



Volume 72 Issue 7

July 2019

### President's Message

## Convention Snapshot

The 59<sup>th</sup> Biennium of League of Women Voters of Illinois was energizing. It was a good opportunity to meet members from other areas of the state, as well as share our activities.

The Convention reaffirmed the League commitment to strengthen the democratic process. We educate members and the public on issues. We promote civic participation in our communities. We encourage public policy outcomes consistent with our positions on issues. Time for Action alerts and Lobby Day promotions have been effective in reaching out to state and federal legislative representatives.

The following issues were reaffirmed for 2019-2021: Affordable Housing. Fiscal Policies. Gun Violence Prevention. Environmental Issues, including climate change, air quality, energy and water. Redistricting. Election Laws, including Voting Rights and Immigration. Abolition of the Electoral College. In addition, a study of Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice and Death Penalty Abolition was extended for two years.

LWVIL consists of 40 Leagues and four Member at Large (MAL) groups. As of January 31, membership is up more than 11 percent from 2018. That's 385 additional members, bringing the Illinois total to 3,676.

Voter Services, statewide, continues to focus on voter registration, voter education and voter engagement. As we look to the 2020 primary and fall election cycle, the state League has contracted with CivicEngine, the provider for Ballot Ready, to collect data on candidates. This change was based on the amount of time VOTE 411 has taken, as well as the reduced cost of CivicEngine (\$1,500 per election.) The new site will be Illinois Voter Guide. Some revised/new Voter Services policies are posted on the LWVIL website.

Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**12:30–1:30 Mon., July 8.** LWVGP board meeting, Peoria Public Library downtown.

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

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT!**

Renewal memberships continue to arrive. It is hoped that you will renew by mail or at the membership social on July 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the home of Roberta Parks, 401 Water Street, Apt. 802. You can use PayPal or the old "snail mail" method by mailing to P. O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786. In the event you did not receive the USPS mailing, please contact me and I'll e-mail the information to you.

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. These are not coming in as quickly as we had hoped. Please try to do so prior to July 31.

Thank you for helping the League Make Democracy Work!

Jan Deissler  
309-635-1872  
Jandeissler77@gmail.com

Linda Millen  
309-645-2542  
tchkids2@sbcglobal.net

Congratulations and thanks to our new members and to the Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt and Eleanor Roosevelt Members!

### **New members:**

Rita Kress  
Chris Schmidt  
Carol Seelig

### **Susan B. Anthony:**

Bettsey Barhorst  
Tracy & Rick Fox  
Lori Hanson  
Tim & Patty Howard  
Rob Parks  
Janet & Charles Roth  
Carol Seelig

Jan & Emil Deissle  
Joan French  
Mary & Alan Harkrader  
Ray Keithley  
Connie Torrey Romanus  
Chris Schmidt

### **Carrie Chapman Catt:**

Sandra Stemler

### **Eleanor Roosevelt:**

Rita Kress

**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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 31-50 \_\_\_\_\_  
 51-70 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Over 70 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rather not say \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic/racial : Black \_\_\_\_\_  
 Female \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asian \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (please indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

## **More on the State Convention from Our New State Board Member**

The convention, held in Champaign, was a good opportunity to get to know the new staff at LWVIL.

There had been four Executive Directors over the last year. Longtime Executive Director Mary Schaafsma died rather unexpectedly. Henrietta Saunders temporarily led us. Krista Grimm, longtime environmental activist for LWVIL who organized the Lake Michigan ILO, was named Interim Director.

Finally, an extensive search brought Audra Wilson to be our Executive Director. Audra is a public interest attorney, with a depth of experience in poverty law and diversity. She's a good choice to lead our organization, since the mission is to further a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

I met Marlo Carthen, Administrative Manager, and Morgan Lyn, Marketing & Communications Specialist, whom I have talked to.

LWVIL's Action Foci for 2019-21 is: Affordable Housing, Abolish the Electoral College, Environment (with Will of the Convention passing regarding specific global effort called the Climate Emergency Declaration), Graduated Rate Income Tax (which will be on the 2020 ballot), Violence Prevention, Immigration, and Redistricting.

I was elected to the state Board of Directors. I am the (only) downstate representative. The 2019-21 Board met after the convention and approved the budget with a whopping \$154,000 deficit and the direction to put together a Development Committee which will initially be the Board members. More on this as it develops.

———— Cheryl Budzinski

## **LWVGP WEBSITE**

WOW. I encourage your feedback on the website. Especially go to our Observer Reports. They are in chronological order. If you click on Observer Reports on the lower right bar, you may select the governmental unit you are interested in and see all the reports for two years for that unit of government.

Check it out: <https://www.lwvgp.org/news/category/observer-reports-logo>

And, while you're at it, check out the suffrage website: <https://suffrage2020illinois.org>

———— Cheryl Budzinski

## **OBSERVER TRAINING**

Connie and I participated in Observer Training done by LWVIL to help us make our reports more consistent and include important information but leave out the extras. This was very worthwhile. I have Observed for 24 years at various governmental meetings and learned some things. Connie has Observed for a couple of years. We are now certified as trained and would love to help some new Observers. Are you interested?

We are trying to set up training in Peoria from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 10. We need a minimum of 10 to get the program here (for free!) We will also ask Kewanee, McLean, and Champaign Leagues if they want to join us. It's a good program.

———— Cheryl Budzinski, Local Government Chair, [c\\_budzinski@hotmail.com](mailto:c_budzinski@hotmail.com)

## **PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, June 11**

Peoria City Council approved a resolution celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Illinois being the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, which allowed women to vote for elective office. At-large Councilwomen Beth Jensen and Rita Ali spoke to the motion.

There were a lot of questions about the Township of Peoria report. Large Ameren expenses and legal expenses were questioned. Supervisor Frank Abdnour responded.

Interesting discussion was held about the low bid on a culvert project since the contractor had sued the city. Counsel said they couldn't exclude the bid unless it was not a responsible bidder. Also noted was low participation by women/minority owned business. There was also discussion on the cleaning contracts for city buildings and which companies got larger contracts as it was broken down into three contracts.

There was discussion about a sole-source contract for police uniforms. Wear tests, inventory, and quality were important factors with the preferred brand only being available from one vendor.

The Annual Action Plan for submittal to HUD was approved to continue CBDG Program funding for Affordable Housing. Money should be available in late 2019. However, the Affordable Housing Plan Policy Session has not happened.

Under new business: Second District Councilman Charles Grayeb spoke about massage parlor licensing; Third District Councilman Tim Riggensbach spoke about firework, new SSA in East Bluff; Fourth District Councilman Jim Montelongo about "ring", Jensen about public meetings of City Link; Ali about planning for cannabis; and At-large Councilman John Kelly about his attire.

—— Cheryl Budzinski, Observer

## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, June 3**

The regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting was scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. on June 3, at 100 S. Richard Pryor Place in Peoria. There were three Commissioners present at this time. Due to lack of a quorum, the meeting did not begin until 5:25 p.m.

In the interim wait, a new employee introduction was made, two FSS graduates were introduced. In addition, two NICHA Scholarship Award recipients were presented; one recipient has completed her BSN in Nursing.

This observer questioned the PHA Secretary regarding lack of availability of Board packets or meeting minutes on PHA website. Response was that many documents had been submitted to be posted on website and not in her control. Meeting Agenda was posted on PHA website. Statement, "Our website is under construction, please check back", continues to be posted.

Minutes of regular meeting minutes of May 6, 2019 and special session meeting minutes May 13, 2019 were approved. Chief Executive Officer was not present and report not available at the meeting. Consent Agenda used; no discussion on Reports or Resolution #060319-01, approval of contract for painting services. Under Resident and Safety Committee discussion took place: capital budget funding for security cameras in place, as well as grant application; plan to add camera in 2700 block of Trewyn. Officer Jenkins reported results of review of 24 records of individuals not allowed on PHA properties since 2017 and recommended list be purged. There has not been any Board action on list since 2013; 805 on list. It was recommended that PHA Managers of various sites review list to ensure no current issues exist prior to deleting individuals from this list. A policy will be developed regarding conditions

for prohibiting individuals from PHA properties and review with Safety Committee. Commissioner Canon asked about the Resource Center for after school activities at Taft. This will be explored and a report presented to Board. Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

## **SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, June 18**

With Linda Daley as chair, the meeting was convened. No additions were made to the agenda and the May 21 minutes were approved. Mark Matusak presented the Manager's Report.

- o CloudPoint staff is completing training staff. They were thorough and available. Organization is the focus at this point.

- o The number of burials is consistent with last year, to date, but lower than numbers for previous years. Purchasing is up. The marketing of the Scattering Garden has encouraged more traffic and calls regarding more information. There was suggestion by the Board that the Manager's Report should continue to report burials as well as sales in order to provide a clearer picture for business activity and incoming revenues.

- o Springdale received a State Capital Grant for \$100,000. A portion will be identified for the "Shaft" project, if needed, in order to reach the project's fund raising goals. The Board discussed the overwhelming need for those funds to repair infrastructure such as roads and maintenance equipment and buildings on the Cemetery's grounds.

- o The "Shaft" project ground-breaking event will be held Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m..

- o Negotiations regarding the North Central Extension/Savanna Conservation Easement continue. A proposal has been submitted and the Board is awaiting a reply.

- o The Prairie Gardens Ribbon Cutting Event was a success and covered by a number of outlets. More inquiries and sales are starting to come in to the office as a result of the event and advertising. Full page ads were placed in a number of local and state magazines. There are also billboards at the corners of War Memorial/University and Sheridan/Glen.

- o Two family burial sites have been negotiated and are soon to be closed.

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

- o The Board discussed and approved a change to the by-laws to allow attendance and voting by phone. They agreed they would monitor this change in board meeting protocol for abuse in the form of low personal attendance.

- o \$18,050 was obtained by the Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation for the restoration of 11 monuments in the Cemetery.

- o The slate of Officers for 2019-2020 was presented and approved by the Board: Linda Daley, Chair. Bob Manning, Vice Chair. Jim Stuttle, Treasurer. Becky Doubleday, Secretary.

- o Upcoming Events: Sept. 8 – IVC Half marathon race  
Weekends of Oct 5 & 12 – Prairie Folklore Player Performances  
Oct. 11 – Tentative Dedication Ceremony for the "SHAFT"

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

## **ELECTION COMMISSION, June 11**

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 11, for its regular monthly meeting. All were present except for Commissioner Sandra Burke who arrived after the business part of the meeting was completed.

Also present was Chief Circuit Judge Paul Gilfillan. Board Chairman David Collins resigned that day because of a change in employment. Judge Gilfillan swore in new Commissioner James Manning at the end of the meeting. Matt Bartolo will serve as Board Chairman until the end of the fiscal year in August.

There was very little business to attend to since there are no pending elections. Director Tom Bride went over expenses for the month and reported that, in spite of his two trips to the state legislature, no bills were passed this spring that would affect the Commission's work. The office staff is working on new voter cards, which need to go out this summer.

The Commission passed a resolution honoring the work of David Collins as Chairman. The staff gave him a framed copy of a ballot from his own precinct during a presidential election that had his signature as chairman of the Commission.

The Commission then went into executive session to discuss litigation. In previous meetings, it was learned the owner of the property that houses the Election Commission had filed a lawsuit about insurance and property taxes.

———— Irene Pritzker, Observer

## **PEORIA COUNTY BOARD, June 13**

The Peoria County Board held its regular meeting on June 13. Board Chairman Andrew Rand and members entered the room shortly after 6 p.m. Chairman Rand apologized the meeting was beginning late and explained there had been a memorial to recently deceased member Dr. Greg Adamson. Flowers were in place at the regular desk location for Dr. Adamson.

Four proclamations were followed by the consent agenda and three zoning cases for final vote, which were approved.

———— 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>

———— Farrell Davies



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**

**12:30–1:30 Mon., July 8.**

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**5:30-7:30 p.m. Wed. July 17.**

Annual membership renewal event, Roberta Parks' home, 401 Water St.

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors  
2018-2019**

Constance Romanus, President  
309.264.9113  
[president@lwvgp.org](mailto:president@lwvgp.org)

Kathie Raiborn, 1st V-P  
Terry Kohlbus, 2nd V-P & Treasurer  
Sandy Stemler, Secretary

Cheryl Budzinski   Farrell Davies   Spanky Edwards   Kirsten Hall   Tim Howard   Terry Bibb Knight   Roberta Parks   Jamila Wilson

**Newsletter**

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