



Dear Friends in League,  
During the months of May and June the League of Women Voters transitions from one year to the next.

I would like to encourage all members to attend our League's Annual Meeting on Monday, June 5, at Premier Bank, 1400 Black Bridge Road. The Business Meeting will

begin at 6:30 p.m., but please come early to socialize and enjoy a sandwich wrap buffet (from Luke's Deli) and beverages beginning at 6:00 p.m..

The Annual Meeting is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and to look forward to new challenges in the coming year.

**FOURTEEN NEW MEMBERS HAVE JOINED OUR LEAGUE** in the past year. The Annual Meeting

will be a great opportunity for newbies and veteran members to meet and mix.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has been meeting monthly and working hard throughout the year. The Committee will make a presentation on their findings to the entire League membership at our Annual Meeting.

We send the Annual Meeting packet to members one month before the meeting so everyone has plenty of time to review the materials before we meet. The contents of the packet include committee reports, the proposed budget and bylaw changes, and the slate of candidates for election developed by the Nominations Committee.

**Please join us. League members work hard—but we know how to have a good time together, too!**

Linda



## **League's Annual Meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023**

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*1400 Black Bridge Road.*

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# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA)

**Nancy Stabb**  
*LWVJ Observer*

The CDA reports to the City Council and City Manager and consists of five citizen members and two Council members. CDA has the responsibility of providing oversight into the Rental Assistance Program; and planning and implementing community development programs including housing improvement projects, homeownership programs, and neighborhood and downtown improvement projects. The CDA is also responsible for allocating the Federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

The Authority meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 in the Council Chambers. Meetings are live streamed and can be viewed by going to the City of Janesville website. Under the Government pull down menu go to Boards, Commissions and Committees and then select Public Meeting Materials and Videos.



## League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc.

Located in the Center for  
Change

612 W. Main Street,  
Suite 200, Madison, WI  
53703

(608) 256-0827

[lwwisconsin@lwwwi.org](mailto:lwwisconsin@lwwwi.org)

One of the more interesting meetings that I observed happen in 2022 when the applicants for \$259,000 CDBG funds presented their applications to the CDA. The final allocations went to ACTS Housing for Homeownership Counseling; ECHO for Emergency Rental Assistance; HealthNet of Rock County for Primary, Dental and Behavioral Health Care; Boys and Girls Club Teen Program and Community Action for THRIVE Employment & Living skills.

Mostly the CDA focuses on ways of providing affordable housing and meeting the needs of low-income persons in Janesville. In a recent meeting the Director reported that there are unused funds in the Rental Assistance program because persons who qualify for rental assistance cannot find qualified units with landlords who will take the vouchers. The Director had proposed changes to the Housing Choice Voucher Administration Plan, e.g., increasing allowable rent for units, with the goal of assisting more eligible renters to find suitable and affordable units. After a Public Hearing and discussion, the CDA approved the changes.



Linda Reinhardt, photo

**Senior Day Craig High School**  
Lisa Johnson assisting Craig High School senior to register to vote on Senior Day.



Linda Reinhardt, photo

## League's 103rd Birthday

League members signing postcards while celebrating the League's 103rd birthday.



Carol Herzig, photo

## Vote Service

Setting up the table for the Voter Service outreach at the Janesville Farmer's Market, located in the Janesville Mall on April 1st.



# League of Women Voters of Janesville

# Voter Services

**Lisa Johnson**  
*Voter Service Chair*

Voter Services is taking a short break! A breather! The Voter Services Team successfully made it through the primary process and activities for the Spring Election. Great job everyone!

Briefly, to review, Voter Services sponsored a candidate forum for the Janesville City Council, a community meeting in Footville, participated in Vote411 for the races in our area of Rock County, celebrated our 103rd Birthday with a coffee and post card party at the Havana Coffee Shop and had a productive and relaxing Saturday morning with 16 members in attendance! (Just to name a few of the recent activities.)



By the way, the plan is ---Voter Services is planning on hosting a similar low key social event this summer - hopefully outdoors/park setting get together for those that may be interested! More details to follow! We have beautiful parks and a Saturday morning, with a light beverage, at a picnic table, under a beautiful tree, on the river sounds very inviting. Why not get together and have a small voter services project to do at the meeting and catch up?

So, back to business! The Voter Services Committee continues to promote voter services and voter education in our communities! Our local voting registration data and election results are excellent! Rock County as a whole ---had voter increasing and the turnout was fantastic!

## **School Initiative**

Our focus in 2023 has been on the Youth Voters and we received a \$750 grant just for that purpose! We will have successfully had voter services activities in all of the Janesville high schools, charter schools and UW Rock County and will be working closely to expand further into the high schools in Milton, Edgerton, Evansville, and Orfordville.

In the Fall of 2023, Voter Services will reconnect with the schools. It was very refreshing! There is strong interest and support from the schools to continue to schedule voter registration events. Voter Services will be ready to plan some training dates for each of the schools with their student government teams and faculty. We will schedule dates to focus on registering the 18 year old students in the first and again in the second semester. All of Janesville Schools have been extremely cooperative and we have great contacts for the next school year!

## **YWCA Initiative**

It has been a goal to collaborate with YWCA with Voter Services for their internal staff and clients! Amiee Leavy has expressed a strong interest in doing some planning on staff training on Voter Registration. Voter Services will be working on some plans with Amiee in the next several weeks.

## **So what do Voter Services have planned for May and the Summer/Early Fall?**

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!

As far as committee meetings are concerned - we will take a break until July! The July meeting is planned as a more “social meeting” – coffee in the park type meeting!

Voter Services will “carry on” and have “table events”.

We plan on attending our “usual and successful community events:

# \* Voter Service

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Here are a few of the planned activities: (more information to follow!)

Farmers Markets – 1 or 2 per month

Juneteenth Celebration Telfar Park Beloit – Joint Table with the Beloit League- Saturday June 18th

National Night Out August 1- Traxler Park

Tallman Art Fair August 5 & 6

Tallman Artrageous – Wednesday Evening– do a couple of them?

National Voter Registration Day – 4th Tuesday September

## Researching:

June 15 Grand Prix Bike Race- Downtown Janesville

A day at the Rock County Fair

Senior Fair Job Center Fall ?

Premier Bank Hispanic Heritage Fiesta - 2023 ?

Forth Ward Park Activities

Potential Clerk/Poll Worker Thank you Picnic. Looking into sponsorship with Hy-Vee or Festival Foods – having conversations with Lisa Tollefson.

## So – here’s what’s on the horizon!!

Our next primary in February 20, 2024----

Spring Election April 2, 2024

Fall Primary August 13, 2023

General Election November 5, 2024!

The activities on this round of elections will be here before we know it!

What a great opportunity to serve! Huge elections – another “all hands on deck”!!!



As Voter Services Chair, I want to thank all of the Voter Services Team volunteers! You have all been very supportive and responsive! It’s very much appreciated! Grass roots is where it’s at and we can and do make a difference!!!

Special thanks to Heide Keith for the very prompt and professional media connections and press releases and Carol Herzig her professional beautiful newsletters. ( and her patience on deadlines)

**Voter Services Communications Committee** have been making a difference in our “Social Media”presence! The three members on the committee volunteering to assist with enhancing our social media: Maryam Enterline, Edna Feldman-Schultz and Sue Scott.

You all are making a difference! Great job ladies ----**Effective communication is EVERYTHING!**

I would like to do a public “shout out” to Kris Koch, the Janesville Farmers Market manager. Kris has been very supportive of the League of Women Voters at the downtown and mall events! The “JFM” is well organized, well-orchestrated and has come a long way over the years! The “JFM” offers a fun opportunity to for the community and league members to support our local venders and small businesses!

Lastly, huge thank you to Eileen Newcomer, for her great advice and counseling in Voter Services ideas,

# \* Voter Service

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materials and of course – Vote411! You are a huge asset to the League of Women Voters Eileen! You have always been there and have had a willingness to share your time, talents and insight---even though you are extremely busy You always have an effective way to point us in the right direction! I personally have appreciated your support and we all look forward to working with you in the future! Again, thank you for all you do to assist and support the Janesville League!

The same is true of Linda Reinhardt! Linda has been there ----always! She has provided excellent leadership, support and direction when needed! It's been my pleasure to work with you Linda during your presidency! You are an exceptional human being Linda! Thank you!

If you have any questions on Voter Services activities contained in this article please contact Lisa Johnson cell phone 608-333-8105 phone or text with questions or email at [lwj.voterservice@gmail.com](mailto:lwj.voterservice@gmail.com)

If any of our **newer members** have questions on what is involved in Voter Services events etc., Lisa Johnson is the person to contact for the “scoop”.

Again, Voter Services is great group! We have fun – inform the public and are quick to step up when called upon for volunteer activities.

Please watch your email for additional Voter Services events for May and the Summer of 2023!

Again, contact Lisa Johnson cell phone 608-333-8105 phone or text with questions or email at [lwj.voterservice@gmail.com](mailto:lwj.voterservice@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support!

**Hope to see everyone at the League Annual Meeting – Monday June 6 – Premier Bank 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.!**

## 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.



# LWV

# Community Sustainability: Environment, Equity, and the Economy

By Susan Amber Johnson,  
*Sustainability Committee Chair*

On Thursday, April 20, 2023 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, the LWV of Janesville was proud to host the following local leaders as panelists for its third Annual Earth Week Forum: Margaret Darr, Operations Director for the City of Janesville; Mark Holzman, Superintendent of the Janesville Schools; Rock County Supervisor Sutterlin of the Planning and Development Committee; Rock County Supervisor Jim Farrell; Wes Enterline, Sustainability Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater; and James Zumstein, co-owner and sustainability consultant for Sustainable Business Solutions, the first, and still only sustainability consulting firm for small businesses in the state of Wisconsin. We learned what they are each doing to help the City of Janesville, Janesville School District, and Rock County build greater sustainability and resilience, and what we can all do to help them in this endeavor.

In researching the topic of community sustainability, it became clear to me that scientists see this issue as the connections among three significant pillars: our planet, people, and profit, or in other words, the environment, equity for all people, and the economy. True sustainability and resilience will only occur at the

“sweet spot,” or the intersection of all three pillars. Any concern for the economy in terms of profit needs to be tempered by concern over environmental viability, and also equity. Likewise, concern for the people needs to be balanced with care for entire environmental ecosystems of habitat, wildlife, birds, and insects, and economic viability. The national and state League of Women Voters also conceptualizes sustainability in this way.

However, in light of our time constraints for the forum, we decided to focus this particular discussion on the environmental pillar. Considering the complexity of the topic, we saw a need to continue our discussions of community sustainability in future forums; in 2024 and 2025, so we can sufficiently understand what it means to be sustainable in our world today. Then, taken altogether these three Janesville League of Women Voters’ Earth Week Forums will better inform and educate our voters, citizens and residents about the importance of planning for sustainability and resilience in our world today.

If you were unable to view our forum on the 20th, here is the link to the recording on Youtube.com, so you may view it at your convenience, and stay tuned: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZguYChdwq0c>



The Board Of  
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