



www.lwvjvl.org

January 2022



Dear Friends in League,
I wish you all a very Happy New Year in 2022!

YOUNG VOTERS will be the focus for the first part of our new year:

“The Youth Vote Today and Growing Future Voters” is the theme of the Janesville and Beloit Leagues’ Annual Forward Together

Event on **Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 10:30 am on Zoom.** Our keynote speaker, Kelly Beadle, is the Impact and Outreach Manager for the Center

for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University.

We have been notified that our League has received a grant from the LWVEF for a **“Young Voter Registration Project”** for the first half of 2022. I want to thank Lisa Johnson and Susan Johnson for their work on writing the grant proposal, and to Kay Deupree who provided a model for a successful proposal from 2018.

I hope you can join us for the event and participate in our efforts to empower young and new voters in the coming year.

Linda

Board Meetings moving to Zoom.



LWVJVL is very appreciative to PremierBank for a wonderful meeting space, but because of concerns about COVID-19, the Board has decided to move back to holding our meetings on Zoom for the time being. The upside

of this is that it will be easy for any member to attend board meetings. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.** Register/RSVP for the meeting on our website at <https://www.lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events> and we will send you the Zoom link to the meeting.

Resolve to Renew your League Membership for 2021-2022 by January 31.

In recent months, League Treasurer Laura Peterson has sent letters to League members who hadn’t remembered to renew their membership for 2021-2022. Many League members are in the habit of paying their dues at our Annual Meeting in May, but as we were unable to meet in person, members need to renew their mem-

bership by mail or online. The 2021-2022 League year began on July 1, 2021; January 31, 2022 is the deadline for being listed as an active member in the LWVUS national database for the 2021-2022 year. (A copy of the mail-in renewal form is included in this newsletter.



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Observer Corps Volunteers Needed

Consider participating in our League's **Observer Corps** to be the "eyes and ears" of the League by attending meetings of a board or committee. In the past, the observations of these members have provided our League with topics that we have studied in forums and lively issues programs. Contact Deb Kolste (dkolste@yahoo.com) or Nancy Stabb (nstabb@charter.net) if you are interested in getting

involved this way.

Watch your email box for an invitation to an upcoming "Introduction to the Observer Corps" BYOB Online Social.



Election Officials

Finally, consider serving as either an election official (i.e., poll worker) or as a League election observer in the upcoming 2022 elections. Contact your municipal clerk if you are interested in working as an election

official. Watch for messages from Eileen Newcomer of the LWVWI office for information about the League's election observer program.

In 2022, League members need to step up as never before to "Make Democracy Work."

Linda

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc

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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, workstyle, 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.

The Importance of Understanding Critical Race Theory

Susan Amber Johnson
Board Rep

On Tuesday, November 16, 2021, the YWCA of Minneapolis sponsored a Zoom webinar entitled, "The Importance of Understanding Critical Race Theory." Shelley Carthen Watson, President and CEO of the YWCA of Minneapolis introduced the forum. Dr. Duchess Harris served as forum moderator. Dr. Harris is a Full Professor of American Studies at Macalaster College. She earned a Juris Doctorate at Mitchell/Hamline School of Law while teaching at Macalaster and her course load currently focuses on race and the law. Dr. Harris happens to be the granddaughter of Miriam Daniel Mann, one of the now famous "Hidden Figures," who worked for NASA. Additional panelists included; Ms. Taneisha Lavette Williams, an NYC elementary school teacher, and administrator; Representative Cedric Frazier, a current Minnesota State Legislator; and Professor Yohuru Williams, Professor of History at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Professor Williams serves as Director of the St. Paul YWCA, and has published, and edited several works, including *Rethinking the Black Freedom Movement* (Routledge, 2015) and *Black Politics/White Power: Civil Rights, Black Power, and Black Panthers in New Haven* (Blackwell, 2006).

To begin the discussion of critical race theory, Shelley Watson interviewed Dr. Kimberly Crenshaw, who considers it "a way of looking at our patterns of inequality that are enduring." In thinking about how inequalities persist over time, categories like gender, race, and class are best understood as overlapping and mutually constitutive rather than singular, or distinct. Crenshaw labeled this concept "intersectionality." Critical race theory helps us understand the problem of inequality in order to intervene in it, and correct it. It inherits the beliefs and hopes of Frederick Douglas and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. American law has historically formed the foundation for subordination of African-Americans, as well as, Native-Americans. Law (in a just society) should do for all free people what it did to keep African-Americans enslaved in the past.

Dr. Harris asked the panel why there is so much backlash against critical race theory right now. Ms. Taneisha Lavette Williams and Professor Williams noted that many white parents do not want culturally-responsive teaching in the public schools. They fear it. They don't want their children to hear the truth about African-American history.

Representative

Frazier agreed and said, "It is a political wedge issue." It is a way to divide whites, and encourage suburban parents to vote Republican. In fact, this movement is well-funded. Knowledge contrary to the dominant narrative (American colonists fought against tyranny to form a country based on principles of freedom and justice for all) is regarded as suspect. Professor Williams pointed out that the U.S. Constitution was written to support slavery, and the Founding Fathers were exclusionary in their words and deeds. The backlash against Critical Race Theory is "a dog whistle for white supremacy," he said. If we don't push back in full support of culturally-responsive teaching, we do a great disservice to our participatory democracy!

What can we all do about it? Ms. Taneisha Lavette Williams thinks about this issue by continually asking herself, "whose needs are being met by not teaching critical race theory, and whose needs are not being met by not teaching critical race theory?" She encourages African-Americans and White allies to educate themselves about critical race theory, and the history of inequality in the United States. Form groups to discuss what you are reading, and think/pair/share ideas altogether. Blacks and White allies should not be afraid to use their voices "in enlightened civility with fire. Racism is killing all of us. We need to get something done, and then get more done."

Dr. Harris cautioned Blacks to use radical self-care in the struggle for social justice. Working hard on the front lines can lead to burn-out. Dr. bell hooks' ideas about the power of community resonate for her. "Find your tribe. Find your community." Engage with people who are doing the work in your own local area and your own personal work will be amplified. Shelley Carthen Watson agreed and encouraged the audience to use the power of your local YWCA, which is there to empower all women and eliminate racism in the United States, and throughout the world.

**END
GERRYMANDERING**

EVERY VOTE MUST COUNT





Annual *Forward Together* Celebration: “The Youth Vote Today & Growing Future Voters”

February 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Online Zoom Event



Join the **Beloit and Janesville Leagues of Women Voters** as we move *Forward Together* - and welcome keynote



speaker **Kelly Beadle**, Impact and Outreach Manager for the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) of Tufts University.

The event is **FREE** and open to the public. A \$10 donation is gratefully appreciated! [Donations will be shared equally by the two Leagues.](#)

For mores information and registration:
<https://tinyurl.com/5ak24bez>





Membership Form 2021-2022

Please fill out this form completely to ensure we have current information. Dues and forms are due by JUNE 30 of each year. You may choose to pay dues online with Paypal at <https://www.lwvjvl.org/join-the-league>. If you pay online, please provide the following information in the online survey form. Thank you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Preferred Phone No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$65 Active Membership	For each Active Member, our League is assessed \$32 National dues and \$30 State dues. \$3 remains in Janesville.
\$70 Supporting Membership	Supporting Members are not called upon to serve on committees or working groups.
\$100 Active Household Membership	Our League is assessed \$16 (National) and \$15 (State) for an additional person within a Household.
\$ ____ Open Door Membership	Members pay dues they are comfortable with. Our League is not assessed State dues for members in this category.
\$10 Student Membership	No National or State dues for high school and post-secondary students

For Household Membership:

Name of additional member _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

If you wish to make a donation to support the LWV-JVL, please indicate the amount and include in your check:

Dues: _____ + **Donation:** _____ = **Total Amount Due:** _____

Please make checks payable to the LWV-Janesville and mail with completed form to LWV-Janesville, PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064.

Dues are important, but your involvement in the League's work is what will make us a vital community organization. If you have selected an ACTIVE member status, please circle one or more interest areas below:

Voter Education & Services	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)	Membership
Housing Issues in Janesville area (e.g., fair housing, evictions, affordability)	Janesville/Beloit Leagues Annual Event	Fair Maps (non-partisan redistricting process)
Publicity and Social Media (includes newsletter and web page)	Observer Corps (monitor local government; be the "eyes and ears" of the LWV)	Natural Resources (including LWVWI Infrastructure Project)
Fundraising	Other	

If you selected "Other" and/or would like to say more about your interests in League activities, please tell us about them:



The Board Of
Directors for 2021-22 is:

President—Linda Reinhardt

VP—Deb Kolste

Secretary—Renee Kalvestrand

Treasurer—Laura Peterson

Directors: Deb Griffith, Lisa Johnson, Heide
Keith, Sue Scott

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>