



THE VOTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thus. March 1, Single Payer Healthcare, Peoria Library, North Branch.

Wed. March 21, Drinks & Dialogue, on Civility, Lariat Steakhouse, Peoria.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Members,

Save these dates!!! We have a full agenda for you in March and the upcoming months, providing a broad array of chances to learn and share. Thank you to the many dedicated League members who worked hard to make these exciting and informative opportunities available! A brief overview of the events is listed below with additional details provided in *The Voter*.

- **March 1, 2018, 6:00-7:45 PM, a forum on the Single Payer Proposal for Universal Health Care will be presented at the Peoria Public Library North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Parkway, Peoria.** The LWVGP is one of the forum sponsors. There will be a slide presentation on single-payer health care from Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), followed by a panel discussion with Q & A by PNHP members: Martha Willi, M.D. and Sheldon Schafer and featuring Sue Saltmarsh, Executive Director of Demand Universal Health Care (DUH) from Springfield, IL.
- **March 8, 2018, 6:00 PM, Chillicothe Public Library, 430 N. Bradley Ave., Chillicothe.** The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria and Chillicothe Public Library is sponsoring a **candidate forum for the 18th Congressional race** on March 20 Primary Election ballots. Candidates expected to attend include Donald Rients, Brian Deters, Junius Rodriguez, and Darrel Miller. The event is free, and the public is invited to come meet the candidates and submit questions to the moderator.
- **March 21, 2018, 5:30-6:30 PM,** join us at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria for a **discussion about civility at Drinks and Dialogue.** Bring a friend and join in a lively discussion regarding the lack of civility in our communications with family, friends and others, the influence of social media, and how this can be remedied. Dr. Portia Adams, Interim Director of the African American Studies Program 2017-2018, Social Work Program Director and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology at

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- President's Message, continued. Bradley University will guide our discussion on this critical issue.
- **April 5, 2018, 6:00 PM, the LWVGP presents "What You Need to Know About Coal Tar Sealants"** given by Dr. Cindy Skrukud, Clean Water Advocate, and Illinois Sierra Club. The event will be held at **Advanced Medical Transport**.
- **April 12, 2018, 5:30 PM**, the LWVGP presents dinner and a speaker on "**Racial Justice and Police Practices in Illinois**" at **Childers Banquet Center**. The speaker will be Edwin Yohnka, the Director of Communications and Public Policy at the ACLU of Illinois. Racial justice and police practices is one of the six key issues for the ACLU of Illinois in 2018. More information is included in this edition of The Voter.

-- Farrell Davies, President, LWV of Greater Peoria

DRINKS and DIALOGUE, March 21: CIVILITY

What is Civility?

"Civility is about more than just politeness, although politeness is a necessary first step. It is about disagreeing without disrespect, seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about differences, listening past one's preconceptions and teaching others to do the same.

Civility is the hard work of staying present even with those with whom we have deep-rooted and fierce disagreements. It is political in the sense that it is a necessary prerequisite for civic action. But it is political, too, in the sense that it is about negotiating interpersonal power such that everyone's voice is heard, and nobody's is ignored."

-- The Institute for Civility in Government - info@institute for civility.org

Join us March 21, 2018 for Social time from 5:00-5:30 PM and discussion at 5:30 PM at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria for Drinks and Dialogue. Bring a friend and join in a lively discussion regarding the lack of civility in our communications with family, friends and others, the influence of social media, and how this can be remedied.

Dr. Portia Adams, Interim Director of the African American Studies Program 2017-2018, Social Work Program Director and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology at Bradley University guides us through this critical issue.

The event is free and open to the public. Social time 5:00 PM-5:30. Refreshments are available for purchase.

-- Constance Romanus

Coal Tar Sealants

A presentation on 'What You Need to Know About Coal Tar Sealants' will be given by Dr. Cindy Skrukud, Clean Water Advocate, Illinois Sierra Club, on **Thursday, April 5th**, 6 p.m. at AMT / Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria.

Work is in progress to also have a sponsor or co-sponsor of current Illinois legislation regarding better control of coal tar sealants also speak at the program. More details will be posted! This event is being organized by your League Environmental Issues Committee.

Voter Service Report

This is a busy time of year for this committee! We are thankful to have some new members who joined us, recently!

The Tazewell candidate forum was successful, from our point of view, on Feb. 17. There has been a bit of rumbling that we hope can result in good education for the citizens of Tazewell and increase their knowledge about the League of Women Voters. We are always non-partisan.

We are looking forward to the 18th District House race on Thursday, March 8 at the Chillicothe Library with four candidates present.

Then we will start exploring conducting mock elections for next September with high schools in Peoria and Tazewell counties.

League of Women Voters Candidate Forum at Chillicothe Public Library Thursday, March 8 @ 6 pm

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria and Chillicothe Public Library is sponsoring a candidate forum for the 18th Congressional race on March 20 Primary Election ballots.

The event takes place at **6 pm on Thursday, March 8, at Chillicothe Public Library, 430 N. Bradley Ave., Chillicothe.**

Candidates expected to attend include Donald Rients on the Republican ballot and Brian Deters, Junius Rodriguez, and Darrel Miller on the Democratic ballot.

The event is free, and the public is invited to come meet the candidates and submit questions to the moderator.

Chillicothe Public Library has two deputy registrars on staff to help Illinois residents with voter registration. February 20 is the last day to register in person, for those wishing to vote in the March 20 election. Online registration is available through March 4, and grace period registration (register and vote) is available at the Election Commissioners Office or at early voting sites through March 19. The Chillicothe Library will also be hosting early voting for the General Primary Election on March 16 and 17.

NAACP CANDIDATE FORUM March 8

If you don't live in the 18th District, here's another forum at the same time and date:

**Peoria NAACP political forum
6 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 8
Peplow Pavilion, Bradley University
with local auditor candidates and candidates for attorney general and governor.**

HEALTHCARE -- *What Can We Do Now?*

A Forum on the Single-Payer Proposal for Universal Health Care

Thursday, March 1, 2018

6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Peoria Public Library North Branch

3001 W. Grand Parkway Peoria, IL 61602

Program Agenda:

There will be a **slide presentation on single-payer health care from Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)**, followed by a panel discussion with Q & A by PNHP members: Martha Willi, M.D. and Sheldon Schafer and featuring Sue Saltmarsh, Executive Director of Demand Universal Health Care (DUH) from Springfield, IL.

In conjunction with this event, a screening of **“Fix It, Health Care at Tipping Point”, a powerful documentary on health care reform** will be shown at 4:30 PM at the Library. This film is approximately 55 minutes and explores the business case for a single payer system (for both large and small business). There will be 30-minute break before the 6:00 PM program begins. This film can also be viewed online at <https://fixithehealthcare.com>.

For more information on this topic: <https://www.ilsinglepayer.org>, and www.duh4all.org. For legislation on single payer health care in IL, HB 2436 (formerly HB311) IL Medicare for All Health Care Act at www.il.gov.

Co-sponsors:

Peoria Area Greens

Change Peoria

Illinois Single-Payer Coalition

Physicians for a National Health Program, Illinois

League of Women Voters (this is the League's March program event).

NAACP Peoria chapter

Further information: Sheldon Schafer, 309.682.1876, sschafer7@comcast.net. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening in Illinois regarding single payer system and to interact with the panel. This program is our March meeting event. —Constance Romanus

Peoria County Election Commission Report

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

The Election Commission meeting this month was the shortest meeting I have ever attended! Even without director Tom Bride, this commission and its employees work very well together. After finally getting clearance about who could be on the ballot, early voting started at the downtown office on Monday. As of Tuesday afternoon 32 votes had been cast and 252 ballots mailed. Training for election judges will be Saturday, February 24, postponed from a previous date due to the weather. March 5, will be the first day for voting outside of the downtown office. Federal Warehouse had the only bid for moving election supplies for both 2018 elections. Their bid of \$5,600 was in line with past expenses and so was approved.

The Brandywine facility is current on the established timeline. Once the engineer signs off, it will go to the County Board hopefully in April, so it can be let out for bids.

The Elsamny case seems to finally be over. Mr. Elsamny had 30 days after the January 9, decision to file an appeal for a rehearing. The chair had not heard that he had done that, in which case the lawsuit is finished. Chair Collins will check with the commission's attorney to be sure and let the commissioners know.

-- Irene Pritzker

Environmental Issues Group

Got cabin fever? A good reason to get out of the house is the Environmental Issues Group, which meets **Wednesday, March 14th, 10 a.m.** at the Panera Restaurant off of Sterling Ave., Peoria.

We are proceeding with plans for an April program on coal tar sealants and will be discussing updates on legislation and other issues. For more information contact Joyce Blumenshine, 309-678-1011.

Water Committee Update

Thank you to all who participated this month contacting city council. Much appreciated. The vote on whether to accept the CEO Council's generous offer of \$400,000 for due diligence and notifying Illinois American is on the Feb. 27 agenda, but could be deferred until later.

If you haven't read the IBI article that Tom Fliege wrote, it includes information about four communities in other states and their re-purchase efforts. Click on:
<http://www.peoriamagazines.com/ibi/2018/feb/due-diligence-local-water-systems>

Our committee continues to meet. If you are willing to participate in our various "actions" please email me, so that I include you again.

-- Cheryl Budzinski, c_budzinski@hotmail.com Chair, LWVGP Water Action Committee

Candidate Information

Please go to www.lwvil.org and select **Voter Guide**. This is a new initiative by our state League partnered with nonpartisan Ballot Ready to provide information on all the candidates to the public.

BallotReady uses information available on the internet and from various publications to populate the statewide candidate information. Our League decided to include our local candidates in Peoria and Tazewell and sent questions to ALL local candidates on the Peoria and Tazewell County ballots. We asked for the specific information on their background, requested a photo, to answer the question of their priorities for the office and how they would achieve those, and offered to include FaceBook, website, twitter information if they are campaigning using social media.

It was challenging because we sent the request by email and found most "spam" filters stopped our request. After follow-up phone calls and re-sending the request, we received many responses. Thanks to those candidates.

We have submitted referenda on the ballots in Peoria and Tazewell Counties.

Once the Voter Guide is opened, it asks for your street address and which ballot you want and shows your candidates. Click the "Questionnaires" tab. Then click "priorities", then "strategy", then "motivation." It is a work in progress. **Try it!**

A BIG Thank you to Peter for all his work emailing and putting responses into spreadsheets,

submitting, etc. We plan to track how much the Voter Guide is used in our area to see whether worthwhile to do this again.

This is one way LWVGP thought we could help local candidates to get their information out to the voters, so voters can make a more informed decision at the ballot box. I voted. Have you?

-- Cheryl Budzinski

Observer Report: Peoria Township, Feb 22, 2018, Budget Committee Meeting

Those attending: Supervisor Frank Abdnour, Assessor Max Shlafley, Collector Patrick Nichting, Clerk Beth Ball, Attorney Tim Bertchy, accountant doing the township audit, Bookkeeper Lynn Green, Holli Heinz, and Connie Duffy. Absent: liaison Chuck Grayeb. Also in attendance: Cheryl Budzinski, LWVGP.

Discussion included:

- The expense cuts made such as Abdnour cutting transportation costs, use of vouchers has temporarily lowered the General Assistance with clients opting out.
- Shlafley suggesting drops in Administrative costs and stating he did not want to raise taxes.
- Reminder that supervisor added an Emergency benefit to help pay water bills which previously wasn't done. (There was no discussion whether this is a duplicated benefit that other agencies provide.)
- The Township goal is to keep a 50% (of their budget) reserve.
- Their goal this year was a 5% reduction in spending, anticipating the EAV going down 3-4%
- There are several large real estate holdings which have sold for a significant decrease in price which will go to the Board of Review, no doubt, for a lowered assessment.
- Difficult to project real estate tax revenue which funds Peoria Township, so they will take money out of their fund balance or reduce spending later in the year if the projected revenue is less than budgeted.

The Township Annual Meeting will be April 10. (End of that meeting.)

I have talked to Supervisor Abdnour and met with him asking changes in website to include: required listing of meetings for the year on the Township website as required by the Open Meetings Act; and listing of the number of individual clients and family clients helped in the last year and the dollar amounts per month. That information has been requested multiple times and had been included in the "downloads" section of their website in past years.

After other discussions between myself and Abdnour, the attorney for the township gave Abdnour specific statutes and court decisions that indicate that Township General Assistance cannot be limited by time; which contradicts practices by other Townships which do limit the term a person can receive General Assistance. And, "General Assistance" is referred to as "Temporary" General Assistance while awaiting acceptance into another governmental program.

In response to whether the various "assistance" programs are coordinated, the Supervisor suggested I talk to 2-1-1 which is a United Way program operated out of AMT which is something of a clearinghouse to people in need to tell them where to apply for the specific help needed. I am following up on that suggestion.

--Cheryl Budzinski, Observer

LWV 100TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

A series of articles called **History of the League** will be available on a monthly basis to all League members. **The goal:** to celebrate the history of the League, as well as the women's suffrage movement that led to both the passage of the 19th Amendment (which became part of the Constitution on August 26, 1920) and the creation of the League of Women Voters Chicago on February 14, 1920.

This is just one of the many activities and events on which the 100th Anniversary Committee is working. Last week the Committee sent an invitation in the LWVIL Leaders' Update to encourage local LWVs to begin planning great events and programs.

There is also a **100th Anniversary Google Group**. The Committee invites all interested LWVIL members -to join the online email group. It will be a great interactive way to learn what the 100th Anniversary Committee is doing and to share with our members across the state the information about local LWV plans and events, too. To join it, email your interest to info@lww.org and Roberta will add your email address to the 100th Anniversary Committee's Google Group.

THE BIG SPRING EVENT APRIL 12

The League spring event is a fund raising dinner beginning at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 12 at Childers Banquet Center, 3113 N. Dries Lane at Forrest Hill, Peoria (behind the Landmark Cinema.)

The speaker is Edwin Yohnka, Director of Communications and Public Policy at the ACLU of Illinois. He will speak on "Racial Justice and Police Practices in Illinois." Ed is a dynamic speaker, and you won't want to miss this event! His topic is one of six key issues for the ACLU this year.

Tickets for the dinner are \$50, with a raffle and great prizes available. The registration form for the dinner is available online and the registration deadline is April 3. You can mail your check payable to LWVIL Ed Fund to: LWVGP, PO Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786. Or use PayPal on the web, at www.lwvgp.org. For more information, contact Roberta Parks at 309-231-1724.

The Raffle: Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. You need not be present to win. Prizes are a \$100 gift certificate to the Hearth Restaurant, \$100 give certificate to PVII Restaurant, and two alcoholic beverages baskets.
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There will be tables of 8, open seating. Purchase a table and it will be reserved for you and your friends.

Schedule: 5:30 pm cash bar; 6 pm dinner; 7 pm speaker; drawing to follow.



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 1, 6 pm. Single Payer Healthcare, Peoria Public Library North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Parkway, (behind Menards off Allen Road), Peoria.

Friday, March 2, 11 am. Register New Citizens, Peoria Public Library downtown, 107 NE Monroe, Peoria.

Thursday, March 8, 6 pm, Candidate Forum, 18th Congressional District, Chillicothe Public Library, 430 N. Bradley Ave., Chillicothe.

Wed. March 21, 5:30 pm. Civility, Drinks & Dialogue, Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria.

Thursday, April 5th, 6 p.m. Coal Tar Sealants, AMT / Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria.

Thursday April 12, 5:30 PM, “Racial Justice and Police Practices in Illinois” at Childers Banquet Center, 3113 N. Dries Lane, at Forrest Hill, Peoria. (Next to Landmark Cinema.)

March 20, 2018. General Primary Election.

June 28 – July 1. National LWV Convention in Chicago, IL