



Volume 74 Issue 6

June 2021

### President's Message

## Let's Move Forward Together

The first, and most important thing I want to express is how much we should all appreciate our outgoing President, Connie Romanus. Under her leadership our organization prospered during a time of extraordinary challenges. Our membership grew, we became more diverse in our make-up and our perspectives, and we learned new ways to connect internally and externally.

While the LWVGP strengthened, our region continued to struggle in many ways. Fortunately, with new leadership in our central city, there will be many opportunities for the LWVGP to play a constructive role in shaping a better future for everyone. I hope I speak for all our members when I say that I look forward to working with Mayor Ali to help her address some of the issues facing the City of Peoria. I've reached out to Mayor Ali to open a line of communication on how the LWVGP can be most helpful. She responded promptly and positively.

At our June Board of Directors meeting, I hope to initiate a similar dialogue with our members on their ideas about what we can do to bring greater and more equitable prosperity back to our region. Whatever we decide, we will be more effective if we act with unity and consensus and I will do my best to build and maintain both. Having spent nearly four decades in and

around local government, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of community organizations like the LWVGP. This is a time when change in our community life is both needed and inevitable. Let's work together to make it as beneficial as possible for the people of Central Illinois and the LWVGP.

Terry Kohlbus, LWVGP President

### Important Dates:

**11 a.m. Fri., June 4:** Suffrage South of the Border (virtual).  
**5:30 p.m. Tues, June 8:** "The Women's Hour" — keep reading!  
**June 11-13:** LWVIL Convention (virtual).  
**4 p.m. Mon., June 14:** LWVGP Board meeting (virtual).  
**July: 21:** Member Social, Oliver's North. Stay tuned.

### MEMBERSHIP

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 146 members! Thanks to those of you who continue to recruit on behalf of the League.

Welcome to new members:

Dr. Leslie McKnight  
Stacey DelVecchio  
Teresa Cushing

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 (infor-

mation 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. In the May Voter you received an Interest Survey. 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 20% without actually meeting people. A Renewal Form is included in this month's Voter. It is important that you complete the form so our records can be accurate in regards to your contact information – address, email address and phone. Thanks for taking this extra step. The PO Box is on the form or you can go online and renew.

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

**OBSERVER TRAINING: 1 p.m. Thursday, June 17**

The League's trained Local Government Observers are a respected part of the community — they work to keep local governments accountable and community members informed. Registration is required: <https://lwvil.z2sys-tems.com/np/clients/lwvil/eventRegistration.jsp?event=142&>

—— Cheryl Budzinski

# Winning the Right to Vote

101st Anniversary of 19th Amendment

## Citywide Commemoration

**Join LWVGP and the Peoria community as we celebrate!**

Illinois was the first state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, on June 17, 1919. (Tennessee was the final state, ratifying on August 18, 1920.) The amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution when certified by the Secretary of State on August 26, 1920.

Most events are free, but require registration. After the lecture conversation and virtual book signing are free and open to the public. After the book signing, your autographed book will be shipped to you directly.

The League wants to thank the Peoria Historical Society, the Peoria Public Library and the Riverfront Museum — our partners in planning this celebration: — as well as the many sponsors you can find listed at the website below.

### **Winning the Right to Vote | A Lecture with Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour***

**Tue, Jun 8 | 5:30 pm  
Peoria Riverfront Museum**

Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, will discuss the path women took to gain the right to vote in the United States. Free & Open to the Public as a Live Zoom Webinar.

**Advanced Registration Required - [click here](#).**

### ***Exclusive* After Lecture Conversation + Book Signing**

**Tue, Jun 8 | 6:35 p.m.**

Want more? Enjoy the program, then join a new ZOOM call to 'meet' Elaine, ask questions 'face to face' and get a book plate signed! Ticket to this separate program includes a copy of her book and the book plate mailed to you following the program.

**Buy tickets online now - [click here](#).**

Questions? Contact Program Manager at [hplacko@peoriariverfrontmuseum.org](mailto:hplacko@peoriariverfrontmuseum.org)

For information on all events, please go to [Classes | Programs - Winning the Right to Vote | 101st Anniversary of 19th Amendment Citywide Commemoration - Peoria Riverfront Museum](#).

## **PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: May 4**

On May 4, 2021, an historic event took place with the swearing in of Rita Ali as the first woman, as well as the first person of color, in the position of Mayor of the City of Peoria. Mayor Ali welcomed new council members Andre Allan and Denise Jackson.

Council members approved a resolution calling for the State of Illinois to implement a moratorium on utility shut-offs as a stop gap measure until federal funds are available to help individuals with debt relief. City staff are working with residents on grant funds available for rent and utilities from Heart of Illinois Home Continuum of Care, and PCCO, as well as others. Residents can get more information on qualifying for assistance by calling Peoria Cares 211.

Also approved was revision of annual budget in amount of \$75,000 for contract to have Advanced Medical Transport Service (AMT) 911 staff answer Peoria Cares 211 calls. Calls will roll from current 211 system to AMT's operators, who are skilled at handling calls and will also provide reports to Council members on issues. This action will provide more hours of coverage and be cost effective for the City by contracting service.

Attempts to defer action on adoption of ordinance to establish combined sewer overflow remediation district were unsuccessful. Discussion centered around the deadline for City to submit final plans to EPA for approval. City Manager Patrick Urich explained the deadline was near and could be compromised by deferring action on this item. City plans to apply for low interest loan from state of Illinois at 1.5 % interest. Councilman Dennis Cyr expressed appreciation for work City Manager and staff have done to reduce remediation cost from over

\$200 million to \$109 million but shared concerns about transparency of collecting fees. The establishment of the Combined Sewer Overflow District passed unanimously; the resolution to setting fees with annual increases through May 2026 passed with nine to one vote.

### **Peoria City Council May 25, 2021**

Mayor Rita Ali presented three proclamations at the beginning of meeting: Gun Violence Prevention June 4-6, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and recognition of LWV 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment being celebrated with several local events, the highlight being a presentation by Elaine Weiss, author of “The Women’s Hour”, on June 8 at 5:30 PM.

The Council approved City Manager to borrow \$15,000,000 from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) State Revolving Fund (SRF) at 1.4 percent interest. Loan will be revolving loan over seven years and be repaid with funds generated by sewer rates paid by residents of city of Peoria to comply with federal EPA Consent Decree. This is an 18-year project. Councilor Cyr expressed he believes there are sufficient revenue sources elsewhere without city generating a loan. The motion passed with Councilors Cyr and Ruckriegel voting against measure.

Council members approved amendment to Joint Commission on Racial Justice with Peoria County, as well as, Steering Committee members. The Sub-Committees are: Racial Justice, Economic Development and Jobs, Child and Youth Development, Quality Housing, Health and Human Services, Transportation and Mobility, Technology, and Environment and Cli-

mate. Each sub-committee has two co-chairs; training provided by Illinois Central College, with additional training for facilitators to be scheduled.

Under new business, Councilor Grayeb asked for update from Interim Chief Theobald on overview of regulation for motorized bicycles in the city as there have been many complaints regarding loud noises, racing on city streets and riding on sidewalks. Chief Theobald related that motorized bicycles, with 50 cc motor, were legal for persons 16 years or older, are limited to 20 miles/hour and are subject to same rules as a regular bicycle in state of Illinois. He encouraged residents to call non-emergency contact for City or patrol division in extreme cases of noise/racing.

Councilor Jackson reported on follow up with owner of gas station on MacArthur Highway where a recent shooting took place. Discussion with owner has resulted in closing the business from 12:00 AM -4:00 AM on trial basis to evaluate if this results in decrease in calls to police and related crime. Corporation Council Peterson informed Council members that she is working on draft ordinance for gas stations and smoke shops regarding related issues.

—— Connie Romanus, Observer

## **PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, May 11**

The Peoria County Election Commission met on Tuesday, May 11, with all present except for Commissioner Sandra Burke.

In the discussion of expenditures, Director Tom Bride pointed out that the Commission was \$65,000 under budget, even with the added expense of cleaning three voting locations. These savings were due primarily to having fewer judges than in the past.

He pointed out Commissioners were only getting half of their normal pay (which is set by statute). Last spring, the Peoria County Board had asked all departments to cut their budgets by 11% because the pandemic had decimated income. Full pay had been included in the 2020-21 budget, but Director Bride had forgotten to notify the County to return the Commissioners to full pay. The Board voted to deviate from the statute for the first six months of this year rather than receive that pay retroactively.

A Request for Proposal for new voting equipment will be sent out soon. Proposals will come to the office, and a committee will be formed to evaluate them. The committee will consist of two Commissioners, staff, someone from IT, the attorney, and maybe a County Board member. Someone from the local disability community will be asked to check accessibility.

—— Irene Pritzker, Observer



## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, May 6**

The Board of Commissioners of Peoria Housing Authority met for its monthly meeting on May 6 electronically due to COVID-19 restrictions. There were no community comments at this time. The Board approved the minutes of Special Meeting held on March 25, as well as the regular meeting on April 5.

Jackie Newman, CEO, reported the PHA held a recent meeting to reach out to vendors and contractors regarding the Taft redevelopment project. Staff were available to assist small contractors to complete federal government forms. Staff is also working with PHA residents regarding jobs and placement for training.

Treasurer Kadar Heffner reported the CEO Search Committee has been meeting every two weeks. The job description is completed and advertising language is being developed, as well as Request for Proposal from search firm.

Chairman Carl Cannon reported a meeting had been held with Chief of Security McCall regarding safety plan for warm weather months. Town hall meetings are planned and will be held at Frank Campbell Center.

Next regular meeting of the board is 4:30 p.m. June 7. Agenda and Zoom invite posted to PHA website.

———— Connie Romanus

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!

**1. AGE: Which category below includes your age?**

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

**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

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

- Heterosexual or straight

- [ ] Homosexual
- [ ] Bisexual
- [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional: Why did you join?**

---



---

**Dues Invoice**  
**The League's Membership Year is July 2020 - June 30**

**2021-2022 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**

*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!*

Category	Individual	Household
Regular	\$62	\$93
Student/ Young Professional/Scholarship	\$31	n/a
Defenders of Democracy		
• Ida B. Wells	\$100	\$150
• Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	\$300
• Eleanor Roosevelt	\$300	\$450



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

413 W. Lawndale Ave., Peoria, IL 61604

ON THE WEB: [www.lwvqp.org](http://www.lwvqp.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**11 a.m. Fri., June 4:** Suffrage South of the Border (virtual).  
**5:30 p.m. Tues, June 8:** “The Women’s Hour” — keep reading!  
**June 11-13:** LWVIL Convention (virtual).  
**4 p.m. Mon., June 14:** LWVGP Board meeting (virtual).  
**July: 21:** Member Social, Oliver’s North. Stay tuned.

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors  
2021-2022**

Terry Kolbuss, President  
[www.president@lwvqp.org](mailto:www.president@lwvqp.org)

Connie Romanus, 1st V-P  
Tim Howard 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Sean Koors, Treas.  
Sandy Stemler, Secretary

Kim Armstrong John Brady Jan Deissler Kathleen Kelly Cathy Molchin Roberta Parks Couri Thomas Jamila Wilson

**Newsletter**

Terry Bibo Knight  
[terry.bibo.freelance@gmail.com](mailto:terry.bibo.freelance@gmail.com)