



The VOTER

Communications from the President

Dear Friends in League,

I want to thank you for putting your trust in me to be the President of the League of Women Voters of Janesville for the next two years. I will do the best I can to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of this position.

I believe that we have elected a strong Board of Directors, and since our Annual Meeting, the Board has invited Nancy Sonntag to serve as a non-elected Director. We welcome Nancy to the Board, and thank her and Kay Deupree for being willing to serve as Co-Chairs of the Voter Services Committee.

We also want to express our thanks to Janet LaBrie who will become the new Chair of the Diversity Committee. Lisa Furseth had been chair of that committee, and she guided it through the process of developing the local position that our League members adopted at the Annual Meeting in May. Lisa will continue to serve on the committee, but decided to step down from the lead position. We are grateful to Lisa for her leadership, and our League members are looking forward to moving from study to action this year on this vital issue.



Based upon advice given to the Board at our Annual Meeting that we increase the extent to which we develop programs on LWV issues at the state and national lev-

els, two members of the Board, Evon Mitchell and Ethel Himmel, will take the lead on following LWVUS and LWVWI issues and positions. Our September and October programs will focus on a state and a national issue that will be of general interest. Please watch coming issues of The Voter for more information about these upcoming programs.

While these Fall programs are taking shape, I can assure you that the U. S. Supreme Court's decision to hear Wisconsin's redistricting case will be of great interest. The LWVWI has a longstanding position on Apportionment and Redistricting that supports "a redistricting process characterized by objectivity, accountability, timely and efficient completion and a reasonable degree of flexibility" and includes the "establishment of an independent commission or designation of an independent agency to be responsible for the development of a legislative and Congressional redistricting plan" (emphasis added). The concept of "redistricting" is a rather abstract concept, so, following the advice we were advised at the LWVWI Annual Meeting, we should talk to our friends, neighbors, and legislators about FAIR VOTING MAPS.

With the beginning of a new year for League, there are a number of ways that you can get involved to "Make Democracy Work," and these are just a few:

While we have many leaders in our League, some of them identified in this message, none of them can do the work of the League as a committee of one person. So, if there is an issue and/or committee that is of interest to you,

★ See **PRESIDENT**, Page 2

What's Inside this Issue

Page 2 Help Wanted
 Page 3 Upper Mississippi Regional ILO
 Page 4 Calendar

Page 5 Voices
 Page 6 Committee Formation
 Page 7 State Studies

★ President

Continued from page 1

please contact me or the relevant committee chair, and we will get you in touch with the right person to put you to work.

Several of our members observe the meetings of local governmental boards and committees. Participating in this “observer corps” is a good way for members to learn about the activity of local governments that are pertinent to LWV study topics and positions. If you would like to become a member of the observer corps, please contact Nancy Stabb, and I am sure she will help you find an experienced observer who would be happy to be your mentor.



Are you one of those people who have had the best of intentions for contacting your elected representatives to advocate the LWV's position on a piece of legislation, but didn't know what to say? Well, now "there's an app for that!" Yes, LWVWI has provided us with the "Voices: Call to Action" app for iPhone or Android phones so you can easily call, email, or Tweet your state and national representatives. The app provides action alerts and even a sample script so you'll have the all the information you'll need in the palm of your hand. Go to <http://tryvoices.com/lwvwi> to read a message from Andrea Kaminski, and get instructions for downloading the app. Please use it, and share it with other Wisconsinites who are not yet members of League.

Thank you!!

Linda

HELP WANTED:

The issue of poverty is an on-going interest for League members. It would be good to have a League member be an observer of the Rock County Human Services Board watching for ways we can be supportive of programs that help those on the margins struggling with the barriers they face. This is a critical time as the Board is working on the budget for next year. The date of the public hearing on the budget has not been set but could be as early as the end of July but most likely in August. Rock County Human Services committee meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 4:30 PM at the Rock County

health Center 3rd Floor conference room, Highway 51 North. Interested persons should contact Nancy Stabb nstabb@charter.net or 608-302-9944. for more information about what is involved.



LWV - Janesville has joined the Upper Mississippi Regional ILO

At the June Board meeting it was voted to join the Upper Mississippi Regional ILO as we were one of the last ones to do so. The follow information was taken from their webpage.

Upper Mississippi River Region - Inter League Organization

IL, WI, IA & MN are establishing an Inter League Organization to pursue protecting the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

First, what is an ILO?

Inter League Organizations are formal LWV organizations recognized by the League of Women Voters of the US. They operate under the Natural Resources positions of the national LWV. ILOs are established because their members recognize the need to work together at the regional level to most effectively and responsibly solve problems that transcend political boundaries. The natural resource issues facing us in the Upper Mississippi River Region definitely transcend such boundaries. We believe the proposed ILO could increase the clout and effectiveness of the LWV's work on natural resource issues by:

- * Developing educational programming to be shared among the ILO's leagues to increase the public's understanding of the natural resource issues in the region.

- * Coordinating our advocacy efforts across state lines and in numerous congressional districts to better promote the collective interests of the region before Congress and the federal agencies.

- * Monitoring local, state, regional, and federal proposals that affect the interests of the region and then distributing that information and making recommendations to the appropriate state or local LWVs for action.

What is the history of the proposed LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region ILO?

Members of the LWVs in Jo Daviess County IL and Dubuque, IA, first met to discuss the idea of forming an ILO in June 2014 after collaborating to present the program Storm Water From the Ground Up, a project of the LWV-Lake Michigan Region ILO. We formed a steering committee and began reaching out to local LWVs in our region. Since then we have received the approval of the state LWV boards in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois to pursue the development of the ILO. We are in the process of contacting the 78 local LWVs in these states, informing them of our plans to form an ILO, and asking for their support. So far 33 local LWVs have indicated that they are interested in joining the LWV-UMRR ILO.



Watershed area of the Upper Mississippi River Region

What will happen next?

The LWV-US suggests that to receive formal approval for the ILO, we must engage the support of 2/3s of the local LWVs representing at least 2/3s of the total League membership in the four-state region. With 33 of the 78 possible LWVs on board, we need to engage the support of another 20 LWVs to be able to go on to the next steps. We also have to make sure that the total membership of the LWVs we have on board adds up to 2/3s of the total membership in the four state region. We would have a problem with that if we get the support of many small LWVs but not the big ones.

Once we have the requisite number of LWVs and members on board, we will begin planning the first annual meeting of the LWV-UMRR ILO. At that meeting, we will elect officers and approve by laws. Please note that we are proposing no per member payment for your LWV members to belong to the ILO. We anticipate a per league payment of \$25.00 annually.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gretchen Sabel - ILO President

SERVING

Illinois
Iowa
Minnesota
Wisconsin

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2017-18*

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

June 2017

June 29 Board Meeting @ Carol Herzig's

September 2017

September Membership meeting & Program



September 19
Board Meeting

October 2017

October 17 Board
meeting

October General
Membership Meet-
ing - Redistricting
meeting

November 2017

November 21 Board Meeting
November Book Discussion - Diversity

December 2017

No Meeting

January 2018

January Membership meeting & Program

January 16 Board Meeting

February 2018

February Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party

February 20 Board Meeting

February 20 Spring Primary

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>





TRY VOICES
CALL TO ACTION

**BE THE FIRST TO GET LWVWI
ACTION ALERTS WITH THIS
EASY-TO-USE SMARTPHONE APP
THAT LETS YOU CONTACT
YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
WITH ONE TOUCH**



tryvoices.com/lwvwi

The Board has a full compliment

Linda Reinhardt
President

I am happy to report that Nancy Sonntag has accepted our invitation to serve our Janesville League

of Women Voters as an un-elected Director on our Board of Directors. Nancy has also agreed to co-chair the Voter Services Committee with Kay Deupree. (Thanks to both Nancy and Kay!!)

The 2017-18 Board of the League of Women Voters of Janesville

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| President | Linda Reinhardt | 2017-19 |
| First Vice President | Ethel Himmel | 2017-19 |
| Second Vice President | Sarah Kopp | 2016-18 |
| Secretary | Heidi Keith | 2017-19 |
| Treasurer | Laura Boettcher | 2016-18 |
| Director | Carol Herzig | 2017-19 |
| Director | Mary Buelow | 2017-19 |
| Director | Evon Mitchell | 2017-18 |
| Director | Jennifer Johns | 2016-18 |
| Board appointed | Nancy Stabb | 2017-18 |
| Board appointed | Nancy Sonntag | 2017-18 |

Committees have been formed

The committee for the 2017-18 year have been formed and are ready to go. Help is always needed. If you would like to join in any of the committees, just contact any member of that committee. You will be welcomed!



- Membership:** Nancy Stabb
- Behavioral Health:** Mary Buelow
- Susan B. Anthony Event:** Mary Buelow, Janet LaBrie, Evon Mitchell, Carol Herzig
- Diversity:** Janet LaBrie, Sue Conley, Mary Buelow, Lisa Furseth
- Voter Services:** Kay Deupree, Nancy Sonntag
- Nominations:** (In addition to those elected) Laura Boettcher
- Publicity:** Sarah Kopp, Heide Keith, Kerri Harold
- State Study Items:** Ethel Himmel
- National Study Items:** Evon Mitchell
- Pass-through Grant:** Kay Deupree, Coral Swanson, Ethel Himmel, Sue Conley, Jan Borlick
- The Voter:** Carol Herzig



Recommended 2017-18 State Program

1. Education and Advocacy on Voting Rights.

The State League will continue its ongoing program to ensure that every eligible citizen has the right, as well as the opportunity, to vote and have their ballot counted. LWVWI will carry out through education and advocacy with prior on the following activities:

- a.) Prevent voter suppression and actively oppose any assaults in Voter Rights;
- b.) Provide leadership for redistricting reform in Wisconsin;
- c.) Advocate for getting money out of politics and ensuring transparency of all campaign contributions.

2. Education and Advocacy on Poverty. While poverty is clearly a compelling interest for several local Leagues, there was not a consensus in favor of

conducting a state study to create a new position dealing specifically with poverty. Many of the issues identified as critical to reducing poverty are covered by existing state

or national positions. The State Board recommends that LWVWI provide resources for local Leagues to help them understand issues related to poverty, if they so choose, and to act at the local level:

a.) Post a Poverty Page on the LWVWI website linking to existing resources. Local Leagues identified many such resources;

b.) Form a statewide, volunteer committee to develop a template questionnaire, or survey, to be sent to local Leagues to help them conduct poverty studies in their own communities. The survey will help Leagues identify the critical issues related to poverty in their area, along with the existing services and the gaps in service. Some Leagues have already conducted such studies and may be able to help design the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be offered as a service to local Leagues and Members-at-Large Units. Each League or MAL Unit will have the option as to whether to conduct the survey or not. If they choose to do so, they will have the ability to modify the questionnaire.

c.) Encourage all Leagues that conduct poverty studies to post them on LWVUS League Management Website, Which has a clearinghouse of LWV studies from many state and local Leagues: <http://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/>

** Editor's note: The State League needs volunteers to assist with the Poverty studies conducted at the local Leagues. If you are interested; the contact information for the State is below. Thank you!*



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;
lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org



Staff:

Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director
Alexandra Graff, Administrative/Program Assistant
Erin Grunze, Voter Education Coordinator

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

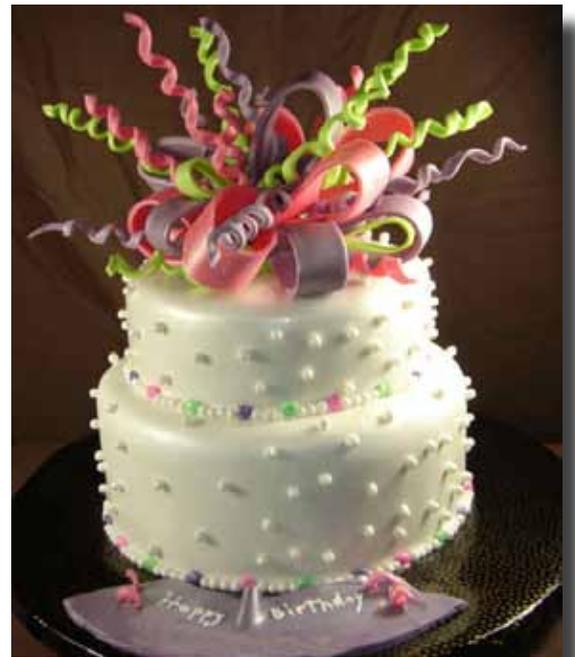
I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

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.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail me, Carol Herzig at caherzig@gmail.com Thank you.