



Volume 74 Issue 5

May 2021

President's (Last) Message

Please join in as we plan our future

I hope you tune into the LWVGP Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 6, on Zoom. We will vote on officers and directors, as well as approve the 2021-22 program and budget. (The documents were in the April newsletter for your review.) Everyone is urged to attend; a quorum of membership is required for this meeting.

Besides, it is exciting to see our membership level increasing as the League of Women Voters recognizes the 101st Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Our organization continues to be relevant and a voice for Democracy in today's challenging times. Our League will send six delegates to the LWVIL Convention June 12-13; this will be a virtual event. Cheryl Budzinski, LWVIL Board member, is busy organizing how the virtual sessions will be conducted.

Congratulations to League member, Dr. Rita Ali, who was elected Mayor of the City of Peoria. She is the first woman — and first African American — to hold this position. This is truly a historic moment!

Look out for two June events celebrating the 101st anniversary of suffrage: Peoria Area World Affairs Council will Zoom on "Women's Suffrage South of the U.S. Border: Brazil and Beyond" on June 4. Dr. Aurea Toxqui, Bradley University history professor, will explore if having the right to vote translates into power for change. It's free; register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkdemsqzsoE9NIGm-VLQg3BMLi0lcXLTUqe>. At 5:30 p.m. June 8, Elaine Weiss, author of "The Woman's Hour," has a virtual lecture without charge to you. Books can be 'signed' for a fee.

Finally, thank you to our Board members, Committee Chairs, social media, communication folks, and all who supported me over the past two years as LWVGP President. It has been a rewarding opportunity and an honor to represent our membership. Who knew the challenges COVID-19 would present!

Topic: LWVGP Annual Meeting 2021

Time: May 6, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85811381083?pwd=WEYweTF3ZXB2WC9BajU4dTY2MHBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 1138 1083 Passcode: 623967

———— Constance Romanus, LWVGP President

Important Dates:

6 p.m. Thurs., May 6: LWVGP Annual Meeting.
12:30 p.m. Mon., May 10: LWVGP Board meeting (virtual).
11 a.m. Fri., June 4: Suffrage South of the Border (virtual).
5:30 p.m. Tues, June 8: “The Women’s Hour” — more info to come!
June 11-13: LWVIL Convention (virtual).
July: 21: Member Social, Oliver’s North. Stay tuned.

MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring! Our membership continues to grow. We’re hoping that members are still talking with friends and colleagues about the important work the League does locally, statewide and nationally. Currently we have 142 members! The highest in a number of years. We are truly “Making Democracy Work”.

The Membership Social is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, at Oliver’s North on Willow Knolls Road. Watch your mail/email/Voter for more information. If you want to be involved in planning this event please contact either of us (information below). The event will be outside, all food will be purchased by the League as well as beverages. In the case of rain, we will move inside, but we know it is not going to rain!!!

We are still looking for people who will volunteer to greet at League events and other places the League will be represented. Elsewhere in The Voter is an Interest Survey. Please complete it and email or mail it back to either Terry Matthews or one of the Co-chairs. We will get your preferences to the appropriate committee chair.

Since the last Voter we have received one new membership. Welcome to: Anne Warth! We look forward to her involvement with the League.

Remember, most successful recruitment for organizations is based on relationships and each of you has those relationships upon which we can build. The new year actually begins July 1, 2021 – that means current members should renew prior to that time. So – be watching for a plan to increase membership by at least 10%. In 2020 we did 17% without actually meeting people.

As co-chairs of Membership we look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we grow our League.

Jan Deissler – 635-1872
Jandeissler77@gmail.com

Linda Millen – 645-2542
tchkids2@sbcglobal.net



YOU GLOW, GIRLS!

Our April 21 Drinks & Dialogue — “Common Barriers to Social Mobility for Girls Born into Poverty,” presented by Dawn Jeffries, PhD. — was an excellent program! Dr. Jeffries provides tools and experiences for girls to become great women and productive citizens through the Girls Light Our Way (GLOW) program. Come out and join them!

—— Connie Romanus

VOTER SERVICES

Because the next election isn't until 2022, the Voter Services Committee is taking this time to do a thorough evaluation of what we do and how we do it. We will be looking not only at the functions we currently undertake — voter registration and voter education — but also at things we don't do now that we should consider. We have a small steering committee made up of LWVGP board members and former board members, Voter Services committee members, and new League members that will guide this work. So any thoughts you have about how we can improve or what we should consider, please don't hesitate to contact me at robertaparks7513@gmail.com.

We are also recruiting new committee members so if you have an interest in working on voter related issues, please let me know that, too! Stay tuned!

———— Roberta Parks

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: April 13

Peoria City Council members approved the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Assistance Program and reallocation of CDBG funds to utility assistance.

Community Development Director Ross Black said related assistance could be provided up to \$5,000 per household for power and water expense. Applicants deemed eligible will be selected by lottery process until funds are depleted.

City Manager Patrick Urich reported other funds may be available but he is waiting for more guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department, as well as a timeline for dispersing funds. Once this information is provided, he will share this with Council members in a policy session.

In addition, \$150,000 from the city's U.S. Housing and Urban Development funds was awarded for redevelopment of Parkwood Commons, 1720 N. Great Oak Rd., which is in District 2. An agreement for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to request federal funds in the amount of \$709,947 was approved for extension of Rock Island Greenway from Harvard Ave. to Park Ave. in Districts 1 and 3.

Councilors approved the 2021 Annual Action Plan for submission to HUD with total grant allocation of \$2,717,216 and amended the 2021 Annual Budget to reflect the 2021 Federal Grant Award.

In other action, the City will participate with IDOT to modernize traffic signals on US 116 (MacArthur HWY and Washington St.), IL 29 (Adams Street) and Spring St., IL 29 (Jefferson St.) and Spring St., as well as, IL 40 (Kumpf Blvd.) and

Monroe/Garrett and US 150 (War Memorial Dr.) and Prospect.

A first reading for an ordinance that would establish and regulate raffles and poker runs in the city of Peoria was briefly discussed. Currently these activities are licensed by Peoria County for non-profit groups. The location that raffle drawings are held would determine if a city or county license would be required.

Under unfinished business, the Council approved a special use Class C-1 (General Commercial) district for a vehicle car wash at 4926 N. University and 1217 W. Glen Ave.

Two citizens addressed the council at the end of the joint City Council/Town Board meeting. Karrie Alms remarked on inconsistencies regarding appointments to fill vacancies on Peoria City Council over past 16 years, as well as the lack of transparency. She recommended a process and policy be developed to fill council vacancies to promote public confidence and trust in council members. Then Laurence Maushard spoke to council members about a resolution declaring disconnection of utilities to be a pandemic risk. As moratorium on utility disconnection is ending, low-income residents are the most vulnerable. He distributed information to Council members on communities who have declared a Resolution on this matter.

The Annual Town Meeting was held prior to the City Council Meeting on April 13. Business items included approval of 2021-2022 Town budget and schedule for 2022 Annual Town Meeting. In addition, officials resolved to table approval of the revised employment manual to allow the new Supervisor to review it. There was no new business presented and no citizens submitted requests to address the Town Officials.

—— Connie Romanus, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, April 13

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 13. All commissioners were present except for Dr. Arun Pinto, who is out of town.

According to Executive Director Tom Bride, the April 6 general election went relatively smoothly. They were a little short of judges, having only 243 available that day. A few judges had quit, and there were not as many student judges working as in the past. One-third of voters cast their votes early, either at early voting locations or by mail, and two-thirds voted on election day. Total turnout was 17½ % of those eligible to vote.

With the next election not occurring until March of 2022, it is time to discuss upcoming projects. These include the redrawing of precincts, the mailing of new voter registration cards, and a Request For Proposal for a new voting system. In the past, new precinct lines were drawn after the city, county, etc. were done draw-

ing their district lines. Use of census data is required, but that will not be available until after the deadline for new lines.

Director Bride wants to wait until June 1, to send out an RFP for a new voting system in case some new legislation is passed by the state. There will still be plenty of time to make a decision. The Peoria County purchasing department sends out RFPs, and the commission receives the responses. A group that includes the County IT department and the commission's attorney will go over the replies.

After setting the time and date of the next meeting and the official canvass of the April election, the commission went into executive session about personnel.

Only one question arose during public comments. Would the RFP be open to the public? The answer was yes, and probably even presentations by vendors.

—— Irene Pritzker, Observer

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, April 5

The Board of Commissioners of Peoria Housing Authority held its regular meeting on April 5. A quorum was present; Chairman Carl Cannon led the virtual meeting. The minutes of the March 1 regular meeting were reviewed and approved; the minutes of the March 24 Special Meeting were tabled until May, as additional information need to be added.

Jackie Newman, CEO, reported the PHA offices had a soft opening beginning this week. That included in-person appointments with families, as well as providing inspections of properties and regular work orders. Staff will be assessing needs and adjusting restrictions as necessary to meet needs and comply with COVID-19 restrictions. Director Newman reminded the board that potential names for the housing development to replace Taft and a few streets that would be impacted need to be sent in as soon as possible to meet timelines for developers. Survey of staff for names is underway and suggestions include local African Americans who have had impact on the community. In addition, there will be a community center and an equipment building that could be named. The financial and closing documents for the Taft project will be submitted in next few weeks and names need to be finalized.

In other business, Chairman Cannon inquired if PHA Security has prepared for changes in activity at Taft and Harrison properties with warmer weather approaching. Chief Earnest McCall was not present, but a meeting will be set up to ensure a plan is in place. The CEO Search Committee is working on a job description and will continue to move forward on candidate search.

The next regular board meeting will be May 3. Agendas and other meeting information are posted on PHA website.

———— Connie Romanus

PEORIA CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE: March 31

The Peoria City County Landfill Committee held a virtual meeting March 31, with Chairman Steve Morris presiding.

The previous meeting was January 27. This Committee is meeting every six weeks as proposed at the December 9, 2020, meeting by Chairman Morris. Previously the meetings were held monthly. Upcoming meetings for 2021 are scheduled for May 12, June 23, August 4, September 15, October 27, and December 8. Committee agenda packets posted to the Peoria City Solid Waste Committee web page contain the virtual meeting access information.

Several sets of minutes were approved; others were delayed for approval, due to not having been in the original packets received by board members.

Josh Gabehart, Professional Engineer, Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC, presented several reports.

The Committee was asked to approve a yeast extract waste for disposal, as it was not on the pre-approved listing for receipt.

Four other special wastes received were for contaminated soils which were on the pre-approved listing. The Chairman's signature was requested for the annual Landfill No. 1 report and also for a report to document four shut-downs of landfill gas flares for longer than one hour in February. The first shutdown was due to the very cold weather. Equipment problems caused the other three shut-downs. Mr. Gabehart said 19,300 gallons of landfill leachate was transported for treatment since the last meeting.

Due to several unplanned repairs and reporting due, Foth expenditures are now slightly above the planned spending for this point in the budget year. Mr. Gabehart said landfill monthly tonnage receipts are well below last year for January and February. The comment was made that last year was high because of construction work on the McCluggage Bridge. The combination of very cold and snowy weather and that January and February are typically lower waste months was also mentioned.

Bill Lewis, City Engineer and Assistant Director, Public Works, presented the landfill budget report and advised keeping an eye on landfill receipts. Mr. Gabehart congratulated Bill as he will be retiring.

Committee member Steve Van Winkle asked about recycling receipts during January and February and how did they compare. Chris Coulter, PDC, commented that their Pekin recycling facility had an increase, however, it takes in recycling from a much larger regional area. Ian Johnson gave the Waste Management report, including their monthly Landfill No. 2 activity report.

Chris Coulter presented two items for a committee vote: an approval for the Landfill No. 3 annual report and receipt and filing of the termination agreement with the Peoria Park District regarding Landfill 3 mitigation that was to be at Victo-

ry Bottoms but has since been moved to wetlands and other work at the landfill site. Mr. Coulter discussed the need for a potential easement for construction of an enlarged spillway regarding the Landfill No. 3 mitigation work and gave an update on discussions with the adjacent property owners. He asked the Committee to consider if a potential easement might be considered via landfill property for the adjacent property owners and had several illustrations for the Committee to review.

As part of the PDC Landfill No. 3 project, PDC is to add four new recycling drop-off locations. Mr. Coulter said he has been concerned about the PDC Lab location for several years but PDC wants to provide four locations. Mr. Coulter asked the Committee to consider the possibility of moving the new recycling drop-off location that was planned for the back of the PDC Labs parking lot to PDC property off of Route 29 near Route 6, as that would be a much safer access point with a lot less traffic. The PDC Lab lot has many delivery trucks and cars coming and going for lab samples.

Committee member Rick Fox asked if having this so close to the existing Peoria County recycling drop-off at Midwest Fiber would be an issue. County Administrator Scott Sorrel said the County would be happy to talk with Mr. Coulter further about this. City Public Works Assistant Director Lewis said having the location as accessible as possible for the citizens was wanted. Mr. Coulter said PDC would be open to a different location that might be available. Committee member Van Winkle said the city has property being used for road salt storage and other things on the end part of Charter Oak Road. He thought this might be an option. It was recommended that Mr. Coulter talk with the city's Sie Maroon about it.

Chairman Morris said that the May and June Committee meetings will be virtual and he may revisit the status of meeting virtually after that, depending on COVID guidelines. The meeting was adjourned about 4:15 p.m.

——— Joyce Blumenshine, Observer

ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER NETWORK

The 58 organizations in the Mississippi River Network work 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. From arm-chairs to wading boots, those 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 Bibo 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. The new Board will identify two members to participate on Nominating Committee as well.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Member Interest Survey 2021-2022

You've joined the League of Women Voters. Great! Now what?

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Our effort to make democracy work requires many hands. Please indicate the areas for which you would like more information:

_____ Serve voters: assist with candidate forums; as a registrar; as a poll watcher

_____ Assist LOGO: monitor local government meetings

_____ Assist with communications: newsletter; news media; social media; website

(Please share your talents as we need many helpers)

_____ Help study an issue as chosen by the membership. Suggest an area of your concern:

_____ Assist Drinks & Dialogue: choose topics, recruit speakers, arrange venue, greeter

_____ Assist Membership: event greeter, prepare mailings, renewal social

_____ Take photographs at events

_____ Interview legislators or other office holders

_____ Assist with finance: audit, budget, fundraising

_____ Other (i.e., graphic design, computer skills, editing) _____

Please send your interests via email to: buddyboy2004@sbcglobal.net

Or mail your responses to:

Terry Matthews
23181 Farmdale Road
Washington, IL 61571

Visit the League at:

www.lwv.org or on Facebook



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ON THE WEB: www.lwvqp.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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July: 21: Member Social, Oliver’s North. Stay tuned.

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

Constance Romanus, President
309.264.9113
president@lwvqp.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 Bibo Knight Sean Koors Roberta Parks Jamila Wilson

Newsletter

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