the NPDES water pollution discharge permit for the new landfill Cell 3 and Household Hazardous Waste collection center, which PDC will be constructing in the future. PDC also introduced their new hydrologist, Charles Hostetler, who will be monitoring water issues at all the regional PDC landfills.

-- Joyce Blumenshine, Landfill Committee Observer

2017 eTransparency Survey Set for July

We will again be performing our eTransparency survey of local government bodies to evaluate information available on the internet. It will again focus on evaluating how easy or difficult it is to find information related to public meetings, contacting representatives, and other key information to facilitate the public's right to participate in their government.

Volunteers are needed to help with these surveys. There will be training and a working session on **Thursday July 13, at 5:30 pm at the meeting room at Schnucks on University in Peoria.**

At this meeting you can get an overview of the process, and get assigned a few government bodies to survey. If you have a laptop bring it (and we'll have a few others available) so we can get started on the surveys after the initial training. In the week or so after this we hope to wrap up surveying all the governments and publish our results in August. If you want to volunteer show up on July 13, or contact Rick Fox at [309 369 5330](tel:3093695330) or orrick@rickfox.com.

Environmental Issues Group

Protect Habitat! Environmental Issues Group Meets **Thursday, July 13, 9:30 am at the Panera Bread, 4205 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria.**

Get yourself a morning drink and scones will be at the table for you. Look for the LWV Table sign! Current action topics for the team are:

1) protecting pond-side habitat and 2) investigating coal tar sealants and work on a local information sheet about the impacts of these toxic asphalt-looking parking lot and drive-way patching substances. For more information phone Joyce Blumenshine at 309-678-1011.

Observers needed!

Observers are eyes and ears for the community of what goes on at governmental meetings. League Observers select the government they are interested in observing and are mentored by an experienced Observer for the first meeting or two. Observers write a summary which isn't intended to be minutes. There are few news reporters attending these meetings, so the effort is even more valuable than in the past. Observer reports vary widely in content. That is an interesting part of the reports also.

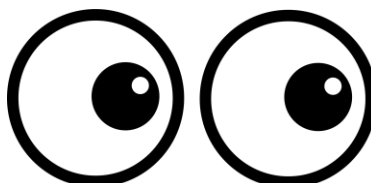
Some of the meetings that we need Observers for:

- Illinois Central College - meets the third Thursday at 3pm; East Peoria campus room 211A (July 20 and Aug 17 are upcoming)
- Peoria Park District - meets 2nd and 4th Wed at 6pm at Bonnie Noble Center (Lakeview) (6/28, 7/12, and 7/26 are upcoming)
- Peoria Public Library - meets the 3rd Tuesday at 5pm at the downtown Library (July 18, Aug 15 are upcoming)
- Peoria Health Dept - meets 6pm third Monday (July 24 is a changed scheduled meeting)
- Peoria Public Schools - meets twice a month on Mondays at 6:30, but their reorganizational meeting is Friday 6/30 at 5pm
- East Peoria City Council meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6pm
- Washington City Council meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30, plus usually the 2nd Monday for Committee of the Whole
- Peoria County Board meets the 2nd Thursday at 6pm at the Courthouse, 4th floor
- Pekin City Council meets 2nd and 4th Monday at 5:30
- Tazewell County Board meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6:15
- Tri County Regional Planning Commission meets 4th Thurs at 5:30pm at 456 Fulton #401

Some of the above meet twice a month, but many are once a month. Peoria Public School Board meetings can be very long and twice a month. Some like Tri County Regional Planning Commission are about 1 hour long and once a month. Look at their website at the minutes from a previous meeting to see about how long the meetings last and topics they spend time on.

I have Observed at many of the listed meetings in the past - some for many years. I enjoy Observing. Call or email me which group you want to Observe.

--Cheryl Budzinski, Chair Local Government Committee
309-253-9594 c_budzinski@hotmail.com



Membership Report!

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria continues to add new members. The new members since the last Voter are listed below so be sure to welcome them when you see them at General Meetings, Drinks and Dialogue or any of the other programs offered by the League.

Very Important: Our Annual Membership Renewal event will be held 5:30-7:00 on Wednesday, July 19, at the Peoria Women’s Club Building, 301 NE Madison in downtown Peoria. Parking is available on the street or in a nearby parking lot.

Hopefully, dues will begin to come in within the next few days, but by all means plan to attend the social. Your dues are not tax deductible, but should you decide to make an additional donation by being a Defender of Democracy and writing an additional check, that amount is tax deductible. Below is a membership form showing the categories and the amounts. Thank you for considering becoming a Defender of Democracy at one of the levels below. Questions? Call Jan.

2017/18 League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Membership Form

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 another check for the DD amount and mail this form and check(s) to LWVGP, P. O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786

Category	Individual	Household
Regular	\$62	\$93
Student/ Young Professional/Scholarship	\$31	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 Co-Chair Jan Deissler 309-635-1872*
- *Defenders of Democracy = increased level of support acknowledged in Voter.*

Thank you, your membership makes democracy work!

We welcome new members from the past month(s):

- Melanie Anderson
- Janice Brown
- Barbara Drake
- Kassy Killey
- Theresa Koehler
- Heather Oyler
- Zach Oyler
- Linda Pendergast
- Rachel Reliford
- Charles Schneider
- Steve Sonnemaker



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

P. O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, July 13, 9:30 am. Environmental Issues Group, Panera Bread, 4205 N. Sterling, Peoria.

Thursday, July 13, 5:30 a.m. eTransparency Group, Schnucks at University and Glen, Peoria.

Wednesday, July 19, 5:30 pm. Summer Renewal Social, The Peoria Women's Club, 301 NE Madison, Peoria.

Saturday, July 29, 10 am, Water System Action Committee on Pekin's efforts to purchase their water company in 2002. AMT Building, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria.