

LWV – Whitewater Area Newsletter

“STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS”
Thursday, September 17th 7:30 AM – 9:00 PM
City Council Chambers, Whitewater



State of the City Address



Whitewater City Manager **Cameron Clapper** will deliver a *State of the City* address at the League’s invitation in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The League is grateful to City Manager Clapper, for his willingness to provide such an address, affording Whitewater citizens an opportunity to hear about and question him on the reported condition of our local community and its future prospects.

Cameron served as Interim Whitewater City Manager from June of 2012 and in September of that year he was unanimously selected to serve as City Manager by the Whitewater Common Council.

He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor’s degree in International Studies from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Cameron lives in Whitewater with his wife Michelle and their three children.

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Celebrate Our Members!

Let's **celebrate and welcome our membership** – new, on-going and prospective – to another exciting year for our League of Women Voters!

Join us at 6:30PM for dessert and a gathering of our membership in advance of the program on September 17th.

Bring your friends so that we can be brought up to date on all that our League - Whitewater, Wisconsin, and National - are planning for the upcoming year. It will be an action packed time for all of us in League with the general election in 2016, as well as our on-going work in our Whitewater community.

Andrea Kaminski, our Wisconsin Executive Director, will be joining us and present an update on the upcoming year for the Wisconsin League. She will cover our priorities as well as the issues of importance to our voters and communities.

Mary Beth Byrne will then review our plans for the Whitewater League and how each of our members can get involved. She will also highlight our priorities at National and the support they will be providing to all our Leagues this next year.



Looking Forward

*A Message from our President,
Mary Beth Byrne*

Time seems to move quickly, and soon we will be involved in busy fall schedules and activities. I hope that among those activities is your active participation in the **Whitewater Area League of Women Voters!** Invite your friends to join you in attending our meetings, and learn how we can all make democracy work more effectively!

What a privilege it is to serve as your president, along with an active Board of involved and talented community members. A huge THANK YOU to **Ellen Penwell**, who so capably provided outstanding leadership as League President beginning in 2008. And to **Tom Drucker** who capably served as President from January to July 2015. Thank you.

Having recently returned from volunteering for two years in southern Africa and experiencing their culture, traditions, and the consequences of poor government leadership, I feel much more adamant about our individual and community roles and responsibilities in making democracy work for ALL people and not just a few. Certainly it pays great dividends to have an educated, skilled, and conscientious population who help elect true leaders who promote policies that benefit all. Our news is already filled with campaign ads, news analysis, interviews and debates related to our upcoming presidential election in November, 2016. So it pays to stay active ... an **INFORMED PUBLIC** will help keep our democracy secure!

I am excited about our upcoming programs and look forward to greeting you. During this year the League will be heavily involved in Voter Registration efforts, as well as discussions around the need for Voter ID. Looking ahead, we will be privileged to have **Meagan McCord Wolfe**, a Voter Services Specialist with the Government Accountability Board, at our October 15 meeting. We will also be presenting our annual "Making Democracy Work" award, looking at "Money and Politics," video project related to voter registration and ID for high school students, training for voter registration, offering a Candidate Forum, and hearing from the new UW-Whitewater Chancellor!!

We're off and running as we continue our non-partisan efforts to keep our community informed and updated on ways they can be involved in making our democracy work better. Please join us in these efforts!



Educational Video Contest Whitewater High School

In September, the League will launch an educational video contest for Whitewater High School students on voter registration, Photo ID, and the importance of voting. Goals of the project are to promote student understanding of democracy, raise interest in voting among their peers, unleash their creativity, and create a winning video that we can promote at our program meetings and on our website throughout the 2016 election year.

Voter Services Chair Ellen Penwell is working on this project in partnership with Whitewater High School civics teacher Greg Stewart. The Whitewater Kiwanis Breakfast Club has pledged \$400 to cover the cost of prize money for the top three winning contestants. The three-minute videos will be judged on inclusion and accuracy of voter registration facts and voting requirements as provided by the League, creativity and originality, production quality, and enthusiasm created.

At this writing, confirmed judges for the contest include members of the LWV board, Whitewater City Clerk Michele Smith, UW-W Assistant Professor of Political Science Jonah Ralston, Director of Whitewater Community TV Alan Luckett, and Daily Union reporter with a Whitewater beat Chris Welch. The three top winning students, or groups of students, will be our guests at the League's Holiday Dinner on December 6th, where their videos will be premiered. The LWVWI will link the 1st place winning video on the state website, play it on the LWVWI YouTube Channel (new next year!), and show it at the 2016 LWVWI Annual Meeting. There will be many other opportunities for students to be recognized for their work.

We're very excited about working with Whitewater High School students, many of whom are or soon will be players in the electoral process. We hope their work will influence their older peers on the UW-Whitewater campus as well as students attending regional high school government classes.



Rummage Sale Success!!

Great turnout, fund raising results, and fun day for our bi-annual garage sale. Thanks to all!!

News from Around League

✚ State Issues Briefing

Sign up for LWV-WI's State Issues Briefing on Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9:00am – 2pm. The informative meeting will be held at the Courtyard Marriott, 2266 Deming Way, Middleton, WI.

Program will feature: A Talk About Climate Change: Current Threats & Opportunities; Surprising Research Findings on Election Laws & Voter Turnout; and, Collaborating for Reform.

Register by September 30! [Click here for more information and registration](#) or go to the LWVWI website.

✚ LWV Lake Michigan Regional Conference

The Wyndham Suites Hotel in Glenview IL is the location of this year's conference. Friday field trips and a banquet, then informative Saturday sessions will precede a dynamic business meeting to discuss the outcomes of a recent survey and goals for the coming year.

LWV Lake Michigan Region Registration and other information can be found on our website at lwvlmr.org

LWV Whitewater-Area Calendar of Events

Date: September 17th (Thursday)

Event: State of the City Address

Where: 7:30 PM, City Hall Council Chambers
6:30 PM, Membership Dessert & Conversation

Date: October 15th (Thursday)

Event: Government Accountability Board & Voter ID

Where: 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

Date: December 6th (Sunday)

Event: Annual Holiday Dinner

"Making Democracy Work" Award Presentation
Where: TBD

Date: January 21st (Thursday)

Event: Membership Discussion

Date: March 17th (Thursday)

Event: University of Wisconsin, Whitewater Chancellor Update

Date: April 5th (Tuesday)

Event: Wisconsin Presidential Primary Election

Date: April 21st (Thursday)

Event: Money in Politics

Date: May 21st (Saturday)

Event: Annual Meeting and Elections



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Whitewater Area's LWV Facebook is up and running!
Visit our LWV –Whitewater Area website and "like" us
on Facebook!