

June/July President's Report



Lisa Johnson
President

Hello Everyone!

For those that were unable attend in my President's Report's I will "recap" some of Annual Meeting details and share some of the discussions and future action items.

Note: I will be sending a separate email/communication on new members and new board members, returning members and officers etc. That group we will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss "On Boarding" committee opportunities and to become familiar with the LWV – its non-partisan and DEI polices- by-laws etc. I will be providing the current and newly elected officers, board of directors, committee chairs and consultants in that separate communication--- and will get that out in the next few days.

Now----First of all-----Thank you ---is in order.

Thank you to everyone that attended our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 22. Thank you to the board of directors and members that assisted in the food preparation, set up and clean up!

A special thank you to **County Supervisor Bill Wilson** for his presentation "**The Rock County Housing Crisis**". His presentation format was excellent. He has done some very impressive research and assembled meaningful and clear data –which he shared. Thank you Bill!

The timing of this presentation was spot on and will be helpful with our planning for the 2024-25 year! This topic will be included for possible league study and or action on this topic. If you have an interest in

participating, please let me know.

Note: His presentation slides will be shared with the membership in the next few days.

Thank you again to Mary Buelow and the Hedberg Public Library for allowing the LWV-J to co-sponsor the presentation by the author Stephen Kantrowitz, Plaenert-Bascom Professor of History at UW-Madison. His presentation of his book "Citizens of a Stolen Land", was excellent. The link to the presentation ---Here is the link: https://youtu.be/5QN2oBMF_DY but if you would like the cd recording of the book event please let me know. This was excellent discussion of the history of how the Ho-Chunk resisted removal from Wisconsin in the 19th century provided very relevant information for the LWV J DEI Land Acknowledgement Study and Draft project. This book as well as the in person connection to ask questions of an expert, was extremely insightful and a valuable, credible resource for the **LWV-J Land Acknowledgement Project**. Thank you, Mary, for planning this event!

Speaking of that project, the **Land Acknowledgement Project** current draft, was approved by the Board of Directors and then shared in the annual meeting packet,. I am happy to report it continues to move forward. The next phase is scheduling a meeting with the appropriate contacts with Ho-Chunk and potentially other Wisconsin tribes as needed. The league membership will be kept apprised of the project/program progress. If any other members would like to be directly involved in the next phase of the process---please let any of the committee members know. Their contact information can be found in the LWV-J roster being provided by Linda Reinhardt, Treasurer

Land Acknowledgement Committee Members: Lisa Johnson, Susan Johnson, Janet LaBrie, Linda Reinhardt.

* President's

Continued from page 1

Election News and Events – Update

Many of the activities we are planning now and through the election ---are all building on or utilizing ideas or events that have worked well in the past. We have been working on building strong relationships with local groups and public events planners. We'll continue to participate in the traditional events in our communities.

However, in the next few days, we will also be taking a look at **new avenues for Voter Education**.

“Fair Maps Next Chapter” There are some great opportunities or topics to provide current information to our voting communities and what they need to know for voting in “ this next chapter on fair maps “– What's next and how it will change the landscape....where can the voter find resources for what has changed for them with the poll locations and the districts in Rock County. I am reaching out to the Lisa Tollefson and the other clerks in Northern Rock County to see where and how we can support and participate in the messaging ---with JATV---and all media outlets---public meetings and discussions with appropriate speakers etc.

Also, we will be sharing how the recent **Wisconsin Constitutional amendments** in April, will impact our elections in the future. This information is in fact being finalized as of the writing of this article with the Wisconsin Elections Commission and the LWV WI . The LWV WI is putting together clear communication to share at a local level.

So an important project might be----How can we effectively communicate the next round of constitutional amendments in August and November? I feel the amendments on the ballot are by design confusing and don't fully explain the intent. This is an important and much needed project of “**Voter Education**” that is totally in our “wheelhouse” Debra Cronmiller's team at the LWV of WI are right now, in fact, putting together educational kits we can potentially use so our messaging is timely and accurate!

More specifics on Voter Service table events are listed later in this article.

Committees and Membership Engagement Reminder

Please note the committees listed below. These may overlap to some degree and the task focused



committees can help serve the action focused committees by supporting with planning assistance ----for example----timely and effective social media on league sponsored events.....of Voter Services for example. Event Planning is a key committee to support other committees who are planning league events ---by getting a venue – and all event details that may need support.

The good news is the level of a member's involvement varies.

In most cases, these committees are able to be extremely flexible in scheduling meetings and frankly almost of the involvement cycles center around elections etc.

Important Message

All of these committees are gearing up for this next league year as well as summer/fall activities. You will be receiving more information, meeting or event dates etc. They will all be meeting **late May or in June**. Some of the dates are still being finalized.

This is important to share again---The membership has been and will always be invited to attend **any and all** LWV J meetings and events **including** the Board of Directors meetings ---which typically are the first Monday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Premier Bank Garden Level – Please use the elevator from the Lobby Entrance on Black Bridge Road.

You may always refer to our calendar on our website for more details. <https://www.lwvjvl.org>. If you have questions along the way, please contact me and I will get it included in our agenda! But I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments. Lisa.johnson1014@gmail.com or text or call: 608-333-8105

Please watch for the committee email communication and to consider working with these groups --- as your

* President's

Continued from page 2

schedule allows. **Join a committee! Teamwork leads to dream work! In order to carry out our mission in this important election cycle, we will need all hands on deck!**

In a nutshell here are the committees:

<u>Task Focused</u>	<u>Action Focused</u>
Communications & Media	DEI
Membership	Observer Corp
Event Planning	Sustainability
Strategic Planning – <i>Annual review of policies, issues and by-law</i>	

Voter Services and Voter Education

2024 Summer Book Discussions

Coral Swanson and Sue Ellen Madere are coordinating the book discussions for this summer. They will be collecting recommendations and communicating the details, scheduling etc. in the next few days. Stay tuned! You will be asked for your suggestions!

LWV-J Annual Dues Collection Time

Annual dues were collected at the annual meeting, Linda Reinhardt, by our treasurer, and Evon Mitchell assisted in the process. Thank you for financial support! If you have not taken care of your dues, please watch for further information from our Treasurer Linda Reinhardt.

DEI

DEI 2024-25 Planning Meeting to be scheduled in June tentatively on Monday June 17th at 6:30-7:30 I will confirm the date and time to the membership before the end of May. We are inviting the LWV-WI DEI Manager **Kole Torres** to attend via Zoom to gather ideas on projects and studies for the committee. The committee's goal continues to be to promote diversity and inclusion as well as promoting cultural awareness and celebrating diversity through programming and training initiatives. The Beloit League may also be interested in doing "joint" meetings as well. As we winddown the Land Acknowledgement project it's a great time to reevaluate DEI's mission in our LWV-J

LWV-J Current League Issue Review

Speaking of the Beloit League – in the next few weeks, you all will be receiving an invitation to attend a Zoom Meeting with the Beloit League to discuss and review our "Local LWV-JVL positions. If you are interested--

--please attend.

I believe there are 4 that overlap with Beloit ---I will note those that apply to both leagues in the invitation for the get together.



Voter Services & Voter Education

Attention! Voter Services Zoom Meeting –Invitation- Zoom link below.

June 10, 6:30-7:30 – Discussion on events and check for training needs etc

Time: Jun 10, 2024 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87169010545?pwd=g1uGUyfltsxdF4RHuPFrcg0vIxlbAQ.1>

Meeting ID: 871 6901 0545 Passcode: 519319

For the actual events, as in on the past, **signup sheets will be sent, by event** for Voter Services with the needed "time slots" usually in 1 hour or 1 ½ periods. Once compiled in the signups ----those that are participating will receive confirmation of their time and the details. There will always be a minimum of 2 at the table and newer members will have a "veteran" with them at all times. We are working a potential new automated system with the LWV WI and other leagues around the state.

First – one of our high impact tabling spots--
--Janesville Farmers Market

June to the Election:

Janesville Farmers Market – Saturday's 8-1pm would be a great option for VS. At our VS meeting we will be discussing strategically how we wish to utilize our tabling at the Farmers Market. It has always been a great opportunity for VS.

Are there other communities in the Janesville League's "territory" that may have events to consider? If you know of them, or have suggestions - please let me know.

*President's

Continued from page 3

I am including what is known as today, of larger events but there will not doubt be more

June

Juneteenth Celebrations (Beloit), Held on **Saturday June 15th 12pm-8pm** – Joint tabling with the Beloit League- Telfer Park. Signup email to follow.

July

Fourth Ward Park Party Date to be determined!
Rock County 4H Fair – **July 29-August 3, 2024**

August

Tallman Arts Festival, **August 3-4** at the Tallman House.

National Night Out, **Tuesday August 6, 2024** at Traxler Park.

The VOTE411.org website candidates' responses were published for the Spring 2024 Election and will continue to be updated through the November election.

Voter Services will also be planning effective ways to utilize the Youth Voter Registration Grant from LWV-US . We are receiving \$750 earmarked for Youth Voter Services and there is a deadline on spending the grant funds by November 2024.

We are working with the Beloit League on a program for Voter Registration in the Rock County Jail and coordination of voter services with the county parole officers. We are collecting the current laws and guidelines for registration voters with a felony record. We met with Rock County Sherriff Curtis Fell and we have since had another meeting with Commander Kimberly Litsheim, Jail Administrator. They have a great program. We will be meeting with the parole officers group as well. This program offers some great

opportunities to serve that section of the population.

We are hoping to make a difference and provide support for what could potentially be a sector of disenfranchised voters and provide assistance or support with *literacy issues* around the voting process in our county correctional systems.

We are also working with residential facilities such as Cedar Crest and others to assist where needed in Voter Registration. We will drop off contact information and supplies at the multiunit residential facilities i.e. apartments and working with churches the Diversity Action Team of Rock County (DAT) will look at ways to “partner” with these groups as well as the YWCA of Rock County, NAACP and others during this election “season”.

Sustainability

As you may know, Susan Johnson, organized, and moderated, our fourth annual Earth Week Forum on “Community Sustainability.” Panelists from remote sites participated in the online forum, and the event was recorded for later viewing on our League’s website. The panelists were exceptional. Thank you, Susan, for your work on this project! The event recording is available on our website. Susan will be keeping the membership apprised of events pertaining to Sustainability **and opportunities for members to engage in this critical work!**

Observer Corp

The Observer Corp continues to do “good work” in monitoring our local government boards and councils. Thank you all for your great work and **Deb Griffith’s** leadership! Please consider reaching out to Deb Griffith with questions **or if you wish to consider working on that committee!**

LWV Conventions

Reminder on Conventions: (Let me know if you are interested in attending either virtually)

LWV Conventions

LWV -WI – Hybrid
Event May 31, June 1,
2024 – Green Bay
Maryam Enterline,
Lisa Johnson,
Susan Johnson and
Brad Munger are
attending.



✧ President's

Continued from page 4

LWV-US

Hybrid Event
June 27-June 30
Washington DC
Eileen Newcomer will be representing our League!

League of Women Voters - JVL Annual Meeting

Thank you all for all you are doing for the League! I have a feeling I may have omitted something but if so, rest assured I will send an email!

My very best,

Lisa Johnson, President



Carol Herzig, photos

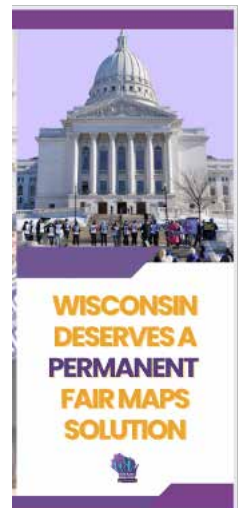
Thank you to the board for providing a lovely wrap sandwich supper.



Ending the Gerrymander—Fair Maps

We can celebrate the victory for Wisconsin legislative maps now being fair, thanks to the State Supreme Court and intense advocacy. Ending the gerrymander allows Wisconsinites to elect responsive representatives. Our League, in addition to turning out the vote, needs to educate the electorate that the district maps have changed! The [Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition](#) has created a [brochure](#) to help educate voters about the [new maps](#) and the importance of getting a Constitutional amendment requiring a permanent

non-partisan, independent, redistricting process. [Brad Munger](#) is leading a Fair Maps effort in Southcentral/Southeast to educate voters, disseminate information, and facilitate discussions and presentations. Your involvement and the involvement of the wide range of LWV-JVL partners is requested. It may be as simple as making people aware of the Fair Maps Coalition, distributing brochures. Please reach out to [Brad](#) (cell/text: 608-931-9527) to get involved. He can supply you with brochures and address questions.



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.

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc.

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