

## President's Message



President's Message Lisa Johnson

For the record, I have a new personal focus – to be a bit more brief in my information delivery.

This is a challenge for me as in my professional life I am buried in details, contracts, agreements, documents galore and take great care in giving everyone I interact with -----the

information they need.

But I will make the effort to trim the “fat” and do my best to shorten up my communications in League!

So, my message in this issue---will be brief!

If we once believed our *democracy* is rock solid and powerful, we now know it is, in fact, **quite fragile**. It is likely that you joined the League of Women Voters because you have a deep commitment to this complicated thing ---we call *democracy*.

As president of the League of Women Voters of Janesville, I welcome you to the cause, of “Empowering Voters and Defending Our *Democracy*” **regardless** of how you choose to be involved. **Your membership alone is an act of commitment.**

If you choose to be more involved, there are dozens of opportunities over the course of a year available to you. I would encourage you to watch the bi-monthly LWV-WI newsletter as a quick way to stay up to date on the opportunities to get connected at a state level, as well as their monthly Bulletin. Please visit the LWV WI website ---**regularly** and explore the cutting-edge

resources they provide! Make sure you receive their bimonthly newsletter.

Here's the link to drop in your browser: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin>.

In the months ahead, we will be preparing for our annual meeting by having meetings to review our bylaws and positions and considering new studies. The Board of Directors has decided to participate in the MENTOR Program with the LWV-WI office and we will be sharing more information on our goals with the program as well as invite members who may wish to be involved. DEI Committee continues to be deeply involved in the “Land Acknowledgement Statement” for our local League. I salute them for the careful work and study on this project!

We will be deeply involved in the election process---with many table events, school registration dates, training local employers on how they may encourage their staff and clients on getting “A Plan to Vote”.

Voter Services will send a separate communication on ways our membership can ready to share an “elevator speech” with our friends and family on a personal voting plan.

It has been my goal since July to add a few membership social events over the next few months ---a low key but an opportunity to meet---I am happy we had our book discussions this summer which were well attended and enjoyable!

We are hosting the Forward Together Event with the Beloit League in February. More details to follow.

\*See PRESIDENT, Page 2



## What's Inside this Issue



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# ❄️ President's

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**My ask**-----If you are not currently working on a committee or serving now, please consider joining a committee.

Contact me to discuss what your interests are and what you have in the way of time.

We are all in this together! We have many choices and excellent opportunities to make a difference!

***Our organization's grassroots efforts make a difference in our communities!***

Thank you for your past service as members and look forward to working with everyone in the future!

My very best wishes to you all for the Holiday Season!

Lisa Johnson, President



## Recent Updates from Sustainability Chair

**Susan Amber Johnson**  
Wisconsin Naturalist-Certified,  
LWV of Janesville, Sustainability Chair

On Thursday, September 27, 2023, the Wisconsin State Senate's Sporting Heritage Committee voted against confirming four of Governor Evers' appointees to the DNR policy board. The imbalance of power is still working against the people, and natural areas of the state of Wisconsin. It rejected Sharon Adams, Dylan Jennings, Sandra Dee Naas, and Jim Vandenberg by a 3-2 vote on each one. Janice M (Umhoefer) Penn, of our state LWV Natural Resources Committee, said this about Dylan Jennings and Sandra Dee Naas, who are "from the North:" "This is a rejection of not only good people but also wise people who understand from a basis of kinship the natural world and what remains of the once plentiful waters, wetlands, critters of Wisconsin."



CBS News immediately reported: "The committee votes come as the board is preparing to approve a new wolf management plan. The plan does not include a hard population cap, despite hunters and farmers' demands for a specific numerical limit. The plan instead recommends keeping the population at around 1,000 animals, a number hunters and farmers say is far too high."

In other updates: Volunteers are needed to "adopt a neighborhood school garden." It can be the school nearest you. Contact me to see how much you can do for your community: [susan.johnson072@gmail.com](mailto:susan.johnson072@gmail.com).



# Elect Her

**Kickstart your  
political journey in  
one day**

Have you considered running for office? We bet you're more qualified than you think. Running for office gives you the chance to be a champion for your community.



## **ELECT HER WORKSHOP DETAILS**

During the workshop, participants will learn campaign strategy, leadership skills, like public speaking and networking, and leave with a plan to run for political office.

**Saturday, December 2, 2023 | 10 am - 1:30 pm**

**Jake's, A Lakeland Community**

**529 Ontario Avenue Sheboygan, WI 53081**

## **LEARN MORE & SIGN UP**



**CONTACT**

**ENEWCOMER@LWVWI.ORG**



**REGISTER**

**<https://bit.ly/WIRunForOffice>**



# Voter Services

## Voter Services Events

Again, the plan is to say visible---in the community!

We are just a few days 363 days away from the Presidential Election and several elections or primaries in between!

Voter Services will continue to “carry on” and have “table events” and members will receive sign up requests 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.*

### Update: **Two Postcard Coffee Parties**

**Held October 21, 2023 – 9am to 11:00 – Thank you to those that completed 25 handwritten post cards to all Rock County Clerks as a thank you and recognize them on Election Hero Day (November 6, 2023)**

**Note: The planned date of November 11, 2023 – 9am-11:00---is being rescheduled.**

**The project is not time sensitive. There was a scheduling conflict with the LWV WI annual Issues Briefing . More information to follow.**

**(The purpose in case your have forgotten?)**

Lisa Johnson  
Chair

### What’s new?

School Initiative We are continuing to schedule visits to all of the Janesville high schools, charter schools and UW Rock County and BTC Milton and Monroe campuses many other group audiences.

### What’s new with the student project?

We are looking into doing a “Triva Competition” in the high schools and engaging the students in the planning and development. We have been looking into for 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

We have been asked to present a breakout session at the Nov 9 ---YWCA Social Justice Program utilizing our VS PowerPoint presentation on “Making A Plan To Vote” with the Beloit League.





# \* Voter Service

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*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.

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

So – here’s again is what’s on the 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!

*There will be some quick reviews on the “table talk” for events in case you feel a little “rusty” and many opportunities to volunteer!*

**Thank you and STAY TUNED!**

**Best wishes for the coming Holidays!**

## 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.

# School District of Janesville – Board of Education

By Sue Scott  
Observer Corps

New to the Observer Corps this year, I chose to observe the Janesville School Board and have attended three of their meetings so far. The nine-member Board usually meets either once or twice per month and meetings are open to the public. Meeting agendas are published in advance on the website. The public is invited to attend and can address the board during the Citizens Comments part of the agenda. The Board meetings are recorded and available on the School District website.

Each meeting I have attended has included students, teachers and administrators who highlight and inform the board about current activities and events, such as the activities of Parker Arts Academy. A recent meeting included presentations by students from Janesville's charter schools;

the students discussed how being a charter school student has benefitted them. The Superintendent of Schools Mark Holzman has kept the Board informed about the progress on the Way Forward Strategic Plan for the School District.

I have found my experience in observing School Board meetings to be very enlightening. The most recent meeting included presentation of the 2024 budget. It was interesting to see the decision-making process about the budget, and the issues affecting both students and citizens in the Janesville School District. As a League observer, I look forward to continuing to see how the League can support the School Board's mission for which we have local policy positions.

Currently the Observer Corps is seeking new members. If you would like more information about becoming a League Observer, please contact Debby Griffith, Observer Corps Chair at [debragriffith052@gmail.com](mailto:debragriffith052@gmail.com).



## Janesville League of Women Voters Board 2023-2024

**President:** Lisa Heide Keith (2023-2025)  
**Johnson** (2023-2025)

**Vice President:** Brad Munger (2023-2024)

**Secretary:** Renee Kalvestrand (2023-2025)  
(completing her 2022-2024 term)

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

### Nominating Committee:

Debra Griffith  
Nancy Stabb (one  
vacancy to be filled)

### Directors:

Maryam  
Enterline (2023-2025)