



# THE VOTER

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Summer 2015

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**June 17. D & D, "Don't Shoot"** 5:30 p.m. Hearth Restaurant, Peoria Hts.

**June 22. LOGO.** Noon, Cheryl's home.

**June 25. Community Redistricting Kickoff,** 5:30 Peoria North Library.

**July 15. D & D, "Affordable Housing"** 5:30 p.m. Hearth Restaurant, Peoria Hts.

**July 29. Summer Social/Renewal,** 5:30p.m. Johnsons' home 401 Water

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This summer we have exciting events, join us:

- **Redistricting petition drive Community Kick-off** on Thursday June 25 at the North Branch Library.
- Drinks & Dialogue (monthly on the third Wednesday of the month). Topics are **"Don't Shoot" on June 17 & "Affordable Housing" on July 15**
- League volunteers on **July 24 conducting the election of officers and directors** for the national organization, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA is making a donation to League).
- **Summer Social/Renewal** on July 29 at Perry & Pam Johnson's 401 Water Street.
- August 6, **Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act.**

At our Annual Business meeting on May 7, members: elected the slate of officers and directors for 2015-16; voted unanimously to work on the Redistricting Amendment for the Nov 2016 ballot; adopted the budget; determined the topics for our general meetings; and enjoyed good food & drink. We **celebrated Pat Landes'** hard work on membership committee and ReDistricting with our **Leaguer of the Year** award. What a difference a new, energetic member can make to an organization!

From the June 6-7 LWVIL Convention "floor" we have a new LWVIL position adopted by concurrence regarding "consolidation of government units." The study was done by the LWV New York, adopted at a LWVNY convention, proposed by the Wheaton, IL, League, and adopted by concurrence at the LWVIL convention. Now all Leagues in Illinois can use the guidelines within the position to support or oppose a consolidation in their area. This should be available soon at state website: [www.LWVIL.org](http://www.LWVIL.org)

Thank you to Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) for allowing our general meetings (1st Thursday of each month) to be held at their facilities this year. And, thanks to West Peoria for allowing our meetings in 2014-15.

I hope you will all commit to voting, working on a committee or an issue, attending meetings, writing or telling your representatives what your views are on issues, participating in socials/ fundraisers and collecting petition signatures to make a change in Illinois.

I am honored to be the president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria for 2015-17. Thank you.

-- Cheryl Budzinski

## "DON'T SHOOT" Drinks & Dialogue, Wed. June 17, at Hearth Restaurant

"Stop the shooting or go away for years" is the message of the "Don't Shoot" program to Peoria's gang-bangers. **Jerry Brady, Peoria County States Attorney** will discuss the program and how it is working in Peoria at the June LWV Drinks & Dialogue.

**Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Hearth Restaurant at 4604 N. Prospect Road, Peoria Heights.

This collaborative task force effort of "Don't Shoot" between Peoria States Attorney, judges, law enforcement, elected officials, clergy, relatives and the community has now a few years' of results. The task force adopted this method of focused deterrence known as the "Don't Shoot" Program, based on the book *Don't Shoot: One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America* by David M. Kennedy, the Director of Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. 70 cities have used the "Don't Shoot" Program in various forms.

The "Don't Shoot" task force conducts "call-ins" to directly communicate important messages regarding the consequences of continued criminal activity, and the opportunities offered to change behaviors. The initial call-in was in December 2012, and most recently on Wednesday, June 10, 2016. ***Jerry Brady will discuss the results and opportunities for involvement.***

Drinks & Dialogue provides an opportunity for people to share opinions and ideas, ask questions and become more aware of important issues and the options for making change. There is no cost to participate, and refreshments are available to buy.

## "Affordable Housing" topic of July 15 Drinks & Dialogue

"What is Affordable Housing and Why is it Important?" will be discussed at the July LWV Drinks & Dialogue, hosted by t. The League supports policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family (see LWVUS position and Criteria for Housing Supply below).

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 15 at the Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights, IL.

The dialogue about affordable housing will be opened with comments from **Ross Black, Community Development Director at the City of Peoria** and facilitated by League members. Bring a friend and join the dialogue.

### **LWVUS Position and Criteria for Housing Supply** (Source: Summary of Public Policy Positions LWVUS)

**POSITION: Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.**

#### **Criteria for Housing Supply**

*The following considerations can be applied to programs and policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family:*

- *The responsibility for achieving national housing goals rests primarily with the federal government, which should:*
  - 1 *assure that our economic system is functioning to produce and maintain sufficient decent housing for citizens at all income levels;*
  - 2 *compensate for any failure or inadequacy of the system by building, financing, renting and selling homes to those citizens whose housing needs are not being met;*

- 3     *give a variety of incentives to local jurisdictions to encourage them to provide within their boundaries an adequate supply of decent housing for low- and moderate-income groups;*
- 4     *withhold federal funds from communities that fail to encourage such housing.*
- *State and local governments should assist by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate and supplement the housing programs of the federal government and the private sector.*
- *Government at all levels must make available sufficient funds for housing-assistance programs.*
- *When families or individuals cannot afford decent housing, government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.*
- *Government programs providing subsidies to the building, financing and insuring industries for housing for lower-income families should be evaluated in terms of units produced rather than in terms of benefits accruing to these industries.*
- *Government at all levels should develop policies that will assure sufficient land at reasonable cost on which to develop housing and that will assure fulfillment of other goals such as access to employment, preservation of open space, environmental cleanliness and beauty, and other aspects of a suitable living environment.*
- *Regional and metropolitan planning should be promoted to prevent haphazard urban growth, and housing for low- and moderate-income families should be provided as a part of all planned neighborhoods or communities.*
- *Lower-income families should not be segregated in large developments or neighborhoods. As their economic status improves, lower-income families should be enabled to continue to live in the same units as private tenants or as homeowners, if they are so inclined.*
- *Housing should be designed to meet human needs and should be built with amenities that will encourage economic integration within apartment buildings as well as within neighborhoods.*
- *Publicly assisted housing should be included in viable, balanced communities, with provision for quality public services and facilities, including schools, transportation, recreation, etc., that will encourage integration and stability.*
- *Zoning practices and procedures that will counteract racial and economic isolation should be promoted.*
- *State and local governments should adopt and enforce:*
  - 1     *uniform building codes with standards based on performance;*
  - 2     *housing codes to protect the health and safety of all citizens.*
- *State and local tax structures should be examined and revised to:*
  - 1     *benefit communities that build housing for lower-income families;*
  - 2     *encourage private owners to improve their homes;*
  - 3     *reduce speculative land costs.*
- *Government, industry and labor should encourage innovative building techniques to reduce the cost of housing production.*
- *Rights of tenants to negotiate for proper maintenance, management of facilities and services should be protected.*
- *Housing programs should be administered by individuals trained for the jobs and sympathetic with the needs of their clientele.*
- *Citizen groups should participate in the development of publicly assisted housing programs by:*
  - 1     *evaluating performance;*
  - 2     *activating nonprofit sponsorships;*
  - 3     *supporting legislation;*
  - 4     *developing public awareness of housing discrimination and need.*

**"Coal Ash Stories"** four short films focusing on toxic coal ash will be screened on **Wed., July 1, at 7 pm** at the UU Church, 3000 Richwood Boulevard, Peoria, 61604. Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance in partnership with HOI Sierra Club and League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria invites you and your friends to the screening.



Cheryl serves on the City of Peoria's "One Water" committee which is looking at the combined sewer overflow and stormwater management proposals. Meetings are open to the public - third Wed. at noon.

### 2015 LWVIL Convention report, June 6-7, 2015

In attendance from LWVGP: Farrell Davies, Carol Hedeman, Elaine Hopkins, Pat Landes, Cheryl Budzinski. Also in attendance as a member of the LWVIL Board: Irene Pritzker.

**LWVGP won three categories of awards - candidate forums, membership increase, and redistricting reform. Those awards are called, "Spotlight on Achievements" and we received 3 of the 6 submitted to LWVIL by Pat Landes.**

Outcomes from convention affecting our League: per member payment will go up \$3 for LWVIL starting July 2016. (We fought this because we thought increased dues will limit our ability to attract and retain members.) LWVIL's budget is not balanced. They take the \$56,000 deficit from reserves. Many speakers pointed out that it was not acceptable to not have a balanced budget. This has been happening for several years. A board member, Bonnie Cox, has added "Development Director" to her VP title on LWVIL Board to try new avenues to raise money.

The adopted Program Focus for 2015-17 is:

- Action Focus on Criminalization of Mental Illness; Gun Violence Prevention; Fiscal policy - with focus on education and social needs; Redistricting; Water - with focus on nutrient loss; and concurrence on NY position on "Consolidation of Governmental Units and Sharing of Major Governmental Services" which was voted from the floor.
- Readopted the current positions including the recently revised Charter Schools position.

Pat presented Redistricting during plenary and Cheryl had put together clipboards for everyone to get all Leagues excited and "kick-started" to get their Leagues involved in collecting Redistricting petition signatures. (Cost of the clipboards was covered by another Leaguer's donation.) There were two caucuses on Redistricting. Paula Lawson, a past LWVIL president presented Saturday evening's caucus and Cheryl presented the Sunday morning caucus on the petition effort.

Pat and Elaine attended the optional Friday workshops. Pat presented at the MLD (Membership Leadership Development) workshop early Saturday morning. Carol, Farrell, and Cheryl attended plenary sessions and participated Saturday and Sunday.

– Cheryl Budzinski



## Our League Board voted to join the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO

Inter League Organizations are formal LWV organizations recognized by the League of Women Voters of the US. They operate under the Natural Resources positions of the national LWV. ILOs are established because their members recognize the need to work together at the regional level to most effectively and responsibly solve problems that transcend political boundaries. The natural resource issues facing us in the Upper Mississippi River Region definitely transcend such boundaries. We believe the proposed ILO could increase the clout and effectiveness of the LWV's work on natural resource issues by:

- Developing educational programming to be shared among the ILO's leagues to increase the public's understanding of the natural resource issues in the region.
- Coordinating our advocacy efforts across state lines and in numerous Congressional districts to better promote the collective interests of the region before Congress and the federal agencies.
- Monitoring local, state, regional, and federal proposals that affect the interests of the region and then distributing that information and making recommendations to the appropriate state or local LWVs for action.

The steering committee has received the approval of the state LWV boards in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois to pursue the development of the ILO. They are contacting the 78 local LWVs in these states, informing them of the plans to form an ILO, and asking for their support. So far 33 local LWVs have indicated that they are interested in joining the LWV-UMRR ILO.

LWVGP needs a designated representative for this group. Interested? Talk to Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950

## Voter Service News

The Voter Service committee is looking forward to an interesting and exciting year! We met or exceeded our goals of encouraging young voters to participate in their government, getting more election judges, registrars, and poll watchers.

This year we are welcoming new members to this committee. We will help register new citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony in July. The end of the summer will bring a very interesting forum as we partner with WEEK and the McLean LWV to conduct a forum for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional race.

**Watch** for this event.

All interested in working with us, please contact Mary Jane Crowell 674-5313.

### **A Celebration of Voting Rights**

You Are Invited

To the 50th Anniversary of The Voting Rights Act of 1965

Thursday, August 6, 2015 from 6 pm – 7:30 pm

A Celebration at the Historic Lincoln Library, 1312 W. Lincoln Ave., Peoria, IL

Hosted by LWVGP, NAACP, & ACLU

Featured presentation by LWVGP members Mary McDade and Carol May

*The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting.*



**VOLUNTEERS!** Your help is needed! Members are needed to help plan and work on activities that you are interested in. Our committees need additional members:

- Redistricting committee needs petition passers and people to sit at tables to collect signatures (Gary wedrawthelineIL@gmail.com ).
- Membership committee needs members to help reach their goals (Pat 648-3548)
- Fundraising committee needs members to help plan our Fall Fundraiser and our April Dinner meeting (Carol 685-7217 ).
- Do you understand Facebook, websites, or newsletters? Laurie, Sharon, Elaine, and Cheryl would like your suggestions to update our "brand" ( Cheryl 253-9594).
- Have a topic and speaker for Drinks & Dialogue? Offer to coordinate for that topic- we will help with instructions, the publicity, and getting it on the calendar. (Ron r48budz@icloud.com).
- Leaders for many areas such as: housing, immigration, recycling, observing, etc. (Cheryl 253-9594).

-- Call Cheryl at 309/ 253-9594

## RENEW RENEW RENEW

It's time to renew your membership which expires June 30, plus  
renew your passion for making democracy work.



*Your membership gives the League the political clout  
we need to be a voice and force for change.*



### **3 ways to renew, plus more membership categories**

*Please choose the renewal option that works best for you:*

- ✓ **In person:** You are invited\* to attend the Summer Renewal Social on Wednesday, July 29, 5:30 – 7 pm, at the home of League members Pam & Perry Johnson, 401 SW Water, #706, Peoria. Renew in person w/check or cash, plus celebrate our League's successes this past year and hear about the exciting year starting July 1. Feel free to bring prospective members. RSVP to Pat Landes, email [landes.pat@gmail.com](mailto:landes.pat@gmail.com) or call 309-648-3504.  
OR
- ✓ **Online:** Go to [www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org) and use PayPal to renew.  
OR
- ✓ **By mail:** Mail a check payable to LWVGP with the form below.

As a member you will continue to electronically receive our newsletter, *The Voter*, and alerts on breaking action in Illinois and Washington, D.C. You will also continue to have opportunities to help shape the policy decisions that affect our lives and preserve our constitutional rights and liberties.

Thank you, your membership makes democracy work!

*Invitations will be mailed out soon and include pro-rated credit for 2015/16 dues for each new member that has joined since July 1, 2014.*

### **2015/16 Membership Renewal by Mail**

1. Please select and circle your desired membership category, below.
2. Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Phone & email address: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Make check payable to LWVGP for the circled membership amount and mail this form and check to LWVGP  
Treasurer: Terri Campion, 1188 County Road 00E, Wyoming, IL 61491.

Category	Individual	Household
Regular	\$60	\$90
Student/Scholarship/Young Professional	\$30	n/a
Defenders of Democracy		
• Susan B. Anthony	\$100	\$150
• Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	\$300
• Eleanor Roosevelt	\$300	\$450

*Membership notes: Household = 2 members living at the same address; Student = full-time student; Scholarship = limited income contact Membership Chair Pat Landes 309-648-3504); Young professional = 30 or younger; Defender of Democracy = increased level of support acknowledged in Voter.*

## Community Kick-off Meeting for the Redistricting Amendment

The League is collecting signatures to get the Redistricting Amendment on the Nov. 2016 ballot. Corrections to the previous efforts are in place. Won't you join us for the *Community Kick-off meeting* on **Thursday June 25 at 5:30 at the Peoria North Branch Library!**

Petitions are available now to download at: [www.MapAmendment.org](http://www.MapAmendment.org). Go to the bottom of the page and click "download the Independent Map petition" It will open in pdf format.

- Petitions have been changed to correct issues from 2014 which were deemed by the court to be unconstitutional.
- Petition can be downloaded from the [www.MapAmendment.org](http://www.MapAmendment.org) website
- Petitions are 8.5 x 11" and **MUST BE PRINTED DOUBLE-SIDED.**
- Petition circulators must be 18 years old and a US citizen.
- Any Illinois registered voter is eligible to sign.
- **DO NOT check the boxes at the top that say, "YES" and "NO"**
- **You must sign the bottom of each petition sheet in front of a notary - do not fill in the page number. The notary will sign and stamp the petition**

Turn completed sheets in to our League. We are trying to keep track of how many we turn in.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**June 17. Drinks & Dialogue, "Don't Shoot" 5:30 pm, Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Hts.**

**June 22. LOGO. Noon, Cheryl's residence 623 W Stratford Dr.**

**June 25. Community Redistricting Kickoff, 5:30 pm, Peoria Library North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Parkway (behind Menards off Allen Road) Peoria. Bring a friend!**

**July 1. Coal Ash films, 7 pm, Universalist/Unitarian Church, 3000 Richwoods Blvd., Peoria.**

**July 13. Board meeting, noon. McClure Branch Library, 315 W. McClure, Peoria.**

**July 15. Drinks & Dialogue, "Affordable Housing" 5:30 pm, Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N. Prospect Rd, Peoria Hts.**

**July 24, Election at VVA Convention, Springfield, IL.**

**July 29. Summer Social & Membership Renewal, 5:30-7pm at Pam & Perry Johnson's - invitations being mailed. RSVP**

**August 6. Voting Rights Celebration, 6-7:30pm, Lincoln Branch Library, 1312 W. Lincoln Ave., Peoria.**

**July 7. Special General Primary (18<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat. Early voting and voting by mail began May 28.)**

**End of August/early Sept. Candidate forum for 18th Congressional District**

**Sept. 10. Special General Election, 18<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat.**