

LWV – Whitewater Area Newsletter

REDISTRICTING – WHAT IMPACT?

January 22nd, Thursday – 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, Whitewater

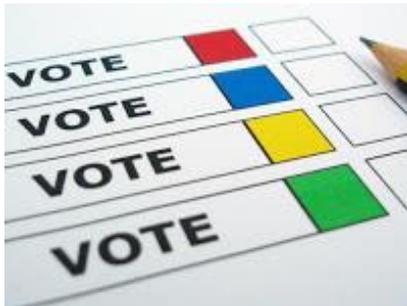


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Redistricting What Impact on Voters?

Last year, with our November program, we had an exciting and informative program about redistricting. Our panel discussed “why it mattered” and how to go forward. It was a matter of some discouragement to learn how entrenched some of the career politicians are, when they can make the rules assuring their own longevity. They are ready to reach across party divides, not for the sake of the state or the country, but to perpetuate their own hold on power.

This month brings another discussion on the same theme. Join us on **Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers**, with **Professor Jonah Ralston** as our featured speaker.

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Redistricting What Impact On Voters?

Professor Jonah Ralston, a relatively new arrival in the Department of Political Science at UW-Whitewater, will be looking at what redistricting has done historically and what it threatens to continue to do in Wisconsin and elsewhere. Specifically, he touches on its impact on voters as well as the outcomes of our elections.

Professor Ralston has had a successful career in academic positions as well as positions within the Wisconsin state government. This gives him a scholarly take on the issues which were discussed with practitioners in November.

Don't miss this opportunity for a thought provoking discussion. Bring your questions and concerns to share with fellow members and guests.

SIGN UP - Program Planning & Support Webinar

The LWVUS Program Planning and Support (PP&S) Committee will put on a webinar January 21 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will outline the basics of the League's program process.

The [webinar](#) is designed to help Leagues understand League program from A to Z, including how to use national positions to take action locally. You can register for the webinar [here](#). For further information or questions, contact Betsy Lawson at blawson@lww.org.

President's Message Tom Drucker



You will notice that this year starts off with a new occupant in the League presidency for the first time in a number of years. If you were at the holiday dinner or read the reports of what was said in the Jefferson or Whitewater papers, you will know that I did my best on that occasion to express the League's appreciation to what Ellen Penwell has done and meant for us during her presidency. If you have not seen those, let me just include a few sentences here of appreciation.

Ellen's meticulous attention to detail guaranteed that every League function went off as planned, inasmuch as it was within human control. She planned ahead and planned thoroughly. She then carried through, as far as her role was concerned, with grace and grit.

Some of the programs which took place during her presidency helped to shape public attitudes on important issues with regard to legislation. Her pick-up truck put on many miles carrying League items back and forth, and her ability to represent the League at the state level guaranteed that we would be recognized for what we had accomplished.

I can be relatively confident that the Drucker administration will not last so long nor be remembered so fondly. The issues are still there, especially with regard to items like campaign financing, where we seem to be slipping back into an era without limitations, as well as voter suppression concerns.

I shall do my best, but I shall depend on the help and inspiration of board and League members. Anita Loch's work as secretary and Stacey Lunsford's as web mistress will make sure that we can remain informed about issues. Gerry Jennings and Ginny Laurent will continue to work to make our work known outside the current League members. Julia Ross will put her formidable mathematical skill to use to keep us in the black.

It will take significant effort across the board to keep us doing our important job of "Making Democracy Work". The Board and I look forward to another exciting year with our fellow League members.

Celebrating Carrie Chapman Catt

On January 9th in 1859, **Carrie Chapman Catt** was born in Wisconsin. While we all know that Carrie Catt fought tirelessly for women's suffrage both here and abroad and that she founded the League of Women Voters, here are some facts about this remarkable woman of which we may not be aware:

- Originally interested in practicing medicine, [Catt received a Bachelor of Science degree in general science in 1880](#). She was the only woman in her class.
- Before working in the suffrage movement, [Catt served as a teacher, principal and superintendent in Iowa](#). Catt began her career as a political activist at the age of 27 [when she joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association](#).
- When her husband died in 1885, [Catt made a living by becoming San Francisco's first female newspaper reporter](#).
- By 1900, [Catt succeeded the 80-year-old activist Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association \(NAWSA\)](#), the organizational predecessor to the League.
- She served as president of NAWSA, she founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA).
- Catt returned to NAWSA as president in 1915. Catt's relentless campaigning is [credited with helping win President Woodrow Wilson's respect and support](#) — which ultimately lead to the passage of the 19th Amendment.
- Catt was [close friends with Eleanor Roosevelt](#), a [fellow League leader](#) and women's rights pioneer.
- In her later years, Catt advocated on behalf of working women [and tirelessly lobbied for world peace efforts](#).
- She supported efforts for both the League of Nations and the United Nation, [the latter of which the League of Women Voters helped establish](#).
- For decades throughout the women's suffrage movement, [Catt traveled across the country](#) to make speeches and lead parades. Even when she was in her late 70s, she remained an effective and impassioned speaker.

Carrie Catt described the League as a “mighty experiment”. Nearly 95 years later the League is still a mighty experiment in making democracy work through citizen education.

Holiday Dinner & Making Democracy Work Award

Our annual League of Women Voter's Holiday Dinner was held on December 14th at the Cold Spring Inn in Whitewater. Music was provided by a jazz ensemble from the University of Wisconsin here in Whitewater.

We also presented our “Making Democracy Award” for 2014 to Emma Lou Sederholm. She received it on the part of all our founding members who started our League over 50 years ago.

It was a wonderful evening with a chance to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as well as the holidays!



Calendar of Events LWV – Whitewater Area

Date: January 22nd (Thursday)

Event: Redistricting – What Impact on Voters?

Where: 7:00PM, City Council Chambers

Date: February 19th (Thursday)

Event: A Student's Perspective on our Public Schools

Date: March 19th (Thursday)

Event: Great Lakes Water Quality

Date: April 16th (Thursday)

Event: "Good Roads" in Wisconsin

Date: May 23rd (Saturday)

Event: Annual Meeting and Elections

Annual Dues Renewal

Reminder: Membership dues should be paid now by filling out the form included with your November newsletter. Your check and form should be sent to our Treasurer, Julia Ross, 701 East Clay Street, Unit B1, Whitewater, WI 53190.

2014-2015 Board Members

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