



Volume 72 Issue 9

September 2019

President's Message

Moving forward

Summer is winding down and Labor Day is in the rearview mirror! I hope you enjoyed the season visiting with family and friends, relaxing, and enjoying the many local farmer's markets.

As fall approaches, Voter Services Committee will be creating opportunities for members to plan and participate in candidate forums, as well as voter registration. With the 2020 election cycle coming up, voter participation is more important than ever.

Upcoming issues the League is focusing on include abolishing the Electoral College, the importance of the 2020 Census, gun violence and Fair Income Tax for Illinois. Come join us at the September 5 General Meeting to hear Rosemary Heilemann and Bonnie McNeill, LWVIL Issues Specialists, discuss the Electoral College.

Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1 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, AMT.
- 12:30–1 p.m. Mon., Sept. 9.** LWVGP Board Meeting, Peoria Downtown Library, LL1.
- 5-6:30 p.m. Wed., Sept. 18.** Drinks & Dialogue: Caryl Riley of the U.S. Census Bureau will discuss the American Community Survey, Lariat Club.
- Sept. 20.** Naturalization Ceremony.
- 6 p.m. Thurs. Oct. 3.** General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Happy September! It is not too late to renew your League Membership for 2019-2020. It is necessary to send a check to the Post Office Box as PayPal has been temporarily deactivated. September 15 will be the date you will be deleted from the Active Data Base in the event you have not paid your dues. Please mail your check to: P.O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786. In the event you did not receive the postal 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. If you need a new copy, please e-mail Jan at jandeissler77@gmail.com. One will be sent to you as an attachment.

Thank you to those who have joined at the Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt and Eleanor Roosevelt levels. Those extra funds assist in the work of the League.

Congratulations to Nancy Long, a new member, and our 100th member so far this year. We are happy to have Nancy as part of our League.

Thank you for helping the League Make Democracy Work!

Jan Deissler
309-635-1872
[Jandeissler77@gmail.com](mailto: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

Welcome to new members:

- **Carolyn Close**
- **Diane Delicath**
- **Kathleen Kelly**
- **Nancy Long**
- **Chris Schmidt**
- **Carol Seelig**
- **Ruth Urbanc**
- **Karen Zickterman**

Susan B. Anthony:

- Kim Armstrong
- Bettsey Barhorst
- Shirley Belke
- Joyce Blumenshine & David Trachtenberg
- Cheryl & Ron Budzinski
- Farrell Davies
- Jan & Emil Deissler
- Tracy & Rick Fox
- Joan French
- Lori Hanson
- Joyce Harant
- Mary & Alan Harkrader
- Sherry Hillman
- Tim & Patty Howard
- Ray Keithley
- Terry & Bill Knight
- Kathy & John Leson
- Terry & Larry Matthews
- Rob Parks
- Irene Pritzker
- Kathie Raiborn
- Joy Rennich
- Connie Torrey Romanus
- Janet & Charles Roth
- Sid Ruckriegel
- Carol Seelig

Carrie Chapman Catt:

- Elliott Murray
- Sandra Stemler

Eleanor Roosevelt:

- Rita Kress

VOTER SERVICES, Sept. 4

The committee will meet at 1 p.m. Sept. 4 at the Panera's in Westlake. We are looking for new committee members. If interested, please contact Roberta Parks at 309-231-1724. We will begin looking at potential candidate forums for the March 17, 2020 primary election with hopes of getting dates and locations established so once candidates have filed, we can get on their schedules.

Additionally, we will be looking at where and when we should be registering new voters beyond the naturalization ceremonies that we have done for many years. If you are a deputy registrar and willing to help with this, please let us know.

——— Roberta Parks

GENERAL MEETING: Electoral College, Sept. 5

The Greater Peoria League of Women Voters will host a presentation, "Why We Should Abolish the Electoral College" from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, at Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 N. Sterling.

Rosemary Heilemann and Bonnie McNeill will discuss how the Electoral College polarizes our electorate and artificially divides our nation into so-called "red" states and "blue" states and exaggerates our sense of being a nation divided. Learn how the Electoral College has been shown to impact voter turnout, as well as the role of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC).

Ms. Heilemann and Ms. McNeill are Issues Specialists with the League of Women Voters of Illinois. The event is free and the public is invited.

——— Connie Romanus

DRINKS & DIALOGUE, Sept. 18

Caryl Riley is a Partnership Specialist for the 2020 Decennial operations at the U.S. Census Bureau. She has worked for the Bureau since 2010, working on Decennial and Special Census initiatives.

She will address the genesis of the American Community Survey, other Census Data collection activities, and how all these things are different from — but work with — the Decennial Census that will be conducted in April 2020.

Join the discussion from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wed., Sept. 18 at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria. Social time starts at 5 p.m.

——— Katie Kelly

LWVGP BOARD, Aug. 12

The Board of LWVGP voted to send a letter of support to Illinois Department of Natural Resources regarding Peoria Park District's application for OSLAD/ LWCF funding toward purchase of parcels that currently comprise Forest Park Nature Center.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria supports this project because of our State League position on Land Use including:

Supporting "...land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conservation of natural resources, preservation of open space and protection of prime agricultural land from lesser uses and intensive development..."

As per LWVGP's guidelines, the request was made by member Joyce Bluemenshine. Member Cheryl Budzinski presented the LWVIL position and letter of support to the Board, which agreed. The letter was mailed by LWVGP President Connie Romanus to Illinois Department of Natural Resources that day.

—— Cheryl Budzinski

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, Aug. 5

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Peoria Housing Authority (PHA) Board of Commissioners was held Aug. 5 at Taft Homes. Commissioners Tekia Childs and Renee Andrews were absent.

Chairman Carl Cannon informed the audience that additional board members would be present next meeting. The meeting started on time. Meeting agenda posted on web site; no additional information or approved meeting minutes posted at time of this meeting. Many residents of Taft Homes were present, anticipating discussion of the future plans to renovate Taft Homes. Chairman Cannon explained that the plans would be shared with residents at public meetings as soon as they were available. There were no public comments. Jackie Neuman, CEO, gave her report and shared copies of PHA quarterly newsletter. Monthly Board meetings will be held at various PHA sites for improved communication with residents.

Meeting minutes from regular session meeting of July 1 and closed session meeting of July 1 were approved. Reports passed by consent agenda; resolution passed for collection write-offs that have been determined uncollectable. Resolution to consider, discuss and vote on River West contract with related management was tabled until September meeting. There was no New Business or Old Business. Under Board Comments,

Chairman Cannon commented on the summer school program held at Taft; and that the Taft Resource Center would be opening in the future. In addition, fall registration for Lincoln school would be held at Taft site. Commissioner King expressed appreciation for the residents who attended the meeting.

The Board adjourned for closed session at 4:49 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held Sept. 3 at Sterling Towers. Meeting was covered by Peoria Journal Star. Board packet, including minutes of July 1 regular meeting were provided to this observer at the meeting.

Review of PHA website, www.peoriahousing.org, shows site has agenda for April – August 2019, but no board packets or approved meeting minutes for 2019. There is a notice that the site is under construction.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, Aug. 20

With Linda Daley chairing, the meeting convened at 4 p.m. All Board Members were present in person or on the phone. No additions were made to the agenda and the July 16 minutes were approved. There was no Public Comment.

Presentation/Update from the shaft Civil War Monument Committee (CWMC). Last month, the Authority Board requested a presentation at the August Board Meeting to answer the following questions: funds raised, funds spent, cost of project, and projected completion date.

Committee Members from the 1866 Civil War Monument Restoration Team were present. Contents of the presentation included supporting documentation and the presentation itself. The steps taken in the process to initiate the project were:

- * March 6, 2019 – A contract was signed by Bruce Brown, as CWMC member, with Otto Baum Company, Inc. to perform and complete work needed such as: engineering, design, restoration and re-erection of the Civil War Monument Project.
- * An on-going search for stones from the original monument continued. A number of stones have been recovered and restored. Those stones that were missing were reproduced by the company that made the original stones.
- * May 22, 2019 – At a public hearing of the Historic Preservation Committee, a request by the Springdale Historic Preservation Foundation was submitted to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for landscaped architecture including a monument, sign, and pavers for the project from the Commission. Gail Thetford, a member of the CWMC and applicant representative,

summarized the request for the civil war monument at the cemetery and its history. The request was approved by the Commission with a reminder that a building permit will be required.

* Fundraising efforts began seeking and obtaining government donations, grants, matching gifts, organizational gifts and individual gifts. It was noted that all funds go directly to the project. Advertising, mailing costs, and other expenses have been donated in-kind.

* Budget for project \$45,540. So far, \$31,100 has been paid, with a remaining payment of \$18,140 for erection of the monument. With respect to any future costs for maintenance or landscaping, the Authority Board was advised that there is a current surplus of \$5,440 in the account, with an available Caterpillar Inc. match in April of 2020 of \$1,950 for a total of \$7,390.

*The projected completion date is on time with the deadline for the October 11 Dedication Ceremony. The building permit is ready to sign and submit upon approval of the Board.

After discussion, there were comments regarding the need of Authority Board Members to review the information presented for due diligence purposes. This was the first report submitted by the CWM Committee. Board Member Jim Stuttle made a motion to convene a special meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3, for the Board to have time to review the information and have informed discussion. The motion was seconded and was approved by the Board. This deadline for approval to move forward will allow the project to be completed on schedule.

Mark Matusak presented a written report and for the sake of time made comment on only one of the items regarding the grounds. Jessica Young, a member of both the Authority Board and the Historic Preservation Foundation, has initiated a tour of the Cemetery roads with Joe Adams & Don Forrest (representatives from the Farnsworth Group) to assess the cemetery's roadway needs. Their proposal for the work will be submitted at the September Authority Board Meeting.

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

Jessica Young, representing the Foundation, reported that they have received funds that will be used to restore remaining statues in the cemetery that still need attention. In order to supplement the existing funds, there was discussion of a possible "adopt a statue" program. It was also mentioned that the Foundation Board was considering asking Cindy Bertino to serve on the Foundation Board.

The Board discussed the plan for advertising the "Shaft" event and will entertain discussion and planning at the special meeting on Sept. 3. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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"

ELECTION COMMISSION, AUG. 16

The Annual Meeting of the Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners on August 16 included Chief Judge Paul Gilfillan swearing in Mark Ketterer and Sandra Burke. Election of Commission Officers included Matt Bartolo, Chair; Mark Ketterer, Vice Chair; Sandra Burke, Secretary; LaColis Reed, Treasurer; and James Manning, Commissioner.

Reed's term ends in 2020. Bartolo and Manning's terms end in 2021. Ketterer and Burke's terms end in 2022. The Chief Judge appoints the commissioners and considers political party affiliation as part of the appointments.

Executive Director Tom Bride discussed the additional security measures (cameras and security badge additions) installed recently with grant money. Training videos for election judges are being done professionally. Budget was approved to be sent to Peoria County. (Notes: Building rental was up \$9,500 due to real estate tax dispute. Lease is 15 year with five-year bump, if desired. Software and maintenance contract includes vendors in town for elections. All staff qualified for the County's longevity (five year) bonus this year. Election related costs are up because 2020 is a presidential election year.)

The County will write software regarding scanning ballot signatures. The Commission anticipates 15,000-20,000 vote-by-mail ballots and the existing vote-by-mail ballot includes inner and outer sealed envelopes. They are trying to change for efficiency since that type of voting is popular, but to still maintain total confidentiality.

Next meeting will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept 10.

Responses to public questions:

- o Number of polling places will stay the same. Reductions had been made two years ago.

- o Discussion about sending out new Voter Registration cards which is called "purging." This is mandated by the National Voter Registration Act (federal rule) every two years. Cards are sent to currently registered people in Peoria County. The Post Office is supposed to return any if the address is wrong. They discussed positives with this process. Comment was made that it seems like "voter suppression" but good to have the

explanation.

- o Regarding polling locations, most are free – as a community service. If paid, it is \$50-\$60.

- o Suggestion was made about having a drop-off slot for mail-in ballots. That seemed to be a security issue, although noting that the State of Oregon uses all mail-in or drop off voting.

——— Cheryl Budzinski, Observer, substituting for Irene Pritzker

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, July 25

The monthly meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission met on July 25 with only eleven of the 21 members present. There was not a quorum for a regular meeting, but there were enough members of the executive committee to hold an executive meeting.

The meeting started with a presentation by Jake Hamann of the Peoria Innovation Alliance. He told of plans for an Innovation District in downtown Peoria, as well as plans for Peoria to become a Smart City. Russ Crawford stressed that there should be collaboration between the various groups involved in these projects.

In regular business, the Commission approved letting a five year old line of credit expire since it was used only once and that was four years ago. They approved putting new salary ranges into the employee handbook and giving employees a 2 percent pay increase. That had already been approved in the budget. The Commission approved the use of a consultant to assist with a Regional Autonomous Mobility Conference that will be held in Peoria this fall. They also discussed the Strategic Planning Session that will be held on Saturday, October 5.

——— Irene Pritzker
Jamila Wilson



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvgp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

1 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, AMT.

12:30–1 p.m. Mon., Sept. 9. LWVGP Board Meeting, Peoria Downtown Library, LL1.

5-6:30 p.m. Wed., Sept. 18. Drinks & Dialogue: Caryl Riley of the U.S. Census Bureau will discuss the American Community Survey, Lariat Club.

Sept. 20. Naturalization Ceremony.

6 p.m. Thurs. Oct. 3. General Meeting.

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria 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

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

Newsletter

terry.bibo.freelance@gmail.com