



*The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria*

# THE VOTER

Volume 71 Issue 9

September 2018

## **Board of Directors 2018-19**

Farrell Davies, President  
309/696-0967  
president@lwvgp.org  
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Kathie Raiborn  
Connie Romanus  
Gary Stella

**Newsletter Editor**  
Terry Bibo Knight  
terry.bibo.freelance@  
gmail.com

## **Important Dates**

o **6 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 6,**  
First General Meeting. Beth  
Crider discusses School Safe-  
ty, AMT, 1718 N. Sterling.

o **Noon-1 p.m. Sept. 10,**  
LWVGP board meeting, Peo-  
ria Public Library Downtown.

o **5-6:30 p.m. Sept. 19,**  
Drinks & Dialogue, Eric  
Shangraw on recycling, Lariat  
Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen.

o **11 a.m. Tues, Sept. 25,**  
Naturalization Ceremony at  
Bradley University.

President's Message

## **PARTICIPATE**

As we enter the election season, I am reminded of how important it is for us all to Make Democracy Work. Ultimately, Making Democracy Work requires each of us to participate.

Here are a few ideas of ways we can participate.

**Place my vote.**

**Acquaint myself with the issues.**

**Respect diverse opinions.**

**Teach by example.**

**Involve myself in civic activities.**

**Call my elected officials.**

**Inform myself by using reliable sources.**

**Pursue my dreams for our democracy.**

**Attend community forums and meetings.**

**Take a friend/neighbor to vote.**

**Educate myself about the candidates.**

I look forward to the opportunity to participate with you at our League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria activities!!!

— Farrell Davies, President LWVGP

## **DRINKS & DIALOGUE: Recycling, Wednesday, Sept. 19**

The Greater Peoria League of Women Voters will discuss what's new in the recycling process at its Drinks & Dialogue event, 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria.

Join us as Eric Shangraw, Manager of Municipal Communications for Peoria Disposal Company, leads the discussion on Recycling Benefits and Sustainability. Find out what's new in the recycling industry, challenges in processing consumer waste to usable resource, the role consumers have in recycling to ensure that their material is suitable for recycling and the role China plays in our recycling.

The event is free and the public is invited. Refreshments are available for purchase. Social time is 5-5:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join us!

Drinks & Dialogue is offered on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 5:30 pm and ending promptly at 6:30 pm, to discuss local, state and national topics relating to approved LWV positions, aimed at "Making Democracy Work."

Ray Keithley will be facilitating this event. For more information, go to [www.lwvvp.org](http://www.lwvvp.org)

— Connie Romanus

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT, September**

Our Membership continues to grow. However, a number of previous members have not renewed for this year, so we are determining the best way to encourage them to join. We will be doing phone calls in the near future. If you are reading this report and have not paid your dues, please do so to make it easier for the Membership Committee. Thank you.

We welcome several new members: Dr. Pedro and Eliza Jill De Alarcon, Carole Gilfillan, Tim and Patti Howard, Dave and Linda Lyman Weiman, Colleen Callahan.

Remember you are our best recruiters - bring your friends, relatives and neighbors to a meeting. Our first general meeting of the new year is Sept. 6.

Linda Millen – 645-2542  
[Tchkids2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Tchkids2@sbcglobal.net)

Jan Deissler – 635-1872  
[jdeissler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdeissler@sbcglobal.net)

## **Defenders of Democracy**

New "Defenders of Democracy" are:

Dr. Pedro and Jill De Alarcon

Colleen Callahan

— Jan Deissler

## **PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, Wednesday, August 22**

The Peoria County Election Commission held its annual meeting on August 22. Matt Bartolo and David Collins were reappointed and Sandra Burke was seated as the replacement for outgoing member Camille Gibson. David Collins was also reelected as the Chair of the Commission. A resolution was passed unanimously to honor Camille Gibson for her years of service.

Moving day for the Commission will be September 11, and is expected to take two days. The new phone number will go live on September 13. The staff will do their own packing, in part to save money, but mostly so they will know where everything is as they start to unpack. Signage should be up already. Refinishing the parking lot was a concern that was discussed.

There is a difference of opinion between the County Assessor's office and the State's Attorney as to whether the Commission owes real estate taxes. The attorney says that 55 percent of the building is rented to a county government entity and should be exempt from taxes, but the assessor says someone is making a profit from that rental so taxes should be paid.

In discussing the 2019 budget which must go to the County Board, the Election Commission felt that instead of following the recommendation of the County, a 2 percent raise should be given to all staff, rather than 2 percent to management and 1.5 percent to everyone else.

The schedule for early voting was approved. It will be held in the Brandywine location starting September 27. The Commission will use the Municipal Building (the old location) and ICC North during the week before the election. A new downtown location will be sought after the election. Other satellite locations were based on previous voting patterns in the County.

— Irene Pritzker

## **SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, August 21**

Only one representative not in attendance.

Adam White requested permission to hold two segments of the Whiskey Daddle Charity Race in Springdale on Oct 6-7 (Peoria Marathon.) Since the City of Peoria requires events to pay for services needed for their events, such as security or blocking streets, the race looked for different routes. The event is the same weekend as the Prairie Historic Tours, but the race will finish and be cleaned up by 12:30 p.m., so there wasn't a conflict. Permission was granted. This is considered a good collaboration.

Manager Matusak described the City's pilot program test project to grind the cemetery road with asphalt shingles and other stuff and then seal the mixture. The city has also done some much needed grading, patching, and added riprap to some unstable road shoulders.

The Prairie Gardens Scattering site will be out for bids August 28. There was again discussion about the name being "Prairie. . ." instead of "Woodland. . ." since it is a woodland area and there may be confusion with the Natural Prairie area.

The pet cemetery road is repaved and shoulder was built up and seeded with grass.

DAR requested Oct 11 to be their service day project to do plantings.

League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria gave Springdale a \$100 donation in appreciation of holding their Summer Social there.

— Cheryl Budzinski

## PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, July 24

The big item was Manager Ulrich announced they were looking for \$600,000 in cuts to expenses. Councilwoman Denise Moore requested a deferral of regular business item 18-231, which was to amend the Biennial Budget to use the Storm Water Utility Fund to purchase the Simantel property at the foot of Spring Street for \$159,000. This raises the question: What is the City Council allowed to spend the Storm Water Utility money on??

— Cheryl Budzinski

## PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, August 14

Interesting that Councilman Dennis Cyr participated in meeting by phone. Mayor Ardis asked the Councilman if he had questions or what his vote was at the beginning of discussion or vote.

Consent Agenda item 18-236, which was "pulled," was a contract with Change and Innovation Agency, LLC for a three-day Innovation Academy Training. But the Peoria Innovation Team - which was financed by a grant from Bloomberg Foundation- has an uncertain future since the Bloomberg grant runs out of grant funding soon.

No discussion on CEO Council Memo of Understanding or the Water Due Diligence - holdup is from CEO Council. No discussion on Environmental Protection Agency feedback on the Combined Sewer Overflow. Most discussion was about the budget hole. (See PJStar for more information on that.)

— Cheryl Budzinski

### YOU CAN REQUEST A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Cheryl Budzinski says, "I did already via the internet. You don't need an excuse to Vote by Mail."

Here's how you do it:

- Go to [www.peoriaelections.org](http://www.peoriaelections.org).
- Click on the blue band on top of the page where it says, "Board of Election Commissioners."
- Scroll down to the circle that says, "Request Mail Ballot."
- Fill in the form all the way to the bottom, including that you are not a robot.
- Click "Submit."

The Election Commission will mail your ballot to you in a few weeks. You fill out your ballot and mail it back. (If you request a Vote by Mail Ballot and change your mind, you should bring the Vote by Mail Ballot with you on Election Day in order to vote at your polling place.)

## **VOTER SERVICE, September**

We are getting ready for exciting Mock Elections at: Brimfield, Peoria Central, Notre Dame, Farmington, Peoria Christian, Peoria Manual, Limestone and Quest Academy. We could use another helper or two at Manual on Sept. 12, if anyone would have that morning free. Please call or email me.

We are gearing up for the Naturalization Ceremony at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25 at the Bradley University Renaissance Center with nearly 650 citizens being naturalized. We need 22 registrars for this event. If you are a registrar or wish to get trained to be one, we can always use your help at these events.

We are also organizing two forums for the fall election. The first forum will be 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 at First Baptist Church, 411 W. Lake St. Candidates for the Peoria County Auditor and Peoria County Sheriff will be present. Congressional District 18 candidates are also invited. This forum is co-sponsored by Knolls and Knollcrest Homeowners Associations.

The second forum will be at the Chillicothe Library on Oct. 20 with candidates for Peoria County Auditor and Peoria County Sheriff.

It is a good and busy time of year. We always look for additional members for our committee that meets on the second Thursday of the month.

— Mary Jane Crowell

## **GENERAL MEETING: Safe Schools, 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6**

Come to our September meeting and learn about efforts to keep Peoria County schools safe.

Our speaker for the evening is Beth Crider, a native to Central Illinois, who graduated from Dunlap High School. Beth comes to us with 17 years of teaching experience in the Peoria area. She holds a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and a certificate in Educational Administration. Beth has been serving as the Peoria County Regional Superintendent of Schools since January 2014.

“It takes the whole community to keep our schools safe,” she says. “We use the WIN philosophy of situational awareness with our educators and students. It encourages everyone to ask, What's Important Now? Our discussion will focus on that essential question!”

Please share the information about this special event and join us from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, at Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 Sterling Ave.

— Farrell Davies

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES NEED OUR HELP!**

Join for informal discussion and two upcoming action items with the Environmental Issues group at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, at Panera Bread at Westlake Shopping Center off of Sterling Avenue. Get your favorite Panera treat and join our table to learn about a critical area air pollution hearing coming up Sept. 19. We will also have plans for further public efforts on health and environmental concerns of coal tar sealants.

**IMPORTANT:** Is your church, beauty shop, or another business you know considering a new surface for parking lot? Do-Rite paving of Galesburg manufactures only safe, non-coal tar sealants and is looking for a location for a demonstration project in Peoria with an advantageous offer. Please contact Joyce Blumenshine if you have any suggestions: [joblumen@yahoo.com](mailto:joblumen@yahoo.com) or 309-678-1011.

– 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

- Sept. 6 6 p.m. First General meeting of LWVGP 2018-19, AMT, 1718 N. Sterling Ave. Peoria Regional Schools Supt. Beth Crider will discuss school safety.**
- Sept. 10 Noon-1 p.m., LWVGP Board Meeting, Peoria Downtown Library Conference Room A.**
- Sept. 19 5-6:30 p.m. Drinks & Dialogue, Lariat Steakhouse. Eric Shangraw, Manager of Municipal Communications for Peoria Disposal Company, leads talk on Recycling Benefits and Sustainability.**
- Sept. 22 9-11 a.m. Candidate Forum, First Baptist Church, 411 W. Lake St. Candidates include County Board District 10, County Auditor and County Sheriff.**
- Sept. 25 11 a.m. Naturalization Ceremony at Bradley University.**
- Oct. 17 5-6:30 p.m. Drinks & Dialogue, Lariat Steakhouse. Board member Peter Kobak will speak on diversity, inclusion and equity in LWVGP.**