

Board of Directors 2018-19

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Newsletter

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Important Dates

12:30–1:30 Mon., March 11.

LWVGP board meeting, Peoria Public Library downtown.

6 p.m. Wed., March 13.

East Peoria commissioner candidate forum, Fondulac Public Library, East Peoria.

6 p.m. Thurs, March 14

Peoria Park Board and school board candidate forum, First Baptist Church, 411 E. Lake St.

6 p.m. Tues., March 16.

Washington mayor/commissioners candidate forum, Washington High School.

5-6:30 p.m. Wed., March 20.

Drinks & Dialogue at W.E. Sullivan's Irish Pub, 4538 N.

Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights.

The opioid crisis is the topic.

President's Message

The Hard Work Ahead

'It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard is what makes it great.'

Jimmy Dugan in 'A League of Their Own.'

Jimmy's comment describes the heavy lifting that the League will need to do at the local, state, and national levels if it is to continue to be a leader in the quest to Make Democracy Work. Nationally, the League's leadership "heavy lifting" is happening on the following two items that directly impact our work at the state and local levels:

Supreme Court redistricting case *League of Women Voters of North Carolina v. Rucho*. Companion cases, *Common Cause v. Rucho* and a Maryland redistricting case *Benisek v. Lamone* will also be heard. An amicus brief in the Maryland case is also being submitted and is significant because the court will review partisan gerrymanders designed by both parties. (the Republicans were the party in power in North Carolina, and in the Maryland case, it was the Democrats.) The hope is that the court will set a standard for determining partisan gerrymanders.

HR1 the "For the People Act" also deserves our attention. HR1 is not a single "bill" but a reform package that lays the groundwork for ensuring that voting rights are strengthened. The package includes restoring the Voting Rights Act, voter registration modernization, including automatic voter registration, public financing of elections through small donor matching funds, overturning Citizens United, ending partisan gerrymandering and more.

These two important issues will help us carve out our local and state paths forward as we meet at our Annual Meeting on May 2 and as we participate in the LWVIL convention June 8-9. Please mark your calendar to attend the LWVGP Annual Meeting on May 2 to discuss and approve the 2019-2020 Program Plan.

Looking forward to working together,

Farrell Davies
LWVGP President

DRINKS & DIALOGUE: The Opioid Crisis

Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Christopher Schaffner will speak on Impact of Opioid Crisis in Our Communities. He is Community Educator with Human Service Center. The program will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wed., March 20, at W. E. Sullivan's Irish Pub, 4538 N. Prospect Rd, Peoria Heights. Social time will be at 5 p.m. The event is free and the public is invited. Refreshments are available for purchase. Join us!

— Connie Romanus

VOTER SERVICE, March

We had a “first” this past month with 12 of the 14 candidates for Peoria at-large city council seats on Feb 12. One hundred-plus people were placed in 12 groups, and the candidates rotated to each of the groups to speak to them. It was exciting and was well received by the citizens and the candidates.

There are three more forums scheduled this month.

On March 13 at the Fondulac Library at 6 p.m. the East Peoria commissioner candidate forum will be held to allow that community to hear from the candidates in this contested race.

On March 14 at the Noble Center at 6 p.m. we will hold a forum for the Peoria Park Board north district race and the Peoria Public School central district race.

On March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Washington High School we will hold a forum for the Washington Mayor race and the commissioners’ race.

We still need a few volunteers for the last two forums. We train you, so we would welcome any of you who would like to work with us at a forum.

In the midst of these activities, we will have a Naturalization ceremony on Friday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at the Peoria Public Library downtown. Registrars will be needed for that two-hour event. Please contact Mary Jane to let her know that you would like to help.

We trust that you all will vote on April 2.

— Mary Jane Crowell, Voter Service Chair

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, February 4

Annual meeting of PHA Board of Commissioners was held Feb. 4, at 312 S. Merriman St., Peoria. Meeting started on time at 4:30 p.m. and was chaired by Vice Chair, Carl Cannon. The Board addressed the required annual signing of commissioner documents: Conflict of Interest Statement and Confidentiality agreement. Forms were signed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m. Prior to adjourning the session, a motion was made and seconded to table meeting agenda until March meeting due to lack of quorum. Absent were Alma Brown and Anne Fox.

Alma Brown, Secretary, arrived at 4:33 p.m. Regular meeting of Board of Commissioners followed the annual meeting, at 4:34 p.m. Board packet and agenda were not on PHA website, but copies of agenda were available at the meeting. There were no public comments or media coverage. Jackie Newman, Executive Director, was present and reported on HUD shutdown effects. Rent fees for March and April will be timely. PHA initiated quarterly newsletter for families and landlords of section 8 and public housing, as well as monthly newsletter for staff. Ms. Newman discussed outcome of visit to Chicago PHA and examples of mixed use development, such as library, veterans' space. Plan to discuss with City of Peoria officials.

It was also reported that PHA website was being updated. Attempts to log in to website Feb. 27, were unsuccessful. On calling PHA office, was informed new website is <https://peoriahousing.tenmast.-com>. This website requires a registration key to complete log in. Return call to PHA unsuccessful in finding out how to obtain registration key. I was able to verify that there was change in March Board of Commissioners Meeting; this will be held at 4:30 p.m. March 11 at 312 S. Merriman.

Will inquire about prior meeting minutes and prior meeting minutes during time for community comments at March meeting.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, February 19

Linda Daley chaired the meeting

Public Comment: There were two comments by the public: A citizen attended to restate the goals which in essence state that the duties of the custodians of the cemetery are to remember these goals: Caring for families and providing compassionate services to customers and to reduce the financial burden on tax payers. Secondly, Herb Kasube, the Race Director for the IVS Half Race associated with Illinois Valley Striders, addressed the board with an update of progress. The race route has a portion that winds through Springdale Cemetery.

Treasurer Jim Stuttle presented financials for review and discussion. Items were approved by the Board

Mark Matusak presented the manager's report.

Brian Murray has successfully completed "dual entries" for the first month of this fiscal year in preparation for the switch from AXIOM to Cloud Point to take place later this year.

Family burial site projects continue for three family's estates. The three separate discussions are in the process of planning and Mark is working with the families to create a project that will meet each of their needs as a family.

It was noted that three director terms will be up in June and Mark will be informing the Mayor.

Equipment Replacement: The usual number of mowers available to maintenance is six but two of the six are no longer repairable. Mark Matusak stated that maintenance feels that they would like to limit the leasing of mowers to one additional instead of two and see if they can operate efficiently with that number.

Maurer-Stutz will be commissioned to survey the plat for family estates. They have done work for Springdale Cemetery in the past.

Prairie Gardens Marketing: Design Farm will be developing marketing materials: Advertorial materials will be created to educate consumers regarding the benefits of choosing "scattering" in a formal setting for their loved ones. The most important benefit for future generations is registry for loved ones. Genealogy has become an interest for young people and this should be encouraged. These materials will be distributed to funeral homes by Mark Matusak preceded by a letter of introduction regarding the Garden.

The Pet Cemetery repairs have been completed as well as pamphlet and signs. Mark Matusak will be sending letters to veterinarians in the area with follow-up visits to distribute materials.

Connie Frank reported for the Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation. The "Shaft" as a monument was the first Civil War Monument in the State of Illinois and possibly the Country. Ground breaking will begin in April with plans being made for an October dedication event.

No Executive Session was held.

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

PEORIA CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE, February

The Peoria City County Landfill Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Peoria City Hall. Chairman Steve Morris presided.

The Foth Engineering Report included information for rehabbing the landfill gas flare station. Discussion covered if the gas could be collected and put to use instead of being flared, but concern was raised about lack of enough gas to make that economical for the present. There is interest in looking at what can be done in five to ten years.

Chris Coulter of Peoria Disposal Company reported that 4,000 households have been added to Peoria recycling pick-up since the bi-weekly pick-up with no cost up front for a toter began. There are now 14,000 households participating. Pick-up was monthly, with a 50-cent toter fee required.

Increased costs for the added pick-up and toters are in the city contract with PDC, which is the largest cost contract the city has. The current landfill waste collection area (City County Landfill #2) under contract with Waste Management is now expected to reach capacity in the fall of 2023. Reasons that this will be later than expected include not as high of amounts of waste coming in and better compaction techniques.

The financial report recommended a reduced budget based on less waste coming in as the estimate will be 180,000 tons instead of 190,000 tons for the year.

PDC reported the Vicary Bottoms project area will need to be larger as more wetlands disturbance than originally planned will be required when PDC begins construction of the new City/County Landfill #3.

— Joyce Blumenshine, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, February 12

The Peoria County Election Commission held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Commissioner LaColis Reed was out of town. Under Approval of Bills, Executive Director Tom Bride was reminded to buy locally whenever possible.

Early voting location and hours for the April 2 general election were approved. Early voting outside the city of Peoria began Feb. 21. Residents of Peoria will have to wait until Friday, March 8, after the results of the primary have been certified.

Hollis Grade School will no longer be a polling place because of the school's safety concerns. Those precincts will be moved back to Bartonville Christian Church, although official approval cannot happen until next month. The church board did not pass this until the morning of the commission meeting, so it could not be on the agenda.

Pollbook training started Feb. 13. As of Feb. 12, 250 people had already voted by mail and 250 people had voted early at the Commission office.

The Commission then moved into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation..

— Irene Pritzker, Observer

Membership Report!

Members joining the League have slowed, but we are preparing for a new year and hopefully more members. Members renewing and one new member are listed below. Be sure to welcome them when you see them at General Meetings, Drinks and Dialogue or any of the other programs offered by the League.

Very Important: Our Annual Membership Renewal event will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Wed., July 17, at the home of Roberta Parks, 401 Water Street, Peoria. More information will be forthcoming but be sure to mark your calendar and Save the Date. Dues can be mailed prior to that meeting or paid when you attend the social.

Please continue to recruit new members. New members joining now pay the full year, but will pay partial dues for the 2019-2020 year.

Renewed members:

Alan & Carol Hedeman – Carrie Chapman Catt Defenders of Democracy

New Members:

Talena Michels

Brittany Darby

Jan Deissler and Linda Millen, Membership co-chairs



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvgp.org

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