

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF JANESVILLE

The VOTER

www.lwvjvl.org

August 2019

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Communications from the President



Dear Friends in
League,

2020 is going to be a BIG YEAR for the LWV. It is the centennial of the founding of the League on February 14, 1919, and the final ratifi-

cation of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, certified on August 26, 1919.

Once women got the ballot, the League worked to help the 20 million new voters learn how to carry out their new responsibilities. For the League, getting the ballot was not an end in itself, but merely the means by which citizens could influence elected officials to pass social reform legislation in the public interest. The League has always been nonpartisan, but it is political, promoting informed citizen participation, and always working to support legislation consistent with its carefully researched and consensus-driven positions on government, social policy and natural resources at all levels of government.

Speaking of natural resources...I am pleased to announce that the Board has invited new member Susan Johnson to serve on the Board to take the "lead" in keeping our League informed on natural resources issues and activity by LWVWI, LWVUS and Inter-League Organizations such as the Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR) to which our League belongs. If you would like join forces with



**Annual
Membership
Meeting on
Wednesday,**

September 18

Basics' Community Room

Social 5:30 p.m. and

Program 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00.

**Please bring a
guest(s), if they join
this evening, you and
they can attend for free!**

Using the title:

**"2020 Census: What
it is, Why it matters,
and How this one is
different,"**

Susan, please connect with her (susan.johnson072@gmail.com) and 608-758-0973).

The Board has suggested that 2020 will be a good year for us to change the emphasis of our annual luncheon event. We will move beyond celebrating Susan B. Anthony's Birthday to focusing on what the League of Women Voters has stood and worked for in the years since 1920 and look ahead to

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★ President

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work we have before us in 2020 and beyond. Our **LWV Centennial Celebration** planning committee has begun to organize this event, but we would love to have some of our newer members, who may have some fresh new ideas, join us. Please contact me if you can join us—or have some suggestions for our celebration (lindacreinhardt@gmail.com and 815-298-8671).

2020 will be a Presidential Election Year AND a U.S. Census year. Given the amount of attention the Census has received in the news recently, and significant questions about whether the Census Bureau will be able to obtain an accurate count of everyone living in the United States next year, we have invited League members Mary Buelow, who serves on our local Complete Count Committee (CCC), to speak about the Census at our **Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 18**. Using the title, **“2020 Census: What it is, Why it matters, and How this one is different,”** Mary will explain the purpose and the process of taking the Census, why we need to be concerned that the census be accurate, and what we as individual citizens and League members can do to help the Census Bureau achieve a “complete count” in 2020.

Since 1970 the LWV has held a position in favor of selecting the President of the United States by direct popular vote rather than by the Electoral College. However, under present system Wisconsin was the “tipping-point state” in the 2016 Presidential Election and, according to Nate Cohn’s analysis in the July

19 issue of the *New York Times*, we could very well be in that same position in 2020. Given how important Wisconsin is likely to be in the upcoming election, it is important that voters in this state understand the importance of their votes and that they turn out in large numbers to vote in the election. The League has a role to play here to register new voters and to “get out the vote” (GOTV). Our Voter Services Committee is developing strategies for reaching out to young people and hard-to-reach groups of citizens to help them register to vote and to get voters in our area to pledge to go to the polls. Please contact one of our VS Co-chairs, Jennifer Bleak (Fjswblk@hotmail.com and 262-354-5877) or Lisa Johnson (ljohnson2@farmeragent.com and 608-756-1212) if you would like to help—even if you can only volunteer for a few hours. If you are new to the process, they will pair you up with an experienced buddy, and you’ll quickly become an “old hand.”

As a reminder, your annual League membership comes up for renewal in June of each year. Please renew your membership by mid-August to ensure that your contact information will be in the **LWV-JVL Membership Directory 2019-2020** that will be printed for distribution for our membership event in September. **You can now renew your membership online through our website with Paypal** (credit and debit cards accepted) and complete our online League Interest Survey. You can also send your check to: LWVJVL PO Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

Linda

Tracking Water Quality in Wisconsin

By **Susan Amber Johnson**
Environmental

In his first State of the State address, delivered on January 22, Gov. Tony Evers declared 2019 to be the “Year of Clean Drinking Water.” Fully 1.7 million Wisconsinites rely on private wells, and 47% of them did not pass health standards based on data collected on nitrates, bacteria, and heavy metals between 2007 and 2010, as published in the *Journal of Environmental Health*. On February 11, 2019, Speaker Robin Vos announced the formation of a bipartisan task force to improve surface and ground water quality in Wisconsin. Members of this committee include: Chair; Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Vice Chair; Representative Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point); and members: Rep. Travis Tranel, Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay), Rep. Scott Krug (R-Rome), Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), Rep. Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer), Rep. Timothy Ramthun (R-Campbellsport), Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), Rep. Robert Brooks (R-Saukville), Rep. Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb),

Rep. Staush Gruszynski (D-Green Bay), Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point), Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay), Sen. André Jacque (R-DePere) and Sen. Mark Miller (D-Monona).

The first two of fourteen hearings were held in Madison on March 20 and April 3. There are no hearings planned within the city of Milwaukee. The third hearing was in Lancaster, southwestern Wisconsin on May 8, and the fourth was held right here in Janesville

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The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meets on the third Monday of every month.

The August meeting will be at the home of

Susan Johnson. Contact Mary Buelow at buelow_m@msn.com or 608.754.0588 for more information.

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at Blackhawk Technical College on May 29. I did not attend this hearing, but there was an article published in the Janesville Gazette, summarizing what the major speakers had to say. Rock County Supervisor, Wes Davis announced that among many issues, “*nitrates have risen to the surface, and that’s what we need to deal with at this time.*” Nitrates cause birth defects and illnesses if not treated. Contamination is caused by agricultural fertilizers and manure. “*In parts of our county, the nitrate problem is worse than it is in Flint, Michigan,*” Davis said. Rock County conservationist Thomas Sweeney and Rock County Environmental Health Director, Rick Wietersen also gave testimony. Wietersen estimates, 4,000 wells in Rock County out of 15,000 exceed the recommended nitrate limits. Davis adds, “*we want to approach this in an organized fashion and try to build communities of support. Working together is the key.*”

In fact, Davis’ message is being echoed among other invited speakers at these hearings. I attended the Water Quality Task Force Hearing in Racine, Wisconsin on July 11, 2019. Task force members in attendance were: Chairs, Novak and Shankland; Members, Tranel, Kitchens, Summerfield, Kurtz, Brooks, Gruszynski, and Miller. Representative Greta Neubauer was also in attendance, even though she is not on the water quality task force. Racine is the district she represents.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Novak promptly at 1 PM. I left the hearing at 3:45 PM. It was running over and no one from the general public had been allowed to speak yet. The two main messages I heard were: 1. Like Wes Davis said at the Janesville hearing about needing a systematic approach.

Long time member Lois A. Allen passes



April 2, 1937 - July 21, 2019
Janesville, WI -- Lois A. Allen, age 82, of Janesville, passed away on Sunday, July 21, 2019, at home with her family at her side.

Lois retired early from teaching to devote time to her grandchildren. Her selfless and giving nature led her to find ways to volunteer in the community. She enjoyed staying active with the Janesville Rotary Gardens, the Janesville Area Herb Society, the Green-Rock Audubon Society,

The Janesville Art League, KANDU, “Lois” Club, the League of Women Voters of Janesville, and the Swim Aerobics Ladies Group at the YMCA. Lois will fondly be remembered as a woman who was always willing to work to improve her community.

The Dean of Freshwater Sciences from UW-Whitewater said, “*We didn’t get here overnight. We cannot pass this off. We need to get into the restoration/protection mode, rather than put out immediate fires mode.*”

2. As Wes Davis talked about the need to work together, likewise Steve Jacquart, Intergovernmental Coordinator of Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District advised us all to “*manage water as a watershed, not as a municipality! Waters flow and connect,*” and eventually flow into lakes, including Lake Michigan. “*Gather high quality water data, look at where most of your contaminants are coming from, and then fund that (those issues).*”

What they all specifically had to say:

The first invited panel of speakers came from three campuses of the UW-System; UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, and UW-Whitewater. They included the Dean of Freshwater Sciences at UW-Milwaukee and other freshwater sciences professors from all three campuses. The project they came to support is called the **Freshwater Collaborative**. It is a collaborative project in the way it involves multiple campuses, in addition to the three universities mentioned. It is also collaborative in that it will involve multiple partners, both public and private. On the one hand, the idea is to fill the educational pipeline to supply the number of workers already needed in the freshwater sciences field, but also look forward toward future needs in the industry. The water sector of the global economy is a \$500 billion/year enterprise. Nationally, 1.7 million people currently work in the water industry. There are many jobs out there, which continue to go unfilled. The need is great. And, on the other hand, it would also build collaboration with shared facilities in research around freshwater issues. The invited panel never stated exactly how much they were asking for. The general public was not privy to this information. But, Representative Brooks asked them directly about it, and went on to ask how they would guard against duplicate services already in place. Once again, the panel did not mention any numbers, but promised to build efficiency into the collaboration. Rep. Brooks took it upon himself to publicly mention the number for which they were asking, which was \$28 million. Rep. Vos then asked who the private sector partners were and how much money were they bringing to the project? The panel answered there are private partners who will provide research money and internships for the project to the tune of about \$10 million.

A local official from the Rambol Corporation of Copenhagen, Denmark was asked about the top three global water issues. She answered: 1. How to be efficient in water use. 2. Better management of storm water 3. Better treatment technologies for contaminants in watersheds and 4. More ways to recycle and

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reuse products. Representative Gruszynski reminded the panel that we have limited funds and we do have immediate needs regarding WI water. How can we reckon with this issue? The Dean of Freshwater Sciences said, *“we have the potential to get out of the putting out fires mode and get into the protection/conservation mode . . . (our water) problems are decades in the process. We didn’t get here overnight. We cannot pass this off. We need to get into the restoration/protection mode, rather than put out immediate fires role.”*

The third panel of invited speakers included **Municipal Environmental Group (MEG) and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District**. Representing MEG were; Vanessa Wishart-Wastewater Division; Keith Haas-General Manager; Mike Gitter-Chief of Operators; Racine Water and Wastewater Utilities Director-Kevin Shafer. Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District was represented by Steve Jacquart, Intergovernmental Coordinator. The public was not privy to the amount they were requesting. (Toward the end of their testimony, it became clear, they were requesting general funds, but no amount was known.) They came to remind legislators that they serve as frontline resources in protecting the public’s water quality. There are two main systems; collection, and the treatment plants. Furthermore, within the treatment process, storm and sanitary sewer systems are separate. Their facilities eliminate solids, nutrients, and bacteria. They are not designed to remove chemicals from non-point services. *“We have to rely on source reduction.”* Examples of non-point contaminants are phosphorous from agriculture, which are not subject to permits, or numeric limits. With the heavy rains we have experienced and severe storms, all systems face overflow. In addition, we are dealing with aging infrastructure that needs to be replaced. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will become to replace it. Small communities do not have the tax structure to upgrade the wastewater infrastructure. Kevin Schafer of the Racine Water Utilities said that the city of Racine has spent \$13 million for cleaning up the Root River, which empties into Lake Michigan. In the past, they have used money from Save Drinking Water Loan Fund and the Clean Water Fund. Steve of the MMSD touted 20-30 years of their department’s improvements. There has been a metamorphosis of Milwaukee’s Rivers, Menomonee, Milwaukee, Kinnickinic, Root, and the Oak Creek are better off today than they were a number of years ago. Milwaukee developed a deep tunnel system in August of 1993 after one of the worst floods in the city’s history. Due to the deep tunnel system, Milwaukee now can capture and clean 98.4% of contaminants, with only 1.6% overflows. Ongoing initiatives include reacting to floods, private property infiltration, developing more green infrastructure, and decreasing runoff into the system. Representative Shankland asked about how much they estimate the needed infrastructure will

cost. *“How can the state be helpful?”* Steve of MMSD said, *“increase the Save Drinking Water Loan Fund! “What other recommendations do they have for the legislators?”* Steve said, *“manage water as a watershed, not as a municipality! Waters flow and connect,” and eventually flow into lakes, including Lake Michigan.”*

Representative Vos told Kevin Schafer of Racine Water and Wastewater that he should brag to the public about Rupert Mielke who devised a revenue sharing formula in 2002 to deal with funding infrastructure. (He didn’t explain further and the public could not ask questions about it). Then, Vos went on to mention how all the Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, are experiencing record high levels right now. Why, oh why was there an uproar over the 7 million gallons a day diversion? *“We have too much water,”* said Vos. Kevin agreed, *“We have capacity!”* There was no need for public uproar. Rep. Vos added, *“Foxconn is a done deal!”* (It was apparent that he was saying this for the benefit of the crowded audience in attendance). Representative Kurtz asked Kevin how often Racine tested their water. Kevin answered that on the water side, *“we test 10,000 samples per year for lead and copper to satisfy the DNR, and on the wastewater side, we test constantly.”* Rep. Kurtz asked his question again in another way. *“Do you test more going out to consumers, or going out to the lake?”* Kevin repeated that they “constantly test” going out to the lake. *“We do sufficient testing for both.”*

The Water Council and Alliance for Water Stewardship was the fourth group of invited speakers, including Dean Amhaus, President and CEO of the Water Council, and Matt Howard, North America Director for the Alliance for Water Stewardship. Dean started to speak at 3:45 PM. The hearing was running over time for the invited speakers. I had no idea how many of the public would be allowed to speak. Time was running late for me, and unfortunately, I had to leave at this point.

Commemorating Our Legacy, Expanding Our Impact; *formerly known as Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party*

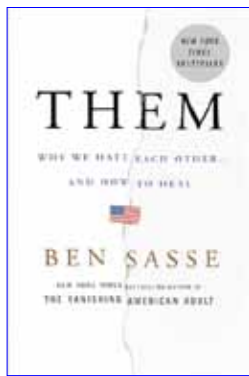
The Board of the LWV Janesville has suggested that 2020, the centennial year of the founding of the League of Women Voters and of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, will be a good year for us to change the emphasis of our annual luncheon event. We can move beyond celebrating Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday to focusing on what the League of Women Voters has stood and worked for in the years since 1919, and look ahead to work we have ahead or us beyond 2020. I think the theme of the 2019 LWV Wisconsin Annual Meeting, *“Commemorating Our Legacy, Expanding Our Impact:”* expresses the idea well.

Voter Service Volunteer Opportunities

The Voter Services Committee meet on July 9 to formulate plans to cover a variety of events happening this summer and into the fall. The 4 H fair date has been covered. Volunteers are needed for some August and September dates.

Month	Day	Hours	Event/ Entry Fee	Volunteers	Organization/Sponsor
August	4	9:45-12:00 12:00-2:00 2:00-4:00	Tallman Arts Festival \$4.00	Carol Herzig Eileen Newcomer	Rock County Historical Society
August	6	4:45-8:00	National Night Out None	Lisa Johnson Linda Reinhardt Susan Johnson	City of Janesville
August	8	?	Downtown Street Fair None	Lisa is checking on this	Festival Street
August	17	?	Corn Fest None	Still checking	Rotary Club
September	2	?	Labor Fest ?	Arrangements are still being made	Laborfest, Inc.

Back Porch Book Discussions



Our discussion will be on the **fourth Thursday of August from 3:00-4:30 p.m.** We hope that many of you will be able to join us for some lively discussion of the book that address a timely topic.

You are most welcome to bring guests--particularly friends who would enjoy reading and discussing this book with us. Who knows, they may decide to join League given a chance to get to know us.

Please RSVP to our host if you plan to attend--they may need to ask some of us to bring our own chairs.

We hope that you'll be interested in reading the book even if you can't join our Face to

Face discussion.

Date	Time	Book Title	Author	Host	Contact Information
8/22	3:00-4:30	<i>Them: Why We Hate Each Other – And How to Heal</i>	Ben Sasse	Nancy Stabb	1200 S. River Road 608.563.1411



View our new website at: lwvjvl.org
Contact at: janesvillelwv@gmail.com

Percent of households with cable, fiber or DSL broadband in Rock Co

2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates

Census Tract	Households with Internet				Internet TOTAL	NO Internet
	Cable, FiberOptic or DSL	Cellular plan only	Satellite	Dialup		
1	48.69%	7.70%	1.10%	0.00%	58.70%	41.30%
2	68.93%	9.50%	2.30%	0.80%	80.90%	19.10%
3	45.76%	6.60%	2.60%	0.40%	54.70%	45.30%
4	63.29%	8.00%	4.20%	1.60%	74.30%	25.70%
5	68.72%	7.50%	5.50%	0.50%	81.60%	18.40%
6	56.48%	10.20%	4.50%	0.80%	70.00%	30.00%
7	65.77%	4.50%	3.30%	0.80%	73.10%	26.90%
8	73.49%	7.10%	4.70%	0.40%	84.00%	16.00%
9	77.87%	5.70%	5.80%	0.00%	87.80%	12.20%
10	63.16%	6.60%	4.60%	0.00%	72.70%	27.30%
11	63.33%	9.00%	6.40%	0.00%	73.80%	26.20%
12.01	65.90%	6.20%	5.50%	0.90%	76.20%	23.80%
12.02	70.98%	7.60%	7.80%	1.60%	86.10%	13.90%
13.02	69.26%	8.60%	6.70%	1.70%	83.30%	16.70%
13.03	82.06%	3.30%	8.20%	0.50%	89.30%	10.70%
13.04	72.45%	5.10%	6.30%	0.00%	82.30%	17.70%
14	65.97%	6.80%	4.10%	0.70%	77.10%	22.90%

Who has the Internet? And who doesn't?

Mary Buelow
U. S. Census

I knew there were people in Janesville without Internet access. For some, it's a conscious choice. For others, it's a choice thrust upon them. During my working days at the library, I regularly ask people if the phone number we have on file is correct. The answer I hear may be "no, that's two or three phone numbers ago." The speaker is someone who got a deal once on a cell phone, was unable to keep up payments for the service plan, and let the service lapse. When the speaker came into a little cash later on, they got a new plan (and new phone number) that lasted until the next financial shortfall when they dropped service again. In the interim they have no data plan and no phone service, and they use the phone to access free public WiFi.

Anecdotes can't be measured, so until recently there was no real way to know how many people had no Internet access at home. Last December the American Community Survey released a new data set "Internet Subscriptions in Household". (The American Community Survey, formerly known as the "Census Long Form", is now conducted in the years between

the Decennial Census). This allows us to look at Internet connectivity by Census Tract, which is a geographic region covering a portion of a city or township.

When I checked the data for the Janesville area, I found household Internet connectivity varies widely. Census Tract 13.03, between I-90 and Tarrant Rd, and between County A and E L T Town Line Rd, has the best connectivity. 82.06% of households have broadband service, 8.2% households have internet via satellite, 3.3% exclusively through a cell phone plan, and 0.5% still have dialup. This leaves 10.7%, or 99 households, with no home Internet access at all.

Census Tract 3, which covers the Fourth Ward, is on the other end of the spectrum. Here 45.3%, or 302 households, are without home internet access. Census Tract 1, between Atwood Ave and Five Points, is a close second, at 208 households with no internet, or 41.3%.

The Internet has become the 21st Century gateway to civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. Households with no internet access have reduced capacity to participate in educational and economic opportunities, our society, and democracy.

The 2020 Census is coming!

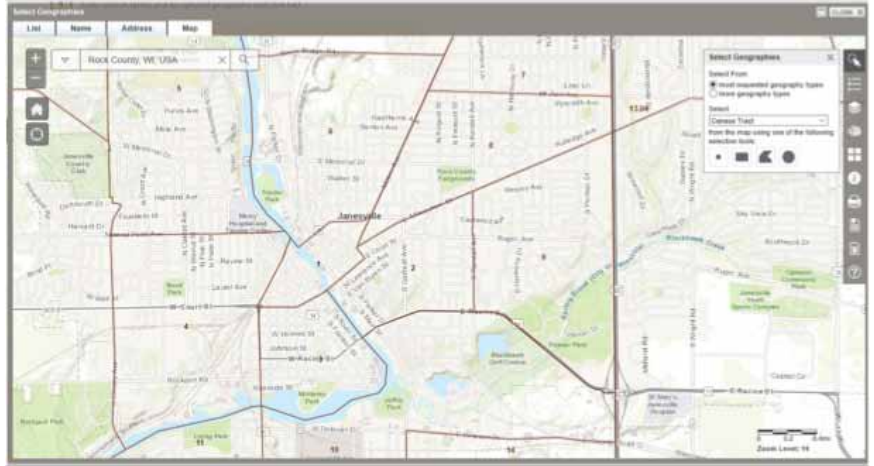
Mary Buelow
U. S. Census

Once every ten years the Census Department conducts a complete count of every person in the United States. The results of this census determine our political representation in Congress and state legislatures. It is also the basis for deciding how and where \$800 billion of federal funds are dispersed to communities across the country.

The decennial census is the largest peacetime mobilization this country does. The Census Department will be hiring a half-million temporary employees across the country to conduct the 2020 Census. If you or someone you know is looking for a short-term job with long-term impact, check out job listings at <https://www.census.gov/fieldjobs>

Mary Buelow will be representing the Janesville League of Women Voters,

American Association of University Women-Janesville Branch, and Hedberg Public Library on Janesville's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. If you have questions about the 2020 Census, please contact Mary at buelow_m@msn.com



CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2019-20*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwjvl.org/calendar

August 2019

August 7 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

August 22 @ 3:00 p.m. Book Discussion, *Them: Why We Hate Each Other - And How to Heal* @ Nancy Stabb's.

September 2019

September 4 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

September 18 @ 5:30- 7:00 p.m. Membership Meeting, @ Basics. Topic: US Census, presented by Mary Buelow.

October 2019

October 2 Board meeting @

November 2019

November 6 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

December 2019

December 4 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location

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.



Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Individual \$65.00
 Student \$30.00

Household \$95.00

I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

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>