

## Board of Directors 2018-2019

Constance Romanus, President  
309/264-9113  
president@lwvgp.org  
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 Bibo Knight  
Roberta Parks  
Jamila Wilson

## Newsletter

terry.bibo.freelance@gmail.com

## Important Dates

**5:30-? p.m. Thursday, May 9.**  
Annual Dinner, Childers Banquet Center, 3113 N. Dries Ln.  
"Impact of Social Media." Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. Still available until Thursday night at [www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org) or by calling Jan, 635-1872.

**12:30-1:30 Mon., May 13.**  
LWVGP board meeting, Peoria Public Library downtown.

**5-6:30 p.m. Wed., May 15.**  
Drinks & Dialogue at The Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen.  
Child abuse is the topic.

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

## President's Message

# Meet the new Board

Thank you to all who attended the May 2 Annual Meeting!

We had approximately 30 members present. The Membership Committee led by Jan Deissler and Linda Millen provided light refreshments and beverages, as well as, an opportunity to sign up for the May 9 Dinner and Raffle Tickets. The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Cheryl Budzinski, with members Mollye Bright, Katherine Coyle, Ryan Hidden and Shelley Epstein, presented the slate of Officers and Directors for 2019-2020 Year, which was approved:

**President: Constance Romanus 2019-21**

**1st V-P: Kathie Raiborn 2019-21; President 2021-23**

**2nd V-P/Treasurer: Terry Kohlbus 2019-23; President 2023-25**

## New Directors:

**Tim Howard 2019-21; Co-chair Redistricting Committee w/Gary Stella**

**Spanky Edwards 2019-2021**

**Kirsten Hall 2019-21**

**Jamila Wilson 2019-2020\***

\*Fills remaining one year of Katherine Coyle's term

## Continuing Directors:

**Secretary: Sandy Stemler 2018-20**

**Terry Bibo-Knight 2019-21; Voter newsletter**

**Mollye Bright 2018-20**

**Cheryl Budzinski 2019-20**

**Roberta Parks 2018-20**

**Farrell Davies 2019-20; immediate past president**

Farrell Davies recognized the following Board Members for their years of service and commitment: Jan Deissler, Gary Stella, Terry Matthews, Mary Jane Crowell, Elaine Hopkins and Joyce Blumenshine.

The Leadership Award was given to Cheryl for her continued support to our League over the course of the past year. Cheryl has served as chairperson of LOGO, the Affordable Housing Study Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Water Study Action Committee. In addition, she has led efforts to lobby our elected officials, improve the League website, institute nonpartisan elections in Washington, and improve Peoria Township Government. She offers support and assistance to any and all League members and committees as requested. Cheryl is an exemplary member who has contributed countless hours to our success.

As the League of Women Voters looks to celebrating 100 years of defending our democracy, this is an opportunity for our members to become involved in the many opportunities within the League: Local Government Observer, Membership Committee, Drinks & Dialogue Committee, participating in Lobby Days in Springfield, Voter Services Committee or Study Committees. These are a great way to meet other members and contribute to the success of the League as we look to our second 100 years!

Connie Romanus  
LWVGP President

## **DRINKS & DIALOGUE: Help stop child abuse**

The Greater Peoria League of Women Voters will discuss ways to combat child abuse when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue.

Join us as Pamela Perrilles, Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Peoria County, leads discussion on how CASA volunteers and community involvement help combat child abuse and seek safe, permanent homes for children. In addition, we'll learn how CASA invests in our future, generates taxpayer savings and provides area children with a voice in the court system.

The event is free and the public is invited. Refreshments are available for purchase. Social time is 5 to 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 p.m., to discuss local, state and national topics relating to approved LWV positions, aimed at "Making Democracy Work."

**Note: Glen Avenue road patching will start April 29, so give yourself few extra minutes for traffic!**

— Connie Romanus

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT!**

The 2018-19 Membership Year is rapidly coming to an end. It is hoped that you will all re-join either by mail – or at the Membership Social which will be held 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the home of Roberta Parks, 401 Water Street, #801. Hopefully, the official invitation will be in this issue of The Voter.

We had a great Annual Meeting and made and renewed some friendships. It is always good to come and network with other like-minded people. Please continue to recruit new members. New members joining now will have membership through June 30, 2020.

New Members: Kirsten Hall, Jessica Hall, Spanky Edwards, Jamila Wilson.

Welcome to the League!

—— Jan Deissler and Linda Millen, membership co-chairs

## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, April**

Peoria Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners met at 4:30 p.m. April 1. This Observer was unable to attend meeting due to set up of election equipment at polling place. Review of PHA website shows meeting Agenda available; no Board Packet was found nor prior approved minutes. Website continues to be in progress. Highlights of Agenda for this meeting: CEO Report, approval of intergovernmental agreement between PHA and Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) for management services, and 2018 Agency goals.

Next scheduled meeting of PHA is 4:30 p.m. May 6 at the Frank Campbell Community Center, 312 S. Merriman St.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

## **SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, April 16**

Linda Daley chaired the meeting

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

Jon Hodel from CloudPoint gave an update. He reported that the GPS points for almost all graves have been stored using first and last names. Also, all drone flights for mapping purposes are final. Upcoming activity will include the mapping of the Mausoleum and on-site training for staff in June. July 1 will be the official start date of on-going services by CloudPoint as a five-year agreement. Mr. Hodel also mentioned a pilot project that CloudPoint would be initiating which would involve the 3D Mapping of the interior of the Mausoleum using GEOSlam technology. He showed a video demonstration of the technique and suggested that possibly SCMA would be a possible pilot partner.

Mike Rucker gave an update regarding the volunteer work being done at the Scattering Garden.

Mark Matusak presented the Manager's Report.

- o The Mausoleum ceiling has been in disrepair from prior damage and age. Over the winter, repairs were successfully completed.

- o The Prairie Garden completion is 95 to 96 percent done and will be finished well before the previously proposed date.

- o A Media Blast has been planned to ensure public awareness regarding the 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 31 News Conference/Dedication for "Prairie Gardens." There was also information shared with the Board as an example of what type of information will be circulated as part of this campaign. One interesting article was from the Wall Street Journal, Review Section, Saturday/Sunday March 30-31, 2019.

- o The Pet Cemetery – Whispering Woods. Mark Matusak reported calls have been made to a number of veterinarians in the area and there has been a good reaction from those contacted. Connie Frank reported for the Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation regarding Board Members who will be leaving the Board and possible replacements. The Foundation Board will be meeting in May to start work on a Strategic Plan, the purpose of which will be to define their focus as a board.

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

Unfinished Business: Mark Matusak made a motion for the Board to pass a Resolution to identify consistency in those who would be certified and documented to sign checks. There was consensus that those holding positions as Chair of the Board, Treasurer of the Board and SCMA Manager would be identified as certified. The Resolution was approved.

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

## **Election Commission, April 16**

The Peoria County Election Commission met on Tuesday, April 16. The main order of business was finishing up the April consolidated election. Donations were approved to Limestone ROTC and the Peoria County Auxiliary Police. They helped on election day to facilitate the collection of ballots that night. Chairman Collins expressed his appreciation of their work. The official canvas was scheduled for April 17, with all ballots counted. The total count was down from two years ago, probably because two jurisdictions in the County had no contested races. Where there were contests, voting was up. Mail-in voting was up 175 percent, but on-site voting was down. It was reported that precinct voting results can be found on the County GIS site which can be reached from the Election Commission website. When I checked, I found results for last November's election, but no results for February or April of this year. Hopefully they will be up soon.

———— Irene Pritzker



## It's Happening in July!

**You're Invited!**

**Summer Renewal Social  
Wednesday, July 17, 2019  
401 SW Water - #802  
5:30 – 7:00 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.

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## **RENEW RENEW RENEW**

**Renew your League of Women Voters' membership (Due July 1)**

**Your membership gives the League the political  
clout to make democracy work!**

### **3 ways to renew, plus more membership categories**

*Please choose the renewal option that works best for you*

- 1. In person**, at the Summer Renewal Social with check or cash.
- 2. Online**, go to [www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org) and use PayPal to renew.
- 3. Mail**, use enclosed form and mail a check payable to LWVGP, P. O. Box 9786. Peoria 61612-9786.

As a member you will receive electronically our newsletter, *The Voter*, and alerts on breaking action in Illinois and Washington, D.C. You will also have opportunities to:

- Connect with and strengthen our community
- Help shape the policy decisions that affect our lives
- Learn more about and foster dialog on a broad range of issues
- Help preserve our constitutional rights and liberties

**The League of Women Voters, making democracy work!**

## **PEORIA CITY/COUNTY MUNICIPAL LANDFILL COMMITTEE, April**

Peoria City County Landfill Committee met at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Peoria City Hall. Committee member Rick Fox was requested to lead the meeting by Chairman Steve Morris, who could not attend.

County 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 and approval was requested for signature when done as this landfill is under the responsibility of the City/County for ongoing maintenance and monitoring. PDC has already completed their report for what will be Landfill #3, which they will operate when completed.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Air 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.

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

## **PEORIA COUNTY BOARD, April 11**

The Peoria County Board met at 6 p.m., April 11, at the Peoria County Courthouse, with Chairman Andrew Rand presiding.

Two agenda items brought a large number of people to the public comment portion near the beginning of the meeting. Many people commented. One topic was a County Board resolution to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (DOA) with four proposals for improvements to the Livestock Management Act.

Current state regulations do not allow counties any authority regarding large facilities confining hogs, cows or other animals; counties can only request a public hearing if the number of animals is above 1,000 animal units; no assessment of adequate water supply is required for a new CAFO and CAFOs have only a .5 mile setback from most towns. The proposed County resolution addressed these points with recommendations for improvements.

A large CAFO was approved by the state DOA for .58 miles south of Princeville and the number of animals was 20 below the requirement for allowing a public hearing. Many county citizens raised issues to the Board about this, including a rural subdivision that has concerns about their well water supply. This CAFO will have a new well and use millions of gallons of water a day. There was a large num-

ber of Farm Bureau members at the meeting and many spoke in opposition to the County proposal stating that farmers are stewards of the land and there is no need to require any assessment of groundwater or allow any county authority with a vote on location of CAFOs.

At the meeting the County Board did pass a recommendation that the DOA add a provision to the current regulations to allow a new minimum setback of 1.5 miles from the corporate limits of a municipality that has an adopted land use plan and adopted zoning ordinance, with a provision included that the municipality may waive the setback.

The issue that had several public comments regarded funding for the County Auditor's Office, with citizens stating concerns regarding the need for more funding and supporting the Auditor's request for increased funds. The County Board voted to approve an increase of \$68,500 for the FY 2019 Auditor's budget, which will allow hiring of additional staff. Currently the Department has only two staff: the Auditor and one assistant.

——— Joyce Blumenshine

### **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?**

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

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

Washington meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 6:30 - and as Committee of the Whole 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 456 Fulton,  
Suite 420.

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

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

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

And, there are other governmental units to observe, such as: 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. Contact Cheryl [c\\_budzinski@hotmail.com](mailto:c_budzinski@hotmail.com) for more information.

### **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

Farrell, Connie, Sandy, Sherry, and Cheryl traveled to Springfield on April 10 for League Lobby Day. We spoke to Senators Koehler and Weaver and Representatives Gordon-Booth and Spain about a variety of League issues including the Fair Tax amendment. The legislation to put the graduated rate income tax constitutional amendment on the 2020 ballot has passed the Senate and awaits a House vote.

You, as a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, should get emails from the state League — LWVIL — with the subject line "TFA" which is Time for Action. TFA's include a basic explanation of the issue and the League's support or opposition and a request for you to call your reps. Please consider taking a few minutes to do that. We as individuals must participate. If we rely on lobbyists - who is paying them? Do you? So whose interests are they working for? Probably not mine or yours. Sounds cynical. Yes, the League uses lobbyists at times and so does the city and county and other organizations that you and I belong to. But, many more lobbyists are paid by industries which have vested interests and some may donate money to campaigns.

Please call your representative about the Fair Tax bill. And, follow up on future Time For Action requests - the ones you agree with.

Cheryl Budzinski  
(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](http://www.lwvgp.org)**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

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