

Board of Directors 2018-2019

Constance Romanus, President
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Kathie Raiborn, 1st V-P.
Terry Kohlbus, 2nd V.P. & Treasurer
Sandy Stemler, Secretary
Mollye Bright
Cheryl Budzinski
Farrell Davies
Spanky Edwards
Kirsten Hall
Tim Howard
Terry Bibb Knight
Roberta Parks
Jamila Wilson

Newsletter

terry.bibo.freelance@gmail.com

Important Dates

June 6-8: LWVIL Convention,
Champaign.

**June 10 – 100th anniversary
of Illinois being first state to
ratify 19th Amendment!**

12:30–1:30 Mon., June 10.
LWVGP board meeting, Peoria
Public Library downtown.

5-6:30 p.m. Wed., June 19.
Drinks & Dialogue at The Lariat
Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen.

5:30-7:30 p.m. Wed. July 17.
Annual membership renewal
event, Roberta Parks' home,
401 Water St.

President's Message

LWVGP gets active

May was a busy month for LWV Greater Peoria.

On May 2, we had the Annual Membership meeting.

On May 9, the Membership Committee sponsored the Annual Dinner and Raffle at Childers' Banquet Center. Bradley University Professor Craig Curtis discussed the impact of social media on American Politics. Sixty-five members and guests attended. Thanks to Rob Parks, Jan Deissler, Linda Millen, Terry Matthews and everyone who helped.

On May 15, Ray Keithley facilitated Drinks & Dialogue. Pamela Perrilles discussed preventing abuse and the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. This event was attended by 18 members and guests.

On May 18, training was held for board members. Thanks to Farrell Davies, outgoing President, for organizing this effort, as well as Cheryl Budzinski and Terry Kohlbus, who presented at the training.

On May 20 and May 29, meetings were held as part of a mini-study on a proposal to improve township efficiency.

On May 24, Voter Services organized voter registration for new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony.

This doesn't count the times League members attended public meetings as Observers to monitor transparency of these bodies.

All of these events and activities occur due to volunteer efforts of our members. If you have not had a chance to participate, please consider volunteering at an event or Committee, as well as attending a meeting. It is a great way to meet other members of the League, give back to our community and demonstrate that Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport! Become a Deputy Registrar, LOGO Observer or join the Drinks & Dialogue Committee!

Contact one of our Board Members and ask about opportunities.

Connie Romanus
LWVGP President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT!

Renewal memberships are beginning to arrive. You can renew: 1) At the membership social from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the home of Roberta Parks, 401 Water Street. 2) On-line at www.lwvgp.org using PayPal 3) Via “snail mail” by returning a completed form to P. O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786. Dues remain the same as last year. The Membership Form is below.

The Membership Committee met Thursday, May 30, to address envelopes for a personal mailing and to plan for the Social Event. You will be receiving an invitation, a Dues Invoice (like below), an Interest Survey and a League guide for members. Watch your mail!

Perhaps you have completed an Interest Survey in the past. We are asking you to do so again to update our records and hopefully involve more members in the committee structure.

Thank you for helping us Make Democracy Work!

Jan Deissler
309.635.1872

Jandeissler77@gmail.com

Linda Millen
309.645.2542

tchkids2@sbcglobal.net

Dues Invoice

The League's Membership Year is July 1, 2019-2020

2019-2020 League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Membership Form

Please select and circle your desired membership category and fill out the following:

- Name(s) _____
- _____
- Mailing address: _____
- _____
- Primary phone(s)/ email address(es) _____
- _____

- **Make check payable to LWVGP for the circled membership amount, and mail this form and check to LWVGP, P.O. 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786**

Category	Individual	Household
Regular	\$62	\$93
Student/ Young Professional/Scholarship	\$31	n/a
Defenders of Democracy		
• Susan B. Anthony	\$100	\$150
• Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	\$300
• Eleanor Roosevelt	\$300	\$450

Membership categories:

- *Household = 2 members living at the same address. Student = full-time student. Young Professional = member 30 or younger*
- *Scholarship = limited income, contact Membership Co-Chair Jan Deissler 309-635-1872 or Linda Millen 309-635-2542*
- *Defenders of Democracy = increased level of support acknowledged in Voter.*

Thank you. Your membership makes democracy work!

Age: 16-30 _____ Gender: Male _____ Ethnic/racial : Black _____
31-50 _____ Female _____ White _____
51-70 _____ Hispanic _____
Over 70 _____ Asian _____
Rather not say _____ Other (please indicate) _____

ANNUAL DINNER: Thanks!

On May 9, the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria hosted our annual dinner meeting at Childers Banquet Center in Peoria. Dr. Craig Curtis, professor of political science at Bradley University was the featured speaker. His topic was “Anonymity Makes It Too Easy to Hate: The Impact of Social Media on American Politics.” There were sixty-five people in attendance. Dr. Curtis’s comments were well received and generated many questions.

Door prizes were won by Joanne Thomas, Mollye Bright, Tim Howard and Tom O’Neill. The event netted approximately \$2,700 for the League.

Many thanks to Dr. Curtis and all who supported the event!

—— Roberta Parks, Co-Chair

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, May 6

The PHA Board of Commissioners regular meeting was held May 6 at the Frank Campbell Community Center, 312 S. Merriman, Peoria. The meeting started on time at 4:30 pm. All members were present.

A resident of Sterling Towers spoke during the Community Comments time; he was very complimentary to staff members who have assisted many of the residents and was concerned about changes in employee roles. Hedy Elliot Gardner recognized the memorial garden at Harrison Homes; thanked volunteers, maintenance staff for assistance in project. She also expressed concern regarding Trespass List sent from PHA Security and how list is updated. PHA Office can assist with how list is updated.

Appointment of Kadar Heffner as Commissioner and Treasurer was made. Minutes of the regular session of April 1, 2019 were approved.

Director Jackie Newman requested that regular monthly meetings be changed to PHA office, 100 S. Richard Pryor Place. PHA offices have been remodeled and have space for these meetings. Director Newman reported PHA continues to focus on updating internal operations, policies and procedures to meet federal guidelines.

Agenda reports under consent agenda; housing choice voucher program has been closed for five years. Beginning April 29, this program was reopened. Over 100 families served the first day. Staff were complimented on efficiency of the process and effectiveness of ensuring families understood documents required and assistance in completing forms. Enrollment will be held weekly until vouchers exhausted. Plan to extend to families outside city limits who live in Peoria County.

Agenda posted on web site; no Board packet or approved prior meeting minutes posted prior to meeting or available at meeting. Copies of Agenda available at meeting.

Regular meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The Board went to Executive session at this time.

Special Board of Commissioners meeting was scheduled for May 13 to focus on security. Next regular meeting is scheduled for June 3.

—— Connie Romanus, Observer

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, May 21

With Linda Daley as chair, the meeting was convened. No additions were made to the agenda and the April 16 minutes were approved. Mark Matusak presented the Manager's Report.

- o CloudPoint staff are on premises training staff.
- o Grounds Staff are very busy trimming and mowing between rain storms.
- o The Prairie Gardens site is complete and the media plan has been activated. The News Conference/Ribbon Cutting is planned for May 31 at 10:30.
- o The "Shaft" project is closing in on the project goal and the Dedication Ceremony is tentatively set for October 11.
- o Connie Frank reported for the Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation. Margaret Williams has been elected the New President of the Foundation. Strategic planning has been on-going and has been a great process for the Board. Points of discussion have regarded fundraising plans and public involvement. The Statue of Christ has been placed and Prairie Gardens, as stated by Mark Matusak, is finished and ready for the dedication.
- o Treasurer Jim Stuttle presented financials for review and discussion. Items were approved.
- o The Board discussed changes to the By-Laws to allow attendance and voting by phone.
- o Upcoming Events include: Sept. 8 – IVC Half Marathon Race
Oct. 5-6 & 12-13 – Prairie Folklore Player Performances
Oct. 11 – Tentative Dedication Ceremony for the "SHAFT"

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

ELECTION COMMISSION, May 15

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners met on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Commissioner LaColis Reed was late, and Commissioner Sandra Burke was absent.

The Board approved training pay for election judges to rise from the current \$25 to \$35, dependent on approval of the 2020 budget. This would bring judges' pay in line with the pay raise in Tazewell County and encourage attendance at training sessions. Approval was also granted for using part of the Election Security Grant to add two indoor cameras and two access control doors in the Election Commission office and warehouse. This will cost \$8,840 of the \$36,000 grant, still allowing for future needs. Also approved was the use of election data by Larry Aspin for a study of cumulative voting. (The League is hoping to use Larry's expertise in its study.)

The Board voted to allow Director Tom Bride to attend the International Association of Government Officials Annual Conference in Houston, Texas. He will also be allowed to be an election observer in either Kazakhstan or Ukraine through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Employees in the Commission office are starting to look at the 2020 budget and are looking at tracking software for vote-by-mail.

The State's Attorney reported on a lawsuit filed by the owner of the property that houses the Election Commission. It is in the discovery phase. The lawsuit has two parts: 1) Insurance payments for the common areas. (They have not been paid because the county has not been billed.) 2) Property taxes on the part that the county leases. (The owner feels he is not responsible since a public entity is renting the space.)

———— Irene Pritzker



It's Happening in July!

You're Invited!

**Summer Renewal Social
Wednesday, July 17, 2019
401 SW Water - #802
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Please come and bring prospective members to celebrate our League's successes this past year and hear about plans for the upcoming year. League members and their invited guests are welcome. RSVP names by July 15 by responding to this e-mail or by phone to Jan Deissler 309.635.1872 or Linda Millen 309.645.2542.

PEORIA TOWNSHIP PROPOSAL

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria's Committee studying the Peoria Township Proposal invites League members and the public to its meetings. Three meetings have already happened. Please see the calendar on FaceBook or lwvgp.org for dates/times. Possible dates/times: 1:30 p.m. June 3, June 10 or June 17.

We held an overview meeting on May 13 with committee members Gary Stella, Farrell Davies, Connie Romanus, Kathie Raiborn, and Terry Matthews, chaired by Cheryl Budzinski. On May 20, we heard from Supervisor Frank Abdnour about his Peoria Township proposal.

May 29 Attorney John Redlingshafer discussed issues and answered questions about the Peoria Township proposal, and Peoria Township Assessor Max Schlafley will answer questions about the Assessor's office relating to the Peoria Township proposal.

Two additional meetings with specific speakers are being setup for the following weeks. The committee plans to deliberate its suggested position on June 17.

Background information:

These are the positions and questions we will use to determine our recommendation:

Pertinent LWVGP position: "C. The LWVGP urges continuing study exploring cooperation and sharing of responsibilities between local governmental units for the purpose of reducing local government costs and providing better services to all the citizens of the area."

Pertinent LWVIL position: "The LWVIL supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review. Administrative and fiscal efficiency should be included in the criteria by which local

governments consider whether to consolidate or share major services. As used in this position, consolidation refers to both the process of consolidation and the process of dissolution." Also, "In determining whether to support a consolidation/shared services proposal as a way of making government more efficient and effective, local Leagues should apply the following criteria. While it is not necessary that each standard be met, the League recognizes that these standards represent potential benefits of consolidation, leading to more efficient and effective government:

- Will the proposal either result in projected cost savings and a positive effect on taxes over the long term?
- Will the proposal either result in an increased quality and/or efficiency of services or, at a minimum, maintain services at existing levels?
- Will the proposal fairly address disparities in employee contracts?
- Will the proposal result in a reduction in the number of governmental entities?"

———— Cheryl Budzinski, Committee Chair

PEORIA CITY/COUNTY MUNICIPAL LANDFILL COMMITTEE, May 15

The Peoria City/County Municipal Landfill Committee (Solid Waste Committee) met May 15 at Peoria City Hall.

Items of note included that the Foth Engineering budget was slightly over expected expenditures because of an unexpected Illinois EPA Bureau of Air inspection and documents request. The Bureau made a site visit to Landfill #2, the current operating landfill, which is run by Waste Management (WM). The last IEPA air inspection was in 2016.

For April, 10,000 gallons of landfill leachate were transported off-site (to the Greater Peoria Sanitary District) for treatment and discharge. Newly installed solar powered sump pumps are running and are expected to help pull off more landfill leachate. Work is also proceeding for installation of a new gas flare control system which will improve management of the landfill off-gassing. Landfill waste receipts were again down for the previous month. Year-to-date 2019 figures show 49,493.97 tons received through April compared to 53,064.63 in 2018.

Sustainability staff member Karen Raithel announced several E-waste and other collection events and April Earth Day/Month promotions, which are posted on the County website. The Foth Engineering report included that the 2018 Landfill #1 annual report was being completed. Approval was requested for signature when done as this landfill is under the responsibility of the City/County for ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Peoria Disposal Company has already completed its report for what will be Landfill #3, which it will operate when completed.

Work continues to repair landfill gas flares that were impacted by the extreme winter weather. Foth and WM are submitting a joint report. WM noted that the amount of garbage for the previous month is again down. There was discussion that the budget for the year may need to be adjusted if this downward trend continues. Committee Member Pat Nichting asked if this could be due to the City of Peoria going to twice a month recycling pick-ups. Comment was that it could be a slight impact. Mr. Nichting said industry news shows landfill receipts are down 5 percent but Peoria is seeing a 15 percent drop and he asked for a report at the next meeting to better monitor the decline so the committee can discuss what can be done. One comment was waste haulers may be going to other locations.

There was discussion of an offer from an adjacent landowner to sell property to the landfill among several other items. Solar energy was still listed on the agenda, however there has been no action or updates.

———— Joyce Blumenshine, Observer

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, May 28

At the May 28 meeting, City Manager Patrick Urich presented an aggressive timeline for the Biennial Budget. In June the City will again have the Peoria Budget Challenge online - several Leaguers have participated and learned a lot about the budget and we had surpluses! Please do this effort to give the city some feedback. At their next Council meeting, they plan to hire a strategic plan facilitator - now they have three finalists for this position. This budget will be presented in "Budgeting for Outcomes" format - budgeting tied to desired outcomes coming from the strategic plan results of the council's priorities.

Several different follow-up reports were requested again by three councilpersons in unfinished business (Denise Moore - communications calendar; Zach Oyler - Fitch report; Beth Jensen - cost of flood cleanup to budget.) Councilwoman Moore announced Moms Demand Action (on gun control) Saturday, June 8, Peoria Riverfront Trail at 10:30. WEAR ORANGE!

——— Cheryl Budzinski, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY BOARD, May 9

The Peoria County Board met on May 9, its regular second Thursday of the month, at the County Building.

Although there were five proclamations and presentations, the actual meeting agenda was comparatively short. Most items were contained in the Consent Agenda and were approved. There were several other business items and a zoning approval. There was recognition of Allen Mayer at the end of the meeting, as the announcement was official of his resignation from the Board effective the following week. He and his family are moving to Springfield because of his job. His years of service on the County Board were noted with multiple statements of thanks. His leadership in many key efforts and improvements for the County were praised. Allen's wife Carey was present in the audience and they were given many comments of appreciation.

——— Joyce Blumenshine, Observer

CAN YOU HELP??

If you have any documents or items about our League or the women's suffrage movement, please contact Farrell Davies at 309-696-3217 or farrelldavies2@gmail.com. We are planning to provide an opportunity to share our history and need your help to share our story.

Also, as we come closer to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the League of Women Voters, we have an opportunity to read a series of monthly articles covering some of the history of the League, as well as the women's suffrage movement that led to the enactment of the 19th Amendment (August 26, 1920) and the creation of the League in Chicago on February 14, 1920. To read these articles, go to <https://www.lwvil.org/history-of-the-league.html>

THE LEAGUE NEEDS MORE OBSERVERS . . .

Do you have time and interest?

There are many governmental units to observe: Library Boards, School Boards, Park Districts, etc. If you are interested, one of our seasoned Observers will attend a meeting or two with you with our suggested "What to Look at" sheet and discuss what to report. You would attend as many of the scheduled Board Meetings of a governmental unit as your schedule permits and write a report (not minutes) on the meeting which will be included in the League's monthly newsletter and on the website.

Could you help with one of these groups? Contact Cheryl c_budzinski@hotmail.com for more information.

East Peoria City Council meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Pekin City Council meets 2nd and 4th Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Pekin City Hall Council Chambers
111 S Capitol St.

Washington meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 - and as Committee of the Whole 2nd Monday
at 6:30 p.m.

Tazewell County Board meets the last Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Justice Center Community
Room, Pekin.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meets 4th Thursday at 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 456 Fulton,
Suite 420. We have a new Observer volunteer for this meeting!

Dunlap Community School Dist #323 Board meets 3rd Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Dunlap High
School.

Peoria Public School Dist #150 Board meets 2nd and 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Peoria Park District Board meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6 p.m.

HELP WITH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Join us!

Any members interested in participating in this ongoing initiative may contact Cheryl Budzinski regarding upcoming meetings. Phone number is 309.253.9594



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvgp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

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