

February 2019

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

## In This Issue

- Black History Month
- January Meeting Recap
- League Turns 99
- Fair Maps Backstory
- February Program
- Candidate Forums
- Introduction March Program

## Calendar of Events

- February 21 6:30 PM  
Fair Voting Maps
- March 9, 10 AM  
Common Council  
Candidate Forum
- March 9 TBA School Board  
Candidate Forum
- March 21, 6:30 PM  
Gun Control
- April 18, 6:30 PM  
Religion & Politics in the  
Age of Trump

## Contact Us

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

## Board Members

## Black History Month

 compiled by Ellen Penwell

Mary Church Terrell Credit Illustrations by Lauren Nassef

As you know February is Black History Month and we've compiled a few articles that highlight members of the suffrage movement in honor of this.

[Essence Magazine, "The Women's Suffrage Movement Included More Than Two Women And So Should The Monuments," Article By Michelle Duster, author, speaker, and writing professor at Columbia College Chicago, January 2019](#)

[New York Times, Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, 77, Dies; Historian Recognized Black Suffragists](#)

If you are interested there is also a book written by Rosalyn Terborg-Penn titled: [African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920 \(1998\)](#).

[The New York Times, When the Suffrage Movement Sold Out to White Supremacy, Brent Staples, member of editorial board, February 2019](#)

## League Members Discuss *What is this thing called "race"?* by Ellen Penwell

League members recently gathered to view the film, *The Difference Between Us*, Episode I of a 3-part documentary series, *Race - The Power of an Illusion*. Episode I presented scientific arguments disputing the idea of race as biology by sequencing and comparing the

### Vice President

Mary Beth Byrne (2017-2018)  
262-473-8723  
[wisconsinwoods@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinwoods@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Ellen S. Penwell (2016-2018)  
262-203-6529  
[espenwell@gmail.com](mailto:espenwell@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Julia S. Ross (2017-2019)  
262-581-5411  
[j22ross@gmail.com](mailto:j22ross@gmail.com)

### Directors

Virginia Laurent (2016-2018)  
Publicity Chair  
262-473-4719  
[laurent70@charter.net](mailto:laurent70@charter.net)

Anne Hartwick (2017-2019)  
Social Media Chair  
608-206-1033  
[annehartwick@gmail.com](mailto:annehartwick@gmail.com)

Lisa Dawsey Smith (18-19)  
Newsletter  
262-510-4183  
[Ldawsey06@gmail.com](mailto:Ldawsey06@gmail.com)

Karl Brown (2018-2019)  
[brownk@uww.edu](mailto:brownk@uww.edu)

Tom Drucker (2017-2019)  
262-472-5173  
[druckert@uww.edu](mailto:druckert@uww.edu)

Jane Roberts (2016-2018)  
608-883-2048  
[jrhuntersridge42@gmail.com](mailto:jrhuntersridge42@gmail.com)

DNA of a diverse group of young students. Test results revealed close genetic matches between students of other “races,” which came as quite a surprise to them. The discussion group shared personal stories and perspectives and agreed that one of the films’ major messages - that things are not always as they seem - is a good place to start when thinking about race. Last fall, the Whitewater League informally opted to engage in LWVWI’s 2018-19 State Program on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The film series on race was chosen to jumpstart our DEI work. We are planning an earlier start time for our May Annual Meeting in order to view Episode II, *The Story We Tell*, which explores race as a social construct. It examines the 19th century science that legitimated it and for what purposes. We hope you will join us in this important conversation.

## League Turns 99 on February 14<sup>th</sup> by Ellen Penwell

On February 14, 1920, facing uncertainty over the final ratification of the 19th Amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt, then President of the National American Women’s Suffrage Association, optimistically called for the formation of a League of Women Voters. Yes, six months BEFORE the words, ***The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex***, became enshrined in the US Constitution, the League had already formed and dedicated itself to educating women on how to vote and encouraging their lifelong informed and active participation in democracy. Chapman Catt’s foresight to create a unified League to “finish the fight,” is testimony to a shared and resolute belief in the promise of “votes for women,” held by all factions of the suffrage movement. In the words of Carrie Chapman Catt,

*The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?*

This February 14th, the League turns a robust 99 years strong. We encourage you to celebrate the League’s legacy by actively advocating on League positions, volunteer to work our events such as voter registration assistance and candidates forums, think about joining the Board, and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join!

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

## In a Nutshell - LWVWI Advocacy History on Fair Maps by

Ellen Penwell

LWVWI has been advocating for Fair Maps for decades, literally since the 1970s, during times when Democrats have held control of state government and during times when Republicans have been in control of state government. As a member of the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition, LWVWI supported the plaintiffs in the *Gill v. Whitford* Supreme Court case, which challenged the state of Wisconsin’s assembly map as an example of partisan gerrymandering. In 2016, LWVWI filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs, arguing that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In June of last year, the Supreme Court ruled that the plaintiffs failed to demonstrate standing, sending the case back to the district court. Just last month, the court granted in part the State Assembly’s motion to stay the case, postponing trial until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on partisan gerrymandering appeals from North Carolina and Maryland. So we wait. But we don’t necessarily have to wait for Supreme Court approval. LWVWI is also advocating that the state legislature *pass a bill* to reform how maps are drawn - that nonpartisan staff in an independent agency draw state legislative districts subject to legislative approval.

## February Program by Jane Roberts

As a reminder, former State Senator Tim Cullen will be our guest speaker on February 21st at 6:30. This meeting will be held at the **Cravath Lake Community Center**. Tim will be talking about Fair Maps. This is an issue that is very important to the League of Women Voters at the National, State and local levels. Tim is a co-chair (along with former State Senator Dale Schultz) of the Fair Elections Project. The Fair Elections Project’s goal is: "to end map-rigging, so that instead of politicians choosing their voters, voters can choose their elected officials, and elections will again be meaningful". Tim is also the Chairman of the Board for Common Cause Wisconsin. One of their emphasis is to "Ensure a Reflective Democracy". They are "dedicated to fair maps and impartially drawn districts so that our government is truly of, by, and for the people". Tim Cullen is a UW-Whitewater graduate. He has served the state and his community of Janesville for many years.

He additionally plans to be at the Sweet Spot around 5:15 to chat informally with any League members wanting to stop by. Please attend this meeting and invite others.

## March 9th Candidate Forums Announced by Ellen Penwell

The League will hold a **Common Council Candidate Forum** on Saturday, March 9th, 10AM-11:30AM, in the City of Whitewater

Common Council Chambers. Five candidates are in play for the following seats with one contested race:

Aldermanic District 1 - Carol McCormick

Aldermanic District 3 - Christopher Grady and Brienne Diebolt-Brown

Aldermanic District 5 - McKinley Palmer

Councilmember at Large - Patrick Singer

The League is also planning a **School Board Candidate Forum** to be held on the same day, Saturday March 9th, 1:00PM-2:30PM, in the same location. Confirmation of this forum is in process at this writing so be sure to watch our website and social media postings for updates. Three candidates are running for two available seats on the WUSD School Board:

Jennifer Kienbaum

Jim Stewart

Amy Hagen Curtis

League forums are open to the public and filmed for rebroadcast by Whitewater Community TV. Questions for the candidates are submitted in writing by audience members. If we run out of audience questions before the close of the forum, the moderator turns to questions prepared by the League board. These questions will appear on our online Candidate Questionnaire, which is sent to the candidates well in advance of the forum. Responses to the Questionnaires submitted by candidates will be posted on the League's website by the end of the day, Monday, March 11th. If you would like to serve in a supportive role in either or both of these forums as moderator, question checker, timer, or greeter, please contact Ellen Penwell at 262-203-6529 or [espenwell@gmail.com](mailto:espenwell@gmail.com).

## March Program

We hope that you will mark your calendars for our March program. Our speaker will be Jenny Rule. Jenny Rule is a Wisconsin native and a Whitewater resident of 14 years. She and her husband are proud parents of two teenage boys and are active with the local youth soccer club. Last March, after the tragic rampage shooting at a Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, she felt called to action, and started a local chapter of Moms Demand Action here in Whitewater. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. Moms Demand Action is non-partisan, open to all (not just mothers) and is active across the country. Jenny plans to speak about local actions that her group is undertaking, including supporting survivors, teaching parents how to prevent unintentional child gun deaths, holding local gun violence awareness events, and even lobbying at the state capitol for stronger gun laws.