

President's Message

Vote! Then plan for the future

As we usher in the month of April, I hope that you have had an opportunity to hear the candidates for consolidated local elections in your community. There have been several candidate forums in the area, as well as coverage by the Peoria Journal Star. Early voting continues through April 5; if you received ballot to vote by mail, be sure it is returned to your county election commission by deadline. And of course, the local precincts will be open till 7 p.m on April 6 for in-person voting!

The LWVGP Board members have been busy planning the May 6 Annual Meeting. At this time, the meeting will be virtual via Zoom in keeping with current state COVID-19 guidelines. Please take a few minutes to review the items in this edition of the Voter that will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting: slate of Officers and Board of Directors 2021-2023, proposed budget, bylaws and program planning focus. Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. and help usher in the new board.

As Covid-19 vaccines are more readily available, and different age groups are included, we look forward to meeting in person as local statistics support this.

Thanks to all who joined us for the recent virtual stage presentation of "Tea for Three" with Elaine Bromka. It was a most enjoyable evening! Jan hosted a group at the Lariat Steak House. After the event, Elaine joined us on Zoom to discuss how she prepared for her portrayal of three former first ladies (Ladybird Johnson, Patricia Nixon and Betty Ford) and answer questions.

———— Constance Romanus, LWVGP President

Important Dates:

April 6: ELECTION DAY! VOTE!

12:30 p.m. Mon., April 12: LWVGP Board meeting (virtual).

5:30 p.m. Wed., April 21: Dr. Dawn Jeffries for Drinks & Dialogue (virtual).

6 p.m. Wed., April 28: Understanding Preventable Deaths Forum (virtual).

Thurs., April 29: People Powered Day of Action — Redistricting (virtual).

6 p.m. Thurs., May 6: LWVGP Annual Meeting (virtual).

June 11-13: LWVIL Convention (virtual).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

ERA progresses

The Equal Rights Amendment is moving forward, after many delays; the United States House of Representatives recently voted to remove the deadline for ratification from the ERA on March 25, 2021 and it advances to the Senate.

For The People Act

Debra Ann Turner, LWVUS President, shared the following in her recent communications to members:

“Yesterday the Senate Rules and Administration Committee held a hearing on the For the People Act (S1). During the hearing, senators and witnesses cited the validity of the 2020 Election, bad state voter bills, and the January 6 insurrection to show favor for or opposition to the bill. CEO Virginia Kase, submitted a statement to the committee elevating the League’s support for S1.

“This is only the beginning of the For the People Act’s journey through the Senate. We must continue to push for senators to take a stand for democracy by voting for S1 to become law. The protections included in S1 are critical to combatting the suppressive voter bills sweeping across the states.”

———— Connie Romanus

DRINKS & DIALOGUE: April 21

D&D resumes via Zoom, with social time at 5:30 p.m. Wed., April 21.

“Social Mobility for Girls Born Into Poverty” is the first issue on tap. Dawn Jeffries, Ph.D., will discuss common barriers to social mobility — and some pathways constructed by women who escaped poverty.

Jeffries is Founder and Executive Director of Girls Light Our Way (GLOW). She will examine the question “How do African American women born into poverty achieve middle class status?”

Dawn has devoted her life to justice, equality, respect, and service, especially for underserved girls. She received her Ph.D. from Benedictine University and developed a specialized model for organizations to promote equity for girls experiencing poverty, racism, sexism, and classism. GLOW was established in 2015 as a non-profit to provide tools for mental, physical, and nutritional wellness, self-efficacy and literacies of power.

Please join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220585351?pwd=aDJTcVFj-Z1BlcE52bFY2Tm53VW5aZz09> Meeting ID: 822 2058 5351; Passcode: 908064

———— Kathleen Kelly, D&D Chair

OVERDOSE DEATHS CAN BE PREVENTED

Central Illinois has seen an increase in preventable deaths during the COVID-19 Pandemic, so LWVGP is collaborating on a webinar to raise awareness.

“Understanding Preventable Deaths in Central Illinois” will be presented as a virtual forum at 6 p.m. Wed., April 28. Participants include Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell and experts from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

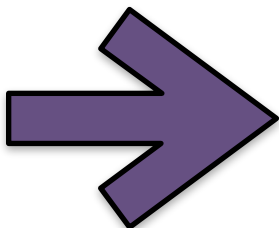
“Overdose cases have been on the rise as the nation and the world has turned attention to the pandemic,” says Dr. Lisa Snow, criminal justice teacher and retired City of Peoria Assistant Chief of Police. “We have seen additional barriers to get treatment, Narcan supplies, and intervention programs out to the public. This panel will explore death in central Illinois due to violence, suicide and overdose while comparing our jurisdiction to Lake County Illinois.”



Dr. Snow says the hope is that this panel will be a pivot point to bring awareness to premature death and to invigorate and reaffirm the mission to prevent deaths due to overdose, suicide and violence.

Please note that our own President Connie Romanus is one of the panelists!

You can register at: https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmSOl-X7R7K5YbYdkVCOlg. You will receive a confirmation email with information about how to join the webinar.

———— Kathleen Kelly



 Northwestern Medicine® Feinberg School of Medicine	 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
Understanding Preventable Deaths in Central Illinois	
Virtual Forum	
Hosted by League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria & Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Buehler Center for Health Policy & Economics	
Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6 PM (CST)	
Register: bit.ly/ForumApril28	
FORUM PANELISTS	
Constance Romanus, President, League of Women Voters Greater Peoria	
Maryann Mason, PhD, Northwestern University	
Jamie Harwood, Coroner, Peoria County	
Jennifer Banek, Coroner, Lake County	
Becky Rossman, CEO, Peoria Community Against Violence (PCAV)	
Roland Tenley, Battalion Chief, Peoria Fire Department	
Kathryn Endress, PhD, Epidemiologist	
Brian Asbell, Sheriff, Peoria County Sheriff's Office	
Sue Tisdale, Human Service Center	

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee met via Zoom on February 1. Each person brought food and drink. Most of the discussion centered around how to increase membership and encourage involvement. Several suggestions were made:

- o Follow up with members who have not joined by August 31 — the committee will divide names, phone and/or send emails to the non-renewed person.
- o Review rosters from the past couple of years. Make a list of those who have been gone more than one year. Make a personal contact with that person – sending a brochure and a letter from the President regarding the planned programs.
- o Determine organizations that might have an interest in the work we do and contact their members regarding membership.
- o Find someone who attends OLLI events at Bradley and who is good at arm-twisting (as was Pat Landes) to see if we can't gain some new people.
- o Open for suggestions of Board Members – Connie will send an email.

As for the summer event – the consensus of the group was we want to do a membership event in person, preferably where there is outside space and a restroom. Jan, Connie and Linda are investigating options: a park, the Peoria Women's Club Building or a local restaurant with lots of outside seating. In the past, board members provided the food and beverages. We might need to consider purchasing food. However, nothing was determined at the meeting.

The remainder of the time was spent in reviewing the Event Planning Tool and making suggestions as to timing of the steps in the planning process.

—— Jan Deissler

VOTER SERVICES

After an unsuccessful attempt to have a candidate forum for the City of Peoria Mayoral race, the League was able to partner with the NAACP and the Peoria Public Library to host a Facebook Live forum on March 22 for the Mayor's race and the City Treasurer's race. We also helped host a forum on March 27 featuring the candidates running for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th City of Peoria District Council candidates. (Please remember that the 4th district race has only one candidate and the League does not do forums for races with less than two candidates.)

Recordings of both of forums are available on our Facebook page and our website so if you missed them, please take the opportunity to view them before voting. To make it easier to find the races you are most interested in, the mayor's race is in the first hour of the March 22 forum and the Treasurer's race in the second hour. For the District Council races, the first hour includes the 1st and 2nd district candidates and the second hour has the 3rd and 5th district candidates.

—— Roberta Parks

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: March 9, March 23

After many months of delay, on **March 9** the Peoria City Council adopted an ordinance to update the city code for short-term rental uses

Currently, short-term rentals from home owners through Airbnb, VRBO and other websites are not legal in Peoria. Under this agreement, home owners wanting to rent room or single- family home would have to live in the home. Property not lived in by an owner would require a special use permit.

In addition, existing covenants or rules of neighborhood associations could prohibit rentals. Currently, hotel taxes are not collected on rentals. Airbnb has reported it would collect hotel taxes from property owners, if the city required that, and forward funds to the city. In addition, Airbnb would work with Peoria Police Department through a law enforcement portal for any issues on property rented through Airbnb.

After discussion, the council:

- o Revised the 2021 city budget to recognize a \$200,000 grant from Illinois Housing Development Budget for Strong Communities Program and corresponding expenditures.

- o Amended the 2020-2024 consolidated plan for submittal to Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- o Reallocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fire Station 4.

- o Amended the 2021 budget to recognize a \$1,385,000 grant received from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the Business Recovery Grant Program.

- o By omnibus vote, the council: approved \$795,903 in emergency grant COVID funding for agencies, purchased a Genesis Extraction Tool System for \$27,40; purchased nine complete self-contained breathing apparatus and 29 air cylinders for \$74,545; authorized no more than \$36,310 for 702 new 95-gallon garbage carts from Rehig Pacific Co.

In regular business, the council voted to approve zoning request for 1.5 acres of 4.5-acre parcel at University and War Memorial Drive for financial services. Community Development Director Ross Black explained that a special use request is site specific and future development of remainder of the parcel would also require special use request and go through hearing process. City staff and Councillor Charles Grayeb met with neighbors to agree on traffic flow from banking center via driveway access on Florence Ave.

On a final note, Third District Councillor Tim Riggensbach questioned safety of panhandlers at busy intersections. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson said it is difficult to enforce limitations on this, but it should be done in safe manner. She will report back at next meeting. Ms. Peterson reported the ACLU

has upheld protection for individuals holding a sign and soliciting money on public property and prohibits discrimination against these persons.

On **March 23**, Peoria City Council passed a long-delayed ordinance designating an area of urban decay and adopting tax abatement for portions of the north valley and south side of Peoria.

At-large Councillor John Kelly proposed this idea as a means to invest in the neighborhoods and encourage building and improve land values in the area. Taxes would be paid on value of land but not on new construction for first six years; taxes on new construction would be phased in years seven through ten. Kelly sees this program as an opportunity to recognize and increase in property values in the area for all owners. This measure was opposed by First District Councillor Denise Moore and At-large Councillors Beth Jensen and Rita Ali. Moore was concerned about effects on Peoria Public Schools, which could be impacted by loss of tax revenue by abatement.

Council members also: removed access restriction to Jamestown Road for multi-family residential development on W. King James Rd. and N. Queen Frances Lane; approved road improvements for Northmoor Rd. from Allen Rd. to University St.; denied liquor license at neighborhood grocery store at 1500 NE Jefferson. The business owner was referred to Economic Development for assistance, as well as the small business development program through Bradley University.

Finally, the Council unanimously deferred a special use permit for a car wash at 1217 W. Glen Ave. and 4926 N. University until April 13.

That meeting will begin with the annual meeting of the Township of Peoria Board of Trustees. This will include a public hearing, the town budget and appropriation ordinance. Peoria Township is contiguous with the City of Peoria, so its board consists of Peoria City Council members.

—— Connie Romanus, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, March 11

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners met on March 11, with Dr. Arun Pinto absent and Mark Ketterer attending by phone. The canvas for the primary election was to be signed later that day. There was a 15.57% turnout for that election, with 40% voting early, either in person or by mail. With a two vote difference in the election for Township Supervisor, there could be a discovery recount. Frank Abdnour has five days from March 16, to ask for up to 25% of 88 precincts to be recounted. If discovery shows a discrepancy, then his campaign can go to court. (Abdnour later conceded.)

In the report of Director Tom Bride on the April 6 general election, he said

that 71 ballots have been mailed to county residents and 2,000 will need to be sent to city residents. There are 306 different ballot styles in Peoria County. Staff will be setting up polling places on the Monday before the election, as they did during the primary. This helped things go more smoothly on election day. They have started seeing problems with the 16-year-old election machines. Canvas will be held on April 21.

—— Irene Pritzker, Observer

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, March 1

The March 1 PHA Board of Commissioners meeting was held virtually. Chairman Carl Cannon led the meeting. Commissioners Helen King, Kadar Hefner, Alma Brown and Kim Furness were in attendance. Commissioners Renee Andrews and William Purham were absent. The minutes of the Recessed Annual Meeting of February 1, 2021 and the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Jackie Newman, PHA CEO, discussed recent Executive staff retreat; waiting for direction from Biden administration and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on changes in Section 3 policies. Ms. Newman then presented overview of Taft Housing project. She was joined by Adam Templar, Bear Construction representative, who gave details of the project, including renderings of residential sites, community building with computer lab, playground area and maintenance building. There will be some 8-plex single bedroom units, several 2- and 3-bedroom duplex-style homes and two single ranch style homes for families that will have 4 and 5 bedrooms, for a total of 142 residential units.

Efforts have been made to ensure each unit has direct access to entry in front of unit and green space between other units. Handicapped accessible units are distributed throughout; duplex units will have stairs in upper unit. Recent work on site includes title searches on 15 different parcels and alley ways to ensure ownership of land, in addition to plotting out utilities on site to ensure safety of construction workers once on-site demolition is started. An underground storage tank was identified in the southeast section of the Taft property; this will need to be removed prior to getting an environmental report done for HUD.

PHA staff was to meet with all impacted residents on March 4 in small groups to review renderings, get feedback from residents on unit designs, color selection for vinyl and other materials. Each unit will have washer and dryer, open living area and meet Individual Development Account (IDA) requirements for storage. IDA refers to bonds commonly used as a means to reduce sales or property tax

on a project site that is under HUD. After resident meetings are completed, HUD reviews all financing and issues an invitation to submit project. This is one of next steps PHA will take. In addition, Bear Construction is monitoring costs of building materials, especially lumber and will be finalizing schedule with architect. Once this is done PHA will be posting job fairs and scheduling bids for work and meeting with local contractors, trade unions and NAACP and focusing on new rules on Section 3 and how they are met.

Reports were approved by consent agenda, with exception of Human Resources. Chairman Cannon asked to pull this for discussion. He referenced a list of open positions at PHA and inquired how many were HUD Section 3 and if PHA residents who qualified could apply. Director Newman stated the Section 3 HUD policy had been updated and she will provide information to board members on this. This report was then passed by Commissioners. Resolutions were approved to authorization to submit a section 18 disposition application to HUD to dispose of 21 units of public housing located at Taft Homes as part of the Taft Redevelopment Process; and to bind coverage for property and commercial liability coverage with HAI Group. Note: HUD Section-3 fosters economic development by providing opportunities for new employment, training and contracting, especially recipients of government housing without regard to race and/or gender.

There was no Old Business or New Business brought before the Board. Personnel Committee has activated CEO search; job description reviewed. Next meeting March 15; will develop profile and identify search firms for candidate interviews.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

————— Connie Romanus

ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER NETWORK

The Mississippi River Network is a coalition of 58 organizations. From the Headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico, they're working together toward a healthy and resilient river for land, water, wildlife, and people.

1 Mississippi is a public program of the Mississippi River Network. Since 2009, 1 Mississippi has built a community of 20,000 River Citizens and inspired thousands of actions. From armchairs to wading boots, River Citizens protect the Mississippi, speaking up on its behalf and caring for it in simple ways that make a difference.

Take the next step and become a River Citizen! Contact [Become a River Citizen](#)
If you have questions or comments, try info@1mississippi.org.

————— Connie Romanus

HEADS UP FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

LWVGP NOMINATING SLATE BOARD OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS **2021-2022**

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	Terry Kohlbus	2021-2023	
<u>1ST VP:</u>	Connie Romanus	2021-2022	Past President
<u>2ND VP:</u>	Tim Howard	2021-2022	
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sean Koors	2021-2023	
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Sandy Stemler	2021-2022	
<u>DIRECTORS:</u>	Roberta Parks	2020-2022	Voter Services
	Kathleen Kelly	2020-2022	Programs
	Jamila Wilson	2020-2022	
	Couri Thomas*	2021-2022	
	Kim Armstrong*	2021-2023	
	John Brady*	2021-2023	
	Terry Bibb Knight	2021-2023	Editor Newsletter
	Cathy Molchin*	2021-2023	
New Board Members*			
<u>Appointed:</u>	Jan Deissler	2021-2022	Membership

Thank you to the Nominating Committee Chaired by Shelley Epstein, Melanie Anderson, Nancy Long, Roberta Parks, and Kathleen Kelly.

Nominating Committee for 2022: Chair Cheryl Budzinski, Nancy Long, Jim Runyon.

(Need one more person – have email inquiries in progress). The new Board will identify two members to participate on Nominating Committee as well.

2021-2022 Local Program

July 21, 2021	Summer Social
September 22, 2021	Drinks & Dialogue
October 20, 2021	Drinks & Dialogue
January 8 or 15, 2022	Member Planning Breakfast Meeting
February 16, 2022	Drinks & Dialogue
March 23, 2022	Drinks & Dialogue
April 2022	Annual Dinner/Fundraiser
May 6, 2022	Annual Meeting of LWVGP Members
May 25, 2022	Drinks & Dialogue Location TBD
June 8, 2022	LWV 101th Anniversary Event

Meeting topics:

Voting Rights
Redistricting
Abolition of Electoral College
Pension reform

Potential Study Issues :

LWVGP FINANCES

2021/2022 Proposed Budget			2019-2020 Budget	2019-20 Actual	2020-2021 Budget	JULY-FEB YTD	2021-2022 Proposed Budget	
INCOME:								
	Membership Dues		\$7,775.00	\$5,326.05	\$6,800.00	\$ \$6,600.00	\$7,550.00	11% increase
		Brought forward from last year				\$ \$762.30		
	Fundraising Activities							
		Annual Dinner					\$4,400.00	See Below
		Raffle	\$2,000.00	\$1,340.51	\$1,500.00	\$ \$225.00	\$1,500.00	
		New from Fundraising	\$1,136.00		\$1,340.00	\$ \$200.00	\$1,340.00	
	Contributions/Donations		\$1,150.00		\$1,150.00	\$ \$2,371.00	\$1,150.00	
		Contributions in excess of dues		\$300.00				
	Interest		\$70.00	\$197.53	\$175.00	\$ \$92.05	\$175.00	
	Other			\$150.00				
	TOTAL INCOME		\$12,131.00	\$7,314.09	\$10,965.00	5 \$10,250.35	\$16,115.00	
EXPENSES:								
	Affiliations:							
		50% of LWVUS PMP (\$3008.00)	\$1,768.00	\$1,504.00	\$1,504.00	\$ \$2,595.41	\$3,392.00	11% increase-See below
		75% of LWVIL PMP (\$3056)	\$2,689.00	\$2,292.00	\$2,560.00	\$ \$1,552.00	\$3,445.00	11% increase-See below
		UMR	\$25.00			\$ \$50.00	\$25.00	
		Total Affiliations Expenses	\$4,482.00	\$3,796.00	\$4,064.00	9 \$4,197.41	\$6,862.00	
	Board & Administration							
		Fundraising Expense	\$2,000.00		\$500.00		\$500.00	
		Supplies	\$100.00	\$75.52	\$100.00		\$100.00	
		Postage	\$100.00	\$18.00	\$100.00	\$ \$87.25	\$100.00	
		Printing	\$120.00	\$310.00	\$350.00	\$ \$81.38	\$350.00	
		Website	\$900.00	\$768.60	\$645.00	\$ \$210.00	\$873.00	Weebly renewal Feb. 2022
		Insurance	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$ \$112.00	\$115.00	
		Misc. & Affiliation	\$50.00	\$59.00	\$75.00	\$ \$390.00	\$75.00	
		FaceBook ads	\$135.00		\$135.00		\$135.00	
		Anniversary expense			\$400.00		\$0.00	No event in 2021-2022
		Zoom meeting expense					\$240.00	
		Stripe expenses	\$45.00		\$100.00	\$ \$61.05	\$100.00	
		Total B&A expenses	\$3,565.00	\$1,346.12	\$2,520.00	13 \$941.68	\$2,588.00	
	Newsletter							
		Printing	\$75.00		\$100.00		\$50.00	reduced -electronic distribution
		Postage	\$200.00	\$254.00	\$100.00		\$50.00	reduced -electronic distribution
		Total Newsletter Expenses	\$275.00	\$254.00	\$200.00		\$100.00	
	Delegates & Travel							
		Conventions	\$2,000.00	\$305.08	\$2,000.00	\$ \$150.00	\$2,000.00	
		Observer Corps	\$26.00		\$26.00		\$26.00	
		Miscellaneous Meetings	\$120.00	\$67.78	\$120.00	\$ \$295.11	\$120.00	
		Total D & T Expenses	\$2,146.00	\$372.86	\$2,146.00	15 \$445.11	\$2,146.00	
	Programs and Activities							
		Programs & Activ/H2O**	\$300.00		\$300.00		\$30.00	
		History Project LWVGP*	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$250.00		\$0.00	No event in 2021-2022
		Voter Service	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$ \$100.00	\$300.00	
		Public Relations	\$330.00		\$330.00		\$330.00	
		Membership Recruiting	\$600.00		\$600.00		\$600.00	
		Annual Dinner Expense					\$2,400.00	See below
			\$2,530.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,780.00	10 \$100.00	\$3,660.00	
	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$12,998.00	\$7,768.98	\$10,710.00	6 \$5,684.20	\$15,356.00	
								The Education Fund has been emptied and closed.
								The finances associated with the Annual Dinner are now part or our local operating budget.

BY-LAWS: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PEORIA, ILLINOIS

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. Name - The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria (hereinafter referred to as the **LWVGP**). The **LWVGP** is an Illinois Not For Profit Corporation and an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES AND POLICIES

Section 1. Purposes - The purposes of the LWVGP are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. **Section 2. Policy** - The **LWVGP** may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The **LWVGP** shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Section 3. Tax Exemption. The **LWVGP** is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Resolution, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be attempting to influence legislation.

Section 4. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The LWVGP is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice -- with the **LWVUS'** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility - Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the **LWVGP** shall be eligible for membership. **Section 2. Types of**

Membership - The membership of the LWVGP shall be composed of voting members and associate members:

A. **Voting members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the **LWVGP**, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, and the League of Women Voters of the United States. Those who have been members of the LWVGP for 50 years or more shall be life members. Student voting members shall be individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

B. **Associate members.** All others who join the **LWVGP** shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office - The Board of Directors of the LWVGP (hereinafter the Board) shall consist of the officers of the LWVGP, eight elected Directors, and not less than four and not more than eight appointed Directors. Four Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding eight, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVGP. The terms of office of the

appointed Directors shall be one year and shall 2 expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting. The immediate past President shall serve the Board in a non-voting advisory capacity for one year. **Section 2. Qualifications** - No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or Director of this organization unless they are a voting member of the LWVGP.

Section 3. Vacancies - Any vacancy occurring on the Board by reason of resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may

be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. Powers and Duties - The Board shall have charge of the property and business of the LWVGP, with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. Meetings - There shall be at least six regular meetings of the Board annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board. Board members may participate in Board meetings electronically so long as all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. A telephone or electronic poll for any emergency would be included as a special meeting.

Section 6. Executive Committee - The Board may appoint an executive committee consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the Board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers - The officers of the LWVGP shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the Annual Meeting and shall take office immediately. The President and the Second Vice-President shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The First Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 2. President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the LWVGP and of the Board. The President may, in absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes, and shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 3. Vice-Presidents - The two Vice-Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, disability, or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office until such time as the Board shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy until the Annual Meeting. The Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and the Board may designate.

Section 4. Secretary - The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the LWVGP and of all meetings of the Board. The Secretary shall notify all officers and Directors of their election, and shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board, and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office of Secretary.

Section 5. The Treasurer - The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the LWVGP and shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the LWVGP. The books of account shall at all times be open to inspection by any director. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a financial institution designated by the Board and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings, a financial report to the Annual Meeting and a year-end financial report within 120 days of the close of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing federal, state, and local government forms and payment of any taxes and fees as required by law. The books of the Treasurer shall be reviewed annually.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year - The fiscal year of the LWVGP shall conform to that of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. Dues - Dues will be set at least at the sum of the per member payment (PMP) to the state and national League of Women Voters. Dues for two members at one address and sharing a common household will be one and one-half single member dues. Life members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 3. Budget - A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4. Budget Committee - A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board at least three months prior to the Annual

Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be submitted to the Board two months before the Annual Meeting at which the membership is to make its decision on the budget. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as Chairman. The budget, as approved by the Board, shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual meeting.

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of dissolution of LWVGP for any reason, all money, securities and other property which at the time be owned or under the absolute control of LWVGP shall be distributed at the discretion of the Board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the corporation and its affairs, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national organization which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the Board, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1.

Membership Meetings - There shall be at least four meetings each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board.

Section 2. Notice - Notice of all

General Meetings, the Annual Meeting, and all consensus meetings shall be sent to the membership at least 10 days before the meeting date. All regular committee meetings should appear on the League calendar. Notice shall contain time, place, and topic(s) to be covered.

Section 3. Annual Meeting - An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 1 and May 31, the exact date to be determined by the Board. The Annual Meeting shall: A. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year; B. Elect Officers and Directors, and members of the Nominating Committee; C. Adopt budget; and D. Transact such other business as may properly come before it

Section 4. Quorum - Twenty percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum- which may include up to 5% by written proxy -at the Annual Meeting of the LWVGP. Written proxy may be voted only by one proxy per member in attendance. Voting members shall be those members of at least one month's standing.

ARTICLE VIII - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1.

Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board. The Chairman and two members, none of whom shall be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations of these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board immediately following the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board. Suggestions for nominations for officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor - The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, providing the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections - The elections shall be by ballot except when there is only one nominee for each office, the election may be by voice vote. The majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

Section 4. Election Committee - After the nominations are closed, if the vote is taken by ballot, the presiding officer shall appoint an Election Committee, which shall have charge of all details of election.

ARTICLE IX - PROGRAM

Section 1.

Authorization - The governmental principles adopted by the National League of Women Voters Convention and supported by the LWVGP constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Section 2. Procedure - The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:

A. The Board shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program. B. The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. C. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board.

D. Recommendations for the Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that:

- (1) The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote; and (2) The Annual Meeting shall adopt the recommended item by a two-thirds vote.

E. Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions may be made provided that:

- (1) Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed; and (2) Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 3. Member Action - Members may act in the name of the LWVGP only when authorized to do so by the currently serving President.

ARTICLE X - NATIONAL CONVENTION, STATE CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Section 1.

National Convention - The Board at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted by the LWVGP under the provisions of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. State Convention - The Board at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted to the LWVGP under provisions of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Section 3. State Council - The President or the President's proxy shall be a delegate to the State Council under the provisions of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE XI - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1.

Parliamentary Authority - The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the LWVGP in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII – INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1.

The LWVGP shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to or witness in any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a member, director, or officer of the LWVGP against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding to the fullest extent and in the manner set forth in and permitted by the Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act and any other applicable law, as from time to time in effect. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such member, director, or officer may be entitled apart from the foregoing provisions. The foregoing provisions of this Article shall be deemed to be a contract between the LWVGP and each member, director, and officer who serves in such capacity at any time while this Article and the relevant provisions of the Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act and other applicable law, if any, are in effect, and any repeal or modification thereof shall not affect any rights or obligations then existing with respect to any state of facts then or theretofore existing, or any action, suit, or proceeding theretofore or thereafter brought or threatened, based in whole or in part on any such state of facts.

Section 2. The LWVGP may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to or witness in any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was an employee or agent of the LWVGP, or is or was serving at the request of the LWVGP as a mem-

ber, director, officer, employee, or agent of another League, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding to the extent and in the manner set forth in and permitted by the Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act and any other applicable law, as from time to time in effect. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which any such person may be entitled apart from the foregoing provisions.

ARTICLE XIII -- AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members at any regular meeting of the LWVGP, provided that any proposed amendments shall have been approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board and that any proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Adopted July 13, 2020



**League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria**

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 6: ELECTION DAY! VOTE!

12:30 p.m. Mon., April 12: LWVGP Board meeting (virtual).

5:30 p.m. Wed., April 21: Dr. Dawn Jeffries for Drinks & Dialogue (virtual)

6 p.m. Wed., April 28: Understanding Preventable Deaths Forum (virtual).

Thurs., April 29: People Powered Day of Action — Redistricting (virtual).

6 p.m. Thurs., May 6: LWVGP Annual Meeting (virtual).

June 11-13: LWVIL Convention (virtual).

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

Constance Romanus, President
309.264.9113
president@lwvgp.org

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

Cheryl Budzinski Jan Deissler Kirsten Hall Tim Howard Kathleen Kelly Terry Bibb Knight Sean Koors Roberta Parks Jamila Wilson

Newsletter

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