

## President's Message



Hello Every One!

The Board of Directors focus this summer/fall 2023 –has been working on or towards a strategic plan that includes practical, action-focused intentional steps to strengthen our organizational structure, expand our communications systems as well as increase our reach into the community.

We are very fortunate in so many ways! Let me mention a few:

- Thanks to our past leadership and membership! Our League historically has very positive results in the past. We are strong, growing and our future is bright!

- We have exceptional organizational resources with the state office as well as the national leadership who continue to provide excellent training and onboarding opportunities, current information in all areas with written suggestions and guidelines to assist in this planning process as well as fabulous voter service materials and grant opportunities! In other words, both organizations totally **and fully support** the LWV-J.

- We are also very fortunate to have other community organizations which support or efforts and stand ready to assist and partner with the League through this next election process!

Our members will learn more as we progress to clarify the **2023-24** plan.

But first, I want to mention there is a “call to action” or a need for “all hands on deck”!

Later on in the newsletter, I will be outlining some volunteer and membership opportunities.

([HELP WANTED](#) section).

We continue to have meaningful activities that are low in actual time commitment but high in measurable results!

Please watch your emails for updates and activities. Keep an eye on our LWV-J calendar on our website.

Please read invitations carefully – give them some serious thought ---there will be some great opportunities to serve---for everyone. Each will offer flexibility to fit everyone’s busy schedules.

Reach out if you have questions ----but the “secret sauce or ingredient” **will be increased engagement of everyone!** This “secret sauce” will be critical to our success!

We are well respected and poised ready to continue to make a difference in our community----- I am a firm believer – “Grassroots is where it’s at”!

So, back to the BOD planning ---currently, we are evaluating who we are, our roles, what our talents and strengths, weaknesses; and be ways to clear with our intentions - what we might we do to “shore-up “our resources and keep moving forward?!

As of this writing, the path to that end of our planning is not completely clear or finalized but our efforts will manifest and turn our ideas into reality, by having a focus on prioritizing and implementation of the plan elements; work towards alignment as a board and agreement on what we want to achieve over the next nine months.

I am very certain our League will work hard to be a well-positioned organization in our community as we enter the **whirlwind** of the 2024 election season.

We thank and honor all of our members, past

\*See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2

# \* President's

Continued from page 1

present and future whose commitment to “empowering voters and defending democracy” has exceeded simple promises by making and implementing the plans that have LWV-J moving forward.

To all of you, our members and friends who faithfully show your commitment with your

contributions of time and money—**thank you!**

Lisa Johnson, President  
[janesvillelwv@gmail.com](mailto:janesvillelwv@gmail.com)  
Cell: 608-333-8105



## *Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy!* **HELP WANTED!**

Lisa Johnson  
President

### **Member Volunteer Opportunities!**

**Find your place in the League !!!** One or more of committees may be just the right spot for you! They offer flexibility with schedules and do not involve constant tasks on a daily basis.

Here is a brief overview of the committees. Take a look and let us know if you have any questions. Honestly I think the best way to make a good decision is to see for yourself! Plan to attend the next meeting to get a firsthand look at what's involved. No strings attached – no obligation if it's not something for you.

For the new committees - Zoom Invitations will be forthcoming in the next few days!

Ready, set, go! Get ready. Get connected. Get visible! Do you want to do more for the League this year or in the future? Do you want to learn something new and connect with other League members?

Find your place in the League!

We can only be successful in this next election cycle with engagement of our members and alignment with our LWV mission---as we work to increase understanding of major public issues

**Here are our current committees - in**



### **alphabetical order:**

#### **Communications & Media (New)**

If you have an interest in social media --- that is a plus – or if you wish to learn more about communications and media – please consider joining! We have guidelines from the Madison office on effective communications and training from their WI Communications Manager will be available. The purpose is to drive or have more of an impact with media strategy where we can have with properly placed and timed media posts which leads to effective communication! The committee is also looking at potentially updating our website, Facebook etc. (Invitation to Zoom meeting forthcoming!)

#### **Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)**

Mary Buelow Chair

Meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at the Hedberg Library in the Community Room. Meeting starts at 6pm until 7:00. DEI has multiple projects and studies and oversees the ongoing organizational implementation of the League's DEI policy. Contact Mary Buelow @buelow\_m@msn.com

#### **Event Planning – & Community Engagement (New)**

Chair – Open This committee basically will facilitate meetings and events – plan the event---can assist with other committees their events---as needed to coordinate press releases – venue set up and work with the Communications & Media Committee - examples: Annual Meeting/Joint Event with LWV-Beloit etc. Forward Together In February - Assist Susan Johnson where needed on the Earth Day event. We have checklists which include timelines etc. and it can actually be fun if you like to “plan and coordinate events”. Contact Lisa Johnson for more information.

# \* Help Wanted

---

Continued from page 2

Lisa.johnson1014@gmail.com

## **Membership Services –(new)**

Maryam Enterline has taken the leadership role as chair of this committee and this committee will have it's initial meeting in October – please watch for an Zoom invitation---and attend and see if this might be a good committee for you! The committee would be working with recruitment and new membership onboarding, as well training activities for members.

## **Observer Corps**

Debbie Griffith is the Chair. This group meets monthly on 3rd Thursday 1pm-2pm Hedberg Library Community Room. Members of the Observer Corps meet to discuss what they have learned from their observations at various governmental meetings. Contact Debbie at [debragriffith052@gmail.com](mailto:debragriffith052@gmail.com) with questions.

## **Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee**

Susan Johnson, Chair

The Natural Resources Committee develops

educational and advocacy activities such as forums related to environmental issues! If your interests lie in helping our communities to be a more livable place, this is your committee! Please contact Susan Johnson at [susan.johnson072@gmail.com](mailto:susan.johnson072@gmail.com)

**\*Voter Services** – We will have our October and November meetings at the Havanna Coffee Shop. Invitations will be sent in the next few days!

We will be scheduling some refresher meetings on the “table talk” at Voter Services for newer members or if you may need a refresher by Zoom in December.

Watch for invitations.

Current chair Lisa Johnson. [Lisa.johnson1014@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.johnson1014@gmail.com)

\*We are recruiting for chair position –in Voter Services. If interested please contact me to get together over coffee and I will explain the role and see if it might be a fit. I have been wearing two hats these days but I will be happy to “mentor” anyone or provide support throughout the transition. The time is right to make a change, before we get into full swing on Election 2022!

Thank you all for your thoughtful consideration!

---

---

## **LWV Observer Corps report - CJCC**

**Neil Deupree**  
*Observer Corps*

Since I was a Rock County Board Supervisor back when the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) was formed, and was even chair for a few years, I have tried to follow their meetings.

The CJCC is chaired by Marc Perry of the Community Action of Rock & Walworth Counties, and is staffed by Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillan, the Justice System Manager for Rock County. They are both capable and committed to the cause.

The purpose is to provide a regular opportunity for communication among the various stakeholders in the criminal justice system, so that issues may be resolved before a crisis requires emergency action and so that there is a group responsible for the big picture of criminal justice for our county.

Permanent members include the sheriff, a Circuit Court Judge, the DA, a Public Defender, a County Board Supervisor, the Human Services director, and several community representatives including the YWCA and police chiefs for Janesville &

Beloit.

At their August meeting, they heard a report from the Drug Court and discussed ways of increasing the number of individuals who are a part of the accountability and resources provided by the staff. They looked at “standards & elements” of good practice. They decided to explore a planning retreat for the members. The Public Defender presented a report regarding plea bargains and how the process can be made more transparent.



<https://www.co.rock.wi.us/government/county-board-of-supervisors/committees/criminal-justice-coordinating-council-cjcc>



# Voter Services

**Lisa Johnson**  
Chair

### **What's new?**

We have implemented a "Trivia Wheel" at our Voter Services Table. Spin the wheel – answer a Civic or Community Trivia Question. This is a effective way to attract people to our table and was just plain fun --- We also did a mock election for the younger kiddos on casting their ballot for their favorite Disney characters with the results of the "mock election" announced at the end of the event. The kiddos love it! Parents were engaged. We had an official ballot box from the City of Janesville on loan.... We will continue to utilize these at future events!

**School Initiative** We are scheduling visits to all of the Janesville high schools, charter schools and UW Rock County and BTC Milton and Monroe campuses. We continue to work closely to expand further into the high schools in Milton, Edgerton, Evansville, and Orfordville. We have a new PowerPoint presentation prepared and successfully "launched" at Craig High School this at the end of September which will provide current voter education information that can also be used in the classrooms and for many other group audiences.

### **What's new with the student project?**

We are still looking into doing a "student contest" – competition and share how to be an advocate.... etc. Craig and Parker are interested in working with the League on something between schools. Stay tuned!

**YWCA Initiative – YWCA Board Meeting October 3!**

As you may know, it has been a goal of LWV-Voter Services to collaborate with YWCA. We have offered help them to get a "Plan to Vote" in place for their internal staff and clients! The director, Heidi Deininger shares a strong interest partnering and doing staff training on Voter Registration. After the scheduled meeting, there will be more information to follow ---and volunteer opportunities for table events with their staff and clients.

### **Voter Services Events**

Again, the plan is to say visible---in the community! There are no elections but being present without overdoing our presence, and not burning out our volunteer team ---- is the goal!!

Voter Services will continue to "carry on" and have "table events" and members will receive sign up request prior to the event.

We plan on continuing to attend our "usual and successful community events" and stay open to new

opportunities.

*Please watch for emails as there are more events and projects that are still in the planning stages. Information will be sent as soon as it's available.*

### **August & September**

Our largest events of the summer!

Let me start by thanking all those that worked at the tables at these events! It was fun---you were all great VS Ambassadors----and we really did talk to a ton of people!

### **Here's what we attended:**

National Night Out August 1- Traxler Park 4-8 p.m.- Huge event spoke with hundreds of people!

Tallman Art Fair August 5 & 6 All day events. – Large turnout-another great year at that event!

Summer Cultural Festival August 12 – 1-4 p.m. DAT sponsored at

Hedberg Public Library- between the Hedberg and JPAC! It was a wonderful event – also well attended....!

Senior Fair September 15 – Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Huge turnout there as well!

Note: Fiesta – Premier Bank Latix Heritage Celebration – Sunday September 10 – cancelled/will reschedule for May 2024

We will do one October Janesville Farmers Market Table.

Again, a huge thank you to all of the table volunteers for these events! It all went very well----the interaction with the public was excellent and again, thank you for willingness to participate!

Lastly, you are invited.....



# \* Voter Service

Continued from page 4

## Two Postcard Coffee Parties

Our postcard party last spring was very successful and well attended. We had fun- chatted---had “snacks” and sent out a ton of postcards to voters prior to the Spring Election! We did over 300 post cards in about an hour and a half! All with personal handwritten messages!

So why not get together again? We have more Voter Service work that is similar!

Where: Havana Coffee Shop –“ Fireplace Side Room

When: Tentative Dates Separate Signup/Invitations will be sent in the next few days. You may stop in and stay as long as your schedule permits on a Saturday and feel free to bring a family member, friend etc.

**October 21, 2023 – 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**November 11, 2023 – 9 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

Purpose:

*Janesville - Voter Services Clerk and Poll Workers Gratitude Day!*

We will address thank you postcards to be mailed to all poll workers and clerks in our League’s area----to be received by November 6 , 2023 ---- which is *Election Hero Day!* There will also be information to sign up as a poll worker if you are interested. Lastly we will be doing a collection of items for the 1649 Project. A list of items needed will be sent with the invitation or sign up sheet in case you are interested in participating.

*Notifications sent to deactivated voters in the League’s area.*

We will have the list ---- (Occurred in July 2023) There were over 108,000 in WI that were deactivated. I

will have the mailing labels ready and return addressed stamped in advance. More on this later. We will be doing a collection of food for ECHO. A list of items needed will be sent with the invitation or sign up sheet in case you are interested in participating.

Saturday mornings seem to be the best time----the Havana Coffee Shop small side room worked out great---so hope you feel the same enthusiasm.

This is a really super effective voter services project to do together----its social....we can catch up on what’s coming in the way of other Voter Service projects and plans and enjoy each other’s company.

So----watch your email – the final details and sign ups will be sent very soon



So – here’s what’s on elections calendar for now!  
**Our next primary in February 20, 2024----if need**

**Spring Election April 2, 2024**

**Fall Primary August 13, 2023**

**General Election November 5, 2024!**

Thank you and STAY TUNED!

## 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

# LWV



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.

# LWWI STATE OFFICE UPDATE

September 30, 2023



## Ballot Bulletin: Absentee Voting

Time for another #BallotBulletin where we highlight various election security topics so we know about the processes in place to ensure our elections are fair, accessible, and secure. This week is absentee voting!

Absentee voting or mail-in voting is a convenient and secure way to cast a ballot. Here in Wisconsin, any eligible voter can take advantage of absentee voting — no excuse needed!

Election officials take lots of steps to ensure your absentee vote in Wisconsin is secure. When a voter first submits their absentee ballot request, the clerk verifies that they are an eligible, registered voter and reviews their acceptable photo ID before processing their request.

Once the request is approved, the clerk initials both the voter's ballot and their absentee ballot certificate. They then add the USPS smart tracking bar code to the mailing envelope.

These steps help ensure the chain of custody as the ballot moves through the postal service to the voter.

Once the voter receives their ballot, they must vote in the presence of a witness. The job of the witness is to sign and address the absentee ballot certificate, verifying that the voter was the one to complete their ballot (unless they require assistance due to a disability). The voter also signs the certificate to affirm that they completed their ballot.

After the absentee ballot is returned to the clerk's office, election officials review the absentee ballot certificate to ensure that the envelope is sealed, the absentee ballot certificate is complete, and the clerk's initials are present.

Clerks track every ballot issued to prevent double voting and balance the number of absentee ballots received against the number of voters who requested an absentee ballot.





# Janesville League of Women Voters Board 2023-2024

**ident:**

**Pres- Heide Keith** (2023-2025)  
**Lisa**

**Johnson** (2023-2025)

**Vice President: Brad Debra Griffith**  
**Munger (2023-2024)** (completing her 2022-2024 term)

**Secretary: Renee**  
**Kalvestrand** (2023-2025)

**Nominating Committee:**

**Treasurer: Linda**  
**Reinhardt** (2023-2024)

**Debra Griffith**  
**Nancy Stabb** (one vacancy to be filled)

**Directors:**

**Maryam**  
**Enterline** (2023-2025)

Like us on	
Facebook	
facebook.com/Janesville League of Women Voters	
Follow us on	
Twitter	
twitter.com/LWVJanesville OR @LWVJanesville	