



Volume 73 Issue 6

June 2020

President's Message

Our new virtual reality

I hope this finds all of you enjoying the warmer, and rather wet, weather! As we begin to get together in small groups, please continue to be cautious.

At this date, we still plan our membership social on July 15 using social distancing. Thank you to everyone who joined the Annual Meeting on May 7 via Zoom. We had enough members attend to exceed the quorum required and elected our Board members for 2020-2021. Welcome to Sean Koors, new Board Member, as well as Jan Deissler, Membership Chair and Kathleen Kelly, Program Planning Committee. The new Board met May 11 and will focus on growing memberships, elections and educating the public on candidates and important issues.

The LWVUS has changed the 54th Biennial Convention to a virtual meeting that will cover five time zones. The LWVGP will be able to have three delegates attend this via webinar presentations. What a challenge this must have been to quickly evaluate and organize!

As you are aware, Illinois legislators met last week and one of the items that passed both houses was the ability for Election Commissions in the state to send registered voters an application to request a paper ballot via mail. In our current environment of social distancing and hand-washing, it is important to have options for voters to cast their ballots in the November election. I have received several phone calls from individuals asking how they can get a ballot to vote by mail. Our Voter Services Committee has also been working diligently to find novel ways to reach out to new voters and educate on how to update voter registration information, such as change of name or address. Individuals can go on line to <https://ova.elections.il.gov> to register to vote or to verify their information is accurate.

If you missed some of the LWVIL Legislative Hour virtual presentations, you can view them on the website: www.lwvil.org under the Issues section.

— Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

IMPORTANT DATES:

12:30 p.m. Monday, June 8, LWVGP Board Meeting, via Zoom.

Wednesday, July 15. Summer Social at TBA.

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Due to the Coronavirus and the existing shelter in place executive order, it simply was not possible to bring author Elaine Weiss to Peoria in early June. The four coordinating organizations – the League of Women Voters Greater Peoria; Peoria Historical Society; Peoria Public Library; and Peoria Riverfront Museum – first looked at moving the events to August of this year. But it quickly became clear that even that would likely not allow us to accomplish all we wanted with the celebration. After much discussion, it was decided that we will reschedule activities for 2021 and simply celebrate the 101st Anniversary! We have reconfirmed our keynote speaker Ms. Weiss for Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Stay tuned for more information. This change may well give us the opportunity to do more than originally planned. Many thanks to our sponsors for their continuing support!

—— Roberta Parks

VOTER SERVICES

The Voter Services Committee had an online meeting with the co-chairs of the League of Women Voters Illinois Voter Services Committee, Jan Dorner and Kathy Kenny. It happened to take place on the day that the Illinois General Assembly convened and began discussing the changes in voting procedures for the November 2020 general election to accommodate the Coronavirus, SB 1863, which ultimately passed and has been sent to the Governor's desk for signature. This bill, which only impacts this one election, will cause mail-in ballot applications to all voters who voted in 2018, 2019 or the 2020 primary. It also makes election day in 2020 a state holiday and other changes. The LWV Illinois was supportive of this bill. We discussed several possible educational opportunities for our committee and other Leagues with these changes and our committee will be discussing them at our June meeting. We also discussed using IllinoisVoterGuide.org for the upcoming election as part of our effort to educate voters about the positions held by candidates for State, Federal and some local offices. Watch for more information.

—— Roberta Parks

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this we are beginning to open up Illinois. As we get out into our community we need to continue to stay healthy! Stay tuned! Stay connected!

In a busy election year, it is imperative to have a strong and viable 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. Remember you joined the League because someone asked you to join. So – as we asked last month — invite a friend or family member to join.

The Annual Membership Social will be held on July 15, at a place to be determined. Due to the social distancing policies we will move to an outdoor venue. 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. Watch the website and your e-mail as final plans are complete. This will also be the long awaited drawing for the raffle prizes. Although you don't have to be present to win, it is really exciting to see a friend win one of the wonderful gifts.

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

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

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

Dues Invoice

The League's Membership Year is July 2020 – June 30, 2021 2020/2021 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 (s) & email address(es) _____
- **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!

The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria strives to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization. To measure our progress towards these goals, the LWVGP collects demographic information on its membership. All questions are optional but answering as many as you feel comfortable answering is encouraged. Thank you for your participation!

You can also take this survey anonymously online at bit.ly/lwvvp2019

LWVGP sends out a membership survey once a year every summer. This is the survey for 2020.

1. AGE: Which category below includes your age?

- ☐ 18 or younger
- ☐ 18-20
- ☐ 21-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60 or older

6. SEXUAL ORIENTATION: What category best describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Homosexual
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Other: _____

2. RACE/ETHNICITY: What is your race or ethnicity? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ White
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Asian or Asian Indian
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other: _____

3. GENDER: What is your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other: _____

4. EDUCATION: What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- ☐ Less than high school degree
- ☐ High school degree or equivalent (e.g., GED)
- ☐ Some college but no degree
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Bachelor degree
- ☐ Graduate degree

5. INCOME: How much total combined money did all members of your household earn last year?

- ☐ Less than \$20,000
- ☐ \$20,000-\$39,999
- ☐ \$40,000-\$59,999
- ☐ \$60,000-\$79,999
- ☐ \$80,000-\$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000-\$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 or more

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT, May 13

The meeting was held through streaming ZOOM on the Peoria Park District Facebook page. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by President Robert Johnson. Trustees Joseph Cassidy, Joyce Harant, Jackie Petty, Nancy Snowden, Mic Williams and Johnson were present. Trustee Matthew Ryan was absent.

Executive Director Emily Cahill reported that \$8,000 worth of annuals purchased for PPD beds will not be able to be planted; therefore, the PPD will be holding a Plant Sale on May 16 and May 17 at Luthy Botanical Garden, following appropriate safety guidelines. The plants will be sold to cover the cost of the plants and the staff time. Cahill also reported PPD is evaluating the submission of an Illinois Department of Commerce grant to fund public infrastructure projects. The grant is due June 15. A potential site for improvement with these grant funds is Glen Oak Park. At a press conference, PPD announced the cancellation of PPD camps through July 3.

The Planning Division reported Logan Park has a grant to host ten Farmer's Markets.

Development reported that community outreach is being done to boost operating funds. A new database for donor information has been acquired without cost.

Golf operations reported that the PPD Partner to Play program started out with a successful season, selling 2,000 rounds of golf more than in 2019. Then the COVID-19 virus hit and halted the progress. The virus necessitated a number of adaptations to prepare for reopening that occurred on May 1. Many new restrictions are in place including the use of carts limited to people with physical limitations.

With these new restrictions, PPD will host a maximum of 25% of their regular golf customers. For example, the Kellogg course would normally see 312 golfers per day but now will only see 78 golfers per day. The changes to the golf program also include new computer software/templates to meet the new scheduling requirements. Noble Center is now the Golf Call Center. Staff are being trained in the new scheduling templates and procedures.

Trustees approved by unanimous roll call vote the placement of Vernon Gudat Memorial Bench on Grandview Drive. The bench will be near the Gudat home and expenses are covered by the Gudat family. Vernon Gudat was a firefighter who lost his life in 1993.

During the Citizen Request portion, trustees were asked when the RiverPlex would reopen. The response was that there is not currently an established date.

President Johnson complimented Cahill and PPD staff for the cross training and positive messaging during the pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

————— Farrell Davies

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, May 4

The May 4, 2020 meeting of the PHA Board of Commissioners was conducted electronically. Chairman Carl Cannon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Commissioner William Purham was absent. Chief Executive Officer Jackie Newman was present. Meeting information was posted online, as well as in the Peoria Journal Star classified section.

There were no community comments. Two new employees were introduced: one for Accounts Receivable and an Assistant Asset Manager for Harrison Homes. There were no Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) graduates. The minutes of the special meeting on March 12 and the regular April 6 meeting were approved. Note: minutes are posted on website.

Chief Executive Officer's report: Ms. Newman reported she and her staff have been on calls with regional and national Housing and Urban Development offices every other week to keep updated with executive orders for COVID-19. A draft transition plan for sheltering in place is being developed with staff to ensure safety of residents and staff. In addition, the Phase 3 Individual Development Accounts (IDA) application has been submitted. One example of program using IDA grants is the FSS program; low-income families who qualify receive housing vouchers and training to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Chairman Cannon commented there was not much activity at Carver Center COVID-19 testing site. He asked if transportation was an issue and inquired how residents received communication on sites, times and virus symptoms. Ms. Newman will follow up; he will help coordinate transportation if needed.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously. In other business, resolutions were approved for: collection loss write offs; 2020 utility voucher program; utility allowance schedule; renovation of scattered-site bathrooms; a contract to modify Sterling Towers East booster water pump; plaster and drywall repairs PHA-wide; ten roof replacements at Harrison Homes and replacement of flooring and bathroom repairs at scattered sites. Chairman Cannon said repairs are on-going maintenance to improve properties for the betterment of residents and families.

Board Comments: Commissioner Kadar Heffner observed that once staff are gone for the day at housing sites, groups have been gathering. Pinnacle Security has been present at Taft and Harrison properties. PHA working with Peoria Police Department task force stationed at Harrison to deter unwanted activity: 13 arrests for criminal trespass, release citations ongoing. PHA is also working with Peoria Fire Department to install bollards at Trewyn and Oregon Streets to be one-way, these can be lowered for emergency access.

There was no closed session. Meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m. The next meeting will be 4:30 p.m. Monday, June 1.

————— Connie Romanus

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, May 12

The Peoria County Election Commission held its monthly meeting via tele-conference with all commissioners attending. There were two main topics covered: county budget cuts and vote by mail.

The county had asked the Commission to cut 23.9% of its budget. Director Tom Bride pointed out that those cuts would be next to impossible: \$73,000 goes toward building expenses other county departments do not have, since they are primarily located in the courthouse. Another \$135,000 goes to licensing and support contracts involved in voting. The second largest part of the budget is election judges. Savings could possibly be found by reducing early voting days, reducing polling places, and cutting a half-time worker. He could see no way to meet the goal of reduced expenses and still meet statutory obligations. No one knows what the elections will look like in November. Director Bride expects some money from the state and federal governments, but he has no idea how much.

As for voting by mail, staff is looking at three different scenarios: the same percentages as in March, half of all votes coming by mail, and all votes coming by mail. Without state payments, the last scenario would be extremely difficult.

———— Irene Pritzker

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY AUTHORITY BOARD, May

Cancelled.

———— Kathie Raiborn

Peoria City/County Landfill Committee, May

Cancelled.

———— Joyce Blumenshine



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

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ON THE WEB: www.lwvgp.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IMPORTANT DATES:

12:30 p.m. Monday, June 8. LWVGP Board Meeting, via Zoom.

Wed., July 15. Summer Social at location TBA

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors
2020-2021**

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Kathie Raiborn, 2nd V-P
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Newsletter

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