



Volume 72 Issue 8

August 2019

President's Message

## Moving forward

Thank you to Rob Parks for hosting the League Social event in July and to all who participated to make it an enjoyable evening for new and existing members!

At the July Board Meeting of LWVGP, Clare Howard, editor of The Community Word, gave some history into the monthly newspaper and discussed coordinating with the League on its Local Government Observation (LOGO) reports. The Board unanimously approved working with The Community Word on this. Terry Bibb Knight will have the column by-line and control of what issues to write. Articles will be researched and fact-based. Terry will focus on one topic and link her column to the LWVGP website.

This collaboration is a win-win for both the League and The Community Word in that it expands reporting on local government bodies and gives the League a wider audience for LOGO reports. Thank you to Terry Bibb Knight for leading this effort!

And don't forget to watch the "At Issues" program on township government, which will be aired at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1, on WTVP.

Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Sat., Aug. 10.** Observer training at the Peoria Public Library downtown, LL2, large meeting room.

**12:30-1 p.m. Mon., Aug. 12.** LWVGP Board Meeting, Peoria Downtown Library, LL1.

**5-6:30 p.m. Wed., Aug. 21.** Drinks & Dialogue: Peoria's Five Year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Urban Development Funds (HUD).

**4 p.m. Wed. Sept. 4.** Voter Services Committee, Panera's on Sterling Ave.

**6 p.m. Thurs. Sept. 5.** General Meeting: Abolishment of Electoral College.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT!**

A huge thank you to Roberta Parks for opening her home for the Membership Social in July. The food was delicious, the attendees were many and all agreed that it was a great opportunity to meet and get to know other members better. Thank you to all who brought food or drink and to those of you who attended. We are very close to last year's total thanks to the new members. We are hopeful that many of you will renew your membership. September 15 is the date that all unpaid members from 2018-19 will be dropped from the roster.

We would like for you to complete an Interest Survey. If you no longer have the one you received in the mailing, please contact one of us and we will e-mail you another copy. Many of the committees still need members.

Thank you for helping the League Make Democracy Work!

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**Congratulations and thanks to our New Members and to the Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt and Eleanor Roosevelt Members**

**Welcome to new members – 2019-2020**

**Carolyn Close  
Spanky Edwards  
Kirsten Hall  
Rita Kress  
Carol Seelig  
Jamila Wilson**

**Diana Delicath  
Jessica Hall  
Kathleen Kelly  
Chris Schmidt  
Ruth Urbanc  
Karen Zichterman**

**Susan B. Anthony:**

**Bettsey Barhorst  
Cheryl & Ron Budzinski  
Tracy & Rick Fox  
Lori Hanson  
Mary & Alan Harkrader  
Tim & Patty Howard  
Terry Bibb & Bill Knight  
Terry & Larry Matthews  
Roberta Parks  
Connie Torrey Romanus  
Sid Ruckriegel  
Ruth Urbanc**

**Shirley Belke  
Jan & Emil Deissler  
Joan French  
Joyce Harant  
Sherry Hillman  
Ray Keithley  
Jack & Kathy Leson  
Judge Michael McCuskey  
Irene Pritzker  
Janet & Charles Roth  
Carol Seelig**

**Carrie Chapman Catt:**

**Elliott Murray  
Sandra Stemler**

**Eleanor Roosevelt:**

**Rita Kress**

## **Drinks & Dialogue, Aug. 21**

Neighborhoods are the cornerstone to vibrant, livable communities. Each year the City of Peoria receives federal entitlement funding from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in addition to local funds for neighborhood improvement programs and activities.

Over \$3 million in city, state and federal funds are invested annually in Peoria neighborhoods for housing preservation and development, neighborhood revitalization, public services and capital improvement. Kathryn Murphy, Grants Manager with City of Peoria Planning Department, will discuss the City's five year plan for HUD funds from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 21 at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria.

Join the discussion, give input on use of HUD funding and learn how the Grants Management Division strives to meet the needs of Peoria's citizens and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Social time starts at 5 p.m. Meeting will be facilitated by Kathleen Kelly, Chair for Drinks & Dialogue.

———— Connie Romanus

## **OBSERVER TRAINING**

We encourage YOU, our League members, to become Observers. Please consider participating in Observer Training offered by LWVIL:

**10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

**Saturday, Aug. 10.**

**Peoria Public Library, Lower Level 2, large meeting room.**

**107 N.E. Monroe, Peoria 61602**

If you decide to be an Observer, you pick the governmental unit to Observe. You must be willing to: attend meetings and write an Observer Report which will be posted on our website and in the newsletter.

A "seasoned" Observer will attend the first two meetings with a newbie Observer. We have a form to use as a guide. After that first meeting the two Observers talk about what should/could be written and the seasoned Observer writes that first report and emails it to the newbie for input. Then the seasoned person emails the report to newsletter person (Terry Bibb), Connie Romanus (President) and Cheryl (Local Gov't Observer chair who posts on our website.) After the second meeting, the two Observers discuss what should/could be included and newbie writes up the report and sends the report to the seasoned Observer for edits. After any editing, newbie sends report to Terry Bibb, Connie Romanus, and Cheryl.

I hope you will consider becoming an Observer. There are so few reporters at our public meetings and someone should keep track of what is going on. Call me if you are interested.

I need to tell LWVIL who is attending on August 10, so enough packets will be prepared.

———— Cheryl Budzinski, Local Government Chair, (309) 253-9594

## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, July 1**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for PHA was held at 4:30 p.m. July 1. The meeting began without a quorum. There were no community comments presented.

One new employee was introduced and one FSS graduate was recognized. First District Council Person Denise Moore was present and discussed formation of Fair Housing and Fair Employment Commission. No further business took place until Commissioner Alma Brown arrived at 4:59 p.m.

Minutes from the June 3 meeting were approved. Jackie Newman, Chief Executive Officer, discussed changes for PHA property at Taft Homes and a plan that complements the city revitalization plan. Commissioner Helen King asked if residents would be included in planning at Taft; the response was affirmative. Harrison Resource Center was set to hold its Grand Opening July 15. The consent agenda (reports) had no items pulled.

A resolution to approve early start development agreement with BEAR Development of Taft Homes through Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program was approved. Other resolutions passed were for replacement of the roof top air-conditioning unit at the administration building, authorization to contract for a software system and services to improve accounting and management systems which will improve compliance reporting. Lastly, a contract was approved for renovation of bathrooms at scattered site housing.

Representatives from Bear Development presented information on the Taft project and similar projects they have done in other communities. Regular meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m., and the Board went into closed session.

The meeting agenda was available on line and at the meeting; this observer was provided a Board packet with minutes from prior meeting, financial reports and information from Bear Development. Board packet and approved meeting minutes are not available on PHA website, [www.peoriahousing.org](http://www.peoriahousing.org).

— Connie Romanus, Observer

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

With Board Chair Linda Daley convening the meeting, the Board introduced themselves to new Board Member Pam Johnson.

June minutes were approved. There was no public comment, although Mike Rucker attended to give his quarterly update regarding the Prairie Gardens volunteer activity and fund incentives.

A representative from the Illinois Valley Striders requested use of the cemetery and offered assistance in return. The Striders would like to hold a Halloween Run at 6 p.m. Oct. 31. (Sunset is 6:58 p.m. that day, and most similar races take 30 to 40 minutes.) The Striders would then volunteer to coordinate with maintenance staff for spring cleanup.

Run/walk participants consist of a variety of ages, young and old. People will be stationed at different locations along the route with candy and treats for those participating. There will be precautions taken to ensure safety. The Board approved the event.

The Foundation audit report presentation was postponed because the audit is not complete.

Mark Matusak presented the Manager's Report

o He recapped CloudPoint services, which creates a system of mapping the cemetery for greater

efficiency. The time estimate was one year, with completion after an additional three to six months at no additional cost. The ongoing price for maintenance with CloudPoint is a fraction of the cost paid to the previous service provider and the information provided to customers is much improved.

- o Negotiations regarding the North Central Extension/Savanna Conservation Easement seem to be coming to a close in August. Two agreements are necessary for closure: a Conservation Agreement and an updated Management Agreement.

- o Matusak gave a “pat on the back” to all of the grounds staff. He suggested that if the Board had not visited the cemetery grounds recently that they should so they can see how great everything looks. He said this was accomplished with less staff and bad weather. He said that he and his office staff have received positive comments regarding the grounds.

- o Prairie Gardens ads in area publications and billboards have created a lot of interest. Many people stop by or call for more information. Many of the visitors are returning. Mr. Matusak said that he felt that the learning curve for people regarding a scattering garden opportunity for their loved ones is one of the reasons it may take families longer to make a final decision. There were three scatterings and one niche placement this month.

- o There is a hold on the Shaft Project pending an update. Bruce Brown will attend the August meetings of both the Springdale Cemetery Foundation and Authority Board to clarify progress and details requested. The presentation will consist of information regarding funds raised, funds spent, cost of project, and projected completion date.

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

- o Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation Report: The Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation funds were used to restore 11 statues in the Cemetery. This is completed and they are now focusing on the Soldier’s Monument and two other statues needing repair. The Foundation will also be planning and conducting a tour in August or September, and a Strategic Session is planned for August.

State of Illinois Capital Grant: The Chair asked the Board to review the minutes from last month regarding the distribution of funds, which may be discussed at the August meeting.

Upcoming Events:

July 24 – South Side Mission Tour

Sept 8 – IVC Half Marathon Race

Weekends of Oct 5 & 12 – Prairie Folklore Player Performances

Oct 11 – Tentative Dedication Ceremony for the “SHAFT”

Oct 31 – IVS 5K Run

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

## **LWVIL Annual Luncheon**

The League of Women Voters of Illinois will hold its annual luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the Metropolitan Club in Chicago. The topic is “Why Time is Now for Equal Pay.”

Check website for registration information.

————— Connie Romanus

## **ELECTION COMMISSION, July 9**

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 9, with Commissioner Reed out of town and Commissioner Burke arriving ten minutes late.

There was not a lot of business to conduct since there are no pending elections. During the discussion of expenses, Director Tom Bride explained that he wanted the payments for Ameren and the cleaners to be pre-approved since they were not expected until after the monthly meeting. This way he could avoid late payments since he knew approximately what those amounts would be.

Director Bride and his staff have started working on next year's budget. He anticipates an increase of 11.57 percent in total expenses because it will be a presidential election year. This takes into account an increase in vote-by-mail. He believes the Board will be under budget this year and plans to use some of the excess money to buy supplies for next year. The director will sit down with the Peoria County administrator at the end of July to go over the proposed budget. The Election Commission will need to approve it at the August meeting, with the County Board voting on it in November.

—— Irene Pritzker, 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)**

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

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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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