

August 2018

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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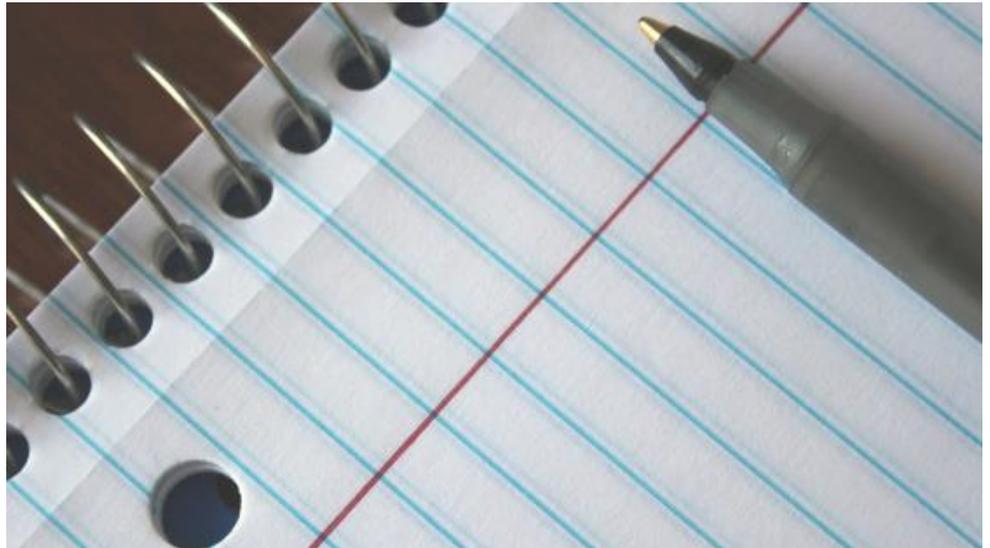
- Letter from local league Vice President
- Recap Summer State and National Conferences
- New Board Members
- September Programming Summary
- Volunteer Opportunity
- Making Democracy Work Nominations

Calendar of Events

Sept 20th 6:30 pm
State of the City and Schools

Sept 25th
National Voter Registration Day - Watch for planned activities

Oct 13th 10-11:30 am
Candidate Forum for State Assembly District 43



WELCOME to the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS~~WHITEWATER AREA

This will be a very busy year for the League of Women Voters, with an election this November, and preparations for the 2020 Census and Presidential Election in 2020! So, jump on board and help us Make Democracy Work in the Whitewater Area!

Early last spring we received word that the LWVUS was taking some time to revamp the national structure to be more relevant and to attract additional members and leadership. In light of this, several Leagues around the state shared that they were looking at new forms of leadership style on a trial basis.

At our Summer Planning meeting your local League discussed this possibility and decided to move to an Executive Committee leadership style, sharing the responsibilities of the presidency for the 2018-2019 year. Your Executive Committee responsibilities will be shared by Mary Beth Byrne, Vice President, Ellen Penwell, Secretary, and Julia Ross, Treasurer. If you have any questions or concerns, please share them with one of these three persons.

We have a strong Board with several new and very talented Board members, so we are in good stead for this year. We THANK YOU for your support and ongoing efforts to share information, attend our

Oct 18th 6:30 pm

Polling: Hazards and Benefits
Talk by UW-Whitewater Professor

Oct 22nd TBD

Co-sponsored program -
Janesville: An American Story

Nov 1st

Nominations for 2018
Making Democracy Work
Award Due

Nov 6th

Fall General Election

Nov 15th 6:30 pm

Hunger in Whitewater

Dec 9th

League Holiday Dinner and
Making Democracy Work
Award Presentation

Contact Us

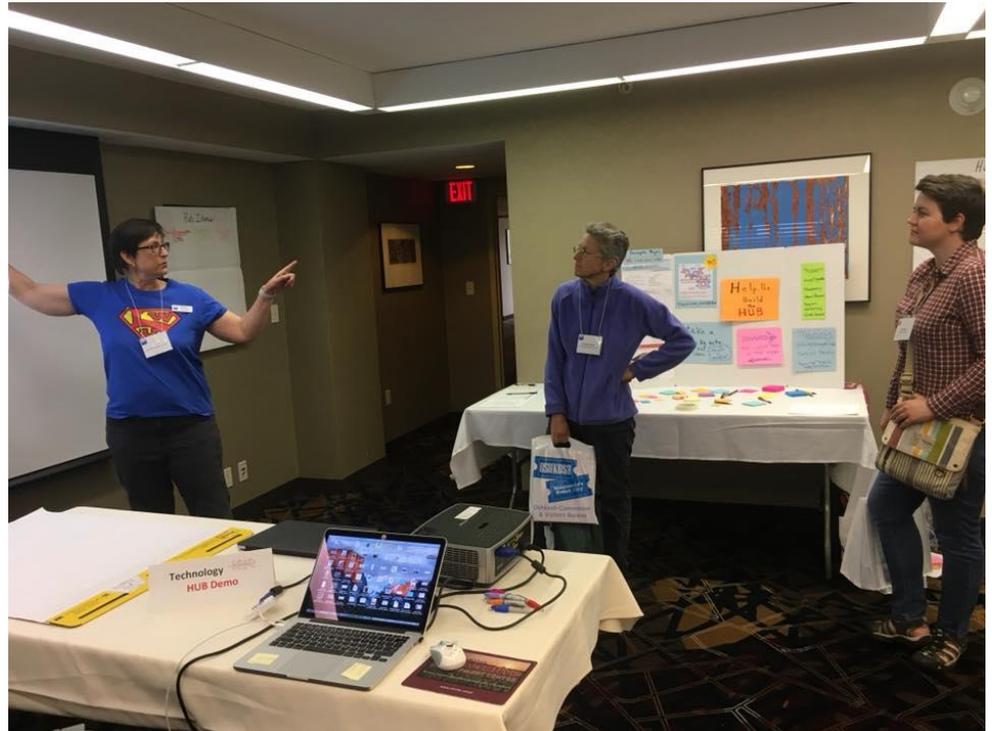
www.lwwwhitewater.org

program meetings, and participate in many other ways, whether it's with voter registration, election reporting, or other areas that interest you.

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 25: National Voter Registration Day
October 13: Candidate Forum

Mary Beth Byrne, Vice President



Report from the LWVUS Convention and LWWWI Annual Meeting

Members of the Wisconsin State League and LWVUS met in separately convened meetings in June to attend leadership workshops, hear from speakers on public policy issues, and vote on program priorities. In Chicago, 1,000 League leaders from 49 states and the District of Columbia rallied at the 53rd LWVUS National Convention. I was among them attending for my first time. I was not alone; over half were first time delegates and an impressive number of them were new to the League, reflecting a rising tide in League membership and civic engagement across the country. In hours-long plenary sessions, we voted in favor of continuing the League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, which includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on voting rights, improving elections, and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. Also carried by delegate vote were resolutions related to safe and common-sense gun control, full ratification of the ERA, abolishment of the Electoral College, and support for carbon

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emission pricing. Before and after plenary, there were concurrent breakout sessions. I heard from attorneys who served on the legal team for the plaintiffs in the US Supreme Court Case *Gill v. Whitford*, participated in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training tied to LWVUS's efforts to create a League for the 21st century that reflects the people and communities for whom we relentlessly advocate, and was inspired by a talk by Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour*, who recounted the final push for women's suffrage in the summer of 1920.

The LWVWI Annual Meeting in Oshkosh was equally inspiring. Members from all twenty Wisconsin local Leagues were in attendance with speakers and breakout sessions linked to the meeting's theme of Bridging Divides, Building Unity, Strengthening League. In her keynote address, Tracey Robertson of Fit Oshkosh, Inc. underscored cultural sensitivities League members must consider in mobilizing the power of the black vote and, in general, as we act on our commitment to enhance diversity, equity and inclusiveness in our organization. Other outside speakers addressed challenges faced by Wisconsin's underfunded rural schools due in part to financing drained away by voucher programs and movingly laid bare discrimination faced by previously incarcerated people due to a criminal justice system structurally insensitive to their needs for rehabilitation and the lack of basic societal support once released. League members also highlighted their work. Leaders from piloting Leagues in the community alliances and diversity initiative shared their progress. League leaders joined in a panel to promote the importance of education in self-government and its role in building the foundation of an active and informed citizenry. A second panel explored the issue of economic equity and poverty in Wisconsin. In plenary, members approved the LWVWI recommended program for 2017-18; to expand to statewide, the pilot initiative on outreach and service to diverse communities and approved a motion to concur with a proposal from LWV Ashland/Bayfield Counties on economic equity. In the "League Exchange" League members networked with one another swapping new ideas for programs and events and found assistance in all matters of League work from their fellow members and state staff.

I highly recommend that League members, especially new members, attend the State Annual Meeting and, if possible, a LWVUS Convention (next scheduled for 2020 in Washington, DC!) to learn in a larger arena how the League functions and why it keeps so many of its members highly motivated.

Ellen Penwell, Secretary

Be social with us! 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 as
well as keep our content
visible in the long term in
your Newsfeed.



2018 Board Members

Pictured above are the 2018 board members elected at the May annual meeting. Not included in the picture but serving is Tom Drucker. Board members, their positions, their terms, and their contact information is included with each newsletter in the margin located to the left.

Karl Brown is an assistant professor in the History Department at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. He teaches courses in Modern European history, film and media history, and the history of drugs and drinking. He teaches a free online class on the history of beer through UWW’s Continuing Education Department— see <https://www.uww.edu/ce/beer-matters> for details. Karl is enthusiastic to join the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters, as its mission of voter registration and education is intrinsic to supporting and protecting a functional and healthy democracy.

Also new to the board for 2018, Lisa Dawsey Smith is a homeschooling mom of two who joined the Whitewater community in June of 2015 when her husband took a faculty position at the university.



Our September meeting will be jam-packed with information!

This year, the League will welcome Whitewater City Manager, Cameron Clapper, as he delivers a State of the City address in the City Hall Council Chambers on September 20th at 6:30 pm. Please note that this year fall programming does begin a half hour earlier than last year.

This is an opportunity for Whitewater citizens to become better informed about the condition of our community and to learn about future projects and goals for the city of Whitewater.

We will also be fortunate to hear a presentation from the Whitewater Unified School District Administrator, Dr. Mark Elworthy. He will provide us the opportunity to learn about what the district has done in the previous year and plans for the upcoming year.

There will be opportunities after each presentation for question and answer sessions. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors!

This is a wonderful opportunity to obtain meaningful information about the future of Whitewater and the Whitewater schools, all wrapped up in one informative session.

Making Democracy Work Award

Nominations for the 2018 Making Democracy Work Award are now being accepted. Printed copies will be available at our September programming. Nomination forms are available online here: http://www.lvwwhitewater.org/files/form_nomination_mdw_award_2018.pdf

Please take time to consider who you think should receive this respected award in recognition of their work or volunteerism in projects, organizations, or activities aligned with the League's mission of nonpartisanship, civil discourse, and making our community a safer and fairer place in which to live.

This year's holiday dinner and MDW Award recognition dinner will be held at 841 Brew House on Sunday evening, December 9th. Please mark your calendars.



Volunteer Opportunity

Election Observers (original post link:

<https://my.lvw.org/wisconsin/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>)

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor Wisconsin's elections. We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home. You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this -- although we'd love to have you join us!

For the 2018 elections we are focusing the Election Observation Program in three areas:

1. to be sure there is no disenfranchisement
2. to monitor the voter experience - including registration and

showing ID

3. to track any problems that can be fixed for future elections

Requirements: You'll need to be available to volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours on Election Day. Election observers will also need a cell phone to use while volunteering and have their own transportation to and from their assigned polling location. There are also limited opportunities to be a "roving" observer. Rovers need to be available to volunteer for at least 4 hours on Election Day.

Learn more about our Election Observation Program [here](#). If you have questions about this volunteer opportunity contact our Voter Education Coordinator, Eileen Newcomer, at electionobservation@lwwwi.org or (608)256-0827.

Upcoming elections we're observing:

- November 6, 2018