

November 2018

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area

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Calendar of Events

- **November 15, 6:30 PM, Hunger in Whitewater**
- **December 9, 5 PM Holiday Dinner**
- **January 19, 10 AM Membership Meeting on Diversity Initiative: Self-Reflection**
- **February 21, 6:30 PM Fair Voting Maps**
- **March 21, 6:30 PM, Gun Control**

Our League is Growing!

With several new members in the past month and a great start to membership renewal our numbers are expanding! Don't forget to renew your membership either via mail with the form at the end of this newsletter or at our November program. Thank you for your commitment to making democracy work with your membership in the Whitewater Area League of Women Voters!

LWV Collaboration with UWW Student Groups Yields Spectacular Voter Registration Results

Julia Ross

Since Sept. 25 (National Voter Registration Day), your local League has been instrumental in coordinating and disseminating student voting information on the UWW campus.

With student voting enthusiasm running higher than ever, numerous student groups approached our League for voter education assistance. Karl Brown, UWW History Professor and member of the LWV Board of Directors, stepped up to coordinate this project and the Voter Registration Assistance Elite Strike Force was organized.

As more groups requested assistance, the Strike Force expanded. Along with LWV, the following non-partisan groups joined in this effort: Student Government; Warhawks Vote; NextGen America; CEEP (Campus Election Engagement Project); Voto Latino; P.E.A.C.E. (Peace, Education and Activism through Creative Engagement); plus the UWW Departments of History and Political Science, and the Andersen Library.

To maintain consistency in voter information content, Julia Ross, LWV Treasurer, facilitated six voter training sessions which were attended by more than 20 UWW students. We established a presence in the University Center and shared shifts of up to three hours on a weekly basis. With the help of a collection of tablets and notebooks, we guided new voters through myvote.wi.gov. We answered specific questions relating to UWW voting requirements. About 170 students registered or changed their address via the MYVOTE site. Many more were talked through the paper registration process if they had an out-of-state driver's license.

Contact Us

www.lwwwhitewater.org

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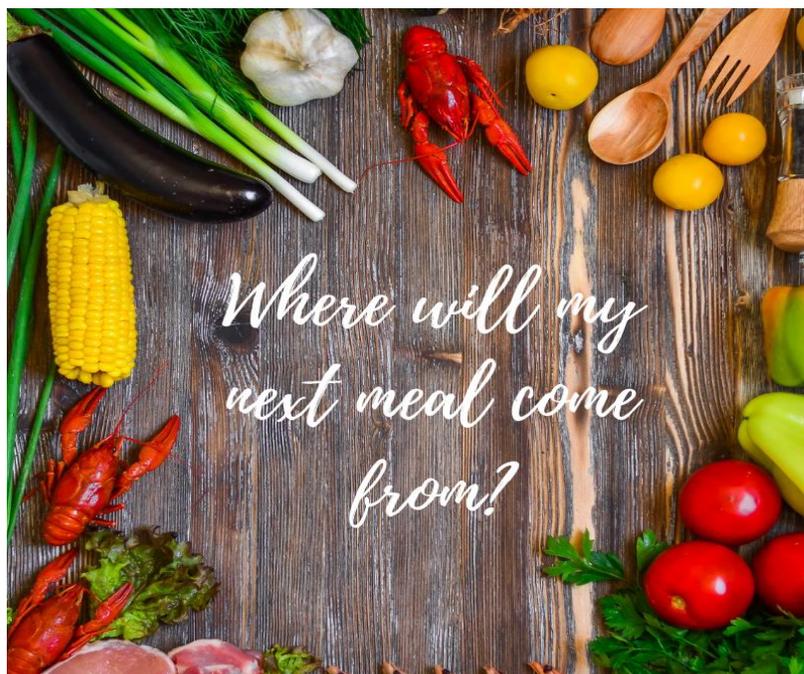
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We were humbled by the passionate degree of student enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to make a difference. We were delighted and cheered when a first-time voter approached our table to begin this life-long journey of citizen involvement. And most of all, we will never underestimate the power of a homemade chocolate chip cookie to draw in a student eager for sweets but also yearning to participate in our democracy.

In addition to the efforts of Karl, Julia and student volunteers, we extend a special thank you to the following League members: Barbara Bren (maintaining a "How to Vote" display at the UWW Library); and new LWV members: Nettie Toeller (for staffing the registration tables) and Jean Eichman (for staffing the tables and for making those soul-satisfying chocolate chip cookies).



Food Insecurity in Whitewater

Ginny Laurent

How can you become better informed about food insecurity in the community? By attending our next program event. The League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area is hosting a panel discussion on food insecurity on Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Joining us for the discussion are representatives of the UWW Sustainability Office, Bethel House, Whitewater Unified School District and the Food Pantry. In addition, the Crop Walk will be reviewed as an ongoing effort by community churches to help feed those in need. Further enlightenment of the community may be the link to improving the delivery of services. Mary Beth Byrne, Virginia Laurent, and Anne Hartwick are chairing the event. In addition, the audience is invited to bring a food item to go directly to the Food Pantry. Thank you for helping alleviate hunger.

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.

Who Reports Election Results?

Did you know that League members often participate in election night reporting? Volunteers like our own board member Mary Beth Byrne report to the county clerk (Elkhorn for Walworth County) around 7:45 p.m. and check in with the Wisconsin Election Service in Milwaukee. When the first round of tallies were printed (about 8:30) Mary Beth and Deb Gamble recorded totals on WES forms and called in totals to Milwaukee. Representatives from the Associated Press and Democratic Party were present this year in Walworth County.

Up next comes a good deal of waiting until the final tallies are printed and reported before volunteers left for the evening at about 11:00 pm.

Behind the scenes there are a lot of people who put a whole lot of time and effort into each election. Thank you to all who volunteered their time at the polls, as election observers, and election night reporters!

Post the Election, What’s Next?

Ellen Penwell

If you were involved in the League’s dynamic voter registration and assistance efforts this fall and found that experience to be meaningfully engaging, then you might want to consider carrying your civic involvement a step further by observing your elected officials in action! The League board is contemplating forming an Observer Corps, which trains and encourages League members to attend local governmental meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. An observer notes what happens at the meeting and reports back to the League. Through an Observer Corps program, you’ll learn more about the issues facing our community and *how* those issues are being addressed. The Board wants to harness the energy and enthusiasm on full display by so many League members this election cycle. An excellent next step might be to shine an observant light on our local government through an Observer Corps program. If this idea interests you, please speak to a board member today!

Celebrations in Planning Phase for LWV 100th Anniversary!

Ellen Penwell

The state League recently formed a steering committee to explore how to message and plan for the League’s centennial celebrations in 2019 and 2020. The plan is to work in partnership with local Leagues and supporting organizations to celebrate and communicate the significance of three distinct events: 1) Wisconsin’s ratification of the 19th amendment on June 10, 1919 (we were the first state in the Union to do so!); 2) the League’ birthday on February 14, 1920; and, 3) the passage of the 19th amendment on August 26, 1920. Subcommittees

are now forming, one for each of these three important moments in our state, League and national history. Themes are how the League helped win the vote, spent 100 years helping citizens to use their vote, and remains relevant today in its work to protect the right to vote. If you would like to serve on one or more of the three subcommittees, please contact LWVWI at lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org or call the state League office at 608-256-0827.



2018 Holiday Dinner

Please join us for the 2018 Holiday Dinner on December 9, at 841 BrewHouse. Attached to this newsletter is the reservation form. Please remember that seating is limited so make sure to send in your reservation form early!

2018 Making Democracy Work Award

This year has been quite a historic midterm election year and the prevalent theme for many communities and Leagues across the country has been voter registration and education. There are many within our League as well as our community who have truly stepped up to assist voters in this regard. One such member of our community is Miguel Aranda, who has worked diligently with voter registration and education among the Hispanic community both on and off campus. We are honored to have the opportunity to introduce Miguel Aranda as our recipient of the 2018 Making Democracy Work Award.



Pictured above center Miguel and Jim Winship appeared on Telemundo Wisconsin to encourage voters to register and vote

In Miguel's own words:
Greetings!

I am glad to say I have grown up in Whitewater. My education from grade school to the University level has all been obtained in Whitewater, and I am currently in UW-Whitewater's MBA Program. I live in Whitewater with my wife Fabi and my two children, Evelia (3) and Vicente (1). Fun facts: Vicente is the name of a famous Mexican singer (Vicente Fernandez) and a former Mexican President (Vicente Fox). I work on campus as a Financial Specialist for the University Center.

If the surname Aranda sounds familiar, my father's side of the family all lives in or near the Whitewater area. My aunt Eva owns the famous La Preferida Mexican store and restaurant in downtown Whitewater, which has been in business for 10 plus years and they make the best tacos in town. Several of my uncles and aunts own the Aranda clothing store - also in downtown Whitewater.

I first got engaged in civic engagement during my undergraduate career as the President of the University Latino club. One main accomplishment of the group that year was our extensive outreach about higher education to the surround Latino community. We visited high school students in Elkhorn, Walworth, Delavan, Whitewater, and many others to talk about the importance of continuing their education. For leading the group on outreach, I was nominated in the Janesville Gazette as a "People Who Matter."

In 2012, in-state tuition was appealed for DREAMers and I started to work closely with Dr. Anne Stinson to help out these talented students who found themselves in this unfortunate scenario. Since then, I also became a FWD.us member, an organization that is pro-immigrant.

After the 2016 election, a handful of University Latino students approached me about their frustrations. To help them, collectively we decided to pursue creating a Voto Latino chapter in Wisconsin. An organization that focuses on getting young Latino voters to register to vote, and to engage them in the civic process. The Voto Latino Wisconsin chapter became an acting force in the 2018 midterms.

Growing up, teachers, family, and friends, have always stated to me that I have characteristics of a good leader. I never thought much of it until more recently. I have always waited, and continue to wait, for the right person to run for local office that I can closely align my values and beliefs with. If that time does not come soon, I might find myself attempting to fill that voice.

What We're Reading

[Wisconsin Election Results](#)

[Where First Time Voters Get Information](#)

[High Water Mark for Midterm Turnout.](#)

[Hispanic voters more engaged in 2018 than in previous midterms](#)

Membership Form/Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP-CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Dues and Contributions: _____ Date of Application: _____

- Individual Membership \$60.00/year
- Household Membership \$100.00/year (for 2 or more people sharing the same address)
- Student Membership \$10.00/year
- Donation to support the work of the Whitewater-Area LWV.

Please make checks payable to *LWV Whitewater-Area*,
Mail to: LWV Treasurer, 701 E Clay St #B1, Whitewater, WI 53190

Membership dues and donations to the League of Women Voters Whitewater-Area are tax-deductible.

We welcome and encourage active involvement in our local league. Please indicate your areas of interest:

- Candidate Forums
- Voter Registration
- Policy Studies
- Membership Development
- LWV Website
- LWV Newsletter
- Program Development
- Fundraising Projects

Serve as a leader in the Whitewater Community! Help shape the issues that ensure its health, vibrancy, fairness, and strength.



League of Women Voters Whitewater Area
2018 Annual Holiday Dinner
Sunday, December 9, 2018 5 pm
841 E Milwaukee Street, Whitewater

Please join us at the **841 BrewHouse** on Sunday, December 9th for the 2018 Annual Holiday Dinner.

5 to 5:30 PM Cash Bar
5:30 to 6:30 PM Dinner
6:30 PM Musical presentation

The presentation of the League's 2018 *Making Democracy Work Award* will conclude the program.

Seating is limited. Reservations are required. Deadline: November 26, 2018

(cut here and mail form)

LWV Holiday Dinner Reservation Form - Due November 26th

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

We will be having a family style dinner of seasoned baked chicken and steamed cod filets. No need to request one or the other as both will be available to all. This dinner will include a plated house salad, green bean casserole and red skinned mashed potatoes as well as rolls and butter. Dessert will be marble cake with chocolate frosting. (Coffee and tea included.)

_____ **Total Reservations x \$20 each = \$** _____

Please mail your check (payable to LWV Whitewater Area) and this form by
November 26, 2018 to:

LWV Treasurer
701 E. Clay St. #B1
Whitewater, WI 53190
262-581-5411