

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF JANESVILLE

The Voter

www.lwvjvl.org

January 2020

What's Inside this Issue



**Sponsors
Needed**
Page 2

**Press
Release from
LWVWI**
Page 3



**Environmen-
tal Report**
Page 4

**Voter
Training**
Page 7



Smart News
Page 8

Calendar
Page 9



Dear Friends in League,

February 14, 2020 is the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters. In observance of this occasion the LWVUS has declared that day to be a Day of Action and has asked each local League to participate. In Janesville and Beloit our Leagues will begin our "day" of action at our **LWV Centennial Luncheon on Saturday, February 8.** The luncheon committee and the League boards are still working on plans for the day, but you can expect action to follow from "**Election Security for 2020**", the topic of our luncheon speaker, Meagan Wolfe, WEC Administrator, and from the successful events we held in December.

Thirty people braved a cold December night to hear Erin Grunze's update on

Redistricting Reform in Wisconsin and to join in a lively Q&A session after Erin's formal presentation. Twenty-five persons participated in our **Voter Registration Training Workshop** on a Saturday morning during the Christmas rush. Several of the participants were not League members, so we are pleased to see that interest in our programs extends beyond our membership. You can expect that we will continue to work hard on these issues and on the **2020 US Census** in the coming year. BTW, we received excellent press coverage of the Redistricting Reform event from reporter Benjamin Price of *The Janesville Gazette*.

The strength of our democracy not only depends upon a fair and secure election process, but it also depends upon a well-informed and knowledge-

★ See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2

Centennial Luncheon

You're Invited! February 8, 2020

Commemorating Our Legacy,
Expanding Our Impact.

Guest Speaker: Meagan Wolfe

Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator

Topic: Election Security for 2020

Sponsored by:
The Leagues of Women Voters of Beloit and Janesville

Saturday, February 8 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at Cargill Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave, Janesville, WI

Tickets \$25, in advance; \$30 at the door. Send checks payable to LWV Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064 or Purchase tickets online at www.lwvjvl.org/news-1 (\$2 Paypal charge will be added)

"Your Vote, Your Voice!"

★ President

Continued from page 1

able electorate. Our January program, **“Smart News Consumption: Separating Fact from Fiction”** will address this matter head on Wednesday, January 15, at 6:00 pm in the Basic Cooperative Community Room. Hedberg Public Librarian Mary Buelow will help us learn to become more savvy consumers of the news and social media. I encourage League members to bring friends and family members to this event.

You may have noticed the news story that a state court in Ozaukee County has ordered that 234,000 voters be purged from the rolls immediately. It is important that voters know that they can check their voter registration in advance of when they go to vote on Election Day to ensure that this action does not impact their regis-

The 2020 County budget passed; fully funding the position of Community Coordinator

Carolyn Brandeen
League Member

The Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee November 13, 2019 say it best:

Community Coordinator Position - Mr. Traynor expressed gratitude for the fully funded Community Coordinator position. Ms. Friend has accomplished receiving over \$103,000 for the Department by completing grant reimbursements in under nine months in her new position.

Sponsorship needed!



The committee for the Commemorating Our Legacy, Expanding Our Impact luncheon would like to invite students to join us at our celebration on February 8th. The concern is that we don't want to lose money in the process. We are looking for people who would like to sponsor a table or portion of a table. You are welcome to invite the students and teacher. Or we can do that for you. If

you would like to assist in this, contact Linda Reinhardt by Friday, January 3rd.

tration and plan to vote. Voters can check their voter information on Wisconsin's online voter registration website, <https://myvote.wi.gov>, or by contacting their municipal clerk. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WIDELY.

You can read more about the case and of the efforts of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin to fight this voter purge on the state League's website, www.lwvwi.org

FYI, our Janesville League has just started a Twitter feed. You can take a look at our Facebook page and Twitter feed by clicking on the corresponding icons in the upper right corner of our local League's website, www.lwvjvl.org. If you have your own Facebook or Twitter accounts, please share or retweet our League's news with your friends and followers. Thanks.

Like us on Facebook



[facebook.com/Janesville League of Women Voters](https://facebook.com/JanesvilleLeagueofWomenVoters)



Follow us on Twitter

twitter.com/LWVJanesville OR @LWVJanesville

Together, we can ensure
that our community receives the
resources it needs.

United States®
**Census
2020**

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

Creativetypes!

LWW



We're looking for people to help put together an information display about the 2020 Census. If you are interested please contact Mary Buelow at

buelow_m@msn.com or 754-0588.



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

Phone: (608) 256-0827
www.lwvwi.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2019 608-256-0827;

Contact: Erin Grunze, Executive Director
egrunze@lwvwi.org

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin advises people to check their voter registration status

MADISON, WI – While the League of Women Voters explore legal strategies concerning Friday’s court order to immediately purge 234,000 voters from the rolls, it is important for voters to know they can check their voter registration in advance of when they go to vote on Election Day to ensure this action does not impact their registration and plan to vote.

Voters can be proactive by checking their voter information on Wisconsin’s online voter registration website, myvote.wi.gov , or by contacting their municipal clerk . Any voter who received the Wisconsin Elections Commission letter that they may have moved will have a notice on their record on the My Voter Info page asking voters to confirm their address. If voters have moved since registering to vote, they will need to re-register at their current address. The League is here to help anyone who may need assistance navigating the registration process. Contact the League online lwvwi.org, by email or phone, lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org or 608-256-0827.

Additionally, the recent litigation highlights how important it is that Wisconsin has Election Day Registration where voters can register and vote on Election Day. Yet, even with Election Day Registration, the League advises voters to double-check their registration status and make any necessary updates in advance of the 2020 elections. Wisconsin residents can register to vote online at myvote.wi.gov.

The League will continue to assist voters so they are informed and confident to go to the polls in 2020.

[Link to example “mover” letter](#)

[Link to info about the mailing from the WEC](#)

[Screenshot of myvote instructions if your account received a “mover” letter](#)

###

Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition

Susan Johnson
Environmental Reporter

Great Lakes Polling and Messaging,
Coalition Member and Partner Meeting,
12/12/2019, 9:00AM–4:00PM,
UW-Milwaukee, Freshwater Sciences Dept.

Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition (HOW), a conglomerate of 160 local groups throughout the Great Lakes region, hosted this workshop. Members of various local groups from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota attended. The theme for discussion was: **Know your message and how to use it in our work.** Information delivered at this meeting was based on findings from a scientific study conducted by HOW, October 4-21, 2019. Great Lakes area residents, who were drawn from an address-based random sample, were requested to complete an online survey. HOW has not published their results as yet, so the information I'm sharing with you will not contain specific numbers, or direct quotes. The Coalition will be sharing the polling data with members of Congress and presidential candidates in early 2020. We will publish a future article summarizing the research data at that time.

At this point in time, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has withstood several political attacks from its opponents, and appears to have solid backing behind it. First passed in 2016, the GLRI Act was reauthorized in 2019 with strong bi-partisan support. The House's version of the bill agreed on funding up to \$320 million for GLRI projects, and the Senate version passed with up to \$310 million. With larger amounts of support, HOW members do not perceive the need to continue focusing solely on habitat restoration for GLRI funding. It is time for environmental water policy to expand and include issues such as; ensuring safe and affordable drinking water for all, protecting the Great Lakes from pollution, and other threats, as well as, converting existing water infrastructure to a green infrastructure.

The survey HOW conducted measured individuals in terms of their awareness and knowledge of water concerns, their perceptions as to what we should do to protect the Great Lakes watershed, and how they might receive information about water from various sources, depending on words used in the delivery. In general, all groups displayed less confidence in the cleanliness of Great Lakes water than a decade ago.

Over half of all survey respondents indicated a willingness to increase federal, state, and local spending to ensure clean drinking water. In addition, the numbers of people who are aware of toxic algae blooms are growing among all categories. Almost half of respondents in Wisconsin said they knew it was a problem in the state's lakes and rivers. However, there is far less awareness about PFAS, and other water contaminants among residents of Wisconsin. PFAS refers to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are man-made chemicals found in food packaging and commercial household products, as well as fire-fighting foam. It is known to cause cancer and birth defects.

There is strong bi-partisan support for clean drinking water. A focus on water as a basic human need might work best when discussing environmental issues with a varied audience. Human survival depends on clean air and water. By the same token, is it unwise to use the phrase "climate change" frequently, when discussing the environment with audiences of unknown backgrounds. Many people do not yet fully understand climate change, even if they believe it is real, and even if they believe it is caused by humans. These individuals may not perceive climate change as having the same sense of urgency as clean air and water. To highlight the sense of urgency people need, discuss a water issue in your local area right now. For example, studies in Wisconsin have reported, "42% of 301 randomly selected wells tested in Iowa, Grant and Lafayette counties exceed federal health standards for bacteria that can come from animal or human waste, or for a toxic fertilizer residue." Reports, like this one may raise a level of concern among individuals regardless of background.

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; lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - Voter Service

Meeting Report (Updates In Italic)

Date: November 12, 2019

Time: 6:30 - 7:30

Location: Basics Coffee Shop

Attendees: Jennifer Bleak, Eileen Newcomer, Sue Scott, Susan Johnson, Christine Moore, and Lisa Johnson

The primary focus of the meeting ----planning "Voter Services" activities through December 31, 2019 and discuss results from recent events we attended – discuss any outstanding items. Review of the Principles of the League - Voting Rights & Why it matters what we are doing. (Handouts)

Any final events attended- October and November?

November 10 – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Latino Heritage Festival – JPAC – unable to attend due to building lease.

Voter Services Workshop – We have been discussing doing a voter services workshop for quite sometime. The good news is that the Janesville City Clerk and County Clerk as well as Eileen Newcomer Voter Services Coordinator for the Wisconsin League of Women Voters have agreed to participate in a workshop in Janesville from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2019. It will be held in the Community Room at Basics. There will be coffee and other refreshments provided. The purpose of the workshop is to have a refresher for our current members and include a new group of volunteers that have approached the league and specifically want to assist at local events in the registration/education process. The workshop will include a "kit" for everyone with "branded" materials etc. There will be Q&A with the panel and discussion on the areas of "under-served" in Rock County and what we can do to support or assist in the processes. *Panelists and Lisa Johnson are meeting to work through the agenda and handouts. (Panelists are Eileen Newcomer from Madison League Office/Lisa Tollefson County Clerk and Dave Godek City Clerk)*

Adult "101" February/Hedberg Library – in the planning stages with Gabby Draxler more to follow in December

Contact to: Wisconsin School for The Visually Impaired/Oakhill Christian/ Lisa Johnson is contacting as well as Job Service – YWCA Susan Johnson & Christine Moore on Martin Luther King Celebration January at Blackhawk Tech College – Confirmed we are attending and sharing a table with Beloit League and also can include Census 2020 Information. We have several events in 2020 that we will be participating with the YWCA as well.

General discussion on:

Communications Project – Board Members Heidi Keith, Mary Buelow, Linda Reinhardt and Carol Herzig.

Working on a communications plan for the next 13

months. More information to follow.

Committee is working on planning and Implementation of marketing pieces to be used in local publications/Facebook/Twitter Instagram etc....new letters about Voter Services activities and voter registration and – our messages about "get out the vote" – trusted sites for information etc. Working with state office for branding pieces and suggestions – sending out e-mail to all members for ideas and contacts locally – getting all of the churches for bulletins/news letters much more to follow. *Group met and moving forward with put together a communication plan Heidi Keith, Sue Scott, Mary Buelow, Kerri Harold & Lisa Johnson- more to follow.*

Status? Board Approval of committee purchases of: \$150 approved for equipment and supplies for Voter Services *Still pending – much of it is needed in warmer months. Will complete in January.*

Voter411.org project – Report Have 4 board members that are dividing up work. More info to follow. Races determined to cover. *We have since met and have a working plan on what is needed to complete the project on time. Sue Scott, Christina Barrett, Eileen Newcomer, Linda Reinhardt & Lisa Johnson*

Items Still On The Radar

Lisa Johnson had an initial very positive meeting with Patty Hernandez & Brian Babbitts 10/24/19 at Janesville Schools District Office. They are going to report back on ways to working on ways to integrate voter registration into the high school and charters further. They have seemed initially very interested in having us assist the teachers but they are checking for admitting groups into schools for activities. Expect to hear by mid-month. *Still pending –Any activities would be in 2nd Semester*

We have 3 More Charter Schools to do – 4th quarter 2019 and return to all of them in the first quarter of 2020 for voter registration.

Edgerton Public Library/Edgerton Schools March 2019- Voter Registration/Education Event Planned – *Lisa Johnson sent Invitations to Edgerton and Milton Schools for VS Workshop and the Centennial Luncheon.*

Lisa Johnson met with Robert Wise, Mary Newton who represent a group of retired teachers that would like to work with Voter Services on voter registration and education. They will be attending the Voter Services Workshop. Their group has in excess of 100 members We will have a better number of participants from that group and if they are joining the league as member or just volunteering at events. *Lisa Johnson attended a member luncheon at the Elks Club on Tuesday Nov 26, 2019 and spoke to their group on Voter Services – volunteering and membership opportunities. They want to assist. We may have 2-4 new members and several volunteers.*

★ Voter Services

Continued from page 5

City of Janesville & Rock County Discussion Points- from Clerks

Voter Service question to the clerks.... - Who are the under-served and how can Voter Service assist?

Nursing Homes – Residential Facilities – These facilities are being contacted. Dave Godek from City of Janesville had suggested reaching out to social workers and other care givers to inform them of education on voting rights and education. Susan Johnson is compiling a list of agencies – phone numbers contacts and e-mail addresses to send e-mails on Voter Rights/How to Register Etc.

Develop a strategy on how we can assist those agencies and their clients on voter registration.

Disability Challenges – new equipment being installed at our polls – will send e-mail on any potential service we might do for the City of Janesville at the end of November.

Next Meeting – Voter Services Workshop Saturday December 14, 2019 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Basics Community Room

UW Whitewater at Rock County Tuesday, December 10

December 10 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

UW Whitewater at Rock County, 2909 Kellogg Ave, Janesville, WI 53546, USA

Redistricting Reform in Wisconsin

LWV Centennial Luncheon

Saturday, February 08

Cargill United Methodist Church

February 08, 2020 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Cargill United Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave, Janesville, WI 53545, USA

Linda Reinhardt, Jennifer Bleak and Lisa Johnson attended (Voter Service Table) at the Climate Change-Climate Action! event that was held on the campus on Thursday, November 21st from 7-8:15

Fair Maps campaign begins

The redistricting reform legislation drafted by Representative Robyn Vining (AD 14) and Senator Dave Hansen (SD 30), identified as AB 303 and SB 288, deserves to get a public hearing and receive serious consideration by Wisconsin lawmakers. Currently the legislation is bottled up in committee. Our League will engage in organized action in the coming year as part of the LWVUS People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign. If you would like to take action now to urge the legislators to pass the bills out of committee

to the floors of the Assembly and the Senate chambers for debate, the contact information for the committee members is in the table below. (Committee Chairs are listed first.)

As Erin Grunze reminded us at our Redistricting Reform program on December 10, it is perfectly appropriate for us to send messages to legislators even though we may not live in their districts. They are members of state-wide committees, and as such they are responsible to all the citizens of the state.

Committees Handling Redistricting Reform Legislation, SB288 and AB303

Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection

Duey	Stroebel	SD 20	R	Saukville	Sen.Stroebel@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-7513
Chris	Kapenga	SD 33	R	Delafield	Sen.Kapenga@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-9174
David	Craig	SD 28	R	Big Bend	Sen.Craig@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-5400
Robert W.	Wirsch	SD 22	D	Somers	Sen.Wirsch@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-267-8979
Jeff	Smith	SD 31	D	Eau Claire	Sen.Smith@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-8546

Mailing address for State Senators: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Ron	Tusler	AD 3	R	Harrison	Rep.Tusler@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-5831
Joe	Sanfelippo	AD 15	R	New Berlin	Rep.Sanfelippo@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-0620
Janel	Brandtjen	AD 22	R	Menomonee Falls	Rep.Brandtjen@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-267-2367
John	Macco	AD 88	R	Ledgeview	Rep.Macco@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-0485
Shae	Sortwell	AD 2	R	Two Rivers	Rep.Sortwell@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-9870
David	Murphy	AD 56	R	Greenville	Rep.Murphy@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-7500
JoCasta	Zamarripa	AD 8	D	Milwaukee	Rep.Zamarripa@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-267-7669
Lisa	Subek	AD78	D	Madison	Rep.subek@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-7521
MarkSpreeitzer		AD 45	D	Beloit	Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov	608-266-192

Mailing address for Assembly Members: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

Voter services workshop



Carol Herzig, photos (above)

The presenters at our workshop

We had Janesville city clerk David Godek and Rock County clerk Lisa Tollefson reviewing the newest version of the voter registration forms. Eileen Newcomer, LWVWI Voter Education Coordinator went over the materials that the League provides. And Mary Buelow shared more on the 2020 Census.



Linda Reinhardt photos

An exercise to strengthen our dealing with the public.





Smart News Consumption: Separating Fact from Fiction

That article you just read--is it news, opinion or fake?

Hedberg Librarian **Mary Buelow** will share information about spotting errors, bias, and fraud in the news. Learn how social engineering is used to manipulate opinion and get tips for becoming a more savvy news consumer.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 6:00-7:30 pm

Basic Cooperative Community Room

1711 Lodge Dr. Janesville

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2019-20*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwvjvl.org/upcoming-events

January 2020

January 6 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location Hedberg Library

January 15 Smart News Consumption: Separating Fact from Fiction @ 6:00 p.m., Basic's Community room

February 2020

February 3 Board meeting @

6:30 p.m. Hedberg Public Library
February 8 Centennial Celebration Luncheon

March 2020

March 2 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Hedberg Public Library
March Candidate Forum(s) for local elections

April 2020

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

May 2020

May 4 Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m. location
May Annual Meeting

Calendar of Diversity Events

January 2020

January 11 Martin Luther King Jr Commemoration at Blackhawk Technical College
January 20 LWV DEI

LGB Coming Out Journeys:

Time, Place and Intersectionality
April 20 LWV DEI

February 2020

February 17 LWV DEI
February 20 Diversity Action Team
Faces of the Homeless in Rock County

May 2020

May 21 Diversity Action Team
Awesome Opportunities for Diversity in Rock County

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

October 2020

October NAACP Annual Fund raiser

November 2020

November 12 YWCA Racial Justice Conference

?? Janesville Multicultural Teacher Scholarship Fund raiser

December 2020

March 2020

March 9 Latino Services Providers Meeting

9 am - 1 pm.
Diversity Action Team
You Don't Have to Go South To See Racism

April 2020

April 13 Janesville Police Department Latino Liaison Advisory Committee

1 pm at the JPD
April 16 Diversity Action Team

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, cul-

ture, 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
☐ Supporting \$75.00

☐ Household \$100.00
☐ Student \$10.00

☐ 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>