

March 2019

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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Contact Us

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

## Women's History Month

 compiled by Lisa Dawsey Smith

"During Women's History Month, we celebrate the countless women whose courage and resolve have contributed to the character and success of our Nation and the entire world. The equal opportunity of women in every facet of daily life is an essential feature of a free and prosperous society. This month, we honor women who have fought for equality and against the status quo, and who have broken the bonds of discrimination, partiality, and injustice for the benefit of all. These women created a legacy that continues to inspire generations of women to live with confidence, to have a positive impact on their communities, and to improve our Nation every single day..."

After legislation passed between 1988 and 1994 Congress passed resolutions requesting and authorizing each President to proclaim March as Women's History Month. Read the rest of this year's Presidential Proclamation of Women's History Month [here](#).

Additionally, there are collections of stories, exhibits, and more that can be found at the below links:

[Women's History Month](#)  
[National Women's History Alliance](#)



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## Two LWV Candidate Forums Scheduled in Whitewater on March 9

by Ellen Penwell

The League of Women Voters of the Whitewater Area invites the public to attend two Candidate Forums, both scheduled on Saturday, March 9, in the Whitewater City Hall Council Chambers in advance of the April 2 Spring Election. The League will host a forum for Whitewater Common Council candidates on Saturday morning, 10AM-11:30AM. A forum for Whitewater School Board candidates will follow on Saturday afternoon, 1PM-2:30PM.

Prepare for a lively day of civic engagement to learn what motivates the candidates to run for office or seek another term. At League-sponsored forums, audience members write their questions on cards, which are passed through to the moderator. The candidates are there to answer your questions on issues of importance to you, your family, neighborhood, and community. The League believes that an informed electorate and active civic participation is at the heart of a strong democracy. We encourage your attendance at the forums and hope you bring your friends and family!

Common Council Candidate Forum, March 9, 10AM-11:30AM

AD 1: Carol McCormick

AD 3: Christopher Grady & Brienne Dieboldt-Brown

AD 5: McKinley Palmer

Councilmember at Large: Patrick Singer

Whitewater School Board Candidate Forum, March 9, 1PM-2:30PM  
(2 seats are open for election on the School Board)

Jennifer Kienbaum

Jim Stewart

Amy Hagen Curtis

If you are unable to attend these forums, the City of Whitewater will live broadcast both to our local cable access channel. Recordings of the forums will be uploaded to the city's website as well and can be found [here](#).

## LWVWI Position on Gun Control

summary by Ellen Penwell

The LWVWI advocacy on gun control is based on the LWVUS Statement of Position on Gun Control, as adopted by the 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions. The LWVWI adopted the national League's gun control position by concurrence. The Position Statement is as follows:

The League of Women Voters believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the

## 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.

ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

### **Gun Violence Prevention and Our Community March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM – Common Council Chambers**

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.

### **“Beyond the Shadow of Doubt: Religion & Politics in the Age of Trump,” Dr. Michael Gueno, UWW April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Common Council Chambers**

On Election Day, the support of approximately eighty percent of voters who identified as white, born-again or evangelical Christians helped propel Donald Trump into the White House. Since then, evangelical leaders have taken to television and social media, by their own initiative and presidential behest, to defend the president and his administration’s politics. The evangelical embrace of Donald Trump has left many confused. Even some Christians remain bewildered at the apparent disconnect between contemporary evangelical politics and what they perceive to be historically Christian values.

While there is much about the present that is unprecedented, the contemporary political landscape is not a radical departure from American religious history. While the interaction between Protestant Christianity and white nationalism has recently become more visible,

even this is a continuation of historical religious movements and long-standing religious tendencies. Throughout the country, political policies receive religious justifications or seem prompted by religious concerns. This is not just rhetoric or a veil for other interests. The current entwinement of religion and American politics is the result of centuries of precedent interaction that has defined American history. This talk will explore the historical roots of the current relationship between religion and politics and try to lay out some of the complicated factors that motivated many Evangelicals to elect and now support the current president and some the politics of the far right. American religion and American politics are inextricably bound. Paradoxically, it is America's commitment to religious liberty that has helped to further ensconce religion in public, political life.

## **Observation Corps**

Would you like to know more about how your local officials, commissioners, and committees make decisions and policies? Are you curious about how board, commission, and committee members are chosen? Are you thinking that someday you might like to serve the common council, school board, town board or county board?

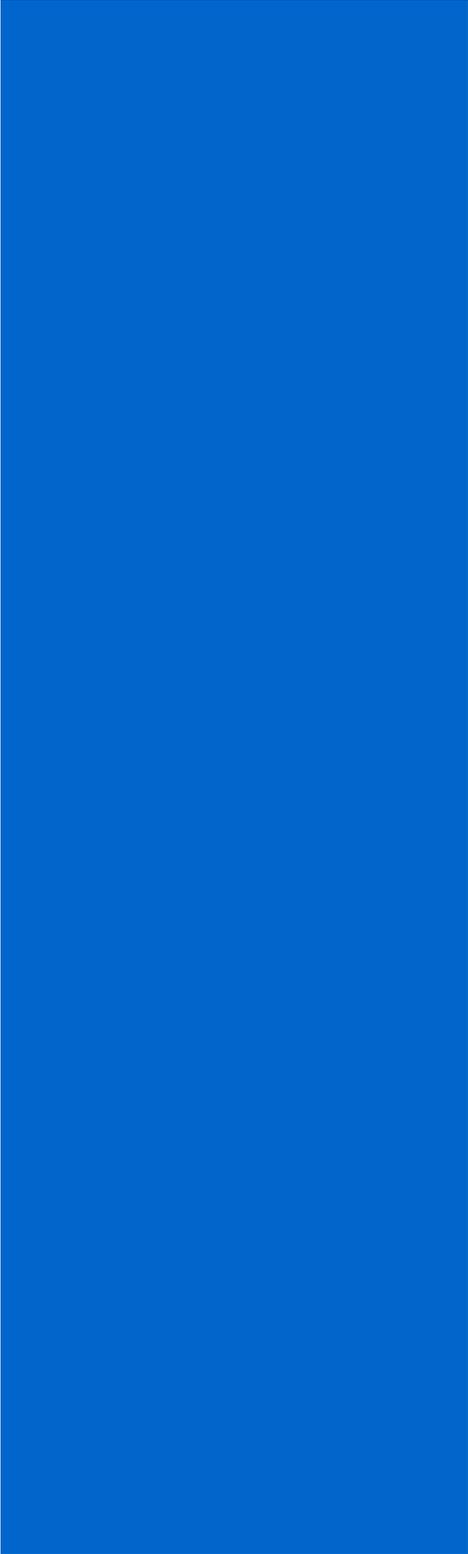
One way to do this is observe the current group in action at their meetings. My name is Nancy Cassano and I am curious and like to learn about how these various groups work.

I moved back to Whitewater a year ago from Minnesota. I found in Minnesota and now Wisconsin observing these groups is fun and a great place to start to get a better understanding of local government. I would be glad to meet with anyone interested or just curious about what this might look like before our next meeting on 3/21 at city hall. I will be at city hall at 6 PM and the meeting and program starts at 6:30 PM. Our League is currently exploring options and interest for developing our own observer program.

## **Yard Sale**

There are two ways to raise money for a good cause. One is to ask people, and the League has tried that in the past without conspicuous success. The other is to do something in which people can get involved and which results in some additions to the organization's coffers. We have found the latter course of action to be much more rewarding (to say nothing of more fun).

We have had a garage sale in alternate summers starting in 2011, and they have been increasingly remunerative each time. We have a simple pricing policy (buyers can pay what they want) and we also have a few services donated by members and non-members. The day or two before the sale can be a little hectic in setting things up, but there's no comparison with how much more complicated it was when items were individually priced.



This year's sale will be on Saturday the 20th of July, and more details about time and location will come out in next month's newsletter. For the moment, you are simply being encouraged to set aside items that you think may benefit the League by offering them to the garage sale. We have found that clothes and books are not the best sellers, but otherwise a wide variety of items is welcome. If you are going to be in town on the 20th of July, please plan to spend some time at the sale, perhaps as a volunteer, perhaps as a purchaser, or perhaps both.

### **Nominations Underway**

In advance of the May annual meeting the Nominating Committee has begun to discuss opportunities for board participation for 2019-2020. Julia Ross and Thomas Drucker head up the nominating committee this year and are eager to hear from you. In addition to seeking potential members for the board, the nominating committee is also looking for individuals who can assist with publicity.