

September 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Note From the Editor
- New Digital Experiences
- LWVWI Annual Meeting Summary
- Prize Winning Parade
- Garage Sale Update
- Membership Renewal
- Making Democracy Work Award
- State of the City
- League Calendar

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

[LISA DAWSEY SMITH](#)

As summer nears an end, the board would like to take a moment to acknowledge highlights from the summer as well as share the planning that has already begun for our fall/winter programs and upcoming events. You'll find a slightly different format to this newsletter from the last edition with articles at the forefront and our calendar on the last page so you can easily print out and hang it on the fridge or wherever else may be convenient to remind you of all that our local league has happening!

At this time the board would also extend an open invitation to all members to join us for one of our upcoming board meetings to observe and participate in our discussions and planning. Going forward within our calendar we will continue to share the dates, time, and location of our meetings should you wish to join us.

As a reminder we are always looking for members ready to jump in and lend a hand. If there's something that catches your eye and you'd like to help, we encourage you to do so. With each article of the newsletter you'll now find the author who wrote or contributed to the content and their email address as an embedded link should you wish to click right away to find out more.

## NEW DIGITAL EXPERIENCES

[LISA DAWSEY SMITH](#)

In the last couple of weeks, the National office has launched some cool new digital experiences. The first is the redesign of the [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) website. The new site design is people focused to make the site more relatable to a wider audience, and it is stunning. I encourage you to take a few minutes in the coming weeks to familiarize yourself with the redesign as we approach 2020 especially if you'll be lending your time to voter registration efforts.

Also launched is a new story telling microsite that dives into the history of the women who've made democracy work both in our past and in our present. Don't be surprised League members if we reach out to invite you to share your stories from the front line of our Local league! Reach the site [here](#). If you are a patron of Facebook you can also add a frame to your profile image highlighting this initiative.



Image from LWVUS Facebook campaign

## LWVWI ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

[ELLEN PENWELL](#)

It was a record year for Whitewater Area League members in attendance at the June 8th state Annual Meeting in Green Lake. Lisa Dawsey Smith, Anne Hartwick, Nancy Cassano, Ginny Laurent, and Sue Chandler were all present along with representatives from 19 of Wisconsin's 20 Leagues. Lisa reported on Whitewater activities for the Parade of Leagues. An anonymous person in attendance was so impressed by the collective work shared by local Leagues that he/she donated \$500 to every League, on the spot! The Board is considering how to use this unexpected, undesignated gift.

This year's Zabelle Malkasian lecture featured Dr. Genevieve McBride, Professor Emerita of History at UW-Milwaukee and author of [On Wisconsin Women: Working for Their Rights from Settlement to Suffrage](#). Dr. McBride gave an inspiring lecture highlighting the triumphs and roadblocks in the fight for Wisconsin women to vote. It was not an easy battle. While Wisconsin was the first to ratify the 19th Amendment, our state was not a progressive leader, delaying women's access to the ballot box until it was inevitable.

The recording of Dr. McBride's presentation is now available online through the LWVWI YouTube Channel: [McBride Video on YouTube](#). And more good news, LWVWI will host Dr. Genevieve McBride in an online, free Women's Suffrage Q&A Webinar on **Thursday, September 12th, 6:30PM - 7:30PM**. Dr. McBride will answer your questions about her 2019 LWVWI Annual Meeting presentation. Information to register for the webinar will be announced soon.

Voter Education Coordinator, Eileen Newcomer, led a conversation on the League's role in engaging candidates to inform voters and explored different methods Leagues use to provide candidate information to voters. She shared a high-level overview of how three Leagues engage candidates to inform voters - LWVWI and our candidate answers on VOTE411, LWV of Door County and their candidate forums, and LWV of Dane County and their filmed candidate interviews - and shared advantages and challenges associated with each method. In addition to learning from the three case studies, attendees also had a chance to reflect on some shared challenges we face and crowdsource new ideas and potential solutions to address our most commonly shared challenge, candidate participation.

The Community Alliances Committee (CAC), led by Co Chair Eloisa Gómez, introduced itself as a learning community made up of five local Leagues exploring and sharing ways to strengthen and expand League diversity in alignment with the statewide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative. CAC members reported forming DEI Committees and, in LWV Appleton's case, creating a DEI Advisory Committee made up of League and non-League community members. The panel shared ideas for lowering League membership dues barriers, including Beloit's scholarship option, Milwaukee County's first-year \$25 membership fee pilot program, Dane County's use of "flex-fee" instead of "low income membership," and Appleton's tiered fee structure. Fee subsidies were discussed, broader structural questions for state and national were raised, and lobbying for an extension of the student fee waiver beyond January 2021 was stressed. The session concluded with thoughts on an evaluation process and the need to collect base-line and future membership demographic surveys.



*Suffragists in Whitewater's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade*

## Contact Us

<http://lwvwhitewater.org>

Karl Brown (2018-2020)

[brownk@uwv.edu](mailto:brownk@uwv.edu)

Mary Beth Byrne (2019-2021)

[wisconsinwoods@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinwoods@gmail.com)

Nancy Cassano (2019-2021)

[cassanon61@gmail.com](mailto:cassanon61@gmail.com)

Anne Hartwick (2019-2021)

Webmistress

[annehartwick@gmail.com](mailto:annehartwick@gmail.com)

Virginia Laurent (2018-2020)

Publicity Chair

[laurent70@charter.net](mailto:laurent70@charter.net)

Ellen Penwell (2018-2020)

Secretary

[espenwell@gmail.com](mailto:espenwell@gmail.com)

Jane Roberts (2018-2020)

[jrhuntersridge42@gmail.com](mailto:jrhuntersridge42@gmail.com)

Julia Ross (2019-2021)

Treasurer

[j22ross@gmail.com](mailto:j22ross@gmail.com)

Lisa Dawsey Smith (2018-2020)

Vice President, Newsletter

[lisamdsmith06@gmail.com](mailto:lisamdsmith06@gmail.com)

## PRIZE WINNING COSTUMED MARCHERS

[KATHY BRIMMER](#)

Nine League of Women Voters Members (Kathy Brimmer, Mary Beth Byrne, Virginia Coburn, Susan Crone, Ginny Laurent, Ellen Powell, Gayle Stettler, Nettie Toeller, and ETTY Wilberding) marched in Whitewater's 4th of July Parade to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment on June 10, 1919. Marchers in the parade wore period-type clothing like the classic suffrage costume—complete with long dresses, flower-festooned hats, and sashes, on which was written, "Votes for Women." One of our signs read "Our Superheroes Wear Sashes" in response to the theme for Whitewater's 4th of July Parade, "Not All Superheroes Wear Capes." Three ladies dressed as Lady Liberty (Sue Chandler, Jenny Rule, and Tracey Scherr) accompanied us to distribute information about Lights for Liberty, a vigil to end human concentration camps, which was held July 12th at Cravath Lakefront Park. For our efforts, the League of Women Voters-Whitewater Area was awarded First Place in the Costumed Marchers Category in the 2019 Whitewater July 4th Parade.

## 2019 GARAGE SALE UPDATE

[JULIA ROSS](#)

Let's give a big shout out to Sue and Bill Chandler who graciously hosted the 2019 LWV Whitewater Area Garage Sale at their Whitewater home this past July 19th and 20th. Despite it being the hottest as well as the most humid days of the year, the hearty and fearless LWV volunteers showed up in force to make this the most remarkable sale ever! A record total of \$1646.50 was raised to add to the League treasury in support of all our efforts in making democracy work in our community. Well done to Sue, Bill and to Sue's sister Jean! On behalf of the LWV Whitewater Area, we thank you!

## SEPTEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

[JULIA ROSS](#)

This past year the membership of the League of Women Voters-Whitewater Area has soared to a current and unprecedented record of 79. Most of our members are coming in from Whitewater but also from Fort Atkinson, Palmyra, Eagle, Lake Mills, Delavan and Lake Geneva. Our expanding membership is not just a local occurrence but rather a state and national phenomenon as well. What a fitting tribute to the LWV's long lasting legacy as we prepare to celebrate its' 100th Anniversary in February 2020.

There is not a better time than right now to support the activities of our local league by renewing your membership today. (For those of you who became members in February 2019 and beyond, please know that you are in good membership standing until December 2020.)

Please help us continue our non-partisan efforts and advocacy of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Renew your membership today. At the end of this newsletter is a renewal form. We would also ask that all current members consider taking the time to complete an annual membership survey online at [bit.ly/lwv-wwmembersurvey](http://bit.ly/lwv-wwmembersurvey).

## NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD

GINNY LAURENT

A quote from a past recipient of the Award:

“This is an incredible honor that has left me speechless.”

The year 2010 was the first year of presenting the Making Democracy Work Award to a community leader who has worked toward the goal of enhancing life in the Whitewater area through the recipient’s service. The first award winner was Jim Stewart, founder of the Whitewater Banner. Other recipients were Marilyn Kienbaum (2011); Michele Smith (2012); Anjie Kokan, Jorge Islas, Sandra Heyer and Marge Fischer (2013); Emma Lou Sederholm (2014); Marion Burrows (2015); Greg Stewart (2016); James Hartwick and Lacey Reichwald (2017) and Miguel Aranda (2018).

We are asking you to consider nominating a person for this award. Though past honorees have made worthy contributions, there are others who should be recognized who reflect the League’s values, such as diversity, equity, inclusion and informed civic engagement. Submit your nominations via our online form at <http://bit.ly/2019MDWAward> by November 1. This year the award will be presented at the Leagues Holiday Dinner on Sunday, Dec 1. If you have a question regarding the award, please contact Ginny Laurent.

## STATE OF THE CITY AND SCHOOL DISTRICT

LISA DAWSEY SMITH

Please make plans to join us on Thursday September 19, 2019 for our annual State of the City and School District program to be held in the community room on the first floor of the city municipal building. This will be the kickoff to our fall and winter programming season and we are looking forward to the insight and updates provided by City Manager Cameron Clapper, District Superintendent Mark Elworthy, and District Business Manager Matthew Sylvester-Knudtson. City Manager Cameron Clapper has indicated that some items he will present will include a brief overview of city finances, ongoing projects such as the lake drawdown and new amphitheater, as well as sharing some successes that have occurred since his last address. A question and answer period will follow at the end of the program as time allows. We are grateful to the staff of the City of Whitewater for also filming and making a digital broadcast available of this program for those who may not be able to attend in person. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and community members to use this as an opportunity to engage and be better informed about the community in which we live.



*Newly redesigned Vote411 logo – don't forget to check out the redesigned website [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)  
And stay tuned for an upcoming redesign of our own local league site!*



## Calendar of Events

### 2019

- September 7 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- September 19 **Program:** State of the City and School District. 6:30 pm in the Community Room (Council Chambers) of Municipal Building
- October 5 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- October 17 **Program:** Public Education Forum on US Census, "Get out the Count" 6:30 pm in the Community Room of Municipal Building
- November 2 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- November 21 **Program:** Where Does My Trash Go? 6:30 pm in the Community Room of Municipal Building
- December 1 Making Democracy Work Award Presentation and Holiday Dinner

### 2020

- January 11 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- January 16 **Program:** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 6:30 pm in the Community Room of Municipal Building
- February 8 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- February 18 Wisconsin Spring Primary Election
- February 20 **Program:** LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday 6:30 pm location TBD
- March 7 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- March 14 Common Council Candidate Forum 10 am in the Community Room of Municipal Building
- March 19 **Program:** Access to Healthcare, 6:30 pm in the Community Room of Municipal Building
- April 4 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am, the Community Space meeting room
- April 7 General Election & Presidential Primary
- April 16 **Program:** Housing Insecurity, 6:30 pm in the Community Room of Municipal Building
- May 9 League of Women Voters Annual Meeting 10 am, location TBA

## 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.***