



Volume 73 Issue 1

January 2020

### President's Message

## Ring in the new year!

LWVGP was busy in 2019. We had Local Government Observer training and Voter registration events. We contacted legislators with "Call For Action" bulletins, proposed timely topics for Drinks & Dialogue and attended General Meetings. And we may be even busier as we enter a new decade in 2020.

Opportunities abound to acknowledge our roots while the League celebrates its 100th Anniversary, as well as the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Rob Parks and the Anniversary committee have been putting together many local events and will compile a calendar for the coming year. Check [www.lwvil.gov](http://www.lwvil.gov) and [www.lwvgp.gov](http://www.lwvgp.gov) to see some of the programs planned throughout the year. Keep up to date by checking the LWVGP Facebook page as well! Thanks to Terry Matthews and Lori Hanson for their input on FB.

All LWVGP members are invited to attend the annual Program Planning Breakfast on January 18. We will make recommendations on current LWVIL positions on representative government, natural resources, and social policy, as well as potential studies and program planning. Help make Democracy work!

—— Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

### IMPORTANT DATES:

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**10:15 a.m., Sat. Jan. 18.** LWVGP Program Planning, Lakeview Branch Library.

**9:30 & 11 a.m. Sat. Jan. 25.** Forum 91st Ill. House Rep. and 17th U.S. Rep., Fondulac Library, East Peoria.

**6 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 6.** General meeting.

**Friday, Feb. 14.** LWVIL 100th Birthday Anniversary Celebration, Congress Plaza Hotel, Chicago.

**9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 15.** LWVIL Issues Briefing, Northeastern Illinois University, Lincoln Square.

## **DRINKS & DIALOGUE**

Dr. Lisa Snow will discuss the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wed., Jan. 15, at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., for this month's Drinks & Dialogue.

She works with the state-based initiative to help find ways to prevent violent deaths. As part of a national effort led by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), IVDRS links information about the "who, when, where, and how" from anonymous data on violent death occurrences, and publishes reports to provide insights into why these deaths occurred. In her role as Community Outreach Coordinator, Dr. Snow interacts with a wide range of stakeholders to expand the data collected for IVDRS.

Dr. Snow is the former Assistant Chief of Police at the Peoria Police Department and is passionate about helping reduce violence in our community.

Come, join the discussion, and learn about the initiative.

———— Kathleen Kelly

## **VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

As we move toward the March 17 primary, the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria is making sure voters have the opportunity to hear from candidates on the ballot directly before they cast their ballots. The League will be hosting four forums in important contested races around the region.

The first will be for the Peoria County State's Attorney and the Peoria County Clerk races. Jodi Hoos and Christopher McCall are running as Democrats for the State's Attorney's position and Rachael Parker and Gabe McLeod are running as Democrats for the County Clerk position. This forum will be held on Saturday, at 10:30 a.m. Sat., Jan. 11 at the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library. The public is welcome and there is no charge.

The open seat for the 91st District of the Illinois House of Representatives (Mike Unes, the incumbent, is not running for re-election) has three candidates running as Republicans. They are Mark Luft, Sam Goddard, and Corey Campbell, all from Pekin. This forum will be held on at 9:30 a.m. Sat., Jan. 25, at the Fondulac Library in East Peoria.

The 17th Congressional District for the U.S. House of Representatives is contested in both the Democratic and Republican primaries. Incumbent Cheri Bustos (D) is being challenged by Spanky Edwards (D). In the Republican race there are three candidates -- Eugene Farrell from Rosewood; Esther Joy King from East Moline; and Bill Fawell from Galva. This forum will be held at 11 a.m. Sat., Jan. 25, at the Fondulac Library in East Peoria.

Both of these forums (91st and 17th Districts) will be live broadcast on East Side Community Television, Channel 22.

And, finally, there is one contested seat for the Peoria Public School Board in District 3. This seat is currently held by the board president, Dan Adler, who is not running for re-election. The two candidates are Anni Reinking and Ivora Rudd Hearn. The date for this forum is not yet set.

—— Roberta Parks

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current membership is 114 — and it's not too late to renew for 2019-2020. Membership forms are on [lwvgp.org](http://lwvgp.org) and electronic payment is available.

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### 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 & e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
Ethnic/Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, Dec. 9**

Chairman Carl Cannon called the Dec. 9 PHA Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Present was Chairman Cannon, Commissioners Helen King and William Purham, and Treasurer Kadar Hefner. A quorum was present. Vice Chair Alma Brown arrived at 4:35 p.m.

There were no comments from community members. There was one Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program graduate. Approval of regular session meeting minutes for Oct. 7, 2019 and Nov. 4, 2019 were approved, as well as special session meeting minutes of Nov. 13, 2019 and the closed session meeting minutes of Nov. 13, 2019.

Chief Executive Officer's Report: Ms. Jackie Newman commented on recent meeting with residents of Taft Hoes regarding future redevelopment of location including input from families on renderings of various styles of home, such as walk up, single family, duplex, and triplex. Residents provided feedback on amenities that might be provided, including security and in-unit laundry. CEO Newman has been working with Chicago and Washington, D.C. HUD offices on preservation of budgeted HUD funds and submitted housing development application for this in early December. Pending approval of this request, full request for funding will be submitted in February or early March. PHA will need to identify various funding sources for the project, such as tax credits or affordable federal housing loans.

Once a timeline is developed, a series of meetings will be scheduled with residents to communicate project plans.

Four resolutions were passed unanimously: write off tenant accounts receivable determined uncollectable; award contract for roof replacement at 13 scattered site homes; submitted fiscal year 2020 public housing budget and mainstream voucher program to HUD.

Under new business, the Board approved annual review of proposed meeting dates for 2020. Chairman Cannon asked that meeting dates be posted on PHA website and that Board keep to schedule as much as possible to be transparent. Commissioner King asked that PHA consider holding some Board meetings at various housing projects.

Board comments: Chief Daniel Duncan was asked about security concerns and reported non-resident problems in 2700 block of Trewyn including a drive-by shooting. Improved lighting and recent cameras installed in area captured the event. Positive comment received from business owner near Taft regarding reduced activity by juveniles in the area since gates closed near Wayne St. Chairman Cannon recognized Eleanor Clark, a 12-year resident of Sterling Towers, who arrived after the public comment period. Ms. Clark expressed dissatisfaction of resi-

dents regarding allocation of resources at Sterling. She cited a change in policy regarding food pantry not being available to residents with low or no income while waiting for eligibility of benefits. Another issue, is the inactive status of the Resident Council due to two members moving from location and two resigning; she has been on the Council as Secretary. She stated many residents are afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation.

Regular session adjourned at 5:13 p.m. for closed session; Board returned from closed session and adjourned at 5:25 p.m. Meeting agenda available on line and at meeting; Board packet of reports not available.

————— Connie Romanus

### **SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, Dec. 17**

Chair Linda Daley convened the Dec. 17 meeting of the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority at 4 p.m. No additions were made to the agenda. The Nov. 19 regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes were approved by the Board.

Public Comment – None

Mark Matuszak presented the Manager's Report

- o The part-time office bookkeeper, Robin Kirby, started as an employee on Nov. 21.
- o The Johnson Family Mausoleum plans/drawings are finalized. The building process should commence in April or May and be completed by July.
- o Staff from the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield visited the Cemetery for a tour. The Supervisor and Grounds Manager were given a tour of the cemetery and then Mark Matuszak and Springdale staff spent a few hours discussing challenges and strategies for maintenance of large cemeteries and grounds with the visitors. Although Oak Ridge Cemetery consists of more acreage, there are not as many burial plots as are available in Springdale. Matuszak said Oak Ridge had to cope with challenges that Springdale does not. One being the oversight practices by State officials is more restrictive than experienced by Springdale management. Also, the need to maintain certain burial areas as required by mandated religious practices is time intense and therefore extremely expensive.
- o CloudPoint Training progress is coming to a close, but there are a number of items that still need addressed in order to streamline the system.
- o The Goal Setting meeting for the Authority Board will be held at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 27. Peoria City Manager Patrick Urich will facilitate. Matuszak shared copies of the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority's Goals 2013. He said he has used this document as a guide for progress and improvement of services and grounds at Springdale. Chair Daley made a comment that after reviewing the full document it was quite evident that most of the Goals had been met as listed below:
  - Financially sound management authority
  - Springdale – positive image and reputation
  - Upgrade Springdale's appearance and infrastructure.
  - Springdale as a historic memorial park.
- o Aldo Savage, a past ground maintenance employee, has returned full-time. Mr. Savage knows the cemetery well and will be a great addition to staff.
- o The Norwood section development has been mapped for families and the North Center Extension development is in the development stage of mapping for families and single sites.

Treasurer Jim Stuttle presented November check register and financials for review and discussion. Items were approved to receive and file. The 2020 Budget was approved.

The Board had a brief discussion about pursuing approval for Springdale Cemetery to qualify for the National Historic Register. Bob Hofer has offered to facilitate the process. The Board made a motion to pursue the possibility of qualifying. Mark Matuszak will be the lead on this endeavor.

The regular meeting was adjourned and the Board went into Executive Session.

— Kathie Raiborn, Observer

### **SAVE THE DATE: June 9!!**

We have a very special event planned to celebrate the League's 100th anniversary. Elaine Weiss, author of "The Woman's Hour," will be in town to speak at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. This is a one-of-a-kind collaboration between LWVGP, The Peoria Historical Society, The Peoria Women's Club, Peoria Reads! and the Museum.

Stay tuned for more details. You won't want to miss it.

——— Roberta Parks

### **GET 2020 VISION: A CENTURY OF VOTING RIGHTS**

The League of Women Voters of Illinois offers a thoughtful perspective on its 100th anniversary. See the 1848 Seneca Falls Woman's Rights Convention, available at [https://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/1\\_seneca\\_falls\\_convention\\_-\\_edited.docx.pdf](https://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/1_seneca_falls_convention_-_edited.docx.pdf). Meanwhile, note these dates:

February 14, 2020: LWVIL Birthday Celebration

August 26, 2020: 100th Anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution

September 24, 2020: LWVIL 100th Anniversary Commemorative Luncheon

——— Cheryl Budzinski



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

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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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