

# The *VOTER*



League of Women Voters - Janesville  
February 2011

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Carol Herzig, Photos

**LWV's Winter Gathering at the Speakeasy Thursday, January 27, 2011, an enjoyable evening was had by all.**

## Social gathering a good time for League members

The Winter Gathering last Thursday was a delight with twenty five members visiting with and encouraging each other in the upcoming LWV activities.

Thanks to Carol Herzig and Amy Golackson for making the arrangements. In addition, we welcome Carol Engebretson as a new member of the LWV.

## Board meetings are becoming a monthly Check-In

Beginning with the February 21 membership/Board meeting, we will have a monthly opportunity to be with other members and be updated on the various activities. As you are aware, most of the activities of the LWV are accomplished with small groups working on the various issues. The Sustainability Working Group, the Redistricting Forum organizers, and the Lunch & Learn w/ League planners have been great examples of smaller groups of members accomplishing significant things. We have been missing, however, a regular opportunity for potential members and members not

directly involved to learn what is being done in the name of the League. We hope to change that.

On Monday, Feb 21., the Board will meet at Basics Community Room, 6pm. Then from 6:30 – 7:30pm, we invite all members to join us for dessert while we learn about updates on the various activities. This will be a good time to introduce your friends to what the League is doing along with an invitation for them to join in the fun.

We will run this experiment on March 21 & April 18 as well. Let us know what you think.

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## Wisconsin Voter ID Legislation is on the horizon



Now is the time to let legislators know your opinion about the proposed legislation requiring a state issued photo ID. Check out the state LWV website for links to print opinions as well as a video of

printed in the Gazette. Following are email addresses for the local legislators. They need to hear from us.

Rep.Knilans@legis.wisconsin.gov , Rep. Wynn@legis.wisconsin.gov , Rep.Ringhand@legis.wisconsin.gov , Rep.Loudenbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov , Sen.Cullen@legis.wisconsin.gov

testimony at the Senate committee hearing on 1-26-11. [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)

LWV members Judy Adler, Lori Stottler and Kay Deupree met with state senator Tim Cullen to discuss the ramifications of this bill. Senator Cullen encouraged letters to media expressing the concerns that we may have. Nancy Stabb has had a letter to the editor

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## Welcome New Member

**Carol Engebretson**

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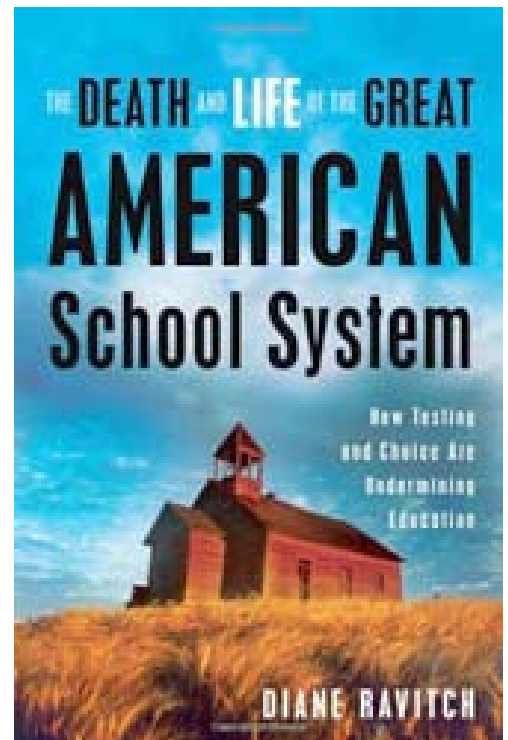
## Book Discussion: The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education

League members and others will discuss Diane Ravitch's conclusions and how the information can be used to enhance our advocacy for public education. The discussion of this book is part of a two year study by the League of Women Voters to inform and others on the role of the federal government in education. Linda Stehura & Nancy Stabb are making arrangements.

Author Ravitch examines the effect of national testing on school

choice, NCLB, and foundation/corporate largesse on educational outcomes. The book discussion is open to the public.

**A person doesn't have to have read the book to attend.** Especially if you have worked for the schools or had recent experience with students, you have experiences that can add to the discussion. We know that good schools are essential to our future. Please join in the conversation.



# Lunch & Learn with the League

Noon February 2, 2011

M&I Bank

100 N. Main, Janesville, WI

“Live for the Future with Sustainable Practices.” Al Hulick, City of Janesville, Amber Vaughn, Basics Cooperative, Allison Rollette, Sustainable Janesville Committee, and Neil Deupree, League of Women Voters, will describe current sustainable activities.

Barbara Fett, member of the LWV Sustainability Working Group observed: “There are many different small efforts taking place. Many that we are not aware of. This presentation can encourage us to appreciate what is being done as well as look at where we could ramp up our efforts as a community.

We expect that these efforts will save us all money as well as making our world a better place.”

The program is free and open to all.



## Redistricting Plans – *soon to be known by another name*

### Community Forum

March 3, 2011

7 p.m.

University of

Wisconsin-

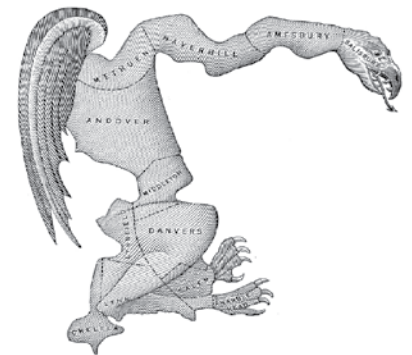
Rock County,

Hyatt-Smith Hall.

Before the Rock County redistricting plan is a done deal, community members should have a chance to understand the process. Since it only happens once every 10 years, the collective memory may be a bit sketchy. The

Beloit and Janesville Leagues are planning this community forum together. The forum will include a panel of experts: Pete Cannon, retired senior Legislative analyst with the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau; Lori Stottler, Rock County Clerk; and Randy Terronez, assistant to the Rock County Administrator. Ethel Himmel is providing leadership.

In addition, the Janesville LWV has recommended Ethel for appointment to the Citizen Committee that will guide the Rock County process.



## Nominations for officers

The nominating committee for this year is Laura Boettcher, Marilyn Waltermann and Carol Herzig. They desire your suggestions for officers who will be elected to a two year term. Please pass along your thoughts.

# Candidate Forums need to be organized

The non-partisan local elections will be on the ballot on April 5th.

We are working with the Janesville Area PTA to conduct a candidate forum for the six school board candidates, Monday, March 7, 6 p.m. at the Educational Services Center. Ideas for questions should be sent to Kay Deupree, by Feb. 28.

The forum for the eight city council candidates will be Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m. at the Hedberg Public



Library. Ideas for questions should be forwarded to Amy Golackson, before Feb 28.

Offers of help with hosting and timing at the forums would be appreciated.

Contact Kay Deupree.

## Susan B. Anthony Celebration has its twentieth year



The Janesville LWV has a vested interest in this 20 year tradition. The Rock County Women's History Committee members have been active LWV members. We are proud of the work they have done over the years to keep the memory of the struggle alive as well as empower local women to carry on with the vision that we can contribute to making democracy work for all. Reservations are due to Carolyn Brandeen, or Kris Koeffler, by February



4. Seating is limited and prepayment of \$30 per person is required to confirm reservations. Make checks payable to Janesville League of Women Voters and send to P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064.

## CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Lunch and Learn with League on February 2 is our big event for the month. You can find more info elsewhere in this *Voter*.

On March 12, Saturday, Hedberg Library public meeting room, from 9:30 till 11:30 am, we will discuss Aldo Leopold's classic: *A Sand County Almanac*. There are 13 different copies of this book in the Arrowhead Library System – most of them on the shelf as of this printing. You can buy it (for example) at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center on Monona Drive for \$10 plus \$4 shipping. Some of us have had it on our "must read" list for a while. Others will be



happy to be reacquainted with the spirit of ecology in this writing.

We expect to organize more Natural Step study circles this spring. If you're interested, please call Neil Deupree.

Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light is an effort to involve faith communities in conservation practices – stewardship of the earth. We're planning to host a learning event for local churches who might be interested in joining the movement – either in March or after Easter. Let us know if your congregation would like to be on the invitation list.

We will be forwarding electronic notices of state legislative activity unless you requests not to receive them.

# Lunch & Learn with League

## April 6, 2011

noon

### M&I Bank

### 100 N. Main, Janesville, WI



Wisconsin Medicare Fraud Patrol director Elizabeth Conrad will inform us about this aspect of rising healthcare costs. Many feel overwhelmed with the continuing debate about effective healthcare reform. This presentation by one who can document cases and give substantiated data, will inform us about the impact fraud has on the costs and implementation of healthcare in Wisconsin.



Read responses to LWV WI questions on the state League website. Links to the individual candidate websites are also included. [www.lwvwi.org/VotingElections.aspx](http://www.lwvwi.org/VotingElections.aspx).

This is the first election in which Wisconsin's Impartial Justice Act – which provides public financing to candidates who agree to strictly limit spending and refuse special interest money – applies to the campaign for Supreme Court. Three of the four candidates in this race have agreed to those limits and restrictions (Marla Stephens has not). Previous Supreme Court campaigns were dominated by big money and special interests. This legislative change has the potential to improve the operations of the court by helping to restore confidence in the courts and judges as impartial and independent.

## Review Juvenile Detention Center Position

As background for a review of our 1989 position on the Rock County Juvenile Detention Center, we have arranged for a small group tour tentatively (as of this writing) scheduled for Thur. Feb 10, at 10am. Please call Kay or check the LWVJVL.org website to confirm these plans.

# Calendar

## Upcoming Activities February 2011

**\*Additional events may be planned. Check website: [lwvjvl.org/calendar](http://lwvjvl.org/calendar)**

### February

February 2nd Lunch & Learn, Climate Change, M&I Bank, 12:00 noon, door opens at 11:30 a.m. Panel: "Live for the Future with Sustainable Practice."

February 5th Book Discussion; The Death and Life of the Great American School System, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Hedberg Library Public Meeting room.

February 10th TENTATIVE Tour Juvenile Detention Center, 10:00 a.m. (1 hour tour)

February 13th Susan B. Anthony Gathering Place, Milton, 11:30 a.m.

February 15th Primary Election, WI Supreme Court.

February 18th Sustainability-Climate Change Working Group Planning meeting 419 S. Franklin St., Jvl.

February 21st 6:00 p.m. LWV Board Business meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Issues Up-date for all members, Basic Coop. 1711 Lodge Drive, Jvl.

### March

March 3rd Redistricting Primer Panel with Beloit LWV 7:00 p.m. UW Rock County, Hyatt Smith Hall, Common Mtg room.

March 7th School Board Candidate Forum, 6:00 p.m. Educational Services Center with Janesville Area Council-PTA.

March 10th City Council Candidates Forum, Hedberg Public Library 7:00 p.m.

March - Voter Registration at High Schools TBA.

March 12th Book Discussion: Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold. Join the Sustainability Working Group discussion 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Hedberg Public Library.

March 21st LWV Board Business Meeting & Issues Up-date for all members. Tentative location: Hedberg Public Library.

### April

April 5th Spring Elections: City Council, Town Boards, School Board, & WI Supreme Court.

April 6th Lunuch & Learn with the League Noon M&I Bank, 100 N. Main, Jvl. Wisconsin Medicare Fraud Patrol Director Elizabeth Conrad.

### May

May - LWV Janesville Annual Meeting: Election of Officers, Location, Date & Time TBA.

## Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: LWV-US <[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)> LWV-WI <[www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)> JANESVILLE LEAGUE <[www.lwvjvl.org](http://www.lwvjvl.org)>

## 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.*