

April 2019

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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Calendar of Events

- April 18, 6:30 PM
Religion & Politics in the
Age of Trump
Council Chambers
- May 11, 9 am
Annual Meeting
Fellowship Hall,
Fairhaven
- June 23 Centennial Event
Capitol, Madison
- July 20, 8 am to 2 pm
League Garage Sale
369 Lakeview Drive

Contact Us

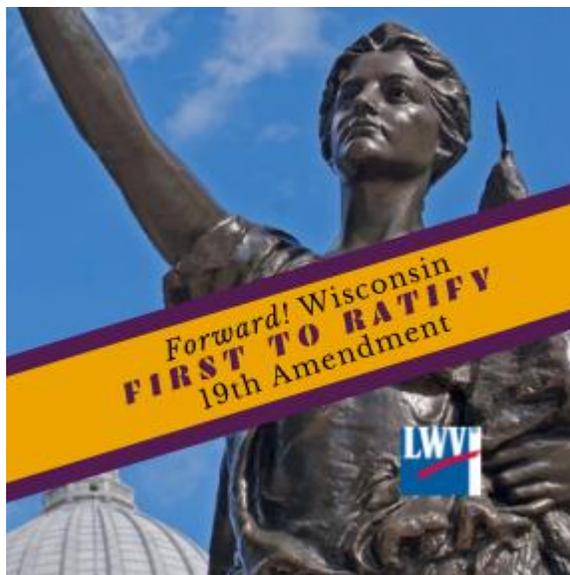
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Board Members

“Beyond the Shadow of Doubt: Religion & Politics in the Age of Trump”

The interaction of religion and politics is often mysterious, but it is not without its effects on policies and elections. Prof. Michael Guéno of the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater will be addressing the combination on Thursday the 18th at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The title of the talk is ‘Beyond the Shadow of Doubt: Politics and Religion in the Age of Trump. The paragraph below gives some idea of the width of background that the speaker brings to the topic.

Michael P. Guéno is an Associate Professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. After graduating with a BA from Louisiana State University, he went on to receive his MA and PhD in Religion from Florida State University. He specializes in American religious history and Native American religions, in particular. He has researched and written on a range on Native American groups and topics – from the Effigy Mound cultures of Wisconsin to the Pueblo religions of colonial New Spain to the relationship between Native American religions and contemporary US legislation.



Forward! - FIRST TO RATIFY - 19th Amendment will be LWVWI's rallying cry in remembrance of June 10, 1919, the day Wisconsin became the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

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FACEBOOK

Plans are for a march around Capitol Square in Madison at noon on Sunday, June 23rd, in cooperation with LWV Dane County, to raise awareness of the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's symbolic "first to ratify" action. Marchers will gather by the *Forward* statue on the corner of Capitol Square facing State Street at noon, to hear speakers and engage in a variety of League and family friendly activities such as sash making.

The main speaker will address why the crowd is gathered and provide historical context for the day's celebrations. To aid in this explanation, a short play will be performed, "[A First for Wisconsin](#)," highlighting suffragist Ada James' insistence that her father, Senator David James, accept his appointment as Special Messenger and personally deliver Wisconsin's ratification papers to Washington ahead of Illinois. Marchers will be led around the Capitol singing, "[The Wisconsin Slogan](#)," a rewrite of "On Wisconsin" by Theodora Winton Youmans for the 1914 convention of the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association. League members will be available on the Capitol grounds to assist with voter registration. Inside the Capitol rotunda, visitors will have the opportunity to view a suffrage display, *The Woman's Hour Has Struck*, mounted by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

LWVWI 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 8, 2019
Green Lake Conference Center
W2511 State Road 23 - Green Lake
Hosted by LWV Ripon Area

Members and friends of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin are invited to attend the LWVWI's 2019 Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 8th, at the scenic **Green Lake Conference Center**, in south central Wisconsin. The one-day event will be filled with intra-League discussion on membership expansion efforts and best strategies for candidate forums, statutory plenary sessions, **Meg McLane and Membership and Leadership Development** (MLD) award presentations, and a contextual lecture on Wisconsin Suffrage history - kicking off the League's Centennial celebrations leading into 2020.

This year we have four members who have expressed an interest in attending the annual meeting with three of those being sponsored by our league to attend as voting . If you also are interested in attending, please find additional information [here](#).

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 get our message out to a much broader audience as well as keep our content visible in the long term in your newsfeed.

Observation Corps Update by Nancy Cassano

After several months spent observing local meetings, here is a summary of possible benefits of creating an Observation Corps here in Whitewater:

- Promotes and develops more informed citizens and league members
- Increases understanding of how and why decisions are made
- Increases knowledge of how to effectively influence a governmental body
- Identify ideas for league programs to provide unbiased information on an issue
- This leads to citizens having better understanding of issues
- Serves as a perfect place for a potential candidate to fully understand what such a position...the issues, time commitment and responsibilities might be etc.

I look forward to speaking with you at our annual meeting if you are interested in my experiences to date or would like additional information about a potential observer corps program.

League Update

What an exciting year this has been for the Whitewater Area League of Women Voters!! By inviting interested persons to work alongside us we have increased our membership to the highest ever~~77! WELCOME and THANK YOU for joining us in continuing to help educate our community, and in encouraging others to run for office. **YOU are invited to join the League for their Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 11, beginning at 9:00 am in the Fairhaven Senior Services Fellowship Hall. Brunch items, coffee and juice will be available to start your morning off right!**

Our Agenda will include recognitions and thank you’s for a job well done, presentation and approval of the 2019-20 budget, a review of our 2018-19 programming year, nominations and election of officers. You will notice from the attachments that we are still looking for several individuals to step up for leadership roles. We will be making suggestions for our Program Focus for the 2019-20 year, so please bring your ideas and suggestions.

Our Forums for City Council and School Board were well received and attended as were our other monthly programs. We are grateful to our local TV station for taping and showing the videos, not just of our Forums but also of our monthly programs.

Exciting activities are coming up with our entry in the July 4th Parade, our Garage Sale, our push with Voter Registration for the 2020 election, and our “Making Democracy Work” Award.

We look forward to having you join with this enthusiastic and hard-working citizens’ organization, and invite you to become an active and involved member to help make democracy work in our community.

LWV Whitewater Area

2018 Annual Meeting
Fairhaven Fellowship Hall
May 12, 2018, 10AM-noon

MINUTES

Present: (21) Julia Ross, Gerry Jennings, Ellen Penwell, Jane Roberts, Mary Beth Byrne, Anne Hartwick, Deb Gamble, Lisa Dawsey Smith, Eda Wilson, Jean Leedham, Nancy Cassano, Ginny Laurent, Lynn Binnie, Marion Burrows, Tom Drucker, Betsy Brandt, Linda Holmes, Karl Brown, Gloria Weigandt, Bonnie Schauder

Visitors: 1 elderly gentleman from Fairhaven, Byron Ester

After a brunch was shared, President Mary Beth Byrne called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:25AM. The meeting agenda was adopted by consensus. Minutes of the May 20, 2017 Annual Meeting were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Annual Report/Proposed Budget

With the aide of helpful pie charts, Treasurer Julia Ross gave a financial report highlighting the following three items:

1. Income. Half of the money received by the League comes from membership dues. Additional income received over the past year came from the July 2017 garage sale fundraiser (over \$1,100), cash/in-kind donations from League members, and Election Night reporting. The League maintains \$1,800 in its checking account.
2. Expenses. All income from membership dues are given back to national and the state in the form of Per Member Payments (to LWV US) and Per Member Assessments (to LWV WI). The Holiday party costs are received as income from dinner registrations and immediately go out as payments to the dinner venue. Other 2017 expenses include the cost for website hosting and website domain name. The League also covers registration costs for three members to attend the LWV WI Annual Meeting. Also in 2017, the League received a \$200 pass-through grant from LWV WI, with which we purchased a tablet for voter registration assistance.
3. Treasurer Ross stated that the goal of the Treasury is to stay the course. We do not spend beyond our means and our fiscal integrity is solid. She also noted that the cost of website hosting will increase in the next fiscal year.

Future fundraising needs and ideas were discussed. It is possible that a League 4th of July Parade entry this year might result in additional funds if our entry wins an award. Our largest fundraising event, the League's garage sale, happens every other year and will not take place during FY2018-19. Fundraising ideas were solicited. It was suggested that the League hold a fundraiser to send members for the 2020 LWVUS Convention.

The proposed budget for FY2018-19 was approved by consensus.

Website/Social Media/Survey Report

Anne Hartwick, League Website/Social Media Chair, reported on the recent Membership Survey results and Website/Facebook analytics.

1. Membership Survey Members participated in the survey from February through April. Out of 56 members, 19 participated, a 35% participation rate. In 2017, five new members joined the League, a figure significantly up from past years. Asked why they joined, the majority cited voter registration assistance and education activities, followed closely by, “because they were asked!” We should all do more asking. Others hoped to benefit through learning about issues and candidates in order to make informed choices on Election Day and to be active participants in democracy. Issues of interest expressed by those surveyed included, in order of priority and majority: 1) voter services; 2) fair voting maps; 3) enhancing League diversity through community alliances; 4) education and advocacy on poverty related issues; and, 5) money in politics. From a listing of activities members wanted to engage in, the following ranked in order of preference: 1) educating citizens on voter rights and registration; 2) help with a fundraiser; 3) host a sign-in table or be a greeter; 4) coordinate a public program; 5) prepare signs/name tags; 6) document an event via photos or video; and, 7) coordinate the 4th of July parade entry. Other, more at home behind the scenes activities of interest to League members included: 1) updating the membership directory; 2) posting to social media; 3) assisting with the newsletter; 4) phone tree work and website updates; 5) data entry; and, 6) monitoring Action alerts and communicating with members. Members also expressed Election Day interests: 1) be a poll worker; 2) be an election observer; and, 3) be an election night reporter. Anne also reported on survey demographics and select program inquiries. The majority of those surveyed, for example, prefer public programs to start at 6:30PM and prefer weeknight programs over those held weekday/weekends. 80% of respondents were above 60 years of age. 88.9% would like to be considered active members. 60% are retired. 94.1% did not think the need for childcare during meetings was necessary to explore.

2. Website/Facebook Report Anne reported that the League’s website, currently hosted by League Easy Web (LEW), will likely be upgraded in 2019. Our greatest monthly page view occurred in January of 2018 with 14,340 page requests. Our largest referral website remains the Whitewaterbanner, highlighting its continued importance to us in spreading not only programming notices but also directing citizen access to our website. Anne stated that our Facebook followers increased by 23 since May of 2017. We currently have a total of 136 followers. The largest age ranges we reach via Facebook are 35-44 year olds and this represents a trend toward younger followers, which is positive for the League. The majority of our followers are from Whitewater, followed by Fort Atkinson, Janesville, and Madison. It was noted that in light of current events involving Facebook’s integrity, the truth remains that Facebook is the most used social media platform for young people and, therefore, it remains advantageous for the League to continue to maintain its Facebook page.

Introduction of 2018-18 Board Members

President Mary Beth Byrne introduced and thanked current board members for their unique and valued contributions to the League's past year activities. Several current board members who are stepping off the board were given special recognition. Mary Beth recognized Anita Loch for her years as the League's newsletter editor. Anita was not able to attend the meeting but a gift certificate will be forwarded to her. Treasurer Julia Ross presented Gerry Jennings with a gift in recognition of her 24 years in service to the League, many of which were spent on the board. Board Secretary Jane Roberts presented Mary Beth Byrne with flowers and a gift for her successful tenure as President. And, Vice President Ellen Penwell presented 50-year member Gloria Weigandt with flowers and a certificate of Life Membership in the League. Warm applause and appreciation followed each presentation.

Nomination Committee Report

Jane Roberts reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that nominees were secured for all but two open board positions, i.e., the position of President and one Director. She asked for nominations from the floor but none were made. Mary Beth and former President Ellen Penwell discussed the role and responsibilities of President. They are both willing to work closely with a new President. Anne Hartwick introduced two of the nominees, Karl Brown and Lisa Dawsey Smith. Anne moved for a vote on the slate of nominees as presented. Karl Brown seconded her motion. The slate was approved by unanimous vote. The new board will continue to seek a President and recruit one more board director. Lacking a President, the new Board will explore the idea of adopting, on trial basis, a streamlined Leadership Model for operating and report back to membership via the newsletter.

SLATE OF BOARD NOMINEES

President OPEN (2018-2019) second half of Mary Beth's term

Vice President Mary Beth Byrne (2018-2020)

Treasurer Julia Ross (2018-2020)

Secretary Ellen Penwell (2018-2020)

Director Virginia Laurent (2018-2020)

Director Lisa Marie Smith (2018-2020)

Director OPEN (2018-2020)

Director Karl Brown (2018-2020)

Director Jane Roberts (2018-2020)

Student Membership Fee

The board's recommendation to membership that the League's current \$25 membership fee be reduced to \$10 was discussed. Ellen Penwell briefly shared the history of why this was being brought to a vote, based as it is on the LWVUS and LWVWI's recent waiver of student membership fees in an effort to attract and engage younger members. Since our local League is no longer required to pay anything to national and state on student memberships, we may set our student fees at any amount we wish. The Board recommended that our student membership fee be set \$10.00. It was asked if members could sponsor students? Answer is yes. A \$10 student membership fee was approved by membership vote.

Childcare for League Programs

The question of providing childcare during League events was discussed. It has been investigated. City Hall declined the use of their space for this purpose and also the Whitewater Historical Society mostly for liability issues. Two volunteers are needed to provide care. Members are encouraged to submit their suggestions on this issue to new board members.

New Public Program Start Time

Based on member survey results, a 6:30PM start time for League public programs was favored. This will be implemented in FY2018-19. No vote necessary.

Review of 2017-18 Programs

Mary Beth recounted our programs during the past year, which included a State of the City Address by City Manager Cameron Clapper, former State Senator Tim Cullen speaking on Fair Maps, MDW Award recognition to Lacey Reichwald and James Hartwick, a Lively Issues meeting discussing LWV diversity, equity and inclusion initiative, Common Council Candidate forum, Vote Smart program by Richard Kimball, speaker from the Rock Valley Free Clinic in Jefferson, and presentations on the Media and Fake News and Sustaining our Earth/National Parks.

Programming Ideas for FY2018-19

Suggestions from membership on future local programming topics included: environmental issues; money in politics; civil discourse in seeking common ground; night safety for citizens; opioid crisis and cannabis drug policy; hunger issues in the community and on campus; homeless population; and politicizing the judiciary. Candidate forums likely for SD 15 and AD 43 in October of 2018. The new board will incorporate the topics and their ranking at the summer planning meeting.

Upcoming Events

LWVWI Annual Meeting in Oshkosh, June 8-9

LWVUS National Convention, Chicago, late June

Whitewater Fourth of July Parade, "Freedom in the Heartland" theme, Mary Beth asked if high school students would be willing to help us with a float.

MDW Award – members asked to consider nominations for 2019

League garage sale in July or August of 2019

Interest in forming a committee for LWV 100th Anniversary February 2020 and Centennial of 19th Amendment in August 2020

Meeting adjourned at ~ noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen S. Penwell

LWV Whitewater Area Secretary

May 2018

League of Women Voters ~~ Whitewater Area
Annual Meeting Agenda
May 11, 2019 9.00 am
Fairhaven Fellowship Hall

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2018 meeting
- Treasurer's Annual Report/Approval of Proposed Budget~~Julia Ross
- Website/Facebook Report~~Anne Hartwick
- Sharing Our Election Impact~~Ellen Penwell
- Introduction of 2018-19 Board Members: Shared Appreciations
- Nomination Committee Report Nominations from the Floor & Election
- Business: Approve Changes to By-Laws
- Brief Report on Observation Corps by Nancy Cassano
- Review of 2018-19 Programs and Activities: Forums, Partnerships w/Other Groups, Improved Membership
- Ideas for 2019-20 Program:
- Local: Set program priorities: Civic Education, Opioids, Census, Housing Insecurity, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Scheduled Activities:
 - LWV Wisconsin Annual Meeting: June 8, 2019 Green Lake
Attending: Lisa Dawsey-Smith, Nancy Cassano, Virginia Laurent, Mary Beth Byrne, Ellen Penwell (Staff)
 - July 4th Parade: Kathy Brimmer
 - Garage Sale: July 20, 2019: Bill & Sue Chandler 8:00-2:00
369 Lakeview Dr., Whitewater
 - 2019 Making Democracy Work Award
 - Voter Registration with UW-Whitewater & at City Market
- Adjournment

Viewing of "RACE: the power of an illusion"~~Episode 2: "The Story We Tell"

Discussion of Video

| COMPARISON BUDGET LWV WHITEWATER AREA | 2018 to 2020 | DRAFT REPORT | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 2018 -2019 Budget | 2018 -2019 Draft Actuals | 2019 - 2020 Proposed Budget |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Membership Dues | | \$2800 | \$4020 | \$3000 |
| Fundraising | | \$300 | \$0 | \$1000 |
| Donations: Cash and Inkind | | \$400 | \$265 | \$260 |
| Election Night Reporting | | \$160 | \$240 | \$160 |
| Holiday Dinner | | \$700 | \$790 | \$800 |
| Pass Through Grant (Awarded Spring 2019) | | | \$250 | \$0 |
| Carry Over from Previous Year | | | \$1746 | \$2864 |
| | TOTAL INCOME: | \$4360 | \$7311 | \$8084 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| Financial Support/Dues: | | | | |
| | National LWV PMP | \$1300 | \$1440 | \$1400 |
| | Wisconsin LWV PMA | \$1250 | \$1350 | \$1300 |
| | Regional Water Regions LWV | \$50 | \$65 | \$65 |
| Newsletter | | \$75 | \$0 | \$75 |
| Web Site and Domain | | \$300 | \$290 | \$400 |
| LWV WI Annual Meeting | | \$255 | \$150 | \$250 |
| Publicity | | \$50 | \$0 | \$50 |
| Program Expenses | | \$250 | \$56 | \$250 |
| Holiday Dinner | | \$900 | \$992 | \$900 |
| Miscellaneous | | \$200 | \$104 | \$200 |
| | TOTAL EXPENDITURES: | \$4630 | \$4447 | \$4890 |
| Julia Ross, Treasurer DRAFT 4/7/19 | | | | |

| INCOME | | | | DRAFT |
|---------------------|--|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Membership Dues | | \$4020.00 | |
| | Donations: Cash (4 individual contributions) | | \$265.00 | |
| | Donations: In Kind | | \$0.00 | |
| | Election Night Reporting (3 elections \$80 ea) | | \$240.00 | *** 1 Outstanding |
| | Pass Through Grant | | \$250.00 | |
| | Holiday Dinner (Paid Reservations \$720, Donations \$70) | | \$790.00 | |
| | TOTAL INCOME: | | \$5565.00 | |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| | National LWV PMP | | \$1440.00 | |
| | Wisconsin LWV PMA | | \$1350.00 | |
| | Lake Michigan/ Miss. River LWV Dues | | \$65.00 | |
| | Newsletter | | \$0.00 | |
| | Programs (DVD on Race: The Power of an Illusion) | | \$55.95 | |
| | Publicity | | \$0.00 | |
| | LWV WI Annual Mtg Registration (3 Each \$50) | | \$150.00 | |
| | Web Site (LEW WEB Hosting, Domain name) | | \$290.34 | |
| | Miscellaneous (Voter Reg Toolkits, Member Booklets, position papers copies and covers , Forum cards) | | \$104.29 | |
| | Holiday Dinner (gratuity, guest meals, entertainment, frame) | | \$992.29 | |
| | TOTAL EXPENDITURES: | | \$4447.87 | |
| | | | | |
| | Checkbook Balance (July 1, 2018) | | \$1745.92 | |
| | Checkbook Balance (April 7, 2019) | | \$2863.05 | |
| OTHER ASSETS | CD's: | | | |
| | 1. Redeemable 9/1/19 | | \$577.41 | |
| | 2. Redeemable 9/10/19 | | \$1031.24 | |
| | TOTAL CD Savings: | | \$1608.65 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | Julia Ross, Treasurer DRAFT Report |
| | | | | 4/7/19 |

Board Recommended Changes in the LWV Whitewater Area BYLAWS

For presentation at Annual Meeting, May 11, 2019

1. Under Article III. Remove “Types of”
2. Under Article III. Section 2a. Voting Members. Replace “Citizens” with “Individuals” and “18” with “16” consistent with LWVUS and LWVWI Bylaws.
3. Under Article III. Section 2c. Student Members. Replace “Citizens” with “Individuals” and “18” with “16” consistent with LWVUS and LWVWI Bylaws.

ARTICLE III. **Types of** Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting Members. **Citizens** at least **18** years of age who join the LWV – Whitewater Area shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS:
 - (1) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;
 - (2) those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to the LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.
- b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.
- c. Student Members. **Citizens** at least **18** years of age who attend a secondary or post secondary educational institution at least halftime shall be student members. Student members have the same status as voting members but are eligible for a reduced membership fee, set by the Board of Directors.