



# THE VOTER

Volume 71, Issue 5

May 2018

## *Board of Directors*

Farrell Davies, President  
309/696-0967  
president@lwvgrp.org

Terry Matthews, 1st Vice-Pres.

Sharon Maule, 2<sup>nd</sup> V-Pres.

Dick Williams, Treasurer

Lisa Uphoff, Secretary

Joyce Blumenshine

Mary Jane Crowell

Cheryl Budzinski

Elaine Hopkins

Jan Deissler

Gary Stella

Connie Romanus

Valda Shipp

Newsletter editor,  
Elaine Hopkins  
ehopkins7@prodigy.net

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thus. May 3, Annual Meeting, 5:20 pm., Schnucks Community Room, 4800 N. University, Peoria.**

**Wed. May 16, Drinks & Dialogue, Welcoming Cities, 5:30 pm. Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Music to Our Ears**

I have been listening to the beautiful song of a bird in my back yard -- one of the sounds that is "music to my ears" in the spring. There are so many wonderful sounds of spring that lift my emotional spirits- birds singing, children laughing, lawn mower engines whirring, the list goes on and on. After this especially long, cold winter, I appreciate the sounds that signal warmer weather and sunnier days in the upcoming months!

So, too, in the midst of a long winter of bitter division in our country, I look forward to the many wonderful sounds of spring that will lift my "citizen spirits". This spring's "music to my ears" comes in the form of the LWVGP Annual Meeting where I will hear the past years' accomplishments, the local program opportunities, the newly elected slate of officers, and the local study selection. I appreciate the sounds that signal nonpartisan action and citizen participation in the upcoming year!

So, please join us this Thursday and lift your "citizen spirit" with the beautiful sounds of Making Democracy Work!

-- Farrell Davies, President, LWVGP

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, May 3, 2018**

**Social: 5:30 pm (Light Refreshments) 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**

## DRINKS & DIALOGUE Wednesday May 16

In a time when so much in our country seems not be working, we not only need to focus on what's going on nationally, but what is going on in our own backyards. Join the League of Women Voters Greater Peoria for Drinks and Dialogue on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM to hear Anthony Walraven, with Change Peoria, lead a discussion on issue on welcoming cities at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria.

There are few topics more prone to misinformation than undocumented immigrants and efforts such as welcoming cities that exist to protect them. Due to this, the topic often never moves past sound bites and animus. The truth is that undocumented people live law abiding lives where they work, send their children to school, and contribute to every community they live in. By declaring Peoria a welcoming city, not only will we allow the most vulnerable citizens to come out of the shadows, but we will also make our city safer, more attractive to live in, and more economically prosperous.

Join us for social time at 5:00 PM and bring a friend! The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments are available for purchase.

-- Constance Romanus

## MONEY IN POLITICS

Now that Illinois' primary is done and we know that the fall elections will be very expensive, it would be a good time to take another look at Money in Politics. The Campaign Finance Institute has put up a website that allows comparisons both between states and over time. The website is very easy to use, with a grid, a map, sorting options, and a very useful tutorial.

Which states have public financing of campaigns? Which have partial public financing? What are the contribution limits for each state? Are there differences for the various offices? How have things changed since the Citizens United decision in 2010?

At this website information is given about donors, recipients, and how states' laws compare for various offices. See different rules for individuals, political parties, PAC's, and corporations.

[https://cfinst.github.io/#contribution-limits?question=CorpToCandLimit\\_G\\_Max&year=2016](https://cfinst.github.io/#contribution-limits?question=CorpToCandLimit_G_Max&year=2016)

-- Irene Pritzker

## LOGO REPORT: Springdale Cemetery Management Authority, Board Meeting – April 17, 2018

In absence of the chair, board member Bob Manning ran the meeting. There was discussion of a proposal from CloudPoint to replace the Axiom software currently used to operate the cemetery. The manager has long complained about Axiom's support and pricing. There was discussion of getting another proposal from a friend of board member Stuttles. Concerns were mentioned regarding the possibility of unfair process if the CloudPoint proposal was shared. Awaiting second proposal, no action taken.

Continued p. 3

There was a detailed discussion on roof replacement quotes for the Mausoleum. The board suggested they not consider quote from Springfield contractor in favor of local contractors. The new Prairie Gardens scattering garden design and construction was discussed and the board approved a budget of \$68,000, including a single sourced quote for granite pillars from a Metamora supplier. The manager mentioned he authorized \$10,400 (5,100 + 5,300) in repairs for the skid steer.

The manager reviewed a proposal for changes to the Memorial Day program as a part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, to include a reception (marketing potential) after the formal ceremonies. In review of the budget, workman's comp was noted (with some dismay) to have increased from \$16K to \$22k from last year.  
-- Rick Fox

### WATER COMMITTEE

Our League's Action Committee on Water awaits the action of the Peoria City Council on the Memo of Understanding (MOU) between themselves and the CEO Council which has offered \$400,000 toward "due diligence."

The discussion and vote may be on the agenda on May 22. If the MOU is on the agenda, we would appreciate League members and friends attending. And, as always, if you haven't contacted the Mayor, five At-Large, and your District Councilperson - please do.

Farrell, as our President, and I, as committee chair, wrote two on the council about their conflicts of interest. The intent was to have them explain and recuse themselves from both discussion and vote on the issue of due diligence. While most electeds in our area have received campaign donations from IAWC, these two seem to present a conflict of interest.

For more information, please see our Face Book page which has been very active on this topic and others related to the Water issue.  
-- Cheryl Budzinski

### LOGO REPORT: Peoria County Election Commission, Monday, April 16, 2018

The Election Commission voted to accept the construction bid for the Brandywine building. It had already been accepted by the County Board and may not have been legally necessary, but the Commission felt it was a good idea to approve the bid. Bishop Brothers Construction will do the "build out" which will include construction, extra remediation of asbestos if necessary, contingencies, and commission. The County has budgeted \$560,000 for the completion of this project. The Election Commission will cover the cost of security cameras and any new furniture.

In his Executive Director report, Tom Bride said the March primary went smoothly, with a decent turnout of 20.4%. Tom will keep an eye on a bill working through the Legislature that will allow DuPage County to eliminate its Election Commission and turn its function over to the County Clerk. Depending on the final wording, this bill could affect Peoria County as well. In an area where the League of Women Voters has taken an interest, conversations have begun about vote centers. Tom does not expect that bill to go anywhere at this time.  
-- Irene Pritzker

**Something new and different** from the Environmental Issues Committee! We are doing citizen testing of parking lots to determine if they have coal tar sealants. If you would like to help by joining with a testing team, or if you have a parking lot you recommend we test please email Joyce Blumenshine at [joblumen@yahoo.com](mailto:joblumen@yahoo.com). The next Environmental Issues Committee meeting is **Wednesday, May 9, 10 am** at the Panera off of Sterling. We will be discussing parking lot testing results and next steps for raising coal tar sealant awareness.  
-- Joyce Blumenshine



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

**Wednesday, May 9, 10 am. Environmental Issues Committee, Panera off of Sterling.**

**Wednesday, May 16, 5:30 pm. ‘Welcoming Cities,’ Drinks & Dialogue, Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria.**

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