

The *VOTER*



League of Women Voters - Janesville
February 2010

www.lwvjvl.org Editor: Carol Herzig P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

Birthday Season Begins



Carol Herzig, photo

Socializing at our winter membership gathering.

Members and guests at the Speak-Easy get-together Jan. 28 began the LWV 90th Birthday Season with lively discussion of current interests and concerns. Yard signs were handed out and birthday candles were taken home. We appreciated the chance to just enjoy being with each other.



League of Women Voters Yard Signs still available

League Yard signs will begin showing up in yards and windows around the city. These weather proof signs come with wires to stand in snow banks or (if we get warmer weather) the ground. Get yours for \$3.50 from Carol Herzig. Leave them out for a month. Save the sign for future events that can be highlighted with the sign.

The Janesville LWV headed up this project for all the Leagues in the state. Nearly 300 signs will be seen around WI this spring. A big thank you to Gloria Ziegler and our Birthday Committee for their idea and to Carol for managing the endeavor.



Kay Deupree, photo

Kay's sign on display in her yard. (Photo right)

Remembering Judi

LWV Janesville Charter membership in Judi Fund



Judi Kneece

Nancy Stabb
LWV Board

League Board votes to be a Charter Member of the Friends of Judi Kneece Fund offering members an opportunity to honor Judi's memory and her unique and valuable contributions to the LWVJ.

League lost a valuable member and friend with the passing of Judi Kneece in May 2009. Judi

joined the Janesville League in the 70's. She was active from the beginning; serving on various committees, helping with Fund Raising and Voter's Service and serving as local League President from 1985 to 1989. As manager of JATV from the mid 90's until her passing, Judi worked cooperatively with League in organizing, taping and airing Candidate Forums and other League programs. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, LWVJ recognized the valuable support of JATV with certificates of appreciation to Judi and Duane Brewer. .

All who knew and worked with Judi admired her many talents and were inspired by her energetic leadership. Judi's friends from many local organizations have asked the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin to establish a fund in her memory to support emerging needs of women and girls in Janesville. The Friends of Judi Kneece Fund will be a non-endowment fund administered by the Women's Fund board. To learn more about

these two funds go to <http://www.cfsw.org/womensfund.asp>

We invite you to be a part of the LWVJ charter membership in the Judi Kneece Fund. If you would like to contribute, please make checks for your tax deductible donation to the Friends of Judi Kneece Fund .

Mail to Nancy Stabb, 1200 S. River Rd., Janesville, WI 53546.

If possible, we would like to have the money before February 18 which is Judi's birthday.

In addition to this fund, the Friends of Judi and the Janesville Design and Development Center are working on plans to create a mural and supporting educational materials about women's history in Janesville, as a memorial to Judi Kneece and as a companion to three other Janesville history murals already in existence. Coral Swanson and Kris Koeffler have led in the initiation of this project.

Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:



To check out the action go to:

LWV-US <www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org>

JANESVILLE LEAGUE

<www.lwvjvl.org>



Citizens United decision sets off revolution in Campaign Finance

Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy

Washington, DC – The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The League filed an amicus brief in this case:

“The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in *Citizens United v. FEC* is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined – that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

“Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent, ‘The Court’s ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution.’

“In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder’s money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy.

“Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason – to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government.”

Reporters wishing to speak with Ms. Wilson should contact Kelly Ceballos at kceballos@lww.org or 202-263-1331.

Spring Primary Election is Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Three candidates are running for the Court of Appeals District IV. Brian Blanchard, Ramona A. Gonzalez and Edward E. Leineweber.

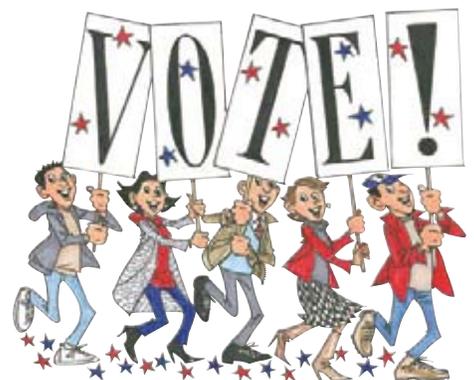
Responses from the candidates can be found through the LWVJVL.org website under *Elections* – Spring 2010. The top two vote-getters will appear on the April ballot.

Questions [provided by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin]:

1. What educational, occupational, civic, and community experiences have you had that you believe qualify you for this elective office?

2. Describe in lay terms what the Court of Appeals does and how it does it. What types of cases are heard by the court?

3. What legislative or procedural changes might improve the operations of the court?



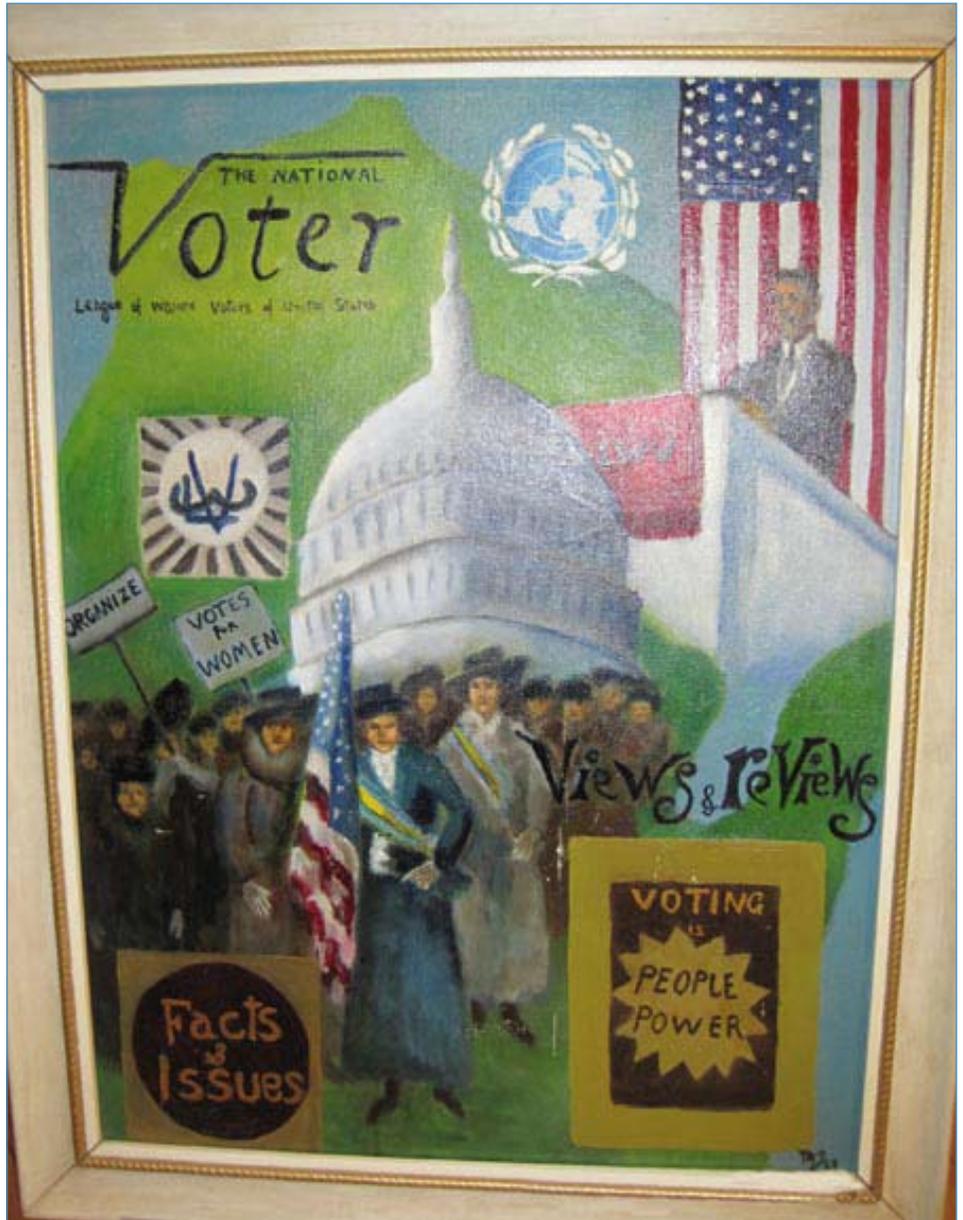
Volunteers needed for the 90th Birthday Project



As a way to remind ourselves and our local elected representatives that the League is paying attention to their work, we are planning to attend the February meetings of the City Council, School Board and County Board. Dates are listed in the

calendar. Gloria has created VOTE sashes to wear to honor the struggle that resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Please let Kay know which meeting you can attend. If we will each make **one** of the meetings, we will be well represented.



Kay Deupree, photo

Susan B Celebration – Feb. 7

Featured on the League's table at this celebration will be a painting by Mame Simonson, Janesville League member. This piece was created as a LWV 50th Anniversary gift to the state president in Sept. 1969.

Membership Stats

The membership record as of January 31 becomes our official count for the year on which national and state dues

are based. For 2010, the Janesville League reported 54 members.

Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation Contact Information

Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI)	202-224-5653	Rep. Gwen Moore (D-04)	202-225-4572
Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI)	202-224-5323	Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, Jr (R-05)	202-225-5101
Rep. Paul Ryan (R-01)	202-225-3031	Rep. Tom Petri (R-06)	202-225-2476
Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-02)	202-225-2906	Rep. Dave Obey (D-07)	202-225-3365
Rep. Ron Kind (D-03)	202-225-5506	Rep. Steve Kagen (D-08)	202-225-5665

How It All Began... LWV Founding

Compiled by Kay J. Maxwell
LWV-US

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a non-partisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the

public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Womanth Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation



What's Next – Upcoming Activities* Feb. – May 2010

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

*Additional events may be planned.
Check website: lwwjvl.org/calendar

JANESVILLE

DATE	LWV EVENTS		
Feb 7	Susan B. Anthony Celebration: The Gathering Place, Milton, Brunch: 11:30am <i>Eleanor!</i>		
Week of Feb 8	8 th - Mon- 7pm Observe City Council 9 th - Tues - 6 pm Observe Janesville School Board 11 th - Thur.- 6pm Observe Rock County Board	LWV Yard Sign Display	
Feb 16	Spring primary: District 20: Rock County Board 4 th District Court of Appeals		
Feb 17	Lunch & Learn: Noon M&I Bank, downtown <i>Mental Health & ACDA --Cost to Community-Brad Munger</i>		
Week of Feb 22	22nd- Mon – 7 pm Observe City Council 23rd- Tues - 6 pm Observe Janesville School Board 25th – Thur. – 6 pm Observe Rock County Board		
Feb. 24,25	(tentative) Census Information, Parent Conferences Elementary Schools Janesville		
Mar. 1	School Board Candidate Forum, 6pm, Ed. Ser. Ctr.		
Mar. 2	City Council Forum, 6pm, Hedberg Lib Program Room		
Mar. 3 +	County Board Candidates -- taping at JATV		Women's History Month
Mar.	Voter Registration at high schools		
Mar. 10	Lunch & Learn: Noon- Rock County Job Center <i>Let's Count! It's Safe, Important & Easy--The Census</i>		
Mar. 16	Joint program w/ Hedberg Library, 7pm program room Ann Bausum, author, <i>Voting Rights, Voting Fights: Securing the Ballot During America's History</i>		
April 6	Spring Elections: City Council, County Board, School Board, 4 th District Court of Appeals		
April 14	Lunch & Learn: Noon M&I Bank, downtown <i>Elder Economic Security Initiative in Wisconsin(EESI)</i>		
May	LWV Janesville Annual Meeting		
June 11-15	LWV National Convention, Atlanta GA.		

of a league of women voters to “finish the fight” and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

“The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?”

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to that challenge. She had steered the women’s suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work. From the beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women’s issues and that education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. For almost 90 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government as it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

Due to a snow storm program has been rescheduled
Lunch & Learn, December 9, noon – 1pm.
Costs to the Community

The cost to our community to provide both mental health and AODA services as well as the impact of the lack of treatment options will be discussed by Brad Munger, Rock County Crisis Unit supervisor.

“Our community is in a situation of shrinking service dollars for these health issues while increased stress potentially increases the need,” according to Marilyn Walterman, LWV TRENDS program chair. “We want to learn how this impacts the whole community.”

League members are encouraged to attend this program and even bring a friend along. National health care reform continues to be a divisive issue that the League has a position on. This is an opportunity to learn about some local implications and to ask your pressing questions.

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

*Remember you may still contribute to the
State League with a birthday donation and
half of your donation will be returned to our
Janesville League.*