

April 2018

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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## Calendar of Events

April 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm

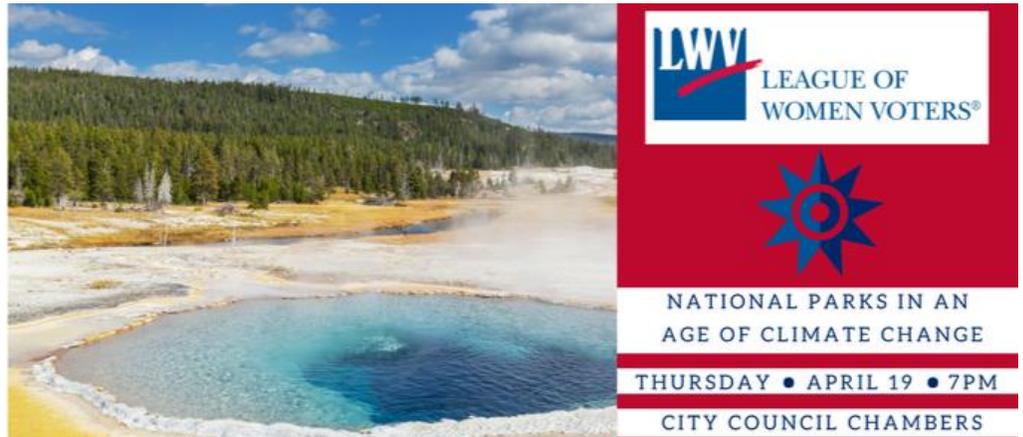
**National Parks in an Age of Climate Change**  
City Council Chambers,  
Whitewater, WI

May 12<sup>th</sup> 10am

**LWV Annual Membership**  
Fairhaven Community Rm  
Whitewater, WI

## Contact Us

[www.lwvwhitewater.org](http://www.lwvwhitewater.org)



The League of Women Voters-Whitewater Area presents "**National Parks at a Crossroads: Yellowstone, nature, and wilderness in an age of climate change.**" On **Thursday, April 19 at 7 PM**, the public is invited to a program at the Whitewater City Council Chambers about what climate change means for our National Parks.

While much of the news on climate change focuses on how it will impact the way we live or what will happen to the polar bears, there's been little public discussion about what it will mean for our national parks. During this one-hour long program, you'll hear from **Dr. Eric Compas**, about the obvious and subtle ways in which climate change is reshaping our nation's first national park, Yellowstone.

The projections for the region's vegetation and fire patterns, changing ecosystem definitions, and the policy response to date, are all fundamentally challenging the way we think about nature, wilderness, and our relationship to it. While park managers have significant control over what a future Yellowstone will look like, they don't yet have the tools to make these decisions -- and that has brought us to a significant crossroads for defining what it means to be a national park in the 21st Century.

Since the 1960s, the **League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of efforts to protect air, land and water resources.** As citizens of the world, we must protect our planet from the physical, economic, and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity.

## Board Members

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**Dr. Eric Compas** is an **Associate Professor in the Geography, Geology, and Environmental Science Department at the UW-Whitewater**. He studies public and private land conservation both in Wisconsin and the Yellowstone region, and he teaches courses in environmental policy and geographic information systems.

## Annual Meeting LWV Whitewater



This has been a banner year for the League of Women Voters of the Whitewater Area!! Our membership has increased, we have had good attendance at our program meetings, and our Candidate Forum for Whitewater City Council helped folks know who to vote for. You are invited to join us for our **Annual Meeting being held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall of Fairhaven Senior Services. Brunch items will be offered prior to the meeting for all to enjoy.**

Our Agenda will include recognitions and thank you's for a job well done, presentation and approval of the 2018-19 budget, a review of our 2017-18 programming year, nominations and election of officers, discussion of meeting time and need for child care, and our Diversity Initiative. We will also be making suggestions for our Program Focus for the 2018-19 year, so please bring your ideas and suggestions. As you will note from the attachments, we are still in need of several persons to step up to leadership positions.

If you have a passion for voter registration, which the League is best known for, please offer yourself for the **Voter Services Committee**. We want to make a big push to get folks registered for the fall election, and many hands will make light work in visiting high schools and UW-Whitewater for this important service to our community.

I look forward to seeing you on May 12 as we discuss together how we can **"Make Democracy Work" in Whitewater, WI and in Walworth County!**

## FACEBOOK

*Visit Our LWV – Whitewater Area Website and “LIKE” Us On Facebook!*

“LIKING” the League’s FACEBOOK will automatically send posts to your feed. Then, we recommend that you not only “Like” the post but “Share Public” as well. This will help us to get our message out to a much broader audience.



## Common Council Candidate Forum Recap

The City Council of Whitewater had three seats to be decided by this month’s election, which included one contested race. Because both Brienne Diebolt-Brown and Jim Allen (the incumbent) were on the ballot for the at-large Council seat, the League put on a candidates’ forum last month. The candidates present were Lynn Binnie, running unopposed for the District 4 seat, and Diebolt-Brown and Allen.

As usual, the event featured initial and closing statements by the candidates, sandwiched around a number of questions from the audience. The size of the audience and the number of questions guaranteed that they could not all be used, but many topics of importance to the city were addressed. In addition to the ‘live’ audience, the program was also recorded for broadcast on Whitewater Community Television and received extensive coverage in the Daily Jefferson County Union.

Thanks are due to the League members who contributed to the success of the event: Julia Ross and Linda Holmes (timers), Betsy Brandt and Mary Beth Byrne (question checkers), and Tom Drucker (moderator). The largest vote of thanks goes to Ellen Penwell, whose attention to detail guaranteed not only that the event would take place but that it would be a rousing success. Such events are the hallmark of what the League can offer to our community. Those who had attended or watched the forum could have a good idea of differences between the positions of the candidates. We are grateful to the candidates for participation, congratulate Jim Allen on his victory in the contested race, and hope that Brienne Diebolt-Brown will continue to offer ideas for the benefit of Whitewater.

## LWVUS and LWVWI Waive Student Membership Payments

In a move to decrease the barrier of entry and bring new, passionate members into the League, the LWVUS national board voted last month to waive student per-member-payments (PMP) at the national level effective immediately and extending through January 31, 2021.

The LWVWI followed suit at their March state board meeting, voting to waive student per-member-assessment payments (PMA) at the state level. Prior to these waivers, our local League was obliged to pay \$16/student membership to LWV US and \$15 to LWV WI. Relieving these charges now allows us to experiment with reducing or eliminating local membership cost for students or try a pay-what-you-can student membership model.

The LWV Whitewater Area board discussed this issue and is bringing a recommendation to membership at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to reduce student membership from our current \$25 to \$10. There will be further discussion on this at the Annual Meeting so please attend! The League is eager to engage students in the political process but must also be willing to reach out to them with compelling reasons to join and opportunities for engagement.

## Register now for the 2018 LWVWI Annual Meeting, June 8/9, Oshkosh

The Wisconsin State League Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to meet League members like you, learn what other League's are doing, exchange ideas, and be inspired! The theme for this year's gathering is Bridging Divides, Building Unity, Strengthening League.

It will feature speakers and breakout sessions on issues concerning what divides us politically, culturally, and geographically with an emphasis on finding transformative paths to bridge these divides. Watch the LWV WI website for agenda updates.

Hosted by the LWV of Winnebago County, the meeting will be held in the Best Western Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center in Oshkosh. A block of rooms have been reserved at a group rate of \$119.99/night. Call Toll Free at 855-230-1900 to make reservations.

The special rates will be available through May 8<sup>th</sup> or until rooms sell out. Call today! Registration for the 2018 Annual Meeting can be made through the LWVWI website at <https://my.lwv.org/Wisconsin>.

## LWVUS 2018 Biennial Convention, June 28 - July 1, Chicago

If you've never attended a national League convention, this might be your year to do so. It is being held "down the street" from us in Chicago at the Hilton Chicago starting June 28.

The 4-day event will feature education and advocacy programs, discussions and activities centered on the League's top priorities as well as plans leading up to 2020 100th LWV Anniversary celebrations.

To help with transportation costs and eliminate parking fees, the State League has chartered a bus to take you from Madison/Milwaukee to Chicago and back again (\$60 round trip). Contact the LWV WI state office at 608-256-0827 for bus schedule and sign up. Register for the Convention through either the LWVWI or LWVUS websites.

