



Volume 73 Issue 2

February 2020

President's Message

We have lots to do

Thank you to the members who attended the LWVGP Program Planning meeting on January 18. The weather has certainly made life challenging!

The national board recommends we continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work in 2020-2022. That campaign concentrates on: Redistricting, Voting Rights, Improving Elections and Campaign Finance/Money in Politics. By consensus of those in attendance, LWVGP agrees. We will discuss this more at our May 7 Annual Meeting. In addition, the Nominating Committee is working on composition of the Board for the 2020-2022 term.

In recognition of LWV's 100th Anniversary on Feb. 14, 2020, the Peoria City Council will issue a proclamation at its 6 p.m., Feb. 11 meeting. Please join me for this! We hope the East Peoria Council will do the same; the time and date will be posted on our Facebook page as soon as it is confirmed.

—— Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 6 p.m. Thurs. Feb. 6.** Gun Violence: Sensible reform. General meeting, AMT.
- 12:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 10.** LWVGP Board meeting, Peoria Main Library, Second floor.
- 6 p.m. Tues., Feb. 11.** Proclamation from City of Peoria on LWV 100th Anniversary, City Hall.
- Fri., Feb. 14.** 100th Anniversary of LWV.
- 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Sat., Feb. 15.** LWVIL Issues Briefing (See lwvil.org for details).
- 5:30 p.m. Wed. Feb. 19.** Drinks & Dialogue, Lariat Steak House. (Social time 5 p.m.).
- 3-4:30 p.m. Fri., Feb. 28.** Census, Redistricting and Reform panel discussion, at Bradley University.
- 6 p.m. Thurs., March 5.** General Meeting.
- Thurs., May 7.** LWVGP Annual Meeting.
- June 9-10.** LWVGP Anniversary events.



You Are Invited!
Celebrate Our 100th Birthday!

Where: Cheryl Budzinski's house
346 E. High Point Rd. Peoria
When: 10-11:30 a.m. Fri., Feb. 14

Bring your best party attitude!

We're celebrating a century!

On Feb. 14, 1920 in Chicago the members of NAWSA agreed to become the National League of Women Voters.

"The League is going to educate women for active citizenship. Democrats and Republicans must work together, to be nonpartisan. Keep the flag flying for the principles of the Constitution. You need to keep five years ahead of the parties if you are to do your part," President and Founder Carrie Chapman Catt directed the new members. "Do not go to the polls as a mere endorser of a platform that others have written for you in some back office. . . you should never vote for a ticket until it has been submitted to your intelligence and ratified by your conscience."

By 1924, membership had swelled to 100,000. The philosophy of nonpartisanship, consensus on issues, study before action and concerted advocacy were central. The League would not be a "women's party" but would work to educate members on reform issues and how to work within existing political organizations.

The 1920s were years of political and educational experiments and continuous self-questioning. What were the issues of the 1920s? The League program of 1920 contained 69 items under broad headings such as women and children's health and welfare, education, public health and morals.

The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and childcare programs, the first federally funded social welfare measure in the United States. The act was designed to reduce high maternal and infant death rates in the United States.

The League also set up classes to train volunteer teachers for citizenship schools. It organized institutes to study defects in our system of government, initiated "Know Your Town" surveys, candidate questionnaires and meetings, and nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns activities. In 1928 the League joined with NBC to sponsor "Meet the Candidates," the first national radio broadcast to disseminate voter services information through candidate forum.

Excerpts from an article by Marge Massarello, LWV Oak Park and River Forest. Full text at https://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/2/3/7/123745968/1920s-the_league_issues.pdf

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.

Dates to note:

Feb. 14, 2020: LWVIL Birthday Celebration

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

Sept. 24, 2020: LWVIL 100th Anniversary Commemorative Luncheon

—— Cheryl Budzinski



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



FEB. 14, 1920



FEB. 14, 2020

Join us as we celebrate 100 years
of defending democracy and
empowering voters....
and we aren't done yet.

Friday, February 14, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Congress Plaza Hotel
520 S. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, IL

RSVP at:
bit.ly/LWV100thBirthday
#lwv100
#lwvil100

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

League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria



Invites you to join us for dinner and a great speaker at

Holiday Inn Grand Prairie

7601 North Orange Prairie Road, Peoria

Wed., March 25: 5:30PM Social – 6:00 PM Dinner – 7:00 PM Speaker / Drawing

Engaging Voters in the Election Process



Jail Superintendent Ronda Y. Guyton began her law enforcement career in 1994 as a correctional officer. She was promoted to Deputy Sheriff of Peoria County in January 1997 and Jail Superintendent in August 2017. A 2004 graduate of the University of Illinois with a B.A. in Criminal Justice, she served in the U. S. Army Reserve from 1991-1999. Ronda is active in the community and passionate about helping others through education, employment and advocacy. She will discuss Voting Rights and Effective Ways to Engage Voters.

“Early on I grasped that I was in charge of my dreams.”

FOUR GREAT PRIZES

Favorite (Alcoholic) Beverages Baskets
Gift Card to Basta Eastport

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or
3 for \$25
Need not be present to win

Registration deadline is March 4, 2020. Please mail this form with your check (**payable to LWVIL Ed Fund**) to: LWVGP, PO Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reserve _____ seats at \$55 each for a total of \$_____.

(We will have tables of 8, open seating; if you purchase an entire table, we will reserve a table for you)

Please indicate how many of your guests want a vegetarian meal _____.

I wish to purchase _____ raffle tickets for a total of \$_____.

I cannot attend, but want to support the event with a contribution of \$_____.

Total enclosed: \$_____ or use **Stripe** and **register online** at **www.lwvgp.org**

You will receive an email confirmation of your purchase, but no tickets will be mailed. All purchased raffle tickets will be placed in the drawing to be held following the speaker.

For more information, please call **Jan Deissler – 309-635-1872**



* \$25 of your \$55 registration is tax deductible. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters, a 501(c)3 organization.

DRINKS & DIALOGUE, Feb. 19

“Compassion and Choices: Aid in Dying” is the topic at Drinks & Dialogue from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wed., Feb. 19 at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave.

Karen Retzer is the Champaign Compassion & Choices Action Team Leader. For several years, she has worked on end-of-life issues and advocated for aid-in-dying legislation in Illinois. She will discuss issues of personal autonomy in health care decision making, and walk through topics such as advance directives, communicating wishes, and medical aid in dying.

Prior to joining the Compassion & Choices Action Team, Karen worked at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for 22 years in survey research and international studies. She also has experience at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington D.C., served in the Peace Corps in Gabon, and served on a state legislative campaign in Michigan. Karen is passionate about empowering individuals through education and awareness. Come and join us for this important topic, and learn ways you can get involved.

———— Kathleen Kelly

FAIR MAPS, ETHICS REFORM AND CENSUS

Learn how the census, redistricting and reform can lead to more ethical government in Illinois at a panel discussion from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fri., Feb. 28, at Bradley University.

The panel includes: Brad McMillan, Executive Director, Institute of Principled Leadership; Madeline Doubek, Executive Director Change Illinois; State Rep. Ryan Spain; and Anita Banerji, Director, Democracy Initiative at Forefront (IL).

This meeting will be held at the Peplow Pavilion Ballroom in the Alumni Center, 816 Tobias Lane. To register, visit: www.changeil/salslabs.org/advocacy

LWV UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION

This is an Inter-league organization (ILO) comprised of 58 local Leagues and four state Leagues. The focus of the Upper Mississippi River Region is to protect watershed and prevent contamination of waterways in the area and other environmental issues. The LWVGP is a member of this ILO. To learn more about the activities and events, check out their website: www.lwvumrr.org.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Voter Services Committee has been busy with candidate forums leading into the March 17 primary election. On Saturday, Jan. 11 we hosted a forum for the Democratic primary race for both Peoria County State's Attorney and Peoria County Clerk at the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library with approximately 50 in attendance. Many thanks to all four candidates for participating.

On Saturday, Jan. 25 we co-hosted with Fondulac Library a forum for the Republican candidates running for the 17th Congressional District position. This event was live-streamed on East Side Community Television Channel 22. In addition to the television audience there were about 20 people in attendance. Again, thanks to the Library and the three candidates.

And at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, the League will host a forum at Lakeview Library for the two candidates running for the Peoria Public School Board in District 3.

Those are all the forums we plan on hosting for the primary season but we will be looking at several races for forum before the general election in November of 2020.

—— Roberta Parks

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As we prepare for a very busy election year, it is imperative that we have a strong and viable membership in the League of Women Voters. The League will host a number of candidate forums beginning in February with the Peoria Public Schools candidate forum.

Voter education will be vital. We need not only present members to renew their membership, we need to recruit new people to our ranks. Make it a point to ask your co-workers, your neighbors, your friends and family if they won't join with us to "Make Democracy Work".

Next month the Membership form will be in The Voter.

The Annual Membership Social will be held on July 15, at the home of Ron and Cheryl Budzinski. Save the Date . This is a wonderful time to pay dues (if you have not done so prior), network with others of diverse thinking, hear from our President regarding the coming year's plans and share wonderful appetizers.

Let's make 2020-2021 a year of growth for the League of Women Voters' of Greater Peoria. Questions contact either Jan or Linda.

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

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

Rally for fair maps

Change IL has scheduled a rally to support fair maps on March 26 in Springfield. If you are interested, check www.info@changeil.org

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, Jan. 14

The Council:

- o Approved an ordinance to amend the City Code related to towing private vehicles. It updates code to be compliance with Illinois traffic laws and other local communities in terms of response time, fees charged by towing company and other duties of tow operators.

- o Deferred a request to adopt residential parking ordinance for 100 block of Beverly Court in Council District 2 for two weeks to give more time for residents to weigh in on the proposal.

- o Filed to review a First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Code of City relating to animals. Proposal would allow hearing officer to determine administrative decisions and remove these cases from Circuit Court.

- o City Manager Patrick Urich answered questions from the Council regarding the recent bills sent to residents regarding the Consolidated Pension Fee for 2019. This fee will be for total of three years, through 2021, when it will be retired.

A question was raised regarding resident situation at Peoria Housing Authority. Community Development Director Ross Black informed council members that city staff met with PHA leadership. City staff inspected the unit in 2019 and code violations identified were resolved by PHA. PHA properties do fall under city ordinances but PHA does its own inspections. He also clarified that PHA operates separately from City of Peoria. The self inspection form for rental properties has been updated for 2020 and is to be completed for new tenants but not required annually. Form is also required for new rental property. PHA units are not required to use this form.

Fire Chief Tony Ardis named the five recent promotions for Peoria Fire Department; all are graduates of Peoria schools.

Absent were Councilpersons Rita Ali and Charles Grayeb. The Dec. 2019 actual expenses of the Town of the City of Peoria were approved, as well as the Jan. 2020 anticipated expenses. Council adjourned at 7 p.m.

—— Connie Romanus

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, Jan. 6

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, with a quorum present. Public comment made by Regina Morgan, who works with young men and women at Harrison Homes. Ms. Morgan expressed concern about ongoing issues with some of the residential units, such as mold, flooding of kitchen in one unit and gas-like smells. Director Jackie Newman asked staff if work orders had been placed and asked the Harrison manager to follow up and make it a priority.

Melissa Huffstader reported change in late fees for monthly rent had been made. Fee changed from \$50 per occurrence to \$10 after the 5th of each month, lease agreements were changed to reflect this. In addition, PHA staff will help residents in budgeting to ensure they meet monthly rent requirement. the change is effective Feb. 1, 2020.

Resident and Safety concerns: installation of exterior cameras at Sterling Towers completed and functioning. Chairman Carl Cannon requested a meeting be set up this month to address spring break concerns and plan.

Minutes of December meeting approved; minutes of prior meetings are posted on website. Agenda for this meeting posted on site, but copies were not available at meeting.

Next meeting Feb. 3, at PHA offices, 100 S. Richard Pryor Place.

————— Connie Romanus

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, Jan. 14

Training of judges for this year's elections has begun, the Peoria County Election Commission learned at its regular monthly meeting on Jan. 14.

The ballot has been certified, even though there is still one objection pending in the presidential election. As of Jan. 14, there are 113,000 registered voters in the county, and 50 people have requested mail-in ballots. Military and overseas ballots are to go out 45 days before the election.

There were two bids received for delivery of election equipment for the two elections in 2020: Federal Warehouse and Mordue. Both have done the work in the past. Mordue was the lower bid (\$5,587) and so was recommended. This was approved by the Commission. Executive Director Tom Bride thinks there will be a surplus in the 2019 budget.

The Commission approved an official policy allowing for attendance at meetings by video and/or audio. The City of Peoria Commission had such a policy in place, but it was never formalized by the County Commission. Wording was taken from the Peoria County Board policy. It is allowed by the Open Meetings Act if the

absence is because of illness or employment. Members contributing this way may not be counted in the quorum but may vote. Members in attendance must give unanimous consent.

When discussing Approval of Bills, the commissioners were told some bills were from 2019 and some from 2020. Approved were a second scanner for the office, a small ramp for a new polling place, and equipment (a paper folder and an envelope opener) to help with vote by mail. Also purchased were “future voter” stickers to hand out to children.

———— Irene Pritzker

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT, Jan. 22

Trustee Jackie Petty called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Wed., Jan. 22, and recessed into a Public Hearing.

The hearing concerned the intent of the Board to issue \$5 million in General Obligation Park Bonds for capital improvements. There was no written or oral testimony. At 6:10 p.m., the hearing was closed and the regular meeting resumed with President Robert Johnson presiding.

Staff member Mike Friberg provided a report on the emergency repairs made on Grandview Drive following a landslide on July 7, 2019. N.E. Finch Co. did the work. A combination of graphs, photos, and video offered information about the rebuilding of an area of pipe and of manhole number two. The landslide was caused by groundwater, a problem not anticipated in the original construction. A groundwater drainage system to prevent this problem from occurring in the future will need to be added to the site, adding significant additional cost to the project.

An amendment to the Sexual Harassment Policy was approved to comply with a new State law. The amendment adds Trustees to the policy, requiring reporting and an independent review of allegations of sexual harassment by an elected official against another elected official.

A request for a membership price increase by Peoria Zoological Society was approved. The increase will be effective April 1, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.. The next scheduled PPD Board meeting is Feb. 12.

———— 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

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

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