

## Board of Directors 2018-2019

Farrell Davies, President  
309/696-0967  
president@lwvgp.org  
Terry Matthews, 1st V-P.  
Mary Jane Crowell, 2nd V.P.  
Terry Kohlbus, Treasurer  
Sandy Stemler, Secretary  
Mollye Bright  
Cheryl Budzinski  
Katherine Coyle  
Jan Deissler  
Elaine Hopkins  
Terry Bibo Knight  
Roberta Parks  
Kathie Raiborn  
Connie Romanus  
Gary Stella

## Newsletter

terry.bibo.freelance@gmail.com

## Important Dates

**12:30–1:30 Mon., April 8.**  
LWVGP board meeting, Peoria  
Public Library downtown.  
**5-6:30 p.m. Wed., April 17.**  
Drinks & Dialogue at Rhythm  
Kitchen, 305 S.W. Water St.m  
Peoria. Sheriff Brian Asbell will  
discuss body cameras.  
**5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, May 2.**  
Annual Meeting at Schnuck's  
Community Room.  
**5:30-? p.m. Thursday, May 9.**  
Annual Dinner, Childers Ban-  
quet Center, 3113 N. Dries Ln.  
"Impact of Social Media."  
**5:30-7:30 p.m. Wed. July 17.**  
Annual membership renewal  
event, Roberta Parks' home,  
401 Water St.

## President's Message

# 'Variety is the Spice of Life'

*"Variety is the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavor."*

William Cowper, "The Task: (1785)

In other words, diversity makes life interesting.

At the national, state, and local levels, the League strives for more diversity. Locally, the LWVGP's effort is reflected in the Annual Meeting information included in this issue of the Voter. Whether it's the LWVGP membership, programs, or study and action committees, we committed to providing diversity that makes the League experience interesting and meaningful. And, ultimately, to providing diversity that makes democracy work!

Please take time to review the Annual Meeting agenda where you will find diverse opportunities that can be your "spice of life" this upcoming year. There are a number of chances to chair and/or participate in studies, action committees, standing committees, and programs. If you have questions about any of these diverse opportunities, please contact me or League members will be available at the Annual Meeting to talk with you.

I look forward to seeing you at the May 2 Annual Meeting at Schnuck's Community Room at the 5:30 p.m. Social Time with light refreshments and the 6 p.m. Meeting.

Spice up your life by participating in the LWVGP!

Farrell Davies  
LWVGP President

## **DRINKS & DIALOGUE: Body cameras**

Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell will join us at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 17 at the Rhythm Kitchen, 305 S.W. Water St. for an informative discussion on the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers.

The Peoria County Sheriff's Department is participating in a five-year program to utilize body cameras by Peoria County officers. Some of the benefits of using body cameras that have been cited are transparency, improved police and community relations, as well as protection of officers in citizen complaints and documentation of citizens' actions.

Sheriff Asbell will discuss the department's plan for use of body cameras, training, Illinois law regarding individual privacy, accountability and how this tool can enhance department operations.

As always, the event is free and the public is invited. Social time will be from 5 to 5:30 pm. Refreshments are available for purchase. Bring a friend and join in the discussion!

**LWVGOP OPPORTUNITY: Be part of an interesting and fun committee. DRINKS & DIALOGUE is looking for two or three members to plan and organize monthly meetings eight times a year. This is an enjoyable and worthwhile effort to educate members and the general public on issues of interest in our community! Contact Connie Romanus 309.264.9113, if interested.**

— Connie Romanus

## **VOTER SERVICE, April**

This committee has worked hard this year, so we are "resting" now. We look forward to the Annual meeting on May 2.

We organized six forums this spring in the greater Peoria area: Peoria Heights, East Peoria, Tazewell County, Dunlap, and Peoria's city council, park board and school board. There was great participation by candidates and citizens in each race.

Now we must all vote on April 2.

We registered 33 new citizens at the naturalization ceremony March 22. But we had twice that many come by our tables. If they wanted to vote on April 2, they had to go to the special sites and register and vote at the same time.

— Mary Jane Crowell, Voter Service Chair

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**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 2, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m. Social and 6 p.m. Meeting**  
**Schnucks Community Room**  
**4800 N. University, Peoria**

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and 2018-2019 Highlights by Farrell Davies
- II. Election of Officers and Directors, and Members of the Nominating Committee- Cheryl Budzinski

**Nominating Committee Slate of Officers and Directors for 2019-2020:**

**Officers:**

President: Constance Romanus May 2019-2021  
1st V-P: Kathie Raiborn May 2019-2021; President 2021-2023  
2nd V-P and Treasurer: Terry Kohlbuss May 2019-2023; President 2023-2025

**New Directors:**

New Director: Tim Howard May 2019-2021; Co-chair Redistricting Committee with Gary Stella  
New Director: Spanky Edwards May 2019-2021  
New Director: Kirsten Hall May 2019-2021  
\*New Director Jamilla Wilson May 2019-2020  
\*Fills remaining one year of Katherine Coyle's term

**Continuing Directors:**

Secretary: Sandy Stemler 2018-2020  
Director: Mollye Bright 2018-2020  
Director: Terry Bibo-Knight 2018-2020  
Director: Cheryl Budzinski 2019-2020  
Director: Roberta Parks 2018-2020

**Immediate Past President:**

Director: Farrell Davies 2019-2020

Nominating Committee for 2019-2020: Chair, Cheryl Budzinski with Members Mollye Bright, Katherine Coyle, Ryan Hidden and Shelley Epstein

Nominating Committee for 2020-2021: Chair, Farrell Davies with Members Shelley Epstein and Ryan Hidden

- III. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year- Constance Romanus

## 2019-2020 Local Program

July 17, 2019- Summer Social, Roberta Parks' Home  
Aug 21, 2019 - Drinks & Dialogue  
Sept 5, 2019- Importance of US Census- North Branch Library  
Sept 18, 2019- Drinks & Dialogue  
Oct 3, 2019 - Eliminating Electoral College - North Branch Library  
Oct 16, 2019 - Drinks & Dialogue  
Nov 7, 2019 - Township Government- Advanced Medical Transport  
Jan (Sat) 4, or 11, or 18, 2020 - Members' Breakfast Planning Meeting, Schnuck's Community Room  
Jan 15, 2020 - Drinks & Dialogue  
Feb 6, 2020 - Community Policing- Advanced Medical Transport  
Feb 19, 2020 - Drinks & Dialogue  
March 5, 2020 - Affordable Housing - Advanced Medical Transport  
March 18, 2020 - Drink & Dialogue  
April 2020 - Dinner/fundraiser  
April 15, 2020 - Drinks & Dialogue  
May 7, 2020 - Annual LWVGP Meeting, Schnuck's Community Room  
May 20, 2020-Drinks & Dialogue

Continued "Action item" - Re-Districting coordinated with LWVIL - Constance Romanus, Tim Howard,  
and Gary Stella, Co-Chairs  
Continued "Action item" - Water "Due Diligence"  
Potential "Study"- Cumulative Voting  
Potential "Mini-Study" - Peoria Township Government  
Continued "Study"- Affordable Housing- Cheryl Budzinski, Chair

Program suggestions from the floor

- IV. Adopt budget- Terry Kohlbus
  - V. Accept minutes from May 3, 2018- Constance Romanus (Readers: Joyce Blumenshine and Ryan Hidden)
  - VI. Award
  - VII. Old Business- Constance Romanus
  - VIII. New Business- Constance Romanus
  - IX. Directions to the Board- Constance Romanus
  - X. Adjourn
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## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, March**

Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners met promptly at 4:30 p.m. March 11 at 312 S. Merriman. Vice Chair Carl Cannon led the meeting. Also present were Commissioners Anne Fox, Tekia Childs, Helen King and Director Jackie Newman. Commissioner Alma Brown arrived at 4:36 p.m.

During public comment period, the question of when PHA website would be accessible was raised, as well as availability of agenda, board packets and prior meeting minutes. No agendas were available for public at this meeting. Response regarding website was that it should be up in five days.

As of March 27, website shows date of next Board of Commissioners meeting as April 1 and notes that website should be up soon. Peoria Journal Star reporter Steve Tarter was present at meeting and coverage of meeting was reported in newspaper.

The first order of business was appointment of new commissioners: Carl Cannon was appointed Chair, Alma Brown, Vice Chair; Helen King, Secretary. The Treasurer position is open. The board accepted the resignation of Anne Fox. Minutes of February 4, 2019 Annual meeting and regular session meeting were approved.

Three residents were acknowledged for completing the Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS). This program helps residents become more independent, manage finances, obtain employment and improve overall quality of life. One of the FSS graduates has completed a B.S. degree in healthcare. In addition, four new employees have been hired to fill vacant positions. Chairman Cannon informed Board that the Agenda would be considered as a consent agenda and reports would be accepted unless there were items to discuss. No discussion occurred. Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

## **SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, March 19**

Linda Daley chaired the meeting

The meeting was convened, no additions were made to the agenda and the February 19 minutes were approved.

Mark Matusak presented the Manager's Report:

- o Burials were up in February although still slightly under last year's numbers.
- o The CloudPoint GIS project is coming along well and is on target for completion in the Fall..
- o There has been an early return of two "seasonal" employees to start cleanup of leaves that are remaining from last year. Clean up was postponed until Spring because of last Fall's inclement weather. Grounds staff build-up is tentatively scheduled for April 22.

- o The Pet Cemetery – Whispering Woods. Mark Matusak reported that calls have been made to a number veterinarians in the area and most now have flyers in their offices explaining the services Springdale Cemetery offers. Pet owners will have a number of options regarding burials or scatterings for their deceased pets.

- o Connie Frank reported for the Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation regarding a presentation by Mike Rucker on a Savanna update and Prairie Scattering Garden. Connie stated that the presentation was extremely interesting and reported some statistics about Savanna Natural Grass. One of the many statistics was that Savanna native grass can absorb up to 4 inches of rain as compared to typical grass which can only absorb ¼ inch of rain. This could be a partial solution for water run-off for the

City.

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

Following are scheduled up-coming events:

April 7 - "Restore the Shaft" Fundraising Event

April 19 – SHPF Dedication of "Resurrection" Statue

April 26 – Lutheran Hillside Village tour

May 6 – Tentative Ground Breaking Ceremony for the "Shaft" project

May 26 – Memorial Day Program

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

### **ISSUES BRIEFING 2019: CENSUS**

The meeting was held in Chicago on March 2 and was well attended. Mollye Bright and I enjoyed the day's sessions and meeting other League members. Some of the topics presented were: Challenges and Opportunities for Reproductive Health in Illinois, Community Policing: Best Practices and Current Challenges, Count Me In: 2020 Census in Illinois, Getting the Lead Out: Illinois Drinking Water, Affordable Housing, and ERA Ratification and Protecting Immigrants' Rights.

Some highlights of the presentation on 2020 Census presented by Hilary Denk, LWVIL advocate, are summarized here. Note: This presentation was prepared by Anita Banjeri, Director of Forefront's Democracy Initiative; she was unable to be present at the Briefing meeting. One of the main concerns for Illinois is potential loss of at least one Congressional seat based on census data (under reporting & decreased population 33,703).

Census data is used to determine federal funding to state for housing, healthcare, transportation, as well as education. Some of the hard to count populations that have been identified are: undocumented persons, renters, children under five years of age, homeless, immigrant communities, persons of color, low income communities and correctional facilities.

Challenges in administering the 2020 census: this is first time 'high tech' via internet, cybersecurity risks, digital divide (accessibility to all), budget shortfalls resulting in census being underfunded, incomplete testing of form (one test done), as well as citizen question. The Supreme Court will hear case in April to determine if question regarding "are you a citizen" can be included in this census. Concern that some at risk populations will not answer this question or complete census resulting in inaccurate counting.

Strategies for Success: accuracy of the census is the primary focus. In each community, a government body will be responsible for organizing the census count; this could be county or city government. Other factors essential for a successful census are targeted message, legal clarity, understanding and addressing community concerns, mapping hard to count communities and addressing obstacles, and lastly, Identification, engagement and mobilization of trusted partners in the community. Illinois residents will begin receiving census documents by mail as well as internet option April 1, 2020. This will be followed up by door to door census workers.

Resource: <https://myforefront.org/democracyinitiative>.

Anita Banjeri, Director of Democracy Initiative Forefront: [abanjeri@myforefront.org](mailto:abanjeri@myforefront.org)

— Connie Romanus

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

We want to welcome Dave and Dawn Bozeman as new members to the League and welcome John and Mary Ellen Brady as returning members. In the midst of planning for 2019 and 2020, we want to say we are so glad you have joined us. Be sure to welcome them when you see them at General Meetings, Drinks & Dialogue or any of the other programs offered by the League.

The Membership Committee met on Monday, March 18, to plan for the upcoming membership drive. It was determined that all current members will receive a mailing which will include not only the invitation to the social, but other documents they might find of interest. Looking at a June 1 mailing – so watch for it!

Very Important: Our Annual Membership Renewal event will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, 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. If you have an interest in membership development, please contact one of us. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Jan Deissler – [jdeissler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdeissler@sbcglobal.net) – 309-635-1872

Linda Millen – [tchkids2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tchkids2@sbcglobal.net) – 309-645-2542

Jan Deissler and Linda Millen, Membership co-chairs

## **JOIN US for the League's Annual Dinner Meeting on May 9**

Join with League members and guests at our annual dinner meeting on May 9 at Childers Banquet Center (3113 N Dries Lane in Peoria, next to Landmark Health Club).

We will have cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a presentation from Dr. Craig Curtis, Professor of Political Science at Bradley University speaking on “Anonymity Makes it Too Easy to Hide: The Impact of Social Media on American Politics.” There will be plenty of time for questions after his presentation.

We will also have multiple prizes to raffle off. You can buy tickets either in advance or at the event -- \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Register by mailing in the form in this newsletter or by going online at [www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org). We hope to see you on May 9!

—— Roberta Parks





# League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

Invites you to join us for dinner and a great speaker at

## Childers Banquet Center

3113 N Dries Lane, Peoria (behind Walmart on University St. next to Landmark Cinema)

### **"Anonymity Makes it Too Easy to Hide: The Impact of Social Media on American Politics"**

Thursday ♦ May 9, 2019

5:30PM Cash Bar | 6PM Dinner | 7PM Speaker | Drawing

DINNER PROGRAM

#### Keynote Speaker: Craig Curtis, Professor of Political Science at Bradley University

Professor Curtis is originally from Meridian, Mississippi and earned a degree in law from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in 1985, an MS in Criminal Justice from Washington State University in 1987, and a PhD in Political Science in 1991. He came to Peoria in the fall of 1991 to take a full-time position on the faculty at Bradley University. He teaches courses on judicial process, public administration and regulatory politics. He is co-author of *The Fourth Amendment in Flux: The Roberts Court, Crime-Control and Digital Privacy*, published by University Press of Kansas, and numerous articles in scholarly journals. He is married to Leah E. Adams-Curtis and they have two adult children, Anna and Galen.

#### GREAT PRIZES

\$100 Gift Certificate to Hearth Restaurant

\$150 Italian Wine and Pasta Basket

\$100 Gift Certificate to PVII Restaurant

\$ 80 Two Bottles of Wine & Rizzi's Gift

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or  
3 for \$25  
*Need not be present to win*

RAFFLE

**Registration deadline May 1, 2019.** Please mail this form with your check (payable to LWVIL Ed Fund) to: LWVGP, PO Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats at \$50\* each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Purchase a table for 8 or guests will be assigned a table.*

Please indicate how many of your guests want a vegetarian meal \_\_\_\_\_.

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ raffle tickets for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I cannot attend, but want to support the event with a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Total enclosed:** \$\_\_\_\_\_ or use **PayPal** and **register online** at **[www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org)**

You will receive an email confirmation of your purchase, but no tickets will be mailed. All purchased raffle tickets will be placed in the drawing to be held following the speaker.

For more information, please call **Roberta Parks** at **309.231.1724**

REGISTRATION FORM

\* \$20 of your \$50 registration is tax deductible. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters, a 501(C)3 organization.





League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

**[www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org)**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

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