



The

# VOTER

## League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

April 2018

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### Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

Be sure to encourage your friends and family members to vote in the Spring Elections on Tuesday, April 3.

Direct them to our

LWV of Janesville website [www.lwvjvl.org/Spring2018Elections.html](http://www.lwvjvl.org/Spring2018Elections.html) for information on local races that include links to a video recording of our Janesville City Council Candidates Forum and the written responses of candidates for the Janesville School Board and contested seats on the Rock County Board of Supervisors to questions posed by members of our Voter Services Committee. For information on the state-wide races, direct them to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

For those of you who would like to keep current on activities of our local League, check our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/JanesvilleLWV](http://www.facebook.com/JanesvilleLWV) between issues of "The Voter." You'll be able to see a posting about how members of our League attended the Saturday, March 24 "March for our Lives" event in Janesville to hand out information to approximately 150 of the persons present at the event about how and where newly eligible young citizens can register to vote.

I want to give special thanks to the members of our Voter Services Committee for all the work they have done this Spring to provide voters with information on the candidates running for local office while simultaneously carry-

ing out their promised activities for the LWVEF grant they wrote to help young and hard-to-reach citizens learn how to register to vote.

During the month of April we have scheduled two types of programs that will provide Leagues members opportunities to gather together, think, and learn from each other and from local experts:

The Diversity Committee is holding book discussions on three dates in April so you can come to talk about issues raised in Jodi Piccoult's best-selling novel, Small Great Things. (April 12, 14 or 17)

Members of our League's "observer corps" attend meetings of local governmental committees and have observed that several of them have been grappling with the impact of opioid use in our community. Come to the program they are organizing where we can all learn from a panel of local experts how Rock County is responding to the Opioid problem (April 26)

Remember that our Janesville League's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16. The Annual Meeting marks our League's "new year" so dues for 2018-19 are payable at that time.

## Coming Soon!

Your Annual Meeting Packet will be coming soon. Our meeting is on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

# Who can speak for the League?

A question arose in the past month about who, and under what conditions, can a person speak in the name of the League of Women Voters.

Many of our members are relatively new to League, and so I thought I should take advantage of this “teachable moment” to clarify this particular issue and to share a valuable resource with you.

As for the question of who speaks for the League? The answer is “Only the president (or designee) is permitted to speak for the League in an official capacity.” You can find a rationale for this statement in the “Speaking with One Voice” section of “League Basics,” a 26-page document that members can download as a .PDF file from the national League of Women Voters website at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/league-basics-download>

## Speaking with One Voice

*“Speaking with one voice” is one of the most important tenets of the League. The national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League’s message on national issues is consistent throughout the country.*

*Similarly, state Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate to ensure that regional issues are addressed in a consistent matter by neighboring Leagues.*

*Only the president (or designee) is permitted to speak for the League in an official capacity. However, members are encouraged to take action on League topics as individuals. For example, when responding to an LWVUS Action Alert, a local League president would send a message on behalf of the organization (i.e. on League letterhead); members might contact the same official as individuals (i.e., not mentioning their affiliation with League).  
(from “League Basics,” p. 22, emphasis added)*

Under what conditions can a person speak for the League? Action, such as speaking for the League, should only be taken when the League has a position that supports the action. Statements on behalf of the League should include the rationale for the statement that is based on League positions.

I would encourage every member of League to read, or re-read, “League Basics”, formerly “In League.” It has a very nice Index, and a “Glos-

sary of League Lingo” in the appendix. It also contains an excellent overview of how the League develops its program national, state, and local positions through study, debate and consensus.

Each year the members of the League reviews their local positions at the Annual Meeting in May. I encourage each member to review our League’s local positions prior to our Annual Meeting on May 16. You can find them on our League’s website [http://www.lwvjvl.org/local\\_positions.html](http://www.lwvjvl.org/local_positions.html)

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## Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Neil Deupree  
*Observer Corps*

The CJCC has been in existence since 2007 when Rock County applied for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grant from the state of Wisconsin. With that grant, the Drug Court was established and has been using treatment philosophy - cooperating to help people with drug problems to recover and become contributing members of our community.

The CJCC is composed of the major criminal justice stakeholders along with several community members. They meet monthly at 3 pm on the third Thursday at the Rock County Courthouse. The public is welcome to attend and is given time to make comments or ask questions at the end of the meeting.

For the last two years, they have been learning about and planning to implement Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) – practices that have been shown to reduce crime and rehabilitate criminals. One of the first efforts will be to assess the people that come in contact with the criminal justice system – to measure their risk to re-offend or their risk for making the community unsafe.

At their January meeting, they heard an extensive report from the Division of Community Corrections (Probation and Parole) about the practice of revocation – sending a person back to prison for a violation of probation.

You may find more information at: <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/criminal-justice-coordinating-council>



# City Council Forum March 1, 2018



Deb Thielen moderated the City Council Forum held at the Hedberg Public Library and sponsored by the League, Forward Janesville and JATV. Photos by Carol Herzig



# OPIOID CRISIS: THE LOCAL RESPONSE

**JM4C & LWV PRESENT...**

**A Panel Presentation**  
featuring representatives from:

Janesville Mobilizing for Change (JM4C)  
Rock County Human Services Walk-In Clinic  
Janesville Police Department DROP Program  
State of Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 26**  
**6:30-8:00PM**

**HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
316 S Main St, Janesville, WI



**LWV**  
[WWW.LWVJVL.ORG](http://WWW.LWVJVL.ORG)

# Opioid Crisis in Our Community

- Janesville crime rate increased 11% from 2016 to 2017, largely due to the heroin epidemic.

- Overdose deaths due to prescription opioids are up 600 percent from 2000 to 2016, from 81 to 568.

- In 2016, more than 4000 Wisconsin Seniors were hospitalized for opioid dependence or poisoning.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services website

The opioid crisis touches each of us in some way. It may be a friend or family member who has died from a prescription drug overdose. Or, a neighbor's home burglarized to support a heroin habit.

Opioids are powerful natural and man-made drugs like heroin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, codeine, and fentanyl. Many are used as pain relievers, and can be addictive. Opioids can be deadly if taken in high doses, with other drugs, or given to people with certain pre-existing medical conditions. The misuse and abuse of opioids is a public health crisis.

The Janesville League and co-sponsor Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change (JM4C) will present a panel discussion, Opioid Crisis: The local response on Thursday, April 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Hedberg Public Library.

Representatives from the following public service groups will share their experience at the local level:

Janesville Mobilizing for Change (JM4C)

Rock County Human Services Walk-In Clinic

Janesville Police Department: Death, Recovery or Prison (DROP) program

State of Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The League is proud to partner with these local groups to deliver an informative public presentation.

The event flyer included in this newsletter can be printed, copied and posted in public places by our members. A how-to share a FaceBook event shows how to share this event with your FaceBook friends.

## *To invite your Facebook friends to an event:*

Go to the event page

Click Share

Choose "Invite Friends"

Choose your friends from the list

Click Invite



## Welcome new League members:

We have added several new members to our list since the Annual Meeting in May of 2017. I'm introducing 2 of them in this issue of the Voter. If you are reading this and are not member but would like to know how to join, contact Nancy Stabb [nstabb@charter.net](mailto:nstabb@charter.net).

Deborah «Deb» Thielen was born and raised in Iowa, and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Drake University. She enjoyed a long and successful career managing human services programs, including behavioral health services, foster care, and Juvenile justice. More recently she has focused on fund raising for non-profits, leading to her current position as Director of the SSM St. Mary's Foundation – Janesville. Her career has taken her from Iowa to Kansas, Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, Washington state, and now to Wisconsin. She, and spouse Bill McCarty, re-located to Wisconsin to be closer to grand - children.

Deb's interest in the League of Women Voters stems from her experiences with how voting patterns influence public policy and, ultimately, who receives public services and the quantity and quality of those services.

Bill McCarty is retired from a long career consulting, advising and administering public and private non-profit programs for children, youth and families. Bill received his Master's Degree from the University of Iowa and led programs in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio and Florida. He also served as an independent contractor, writing, managing and reviewing public and private grants for a wide variety of causes. Bill and his spouse, Deb Thielen, re-located to Wisconsin to be closer to their grand - children. Bill sees participation in the League of Women Voters as an opportunity to give back to his adopted local community and positively influence discourse on local public policy issues.

## The Diversity Committee will be hosting a Book Discussion of *Great Small Things*, by Jodi Picoult



In this novel, Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child.

The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is

alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene? Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime.

Discussions will be held:

Thursday April 12, 1:00 pm at the Hedberg Public Library, Public Meeting Room

Saturday April 14, 9:30 am at the Hedberg Public Library, Public Meeting Room

Thursday, May 17, 6:30 p.m. at the Hilltop

Questions? Please contact Mary Buelow at [buelow\\_m@msn.com](mailto:buelow_m@msn.com) or 608-754-0588

# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities 2017-18\*

**\*Additional events may be planned. Check website: [lwvjvl.org/calendar](http://lwvjvl.org/calendar)**

### April 2018

April 3 Spring Election



April 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

April 12, 14 & 17 Book Discussion on *Great Small Things* by Jodi Picoult, various locations

April 26 @ 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The Opioid Pandemic, sponsored by Observer

Corps & Janesville Mobilizing for Change @ Hedberg Public Library

### May 2018

May 16 @ 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting, Location TBD

### June 2018

June State Meetings

June 28 - July 1 National Convention - Chicago

**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.

**Celebrate your Birthday with the League!**

*Remember you may still contribute to the State League with a birthday donation and half of your donation will be returned to our Janesville League.*



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*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail me, Carol Herzig at [caherzig@gmail.com](mailto:caherzig@gmail.com) Thank you.*