



Volume 73 Issue 3

March 2020

### President's Message

## We're springing ahead

The LWVGP Board recently discussed the decline in attendance for General meetings. In the short term, we canceled the March General Meeting and Drinks & Dialogue. We will regroup with fewer meetings, starting in April. We appreciate some great membership feedback on format and topics. You will have an opportunity to discuss this more at the Annual Meeting on May 7.

Meanwhile, there's lots going on. You can purchase dinner tickets — as well as raffle tickets for some fabulous items! — for our Annual Dinner on March 25. Jail Superintendent Ronda Guyton will discuss "Getting Out The Vote." A Peoria native, Ronda was featured in December's Peoria Magazine as one of 2019's Women of Influence (<https://www.peoriamagazines.com/pm/2019/dec/ronda-guyton>.) A 25-year law enforcement veteran, she reaches out to minority women to increase awareness of breast health and risk factors, as well as resources available locally.

We also have lobby days: Clean Energy Lobby Day is March 4 in Springfield. Free transportation is available. RSVP [ilneviro.org](http://ilneviro.org). On March 26, Change IL will host a Fair Map Rally, also in Springfield. Buses will be available for transportation. (Note: you need valid identification to enter.) For more information, check <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmVEvmNCt9G4Wdro39COBdSB6Y6Ep5Kzg-TKPol4cNHAibXWw/viewform>. Later this spring, there will be a Clean Water Lobby Day in Springfield on April 27. Stay tuned for more details!

—— Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

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Tues., March 17. Election Day. Vote!

Wed., April 1. Census Day. Be sure to respond as soon as you can.

6 p.m. Thurs., April 2. General Meeting. Dr. Megan Remmel of Bradley University, AMT.

6 p.m. Thurs., May 7. LWVGP Annual Meeting, Schnucks Grocery, 4800 N. University. Social time at 5:30 p.m..

June 9-10. LWVGP Anniversary events.

# 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.”

### GREAT PRIZES

**Favorite (Alcoholic) Beverages Baskets!  
Basta Eastport gift card! Big-screen TV!**

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

**Registration deadline is March 11, 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](http://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.

## **100th Anniversary: On to June 9!!**

LWVGP leaders received proclamations honoring the League's 100th anniversary by the East Peoria City Council on Feb. 4 and Peoria City Council on Feb 11. Several people braved the cold to watch the LWVIL Chicago celebration via video on Feb. 14 at Cheryl's house. We're planning our own special event in June when Elaine Weiss, author of "The Woman's Hour," speaks at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. It's a collaboration between LWVGP, The Peoria Historical Society, The Peoria Women's Club, Peoria Reads! and the Museum. Save the date!

———— Cheryl Budzinski/Roberta Parks

### **Illinois Voter Guide goes live!**

Starting Feb. 6, LWVIL offers you information about candidates at [illinoisvoterguide.org](http://illinoisvoterguide.org). Check it out. Then be sure to vote on March 17.

## **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.

Providing nonpartisan information to voters is a must. We need not only the 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." The 2020-21 membership form will be in The Voter in April, but we are still accepting memberships for this year. If you know someone who would like to join they can go to [lwvgp.org](http://lwvgp.org) for information. Dues are for a full year, but their next year's dues can be prorated.

We encourage you to support the League by attending the Annual Dinner on March 25. Information is available elsewhere in the Voter or online at [lwvgp.org](http://lwvgp.org). Raffle prizes include gift baskets, restaurant gift cards, an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Grand Prairie and a flat screen television. Hope to see you there.

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. For questions, contact either Jan or Linda.

**Jan Deissler**  
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**Linda Millen**  
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309-645-2542

## **PEORIA CITY COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE, Feb. 19**

The Peoria City County Landfill Committee held its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 19 at Peoria City Hall, with Chairman Steve Morris presiding. Committee member Zach Oyler was absent.

During the Foth Engineering report, committee member Rick Fox asked for more information regarding one of the special waste products approved for disposal. Mr. Fox referred to several comments on the Material Data Safety Sheet regarding toxicity of manganese sulfate monohydrate. The substance was accepted at the landfill because it was not a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste.

The Foth review will turn down substances that could be a risk and they can also bring items of concern to the committee. The gate audit check showed all procedures in place and being followed.

Due to the cold weather only one load of landfill leachate was reported for the previous month. Waste tonnage receipts were up for January 2020, which has helped landfill revenues. About 13,168 tons were recorded compared to 12,200 tons in January 2019.

Waste Management staff could not be present for the meeting and had sent notification to the Chairman.

The Peoria Disposal Company report was given by Chris Coulter who informed the committee that the Request For Proposal for the planned lake rehabilitation and wetland enhancement project was released in mid-January. This work is in conjunction with the future construction of Landfill No. 3 by PDC. Mr. Coulter said four proposals have been received. PDC will be scheduling a meeting with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources regarding the wetland and water project, likely in March.

Foth Engineering gave an update on Landfill No. 1. They plan to have bids opened March 26 for several of the larger repairs needing to be done, with a one year contract and the option of three one-year extensions.

No new business was given. Chairman Morris commented that the State's Attorney office is again not present and as there were no specific legal matters before the committee he did not see a problem. He said he does want to be sure the Landfill Committee is not charged by the county when no legal assistance is provided. The next meeting is March 18. The meeting lasted less than 30 minutes.

——— Joyce Blumenshine

### **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, Feb. 3**

Highlights of the Feb. 3 meeting:

- o Re-appointed Board of Commissioners
  - o No community comments.
  - o Hired Program Integrity Specialist, Hudson Spears. This role is key to monitoring compliance to U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) policies
  - o Minutes approved for Jan. 6, 2020 board meeting, as well as Dec. 12, 2019 closed session. Agenda available on site. Board packet available to this observer.
  - o Director Jackie Newman gave an update on Taft Redevelopment. Preliminary proposal to HUD approved; next step to submit full application to HUD by March 22.
  - o PHA will be asking for official support of Peoria City Council at the council's Feb. 11 meeting.
  - o Recent HUD inspections of PHA properties; improved scores and ratings achieved with upward trends identified to meet HUD policies. Director Newman and board recognized efforts of all staff in this achievement.
- Next meeting is 4:30 p.m. March 2, at 100 S. Richard Pryor Place.

————— Connie Romanus

### **PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, Feb. 11**

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners held its monthly meeting Feb. 11, where Executive Director Tom Bride gave an update on the primary election in March.

Bride said 540 ballots had been mailed. Seventy ballots had been returned, including the first one, which came from Singapore! He announced that 150 people had already voted, and a few more early voters arrived at the office to vote during the course of the meeting. He expects 20 percent of voters to vote by mail.

Director Bride would like to look into finding the best replacement for the current voting system. The one in use now was purchased in 2005 and first used in March of 2006. He is concerned that the vendor will stop supporting the current machines.

Machines would not be replaced until summer of 2021 so as not to interfere with this year's election cycle. He is already holding discussions with Peoria County. He plans on sending out requests for information this summer so there would be plenty of time to make a decision. Planning is difficult because the state could change to more vote by mail. There is already discussion in the Illinois Legislature, and things can change very quickly.

————— Irene Pritzker



## **SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, Feb. 18**

Vice Chairman Bob Manning lead the Feb. 18 regular meeting; Chair Linda Daley was present by phone. There was a quorum. No additions were made to the agenda. The Jan. 21 regular meeting minutes and Jan. 27 special goal setting meeting minutes were approved. There was no public comment.

Goal Setting Meetings – Chair Linda Daley called the Special Goal Setting meeting to order at 3 p.m. Jan. 27 in the Springdale Cemetery meeting room in the Volunteer and Maintenance Building. A quorum was present. The meeting was facilitated by Peoria City Manager Patrick Urich, who will put together a summary. A second Goal Setting Meeting is scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. Thurs., March 12.

General Manager Mark Matuszak lead an hour-long discussion regarding CloudPoint Mapping Conversion: the mapping process, challenges, delays and process to move forward. Mr. Matuszak laid out the timeline for completion and noted some of the difficulties that have been experienced during the process. There was also discussion regarding options for final payment for mapping completion followed by monthly maintenance fees, and under what circumstances should this phase of the project take place.

This discussion was followed by a presentation from a representative of CloudPoint who laid out the project's challenges and improvements to the over-all capacity to better serve families at Springdale Cemetery. It was agreed that Mr. Matuszak's view of the project was in line with that of the CloudPoint representation of the process. The Board thanked CloudPoint for their candor and thanked their representative for attending the meeting to update the Board.

The Board then further discussed the plan to move forward. It was suggested that the plan in relation to the project would be to: Define measurable progress goals. And clearly define expected deliverables to be met before scheduled payments with a goal for completion of the mapping project. This phase would then be followed with a maintenance agreement with agreed upon monthly fees.

Mr. Matuszak then introduced his new idea for the Memorial Day Celebration. He wanted the Board to consider a Luminaria Event at Twilight on the Sunday before Memorial Day. A number of smaller activities were discussed as possible enhancements for the evening. The Board was very enthusiastic about the event and asked Mr. Matuszak to move forward with his plans and keep them informed.

Treasurer Jim Stuttle presented the January check register and financials; items were approved to receive and file.

### **Upcoming Events:**

April 24: Arbor Day: "Plant a Tree"

April 28: Bradley OLLI Tour

May 9: Mother's Day Weekend 5K Walk/Run

May 24: SPECIAL Memorial Day Program (Idea discussed during meeting)

————— Kathie Raiborn



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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Terry Kohlbus, 2nd V-P & Treasurer  
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**Newsletter**

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