



Dear Friends in League,
I hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well during these challenging times.

Annual Meeting Update

Our first, and hopefully our only, virtual Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10 via Zoom. Our **Business Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm**, but I'll open

the gathering at 6:00 pm for Social Time because I imagine that we have stories to share and catching up to do. I will mute everyone's microphone at 6:30 when we begin the meeting and ask that you unmute your microphone only when you speak. You can raise your hand when you wish to be called upon to speak.) We will record the meeting for those who wish to view the proceedings later.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88376633507?pwd=bHg4Tm95NEZOdG1oZHJPcWdXanZyZz09>

Dial in Access: 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 883 7663 3507 Password: 650279

Carol Herzig sent out the Annual Meeting packet to members on April 23. The mailing also included the written Ballot for the Annual Meeting and a Membership Form for renewing your membership for 2020-2021. Please keep these materials handy for your reference during the meeting.

Written ballots must be received by Wednesday, June 17 to be counted. You can send the ballots by email or US Mail OR, you can use the online Google Form that you can fill out electronically, directly into the form. (Be sure to hit "submit" at the end of the form when you have completed your ballot.) To access your online written ballot, open this link: [written ballot](#)

For your convenience, I will send out an email message to the members on June 9 or 10 that

will contain clickable links to the meeting and to the online written ballot.

Members are requested to pay their 2020-2021 dues by June 30. You can send a check with the membership form and interest survey that was in the April 23 mailing or you can renew online at <https://www.lwvjvl.org/join-the-league>. Be sure to use the membership form to respond to our interest survey and to update your contact information for our League Membership Directory. Thanks.

Voting in a Time of Pandemic

I attended two webinars in recent days that provided information that I would like to share with League members. The first, "Turnout 2020: Reaching America's Hard-to-Reach Voters in a Pandemic," was produced by the Brennan Center for Justice. You can watch the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG70_I17HqA. The webinar focused on reaching out to non-voters and emerging voters. One of the highlights was sharing the results of the Knight Foundation's "The 100 Million Project: The Untold Story of American Non-Voters" that provides evidence that refutes the argument that expanding the number of voters would benefit one party over the other. FYI, 100 million is the number of citizens who did not exercise their right to vote in 2016. That number exceeds the 65,844,610 who voted for Hilary Clinton or the 62,979,636 who voted for Donald Trump. The graphics-rich report can be found at https://knightfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-100-Million-Project_KF_Report_2020.pdf. The executive summary is just one page—and well worth reading.

The second webinar, "Navigating the new urgency and tactics around voter registration" was produced by Nonprofit Vote, the organizations that hold National Voter Registration Day, and it shared tactics for registering voters

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and helping them request absentee/mail-in ballots when we need to maintain social distancing. Please remember that each of us who are League members has a role to play in educating citizens in Wisconsin about voting. It is not the responsibility of our Voter Services Committee alone. Please direct citizens to the MyVote.WI.gov website. Encourage them to check on their registration and request absentee ballots for the August and November elections. Encourage them to make their plan to vote. It is not too early to request

absentee ballots for the August and November elections NOW. Make sure they understand that if they have not previously requested an absentee ballot, they will need to provide a copy of photo ID (e.g., a scan or photo of their Wisconsin Driver's License). **AsGoesWisconsin** has illustrated step-by-step instructions and a fun video to share at: <https://bit.ly/2XuxcDI>

I am looking forward to seeing you virtually on June 10. Until then, keep safe and stay well.

Linda

Annual Meeting June 10, 2020 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The Board regrettably determined that due to the Covid-19 pandemic it will not be safe for us to meet in person for this year's Annual Meeting. Members will have the option of participating in our password-protected Zoom meeting through either web-based video conferencing OR dial-up telephone access.

6:00 Social & Registration

6:30 Business Meeting & Election of Officers

Web:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88376633507?pwd=bHg4Tm95NEZOdG1oZHJpCWdXanZyZz09>

Password: 650279

Dial-up: 1 (312) 626 6799 You will be prompted for the following:

Meeting ID: 883 7663 3507

Participant's ID: (just enter the # sign)

Password: 650279



League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc

Located in the Center for Change
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Like us on Facebook <facebook.com/JanesvilleLeagueofWomenVoters>



Follow us on Twitter <twitter.com/LWVJanesville> OR <[@LWVJanesville](https://twitter.com/@LWVJanesville)>





Back Porch Book Discussions

We're looking for some good books to read for the 2020 edition of our Back Porch Discussion series for the Summer. The purpose of these gatherings is to give members an opportunity to get to know each other better and to help members become more informed about policy issues of interest to the League.

Below are the books that have been suggested so far. If you have titles that you would like to add to the mix, please send your suggestions to lindacreinhardt@gmail.com BEFORE our June 10 Annual Meeting. We'll begin voting that evening.

McCabe	Mike	Unscrewing America: Hints and Hopes from the Heartland
Cantu	Francisco	The Line Becomes a River
Vargus	Jose	Dear America: Note of an Undocumented Citizen
Wegman	Jesse	Let the People Pick the President: The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College
Regan	Margaret	Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire
Reich	Robert B.	The System: Who Rigged It, How We Fix it
Kearns Goodwin	Doris	Leadership in Turbulent Times
Jahren	Hope	The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here
Nelson	Ann	Shadow Network
Cramer	Katherine	The Politics of Resentment
Albright	Madeleine	Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st Century Memoir



Dear League Member,

Thanks to you, the League has persevered over the past several months and by working together and supporting one another, we continue to advocate for voting rights and provide voter services to our communities in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your advocacy and civic service as a member of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin during this challenging time and over the past year.

As you may know, in lieu of the LWVWI's cancelled in-person 2020 Annual Meeting, the state League is holding a virtual Annual Meeting of League members and friends of the League on Saturday, June 13th, 10:00 am - 11:30 am on Zoom, a web conferencing platform. Information on how to access the meeting by audio and/or video conferencing will be made available closer to the meeting date. Voting will take place separately by written ballot by delegates selected following representation criteria outlined in the LWVWI Bylaws. **Delegates will receive their written ballots in a separate email.**

For your reference during the virtual Annual Meeting, please link to the following documents:

1. [Agenda](#) for the June 13 LWVWI 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting
2. [Annual Meeting Materials](#)

Please note: To protect our environment and save on copying costs, we chose to not mail a hard copy of these documents to additional League members in your household if we only had one email address on file for your household, so please share this email and its contents with fellow League members in your household.

If you have questions or concerns about the documents delivered in this email or the virtual annual meeting, please call the state office (608-256-0827) or email lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org. Also, please watch the [LWVWI website](#) for event updates.

Kind regards,
Ellen

Ellen Penwell
Membership & Events Manager
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
608-256-0827

Action Alert: Please take Action!

During the April election, Wisconsin forced people to choose between their health and their right to vote. The heartbreaking stories from voters who never received their absentee ballots or stood for hours outside of crowded polling places makes it clear that we can never again allow this mistake to be repeated.

At last week's meeting, the Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) reviewed the results from the April 7th election and began to plan how to best serve all Wisconsinites with an improved election process. The WEC began discussions of multiple proposals to send absentee applications to voters. LWVWI supports the staff's proposal to send absentee ballot applications to all registered voters without an active absentee ballot request.

The WEC will vote on this proposal and many others on Wednesday, and it is extremely important that they hear your voice in support of mailing absentee ballot applications to ALL registered voters without active



absentee ballot applications. Email the WEC now!

This proposal would not require an all-mail election, but it would go a long way toward ensuring

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★ Action

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every Wisconsin voter knows their options for safely casting a ballot in the upcoming August and November elections. Having the Wisconsin Elections Commission implement this process will provide a consistent statewide process, and will also be more cost effective than a fragmented local approach.

So, let your voice be heard – email the Wisconsin Election Commission NOW and ask them to protect the right to vote by sending absentee ballot applications to all registered voters without active absentee ballot applications.

Send the email to elections@wi.gov and put “Message to Commissioners” in the subject line. Or use this address to contact them by mail: Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984

We have an example email you can use below.

THANK YOU

After contacting the WEC, LWVWI would really appreciate it if you would inform them that you contacted the WEC.

Example email:

Dear Wisconsin Elections Commissioners,

The April election forced many people to choose between their health and their right to vote. It was disappointing to hear about the many people who were unable to request an absentee ballot because they lacked access to technology or never received their absentee ballot. Access to absentee voting is a nonpartisan issue with broad public support.

I was heartened to hear about the WEC staff’s recommendations to mail every registered voter who does not have an active absentee ballot request on file information on how to apply for an absentee ballot and instructions for uploading or sending a copy of the voter’s ID. I urge the commissioners to adopt the staff plan as it was proposed and to send absentee ballot applications to people regardless of their municipality. I believe that all voters in the state of Wisconsin should receive this information in a consistent manner in order to ensure that they have the information that they need in order to be able to vote safely from home.

I also appreciate the WEC staff’s willingness to support clerks by following-up with individuals who do not include their ID with the absentee ballot application. Despite the many challenges they’ve

faced during the pandemic, our clerks have done a noteworthy job running elections and need support. I greatly appreciate the WEC staff plan that would provide needed support to our local municipal clerks while also ensuring that all registered voters receive an absentee ballot application.



CALL TO ACTION

Voter Services News

Lisa Johnson
Voter Service Co-Chair

Registering and educating voters isn't what it used to be after the shutdowns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is no surprise that voter registration is more challenging.

The widespread closures have meant taking some new approaches to what our organization had been doing to the way of voter education.

We have been doing voter registration for a long time! In the past, we have focused on "ground operations" – face to face registrations – being active in the community.

Currently, there are new obstacles on how can we safely utilize these "ground operations" as well as our best approach to using social media.

We are very fortunate to be in Wisconsin/Rock County! We have strong leadership at state, county and local levels! Our online voter registration is strong! Vote411 has been implemented at a local level for all national, state and local races! Our absentee ballots system is robust!

The good news - we are very fortunate to have excellent "tools in the tool box"--- that now, maybe more than ever, need to be utilized to reach new voters and educate registered voters the best way it can!

So, we need to take action and identify what works and what doesn't work.

Please mark your calendars to join the next Voter Services meeting via Zoom Meeting on Tuesday June 16 at 6:30.

There will be a discussion on how our committee and the league at large-- may tap into new and inno-

vative ideas and through the state and national LWV organizations that can be utilized within our local Voter Services Committee!

At the meeting we will have a discussion on current ways or methods to:

Use of phone calls, emails, text messages and other social media to reach potential voters.

Discuss creative yet safe ways to function in the community and form work groups

Revisit our resources and other local groups who remain very interested in working with the League of Women Voters/Voter Services. (We are fortunate that we have other community service clubs and groups that are available to assist in our efforts.)

Calendar of important dates ---develop a strategic plan – determine what is needed and how we can execute.

As a committee, it would be helpful to set goals and organize our efforts now and through the fall election. We can tap into state and national programs Best Practices for use of phone banks, mail and texting, determining an organized approach for utilization of social media and identifying what else can be done within our community.

Now is the time for Voter Services effort to continue and, if anything, build up steam! We can't let the pandemic in a century slow us down!

A formal zoom meeting invitation will be sent via email to the league general membership for the meeting on Tuesday June 16 at 6:30.

If you are unable to attend but would like to participate or have ideas or possible contacts to share---- please email Voter Services at: lwj.voterservice@gmail.com

Thank you!

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

Each month we will be placing our position on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Voter, as a service to our members.

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental

status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/ or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

The Janesville LWV commits to the diversity of Janesville and fully endorses the LWV's DEI policy.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2019-20*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events

June 2020

June 1 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom

June 10 Annual Meeting @ 6:00 Social, 6:30 Business meeting all Via Zoom

Voter Service Report

Lisa Johnson
Voter Service Co-Chair



In an effort to continue our Voter Service Committee activities Lisa is reaching out to various organizations; the following is an example of one such communication.

May 18, 2020

To: **Diversity Action Team – of Rock County (DAT)**

Fr: Lisa Johnson – Janesville League of Women Voters – Co-Chair Voter Services – Board Member

Re: Partner/Networking **DAT** – Janesville League of Women Voters- Voter Services

Hello Everyone!

I am sorry I could not attend this meeting. My name is Lisa Johnson. I am co-chair of Voter Services and board member of the Janesville League of Women Voters. **Prior to Covid-19**, Voter Services we were organized locally in providing primarily face to face voter services. We did events providing voter registration and voter information as well as coordinated Vote411.org for Rock County. Please see our website for more information on our local league at: jwvjvl.org. Note: We work closely with the Beloit League of Women Voters as well.

So - As I am sure we would all agree – our 2020 Election and a strong voter turnout critical!!!!

Now with the Covid-19 pandemic, we have to be a bit more creative by reaching out through digital resources and networks. There is still time and we are re-organizing for the November election – just differently. We are partnering with other organizations in Rock County to reach as many citizens as possible.

Here are a few things Voter Services could provide in the way of support or education in partnership **DAT** over the next few months – prior to the election in November 2020:

Identify “under served” groups of adults in the area of Voter Education affiliated with groups or organizations in Janesville/Rock County in the area of Voter Education. Work as partners with **DAT** to educate and assist in the voter registration process of under served voters.

Short list of Voter Services/Education provided/available.

Assistance in voter registration – (**online registration available at myvote.wi.gov**)

Identify acceptable photo id to vote (**bringit.wi.gov**)

Assistance in information on candidates and races (**Vote411.org**)

Assistance in absentee registration – (**online at myvote.wi.gov**)

Clarify issues or answer questions surrounding absentee voting.

Reminders on deadlines for registration - emails-mailings- social media

Reminders on the election dates – polling places etc. – on line at myvote.wi.gov

Spread the word - get out the vote! – emails mailings – social media

How to verify if you are registered to vote. (**myvote.wi.gov**)

Cross train members of other organizations on our tools and how to tips. Its easy and teaching other’s how to – reaches many..... many more!

We have loads of resources that could be shared via social – news letters- flyers – etc.

We are here for you and are ready to assist DAT over the next few months and beyond the elections.

Please let me know where we can assist and would welcome perhaps a separate conversation on Voter Education in the next few short weeks! (Zoom of course....:))

Thank you.

Lisa Johnson

608-333-8105 – Best email address for me for more immediate response: ljohnson2@farmersagent.com

Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name

Address

E-mail

Phone Number

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$65.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10.00 |
- I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

- I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

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>