

President's Message

Zooming through 2020

May brings us to the LWVGP Annual Meeting: 6 p.m. Thursday, May 7. Time flies when you're busy! We've had programs, voter registration, opportunities to contact law makers, celebrations for the LWV's 100th birthday . . . not to mention learning new ways to communicate while social distancing.

Thanks to Zoom, you can attend the Annual Meeting from home. If you are new to Zoom, you can download the app to your computer or tablet. Members will receive an email invitation in the next few days or may be contacted by phone. If you plan to attend, please confirm; this is part of new security features.

A quorum of 20 percent of membership is needed. We will elect the incoming Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee members; adopt the budget and program plan; accept minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. Under new business, Tim Howard, Board member and retired attorney, is guiding our League from unincorporated association to not-for-profit corporation.

The past year has been a learning opportunity for me as President. I have had tremendous support from the Board, Committee Chairs, past presidents Farrell Davies and Cheryl Budzinski, and many others. Some of the folks behind the scenes who make things happen and keep you informed are: Terry Knight (newsletter), Sharon Maule (Mail Chimp messages), Lori Hanson (Facebook), Terry Matthews (Facebook contributor), Jan Deissler and Linda Millen (Membership), Elaine Hopkins (publicity), Kathleen Kelly (Drinks & Dialogue), Roberta Parks (Voter Services) and Mary Jane Crowell (Naturalization ceremonies), members of the study groups – led by Cheryl Budzinski, Kathie Raiborn and Irene Pritzker. And last but not least, thanks to you, the members who attend meetings, help plan events, register voters and help support the League by renewing your membership. See you on Zoom!

Note: If you are an election judge, send me an email at www.president@lwvgp.org. The LWVIL has asked for this information and length of time in role.

—— Connie Romanus, LWVGP President

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STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE POSTPONED 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

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INCORPORATION OF THE LWVGP

This is to report on the proposed change of the status of the LWVGP. Currently, the LWVGP is an “unincorporated association.”

As a new member of the board and a recently retired attorney, I inquired as to whether it would be better if the LWVGP was an Illinois Not For Profit Corporation. The purpose of such a change would be to enable officers and the board of directors protection from personal liability in the event of any type of lawsuit that might be filed against the LWVGP. Additionally, incorporation would enable the board of directors to adopt By-Laws that would include indemnification of any personal expenses caused by any future lawsuit.

The proposed Resolution to accomplish this was sent out with the Notice of the Annual Meeting. Additionally, the proposed By-Laws to be adopted by the new corporate Board were also included. Subsequently, we had these documents reviewed by the state League and they have made recommendations that improve both. Consequently, I will be making a motion to amend the Resolution and By-Laws as submitted to include the redline changes that are shown on the attached.

Once the Resolution is adopted, the Board will proceed with the filing of Articles of Incorporation, and an application to achieve 501(c)(3) status for our new corporation. This will have the advantage that all future contributions to our League will be tax-deductible.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at Timhowardsq@gmail.com or otherwise we will discuss at the Annual Meeting on May 7.

——— Tim Howard

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

You might note this month's report looks like the one from April, which looked like the one from March . . . Again, it is difficult to determine what to write.

Attached is the membership form for 2020-21. Consider paying your dues. Also, remember, ***"Your friends have not joined the League because you have not asked them."*** Could you invite one friend or family member to join?

As we head into a national election it is important that we stay informed on the issues and how the process will work. It is imperative that we have a strong and viable membership in the League of Women Voters and the general population. LWV is just one way to make that happen.

The Annual Membership Social will (tentatively) be held 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. 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

Nominating Committee Slate of Officers and Directors for 2020-2021:

Officers:

President:	Constance Romanus	May 2019-2021
1st V-P/Treasurer:	Terry Kohlbus President 2021-2023	May 2019-2021
2nd V-P:	Kathie Raiborn	May 2019-2021
Secretary:	Sandy Stemler	May 2020-2022

Continuing Directors:

Director:	Tim Howard Co-chair Redistricting Committee/Gary Stella	May 2019-2021
Director:	Terry Bibo-Knight Voter Newsletter	May 2019-2021
Director:	Kirsten Hall	May 2019-2021
Director	Jamilla Wilson	May 2020-2022
Director:	Roberta Parks Voter Service Chair	May 2020-2022

New Directors:

Director:	Sean Koors	May 2020-2022
Director*:	Cheryl Budzinski Past President	May 2020-2021

*Fills remaining one year of Spanky Edwards' term

Nominating Committee 2020-2021: Chair Farrell Davies
Members Shelley Epstein and Ryan Hidden

Nominating Committee 2021-2022: Chair Shelley Epstein
Members Melanie Anderson and Peter Kobak

Farrell Davies

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT, April 8

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.

The meeting opened with a staff update on the district's response to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Trustee Joyce Harant asked for information on concerns for the zoo's tigers. Staff reported that they are wearing masks and gloves when with big cats and primates since a tiger at another zoo was reported to have the virus after exposure from a zoo employee with the virus. Committees have been not been meeting because of the virus and changing guidelines. The committees will resume soon using virtual meeting arrangements.

Trustees approved the following by unanimous roll call vote:

- o annexation of 7.374 acres of land along Illinois Route 91.
- o a three-year employee contract with AFCSME.
- o an Assistant Treasurer to replace a vacancy.
- o an emergency order for an additional \$14,000 to finish work on Trewyn steps.

Staff noted that budget adjustments resulting from the impact of the pandemic will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

————— Farrell Davies

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, April 6

The April 6 meeting of the Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners was held electronically via Zoom. Chairman Carl Cannon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. A public notice of the meeting was posted in the Peoria Journal Star, as well as on PHA website with log-in information. Meeting Agenda was available on the PHA website.

Chair Cannon, Vice Chair Alma Brown and Kadar Heffner were present in person; Helen King participated via electronically. Chairman Cannon read a statement regarding the meeting being held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-07 signed by Governor JB Pritzker and guidance provided by legal counsel due to the coronavirus pandemic.

There were no public comments; this observer participated via Zoom. One

new employee was introduced to the Board: Marsha Moses, who is an Assistant Manager for Sterling Towers.

Minutes of the March 2, 2020 regular meeting and the March 12, 2020 special meeting were approved.

Chief Executive Officer Jackie Newman reported PHA was keeping in touch with state government, Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding COVID-19 precautions via webinars and conference calls. Weekly updates with PHA staff are being done electronically.

PHA offices are currently closed to the public. Director Newman discussed steps being taken for income verification so that families are not not paying more than required if work status or hours have been reduced. She also discussed that PHA staff cannot mandate adherence to social distancing and hand washing at high rise housing facilities, such as Sterling Towers. Education on these strategies is available, as well as sanitizing stations in common areas. Managers are available to follow up on resident concerns.

Security concerns were discussed regarding Harrison Homes units. It appears that non-residents continue to congregate without maintaining social distancing. Security staff are working with Chief Daniel Duncan on this. PHA is also working on parking policy for visitors with designated area. PHA staff have met with Peoria fire officials to block off one entrance to Harrison, while continuing to ensure the fire department has access to area. Director Newman and Chairman Cannon are setting up a meeting with Peoria city officials to discuss security and collaboration on these issues.

Director Newman discussed the need to continue to serve families with housing needs and screen emergency placements. Providing technology in units for students to continue on-line learning was concern. Peoria Public Schools is delivering devices to students but there are concerns for WIFI availability.

During board comments portion of meeting, Commissioner Heffner commented on reduced security incidents during the month of February. Chair Cannon recognized improved security in place at Harrison and that Taft is calmer.

Consent agenda was approved: Three resolutions for scattered site flooring replacement. Contracts for architectural and engineering services. Authorization to renew commercial property and commercial liability policies with HAI group, with 5 percent reduction in expense from prior year. No closed session. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

————— Connie Romanus

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, April 14

The Board of Election Commissioners held its April 14 meeting using audio conferencing. Regular observers were given the phone number and code to call in. All five commissioners participated.

The final report on the general primary was sent to the state the same day. Hopefully, Peoria County will be reimbursed by the State of Illinois for various expenses due to the coronavirus. Everything has been cleaned and put away. Numbers for the election: 62 percent of those eligible voted; 12½ percent voted by mail (a record high); 25 percent voted early.

A discussion was held on what to do for those voters who could not ask for a ballot on-line because they had registered before the office became computerized. This is just 4 percent of registered voters. They can receive a ballot if they phone or write the office, but the county does not have a Social Security number or driver's license on file for them. It was decided that the website will explain what the voter is to do. This cannot be done until 90 days before the next election.

If the state chooses to go to all vote-by-mail, Peoria County could not handle all ballots being done this way. The state would have to help out.

The meeting ended with the Commission going into executive session to discuss a recommended settlement with a current law suit.

———— Irene Pritzker

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY AUTHORITY BOARD, March & April

Cancelled.

———— Kathie Raiborn

VIRTUAL ADVICE

Courtesy of Cheryl Budzinski, here are some tips for staying in touch and social distancing at the same time.

[VIRTUAL MEETINGS \(Online & Phone\) LWV Oregon](#)

14 March 2020

Our Board asked for nuts & bolts technical advice to keep in touch virtually, so important with COVID-19 now. Including older people online is not the issue it used to be but can still be challenging. Please share recommendations and questions! Let's do our best with the tools at hand.

This technical advice is for League meetings. We have separate advice on:

- Video Broadcasts, including Live-Streaming: Tips before, during and after, tools you'll need
- Working Remotely, Document and file-sharing: a linked list

For more general advice, we recommend:

- [Coronavirus Prevention Guidance for Leagues](#) for lots more!
- [Preparing for Coronavirus Crisis: As Organizers, It's Time to do What We Do Best](#)

Thanks to Christina Davis, LWV. See our League Leaders and New Media Facebook Groups for updates.

– [Becky Gladstone](#), President, [LWVOR](#)

ONLINE MEETINGS

Thanks to Christina Davis, LWVUS Special Projects, for this assortment of tools. We've added links..

[GoToMeeting](#)

- Ranking 4.2/5 with 2913 reviews
- 14 day free trial
- \$12/month-150 participants
- \$16/month- 250 participants
- HD video, screensharing, web audio, dial in conference line, unlimited meetings, no meeting time limits, business messaging, personal meeting room, transcription, keyboard & mouse sharing, slide to PDF

[GoToWebinar](#)- This may be a branch of GoToMeeting, recommended in a Leaders' Facebook page.

[Slack](#)

- Ranking 4.5/5 with 8152 reviews
- Free- \$0/month for small teams trying Slack for an unlimited period of time
- Access to 10,000 of your team's most recent messages, 10 integrations with other apps like Google Drive, Office 365, and many more, 1:1 voice and video calls between teammates
- Standard- \$6.67/month: for small and medium sized businesses
- All the benefits of Free + the full context of your organization's management history, timely info and actions in one place with unlimited integrations, face to face communications with group voice and video calls of up to 15 teammates, secure collaboration with outside organizations or guests from within Slack
- Plus- \$12.5/month: for larger businesses or those with additional administration needs
- All benefits of Standard + advanced identity management through SAML-based SSO and real time Active Directory sync with OneLogin, Okta and Ping, compliance requirements met with corporate exports for all messages, around the clock teamwork and assistance with 99.99% guaranteed uptime and 24/7 support

Zoom

- Ranking 4.9/5 with 2370 reviews
- Basic- \$0/month
 - Host up to 100 participants, 1:1 meetings, 40 minute group meeting limit, unlimited number of meetings, online support, video conferencing features, web conferencing features, group collaboration
- Pro- \$14.99/month: small teams
 - Basic features + 24 hr meeting duration, user management, admin feature controls, reporting, custom personal meeting ID, assign scheduler
- Business- \$19.99/month: small & med business
 - Pro features + 300 participants, phone support, admin dashboard, managed domains, single sign on, company branding, custom emails, cloud recording transcripts

Skype

- Ranking 4.2/5 with 1163 reviews
- \$0/month
 - Instant messaging and chat history, calls between skype and landline/ mobile phone numbers, video calling and screen sharing

Ready Talk

This one was not included in the LWVUS list but we know some have used it.

Google Meet (previously Hangouts)

- Ranking 4.3/5 with 202 reviews
- Basic- \$6/month
 - Includes Gmail, calendar, 30GB drive, hangouts chat and meet, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms
- Business- \$12
 - Includes Gmail, calendar, unlimited drive storage, hangouts chat and meet, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms

Group Phone calls

Note that most online meeting programs have a call-in option for audio only. From LWV-Wake County in NC: We're starting to use www.freeconferencecall.com. Totally free and can do audio, video, and screen sharing conferencing. There are options to record your conference which I have not yet used.



**League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria**

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ON THE WEB: **www.lwvgp.org**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors
2019-2020**

Constance Romanus, President
309.264.9113
president@lwvgp.org

Kathie Raiborn, 1st V-P
Terry Kohlbus, 2nd V-P & Treasurer
Sandy Stemler, Secretary

Cheryl Budzinski Farrell Davies Kirsten Hall Tim Howard Kathleen Kelly Terry Bibb Knight Roberta Parks Jamila Wilson

Newsletter

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