



# THE VOTER

Volume 70, Issue 9

August 2017

## *Board of Directors*

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday, Aug. 16.  
5:30 pm. Drinks &  
Dialogue, Reach Every  
Mother & Child Act,  
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232  
W. Glen, Peoria.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members: **Opportunities for action to “make democracy work” abound!!!!**

Regardless of where your interests, talents, and skills lie, you have an opportunity to join in “making democracy work.” I have highlighted below some of those opportunities contained in this Voter.

- **Attend** Drinks and Dialogue on August 16 to learn about Reach Every Mother and Child Act. This legislation (S1911) would scale up effective health and nutrition programs to reach more moms and kids. If enacted, it could save the lives of 15 million children and 600,000 mothers.
- **Learn** more about public ownership of the water distribution system by attending upcoming meetings.
- **Sign up** to help with the mega- Naturalization Ceremony on Wed. Sept. 20 at 11 am at the Civic Center. We will need around 30 registrars so we can serve the 500 new citizens well.
- **Join** one of the LWVGP committees. If you need additional information on those committees, contact the chairperson or me.
- **Volunteer** to use your skills and talents to meet the needs of the LWVGP.
- **Contact** elected representatives to make your views known on issues critical to “making our democracy work.”

## **Action Opportunities**

Listed below are just a few of the LWVGP volunteer opportunities available.

**Registrars** (Requires one hour of training). If interested, contact Mary Jane Crowell at 323-5333.

**Social media technical support** such as maintaining updates on the website (We are very fortunate to already have a wonderful Facebook volunteer, Lori Hansen). If interested, contact Farrell Davies at 309-696-3217.

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Presidents's Message, continued:

### **Action Opportunities, continued**

**Fundraising committee** to help raise funds for League activities. If interested, contact Farrell Davies at 696-3217.

**Local Government Observer** - If interested, contact Cheryl Budzinski at 253-9594.

Welcoming you to act to **"make democracy work"**,

-- Farrell Davies, LWVGP President

### **POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES OF THE WATER COMPANY**

One in the series of special meetings to educate ourselves and the public about "Due Diligence" and possible management options- if Peoria were to purchase the water system- was held Saturday, July 29, 2017. One possible management would be similar to the **Greater Peoria Sanitary District. Stan Browning Executive Director** of GPSD explained the management setup of GPSD and answered many questions from the League and audience. There was a great turnout at the meeting with standing room only.

Our League position on ownership of the water distribution system does not address management of the water utility if the city should decide to purchase. However, the CEO Council Report specifically lists six management/operations options.

Two of those options are:" independent government water agency; and, consolidating the water system with an existing government, like the GP Sanitary District."

GPSD is a municipal corporation. Their rates are completely usage based rates. This is unlike the IL American Water rates which charge a fee based on the size of your pipe going into your house PLUS additional usage based rate.

GPSD's rates are significantly lower than Urbana, Downers Grove, Naperville, Rockford, and Wheaton. (However, the City of Peoria already has fees that are added to our GPSD usage bill related to their capital work and Combined Sewer Overflow fee. Those fees are listed separately on your bill.) Mr. Browning sighted many municipalities with and without "sanitary districts."

The GPSD Board members are appointed by the Peoria County Board Chairman. This has worked well with no political complications. Usage rates are assessed completely based on costs - including capital costs- which are approved by the GPSD Board. Their GPSD Board approved budget is not approved by any other governmental unit, and is set by the GPSD trustees.

GPSD is transparent with noticing their meetings, agendas, and minutes. Stan welcomes citizens to attend and speak at "citizens remarks" at their Board meetings and offered to arrange a tour of the facility. GPSD makes decisions on their large capital improvements based on priority - reliability, asset management, and return on investment.

GPSD's largest user is ADM, and the second largest are the Peoria hospitals. GPSD has an agreement with IL American Water which works well for GPSD to get IAWC data on water meter readings (to determine GPSD bill) and for water shutoff if GPSD bill is unpaid. Both include a fee to IAWC. No other shared services and purchases have been found to be compatible.

The overall condition of their system is "aged and stable." Treatment facilities are current. They have a program in place to sustain the sewer system. Capacity is adequate. Some of their employees are AFSCME labor union members.

GPSD supported the City and County's economic development efforts with Growth Cell infrastructure including assisting with financing, although there was no direct subsidy.

-- Cheryl Budzinski

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Our Membership Social was held on July 19 at Peoria Women's Club, with approximately 40 members attending. The food and beverages were delicious. Thanks to all who helped with set up and brought food. Many remarked on the lovely setting for the event.

We have 75 members with 15 new ones. If you have not paid your dues please do so to avoid a phone call reminder. We need all of you to make Democracy work.

A list of members will appear next month.

-- Jan Deissler

### **Drinks and Dialogue August, 16, 2017**

Join us for Drinks and Dialogue on August 16 to learn about Reach Every Mother and Child Act. The meeting takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria.

This legislation (S1911) would scale up effective health and nutrition programs to reach more moms and kids. If enacted, it could save the lives of 15 million children and 600,000 mothers.

Speakers will be John Guadette and Marin Dugal. John is State Mobilization Director for Save the Children Action Network (SCAN); Marin is Team Leader in Central IL.

Save the Children is in 120 countries working to make sure mothers and children are protected when disaster strikes or caregivers are overwhelmed and under-resourced.

Save The Children Action Network is dedicated to building bipartisan will and voter support to make sure every child in the U.S has access to high quality early learning, and that no mother or child across the globe dies from a preventable cause.

Drinks and Dialogue will meet at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria. Join us for social time at 5:00 PM; meeting from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Food and beverages are available for purchase. Meeting is free and open to the public.

-- Constance Romanus

## 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 the 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 (Aug 17 and Sept 21 are upcoming)
- Peoria Public Library - meets the 3rd Tuesday at 5pm at the downtown Library (Aug 15 and Sept 19 are upcoming)
- East Peoria City Council meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6pm
- Pekin City Council meets 2nd and 4th Monday at 5:30

Call or email Cheryl Budzinski, Chair Local Government Committee 253-9594 [c\\_budzinski@hotmail.com](mailto:c_budzinski@hotmail.com)

## Moderator Training Workshop in Peoria on Saturday, September 16

Irene Pritzker, former LWVIL Voter Service Co-Chair, will conduct this workshop from 10am to 2pm in the Community Room at Schnuck's Supermarket, 4800 N. University, Peoria. This location is 1 1/2 hours from Champaign, 1 1/2 hours from Macomb, and 1 1/2 hours from Springfield. While space is limited, there must be a minimum of 10 Leaguers to register for this in order for the workshop to take place. September 6 is the deadline to register. Please use this form and send it to [voterservice@lwwil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwil.org).

### APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

League \_\_\_\_\_

We all watch our budgets (our personal one and our LWVIL Ed Fund one) carefully! If you are able to pitch in for your lunch or would prefer to bring a sack lunch, let us know. Thanks! Lunch plans:

	I will bring my own lunch
	Include me in the group lunch. I will contribute \$7 toward the cost

Editor's Note: This training is for the purpose of moderating candidate forums.

**OBSERVER REPORT: PEORIA PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING July 24, 2017**

Agenda Issues Relevant to LWV state or local positions or programs:

1. Riverfront Program & Policy Advisory Committee

The Riverfront Park apartments project will begin Phase 1 in the fall of 2017. Board members and some attendees discussed concerns over the loss of green space for entertainment events to the apartment development project. (Editor’s note: The National Park Service has not yet approved this development.)

Concerns included the possible impact upon future revenue for the city if larger entertainment events can no longer be accommodated. The City of Peoria has encouraged the Peoria Park District to attract larger venues to the Riverfront and may not be fully aware of the restrictions the Riverfront Apartment development may place upon future entertainment planning. The board will informally provide more information to the City of Peoria on this matter. Formal communications with the City of Peoria may be warranted in the future.

In addition, noise complaints from the Peoria and East Peoria residential areas in proximity to the entertainment events were mentioned. Events must now end by 11:30 pm in part due to those complaints. An East Peoria resident who has worked with East Peoria officials on similar noise issues offered information and assistance with ongoing efforts to minimize noise problems for residents.

2. Relocation of LeTourneau Statue & House (new business)

Successful fund raising and logistical arrangements for moving the historical monument from Glen Oak Park and the LeTourneau house to the Wheels of Time Museum were reported. Lead paint was removed from the inside and exterior of the house. The Board approved the agreement with the Wheels of Time Museum for the relocation of the statue to Wheels of Time near the LaTourneau house.

3. Smoking Restrictions for Park Facilities (new business)

The Board approved initiating the extension of smoking restrictions to the park district playgrounds, shelter areas, and park district vehicles. The process of announcing the changes and putting proper notification in place will follow the required timelines.

-- Monica Reising, Observer

**Voter Service Report**

“Individualism” – “the Common Good” ! Let us focus on working together as we strive to “Make Democracy Work” in the Greater Peoria area, Illinois, and the USA.

The first big task for Voter Service will be to manage the mega- Naturalization Ceremony on Wed. Sept. 20 at 11 am at the Peoria Civic Center. We will need around 30 registrars so we can serve the 500 new citizens well. You do need about 30 minutes of training, but if that interests you, please do it and help us on that day. If you are a registrar and are not on my group list already, please tell me that you would like to be on the contact list.

The Voter Service committee has been meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 3:30 pm. We will welcome new members as we start this new year.

-- Mary Jane Crowell

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League of Women Voters  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

[www.lwvqp.org](http://www.lwvqp.org)

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**Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 am, Moderator Training, Schnucks Supermarket, 4800 N. University, Peoria.**

**Wednesday, Sept. 20, 11 am, Mega-Naturalization Ceremony, Peoria Civic Center.**