



*The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria*

# THE VOTER

Volume 71, Issue 4

April 2018

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president@lwwgp.org

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thus. April 5, 6 pm,  
Coal Tar Sealants,  
ATM Auditorium,  
1718 N. Sterling,  
Peoria.**

**Thus., April 12, 5:30  
pm, Racial Justice &  
Police Practices,  
Childers Center, 3113  
N. Dries Lane, Peoria.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Spring: Hope Through Gathering, Planning, and Planting**

Over the years, I always look forward to getting the seed and lawn equipment catalogs and advertisements in the mail. My mind races with ideas for my garden plot, my flower beds, my yard, and my herb pots. Even now with only a few small pots and a small for herbs on my deck, I spend hours poring over those catalogs and ads. There is something about Spring that makes me want to gather seeds and plants, to plan the best possible arrangement for them, and to dig in the dirt to plant them. What is there about this process of gathering, planning, and planting that excites me each and every Spring regardless of whether I am planning for five acres of land (acreage for a home I owned when I was young and more energetic) or five feet on the side of my deck (size of my space now that I am older and less energetic)?

When Spring arrives, I find myself feeling hope rise again for months of sun, blue skies, and showers that bring the chance to get outside to grow and nurture things of beauty and meaning to me. It's a special opportunity to review and renew for the year.

In the League, we also have a special opportunity in the Spring to gather, plan, and plant. We call it our **Annual Meeting**. The Annual Meeting is a time to gather our ideas for the upcoming year, to plan for arranging those ideas into our calendar, and to plant through implementing activities and events. In the process, we generate hope for greater opportunities and deeper relationships that grow and nurture our influence and power to Make Democracy Work. Soon, you will receive more information about this exciting opportunity to participate in the gathering, planning, and planting for your LWVGP.

So, mark your calendar to come and join your fellow League members for the LWVGP Spring gathering, planning, and planting- the **2018 Annual Meeting!**

**Date: May 3, 2018**

**Time: 5:30 PM Social with light refreshments 6:00 PM Meeting**

**Location: Schnuck's Community Room, University Ave at Glen, Peoria**

## League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Social: 5:30 pm Meeting: 6:00 pm

Schnucks Community Room, 4800 N University, Peoria

### Agenda

- I. Welcome by Farrell Davies
- II. Election of Officers and Directors, and members of the Nominating Committee- Cheryl Budzinski
- III. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year- Farrell Davies
- IV. Adopt budget
- V. Accept minutes from May 7, 2017
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Directions to the Board
- IX. Adjourn

### Water Study Action Committee

If you missed the March 22 WTVP At Issue program on the Water Due Diligence issue, see it using this link: <https://video.wtvp.org/video/3010771067/>

League member Gale Thetford, who participated on our League's study committee and now the action committee, represented our League and its position. The CEO Council was represented by Tom Fliege and Joe Glawe. IL American Water had three representatives speaking to the issues centered around the CEO Council's recent offer of \$400,000 to complete due diligence toward possible purchase of the water distribution system.

This issue will possibly come before the Peoria City Council on April 10 or 24. If you are willing to attend the Council meeting that this will be discussed, please check the agenda which is usually available the Friday prior to the meeting. Or, you can listen on WCBU-FM radio that night.

If you want to express your opinion to complete due diligence, write the councilpersons or post on FaceBook or Twitter. Contact me if you need more information.

-- Cheryl Budzinski c\_budzinski@hotmail.com

### **Spring Into Action with your Environmental Issues Committee!**

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 11th at 10 a.m. at the Panera off of Sterling Ave in the Westlake Shopping Center. Fill out a legislative comment card on current bills regarding coal tar sealants or join with others to do citizen testing of selected parking lots for coal tar sealants. Learn more at the meeting! For information phone Joyce at 309-678-1011.

## Membership Report

The Greater Peoria League of Women Voters welcomes 7 new members since January 1.  
Regular Membership: Denise Beattie, Mollye Bright, Beverly Hughes, Joyce Rosenberger, Janet Topel,  
Susan B. Anthony - Defender of Democracy: Jan Olson.

Some of these new members are already involved in League activities. When you meet them be sure to welcome them to our group.

Although the membership year is coming to a close, we continue to welcome those who wish to join. New members pay a full year's dues and then their 2018-19 dues are prorated so they pay a lesser amount. Encourage your friends, your colleagues and the people who represent you in any level of government to join the League as we continue our work to informing citizens.

The membership year is from July 1 to June 30, so in the near future you will be receiving an Invoice which will include the levels of membership. We hope that you will join early and come to enjoy the Membership Social which is usually held in July.

If you have questions, please contact:

Jan Deissler - [jdeissler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdeissler@sbcglobal.net) or Linda Millen - [tchkids2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tchkids2@sbcglobal.net)

### **RACIAL JUSTICE AND POLICE PRACTICES IN ILLINOIS**

**Thursday, April 12, 2018, 5:30 pm**

Childers Banquet Center, 3113 Dries Lane,, Peoria, IL

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria will present a program on Racial Justice and Police Practices in Illinois, featuring guest speaker Ed Yohnka, on Thursday, April 12, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Childers Banquet Center, 3113 Dries Lane, Peoria, IL. The event includes dinner at 6 pm, and the speaker at 7 pm.

**Edwin C. Yohnka** is the Director of Communications and Public Policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. Since 1991 Yohnka has been the primary spokesperson for the most prominent civil rights and civil liberties advocacy organization in Illinois, an organization with more than 35,000 members and supporters.

He appears regularly on television and radio programs in Illinois and throughout the nation to speak out on a myriad of issues. Yohnka also is widely cited in newspapers and publications on legal and legislative matters related to the ACLU of Illinois' priorities.

Racial justice and police practices is one of six key issues for the Illinois ACLU in 2018.

Tickets for the dinner are available at [www.lwvvp.org](http://www.lwvvp.org). **The deadline to order tickets is April 4.**

<p>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.</p>
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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.

## **Are Health Dangers Lurking on Your Driveway? Church Parking Lot? School?**

“Toxic Impacts of Coal Tar Sealants and Positive Alternatives” will be presented by Dr. Cindy Skrukud, Illinois Chapter Sierra Club Clean Water Advocate, for the Peoria Area League of Women Voters Public Program on **Thursday, April 5, 6:00** p.m. at AMT/ Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria.

Dr. Skrukud will discuss toxic impacts of coal tar sealants, which are used as a coating on parking lots, driveways, and other asphalt surfaces. Coal tar sealants contain extremely high levels of PAHs, which are chemicals known to cause cancer and that are of particular developmental risks to children and infants.

The chemicals in the coal tar sealants can be ingested when kids play on their hands and knees or do pavement activities like chalk art. The pollutants can also be tracked inside on your shoes and remain in carpeting where babies and young children then get the chemicals on their hands.

U.S. EPA studies have found that coal tar sealer runoff is toxic to aquatic life. Rain and other water runoff from parking lots and sealed surfaces moves pollutants into waterways and ponds. The agency recommends that local bans on coal tar sealants can help address this pollution source.

Currently there is proposed legislation in the Illinois House, House Bill 2958, and Senate, Senate Bill 237, to allow communities to ban coal tar sealants to protect public health and the environment. Information about the legislation will be available at the meeting.

The Peoria Area League of Women Voters Environmental Committee will also be conducting a sampling of area parking lots and doing an informal testing to identify if coal tar sealants have been used. Sign-up lists will be available for interested volunteers.

Safer alternatives to coal tar sealants should be used, although buyers must beware that some products without coal tar contain steam cracked asphalts or heavy pyrolysis oil and are not acceptable due to high levels of PAHs. Sealants should be PAH free and asphalt products that meet this standard are readily available.

## **DRINKS and DIALOGUE, April 18: Food Deserts**

The recent announcement of closure of two grocery stores in the Peoria area have left the East Bluff and South Peoria neighborhoods with few options for purchasing food at a reasonable cost. Other issues for residents of these areas are transportation, access to fresh produce and meats. How are the City and community groups mobilizing to seek alternatives?

Come to Drinks and Dialogue on April 18, 2018, to hear Kim Keenan, from Gifts in the Moment, speak to this issue.

Gifts in the Moment is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to use gifts to make change in the world, whether feeding the hungry, decreasing food waste and teaching self-sufficiency, such as community gardens.

Join us at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria for social time 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM. Program will start at 5:30 PM with a presentation by Kim and discussion with audience. Bring a friend and join the discussion! The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments are available for purchase.

-- Constance Romanus



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

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

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thursday, April 5, 6 pm. Coal Tar Sealants, AMT/Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 N. Sterling Ave., Peoria.**

**Wednesday, April 11, 10 am. Environmental Issues Committee, Panera in Westlake Shopping Center, on Sterling, Peoria.**

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

**Wednesday, April 18, 5:30 pm. ‘Food Deserts,’ Drinks & Dialogue, Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.**

**Thursday, May 3, 5:30 pm. Annual Meeting, Schnucks Community Room, 4800 N. University, Peoria.**

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