



Volume 72 Issue 10

October 2019

President's Message

Falling up

Autumn colors, pumpkins, cooler weather . . . fall has come and our League members are busy:

League members testified before the Illinois EPA regarding coal ash clean up. Voter Services Committee is not only registering voters, but preparing for local candidate elections next spring. Two members attended training with the City of Peoria Census Committee, so League members were invited to the Peoria Council meeting when Proclamation for 2020 Census was announced.

That gave me the opportunity to invite everyone to our Oct. 3 General Meeting. Caryl Riley, Partnership Specialist with the Chicago Regional Census Bureau, will discuss "What's At Stake: The Importance of the 2020 Decennial Census."

We meet at 6 p.m. at Advanced Medical Transport, 1718 N. Sterling Ave. Come and learn why it is important to count every resident — and the challenges with that — as well as how the League can be involved.

Looking forward to the 100th Anniversary celebration of the LWV, Farrell Davies has uncovered some interesting information as she works her way through years of documents and records. In 1920, the League identified its purpose was to "launch a national crusade that shall not end until the electorate is intelligent and clean." Issues identified in the early years include voter services, child welfare, women's rights and observing government at all levels. . . . issues that are still pertinent today!

Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

IMPORTANT DATES:

6 p.m. Thurs. Oct. 3. General Meeting: Importance of 2020 Census, AMT.

12:30–1 p.m. Mon., Oct. 14. LWVGP Board Meeting, Peoria Downtown Library, LL1.

5-6:30 p.m. Wed., Oct. 16. Drinks & Dialogue: Anthony Walraven discusses bond reform and what you can do about it, Lariat Club.

11:30 a.m., Tues., Oct. 22. Membership Committee plans spring fundraiser, 50's Diner at Metro Center.

6 p.m. Thurs. Nov. 7. General Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!

Help us celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment

2020 will mark 100 years since women got the right to vote in the U.S. Illinois gave women the right to vote for President of the United States and local school board members in 1913. Then on June 10, 1919, Illinois became the first state in the nation to ratify the 19th amendment. On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the final state necessary to ratify and make this right a part of the constitution.

LWVGP is joining together with the Peoria Historical Society, the Peoria Riverfront Museum, and the Peoria Public Library to mark this important milestone in our nation's history and the history of women's rights.

On June 9, 2020 we will host author Elaine Weiss, who wrote the book, "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote." She will deliver a lecture along with a cocktail party and book signing at the Giant Screen Theater at Peoria Riverfront Museum. Other parts of the celebration include Peoria Reads! designating this book as a special read in 2020, curated displays at Peoria Public Library's Main facility and Peoria Riverfront Museum, special historical tours highlighting women and Peoria organizations involved in the suffrage movement, and much more.

If you have an idea how an organization you belong to can mark this important anniversary, please let us know by calling Roberta Parks at 309.231.1724. And watch for more information on the celebration!

—— Roberta Parks

LWVGP TESTIFIES

Several LWVGP members attended and spoke at the Sept. 10 Illinois EPA Listening Session on the importance of cleaning up coal ash sites. Our League President Connie Romanus discussed public health, water contamination and transparency issues. Other members spoke as concerned citizens regarding issues related to the coal ash site next to the Illinois River, above our aquifer. The coal ash ponds are loaded with heavy metals.

Thank you to all who attended.

For more information, see the Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club website. The article titled, "Cap and Run" is very informative.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois/speak-out-coal-ash-september-10th-peoria>

Our League participates in the Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance and is looking for a League member to represent us at their meetings. Interested? Email Cheryl at c_budzinski@hotmail.com or Connie at president@lwvgp.org.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Fall is upon us! It is not too late to renew your League membership for 2019-2020. It is necessary to send a check to the P.O Box as PayPal has been deactivated. Members who did not pay their dues by Sept. 15 were deleted from the LWVUS and LWVIL data bases.

Please mail your check to: P.O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786. If you did not receive the mailing, please contact me. I'll e-mail the information to you.

Perhaps you have completed an Interest Survey in the past. We are asking you 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. We have one new additional member at the Susan B. Anthony level. Those extra funds assist in the work of the League.

We are always at the General Meetings and Drinks & Dialogue and can accept cash or checks at that time.

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

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Congratulations and thanks!

New

- Piper Petrocelli

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 Rennick, Connie Torrey Romanus, Janet & Charles Roth, Sid Ruckriegel, Carol Seelig, Lisa Uphoff.

Carrie Chapman Catt:

- Elliott Murray, Sandra Stemler.

Eleanor Roosevelt:

- Rita Kress

VOTER SERVICES

On Sept. 20, the Voter Services Committee registered newly naturalized citizens to vote. The ceremony was held at Peoria Academy and there were 98 people from 31 countries who became citizens of the U.S. that day. With help from several League members we were able to register 46 of them on site.

Additionally, the committee is looking at races in the March 17, 2020 primary election for candidate forums. There will be a contested primary for Democrats running for Peoria County State's Attorney and Peoria County Clerk at this point and we have a forum scheduled for Jan. 11, 2020 at the North Branch Library in Peoria. There will be more forums scheduled as candidates turn in their petitions and we will look closely at all the contested races to identify ones for forums. If you are interested in volunteering to help at any forum, please let Roberta Parks know by calling her at 309.231.1724.

—— Roberta Parks

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, Sept. 3

The regular monthly Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting was held on Sept. 3 at the PHA offices at Sterling Towers. The meeting started on time at 4:30 p.m.

Absent: Commissioners Helen King and Kadar Heffner. Two new Commissioners were introduced: Kim Furness and William Purham, Resident Representatives. Three people spoke during Community Comments: one resident expressed concern regarding unwanted behavior regarding drug use on property and lack of 24-hour surveillance. Commissioner Purham asked residents to follow up with him to report observations; Pastor Irene Lewis discussed programs her church is providing to residents at Harrison Homes and asked for meeting with PHA Leadership; another resident expressed concerns about lack of minority hiring of PHA residents.

Minutes of regular session meeting of Aug. 5 and closed session meeting minutes of Aug. 5 were approved unanimously. Jackie Newman, Executive Director gave her report to the Board: on Sept. 9, the administrative office will be closed part of the day for staff training on new software; resource centers at Taft and Harrison continue to be developed for residents; safety initiatives for high resolution camera installation at Taft and Harrison is in progress; PHA's five-year plan is due to HUD by Oct. 15 to include 2020 improvements, a five-year capital plan, continuum of care, current development, as well as future consideration for demolition of aged property. The plan also addresses block renewal grants and ensures PHA

meets required thresholds.

Reports were accepted by consent agenda. Resolution to approve agreement for installation cameras at Taft and Harrison Homes for \$59,400 was approved. Resolution for River West Management Contract was tabled as there was no agreement at this time. The Finance Committee did not meet this date due to lack of quorum; will report in October. Chairman Cannon thanked the residents that attended the meeting (approx. 35) and for expressing concerns to the Board. Residents were encouraged to communicate issues with Resident Commissioners. Cannon remained after meeting to talk with residents. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

— Connie Romanus

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM & 2020 AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN

The Peoria Housing Authority recently completed a series of public hearings to get input from citizens on their Five-Year Capital Fund Program (FY 2020-2024) and Annual Plan.

The U.S. Human Services and Urban Renewal Department (HUD) requires a 45-day public comment period, which started Aug. 21 and ends Oct. 4. Copies of the plans for public review can be obtained at the PHA offices, 100 Richard Pryor Place. There were five public meetings scheduled. Cheryl Budzinski and I attended on Sept. 9 at the PHA office at Harrison Homes. The meeting was led by Melissa Hofstadter; Kandace Simpson, PHA Administrative Assistant was present.

Melissa gave an overview of the specific developments and goals for sites for 2020. The PHA receives approximately \$1.5 million annually. It has two years to obligate funds and four years to expend them. Funds may not be used for routine maintenance. Funds can be designated for specific facility projects, such as roofs or HVAC, and sidewalk replacement. Other expenses such as safety and security are included. PHA has plans to install security cameras at several locations. Prior years' Capital Funds and Replacement Housing Funds are audited and reported to HUD. In addition, HUD requires reporting on occupancy and energy efficiency.

PHA works to complement the City of Peoria's Five-Year HUD plan. Future development activities include converting some of the Rental Assistance Development (RAD) units at Taft to Section 3, 16 units for Peoria plan and an additional 16 units for East Bluff expansion. Some of the projects will be mixed finance development. Demolition and disposal of obsolete units will be planned as well, based

on assessment required by HUD.

An overview of PHA policy updates was reviewed to include: Family Self-Sufficiency Action Plan, Public Housing Lease Agreement, Criminal Trespass Policy and Admissions & Continued Occupancy Plan.

The meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes. An agenda was available at the meeting locations.

—— Connie Romanus

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, Sept. 24

The Peoria City Council meeting on Sept. 24 included two informative presentations — the Peoria Civic Center budget and snow removal operations. Both are detailed in the agenda online.

Peoria Civic Center broke various records this past year and said those broken records in ticket sales and revenue would encourage additional big acts to consider our venue. Various suggestions from councilpersons were also made regarding performers and ways to make more money. Bottom line is, the Civic Center is still subsidized by tax dollars, but the successes also translate into additional dollars spent in our community on food, lodging, etc. And, the fact that the largest downtown hotel should open soon may increase the Civic Center bookings.

The snow removal presentation reiterated the City's policies and may soon include suggestions from councilpersons. Sidewalk snow removal at commercial sites is mandated to a four-foot width.

Interesting discussion regarding the new City Public Safety Fee which was approved last year to start collection this year. The revenue from the fee is part of the current budget. The agenda item was to hire a firm for \$90,000 to answer up to 100 calls per day for six months. (The city is understaffed and has only 46 lines for their entire operation. Staff said that questions are still coming in about the storm water utility fee more than a year after that fee began.)

Several councilpersons stated they didn't support the "fee" in December and wouldn't spend the money to help address implementation. It was quite a contentious discussion and a 6-5 vote.

—— Cheryl Budzinski

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, Sept. 17

Linda Daley chaired the regular Sept. 17 meeting and a quorum was present.

A special meeting was held on Sept. 3 regarding the “Shaft” Project. After reviewing the final report by the Shaft Committee, a lengthy discussion was held on how to proceed with the project. Bob Hoffer, Cindy Bertino and Gale Thetford commented, along with the Authority board. Jim Stuttle moved to approve the erection of the 1866 Civil War Monument and for the cemetery administration to work with Thetford, Hoffer and Bertino on media communications. An appropriate dedication ceremony is to be held at the site on or around Oct. 11. Becky Double-day seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Sept. 17 Authority Board meeting convened at 4 p.m. No additions were made to the agenda and the Aug. 20 minutes were approved. There was no public comment.

The 2018 Audit Report was presented by CliftonLarsonAllen. A clean audit was reported. Two items were notable but consistent with appropriate variances. A motion to receive and accept the report carried unanimously.

Mark Matuszak presented the Manager’s Report:

- o CloudPoint Mapping – Some minor issues have been resolved and the project is now moving forward at an accelerated pace. With these resolutions, it will not be necessary to purchase new PCs to support the updating process.

- o North Central Extension/Savanna Conservation Easement – Mike Miller, President of Peoria Wilds, reviewed the application and proposal submitted by Springdale Cemetery for the easement. Mr. Miller stated that seven out of eight components of the proposal were completed by SC, but there were some concerns with the development of easement document. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided by both parties to work through this document together to create and meet expectations. One issue that is important to the Peoria Wild’s Board is commitment by SC to create an agreement that guarantees a more narrow focus to protect the land in perpetuity.

- o Scattering Garden – The Garden has drawn a variety of inquiries. One unusual request was for information regarding the possibility of creating a scattering garden at a golf course. Also, a family from Chicago came to the office to pay for the scattering of their loved one, after the fact! There were a few smiles regarding these happenings!

Matuszak shared an article about the impact of cremation on cemeteries. He said the Scattering Garden is an innovative approach to new trends. The article stated that by 2040 there will be only a little over 15 percent burials. The approximate cost to retire the debt for the garden would be \$90,000. It is estimated that within 18 months to two years this debt will be paid in full.

- o The 2020 Budget will be presented to the Board at the October meeting for review.

- o The grounds are looking good. There has been some staff turnover but all positions are filled and work continues on schedule.

- o Norwood Section - Two family sites and a family mausoleum will be located in this section. Springdale is working closely with the families to create a plan to meet each family’s expectations.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:
Weekends of Oct 5 & 12 – Prairie Folklore Player Performances
2 p.m. Oct 12 – Dedication Ceremony for the “SHAFT”
Oct 31 – IVS 5K Run
Nov 11 – Veterans Day
Nov –Dec – Holiday Wreath Orders taken and placed

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

ELECTION COMMISSION, Sept. 10

The regular monthly meeting of the Peoria County Election Commission was held on Tuesday, Sept. 10. All members were present and early. Minutes and expenses were approved, as was the request for reimbursement for expenses related to the HAVA Security Grant. Additional cameras, door access panels, software, and training have already been added, but requests for reimbursement must now be submitted. Director Tom Bride will also be asking for partial reimbursement for some County expenses that were pushed by election needs.

Staff is currently looking at ballot readers, and a request for purchase (RFP) will go out once exact needs are determined. The State's Attorney was not present, but Director Bride reported that the County is getting close to a determination on the property tax issue (whether the landlord is responsible for real estate tax on the part of the building housing the election commission).

———— Irene Pritzker

PEORIA CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE, Sept. 18

The Peoria City/County Landfill Committee held its regularly scheduled 3 p.m. meeting on Sept. 18 at Peoria City Hall. Chairman Steve Morris presided.

A property owner near the landfill spoke of overflow problems from a roadside ditch and said water has been over an area of Cottonwood Road. He would like the water drained to the landfill as it is currently running onto his property. After discussion, Chairman Morris said he would phone the county highway engineer to look into the matter as it sounded more like a roadway ditch maintenance issue.

Chris Coulter of Peoria Disposal Company had a correction to the meeting minutes from the August committee meeting.

The Foth Engineering report covered several topics. There were two requests for Committee approval regarding groundwater monitoring actions for referral to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for Significant Permit Modification Applications.

One was to apply for increased nitrate levels as up-gradient wells showed increases, however, an alternate source demonstration will be made. There was also a request for approval to send the IEPA an alternate source demonstration regarding elevated phenol levels at well G12S.

A detailed report on gas flare shutdowns included a weather-caused event. Another was due to a fault in the automatic notification system which is supposed to give an alert to Foth staff when landfill gas flares are not working. Changes are being made to the landfill's own pre-approved waste stream to allow faster approvals that could result in increasing the amount of host fees collected. Without these changes, there can be a lag time of two to six weeks in obtaining Committee approvals with the existing limits on tonnage. The Committee voted to remove the tonnage ceiling as the pre-approved wastes must still comply with specific criteria before being accepted at the landfill.

Foth staff presented a report researching declining waste trends at the current Peoria City/County Landfill 2 (PCCL2), which had been requested by the Landfill Committee. Bar graphs comparing amounts of recycling by year and tonnage at the landfill, along with other analyses, reached the following conclusions:

Recycling has a relatively minor effect overall on the landfill. Total tonnage is very small in comparison to total waste receipts at PCCL2, even with the new Peoria options of no-fee recycling totes and city-wide curbside pick-up.

Changes in the waste industry are affecting PCCL2 waste receipts. Many former municipal solid waste collection companies that previously disposed of waste at PCCL2 are closing or being purchased by other waste companies. These waste streams are being sent to other locations.

The research showed PDC is gaining market share and Waste Management, Inc., appears to be having a reduction; in a comparison of tonnage of waste received, the PDC Indian Creek Landfill at Hopedale shows higher tonnage received while PCCL2 is dropping. The comment that waste receipts have decreased over the last decade across the region cite the economic climate and sustainability efforts and state only a marginal impact from recycling. This report and other documents for the Landfill Committee meetings are posted on the City of Peoria website.

The Landfill Budget for 2020 was presented with other information including the 2018 actual revenues and expenses, the 2019 budget and the 2019 year-to-date expenditures. The 2020 Budget includes a significant decrease for waste amounts from what was projected earlier, meaning a projected deficit of \$29,450 is expected for next year. Several options were presented and the Committee will be looking at

these in more detail at the next meeting. PDC expects to have PCCL3 open in 2025, which could affect revenues.

The waste receipt report from Waste Management showed a drop in landfill tonnage for August 2019 with the year-to-date waste at 113,582 tons compared to 120,092 tons in 2018.

The Committee approved the PDC proposal for the conceptual Lake Rehabilitation and Wetland Enhancement Project Action Plan at PCCL2 as a replacement for the Vicary Bottoms wetland project. This topic had been deferred from the August meeting. Due to cost concerns and recent severe flooding showing the extent of area that could be damaged, along with other issues, the Peoria Park District was no longer able to participate in the Vicary Bottoms proposal.

—— Joyce Blumenshine

VOTER EDUCATION MONTH

LWVIL wants to remind you that October is the month the League concentrates on “educating voters about how, when, where and why to vote AND to learn about important public policy that affects your community locally, regionally and nationally. Check #LWVIL Votes #WhenWeAllVote #LWVILVotes.

Not coincidentally, perhaps, they also note Oct. 5 is World Teacher’s Day: LWVIL wants civic education in high school and middle school.



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvgp.org

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Oct. 16. Membership Committee.

6 p.m. Thurs. Nov. 7. General Meeting.

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

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