



President's Message

As we approach the end of 2017, we are once again reminded of the evanescent nature of life. The lushness of summer fades to the blaze of autumn and then turns cold and brittle. But before descending to the depths of winter we savor the glittering holiday season.

Yes, life is often predictable; the seasons change, we all get older. But we cannot allow ourselves to be lulled into thinking the inevitability of the life cycle always follows a straight course. A growing number of Americans, including most of us in the League of Women Voters, are painfully aware of how deviant our current political culture has become.

We are facing the greatest threat to our system of government that this country has ever seen. The Constitution and Bill of Rights seem to be misunderstood by a significant faction of Americans, perhaps emboldened by the President's threat to criminalize the press and even ordinary citizens for merely exercising our First Amendment right to speak freely.

As I write this we are awaiting the Supreme Court's decision on *Gill v. Whitford*, which seeks redress of Wisconsin's partisan gerrymandering. When the maps were redrawn in 2011, the party in power basically ensured that many of our votes would not be heard because they were buried by unfairly-drawn voting districts. For those of us who believe in the concept of one person, one vote, it is inconceivable that the jurists who represent us on the highest court in the land would allow the states to continue this abhorrent practice.

Amid all the political turmoil, however, there is at least one beacon of light: the hard-working members of the League of Women Voters, who are passionately committed to ensuring that democracy works for all. We will never accept less.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season surrounded by those you love. And as the New Year approaches, may you face it with hope and trust that sense will prevail and keep our country safe and on the right course.

Anne Golden



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CALENDAR

November 2017			
8	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
9	Thurs	10 -11 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group - Afghanistan/Pakistan Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222
9	Thurs	3 pm	LWV Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting Green Bay, Wisconsin For more details: https://www.lwvlmr.org/annual-meeting-2017.html
11	Sat	10 am - 12:30 pm	General Meeting: Wisconsin's Changing Environmental Laws and Regulations Shorewood Village Center, 3930 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood Contact: Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739
14	Tues	6 - 7:30 pm	Social Policy Committee Meeting Milwaukee Public Library-Central Branch, Room 2B, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Solana Patterson-Ramos, solanamke@gmail.com
15	Wed	1 pm 6 pm	Unit Meetings: Wisconsin's Changing Environmental Laws and Regulations See lwvmilwaukee.org for details Contact: Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739
17	Fri	1:30 pm	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration at the Folk Fair State Fair Exposition Center, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis (enter Gate 4 on 84th St.) Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
20	Mon	12 noon	Lunch & Learn Sojourner Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
20	Mon	1:15 pm	Membership Committee Meeting Sojourner Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee Contact: Barbara Rasmussen, 414-791-0114
27	Mon	6 - 7:30 pm	Government Committee Meeting Mitchell Street Library Branch, Community Room, 906 W Historic Mitchell St., Milwaukee Contact: Erin McCarthy, 414-467-9840

December 2017			
5	Tues	4 - 7 pm	Winter Social The Fuel Cafe, 630 S. 5th St., Milwaukee Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
7	Thurs	9 am 11 am	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
9	Sat		The Voter Newsletter Deadline Submit articles, photographs, notices or other content for potential publication in <i>The Voter</i> Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
12	Tues	6 - 7:30 pm	Social Policy Committee Meeting Milwaukee Public Library-Central Branch, Room 2B, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Solana Patterson-Ramos, solanamke@gmail.com
13	Wed	7 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting Conference Call Contact: Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739
13	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Anne Golden, 414-559-2632
14	Thurs	10 -11 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group - Nuclear Security Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222

December 2017 (Cont.)

18	Mon	12 noon	Lunch & Learn Sojourner Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
18	Mon	1:15 pm	Membership Committee Meeting Sojourner Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., Milwaukee Contact: Barbara Rasmussen, 414-791-0114
21	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Tom Neubauer, 414-332-8482



Invites you to a free public meeting

Wisconsin's Changing Environmental Laws & Regulations



Saturday, November 11, 2017 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

10:00 a.m. - Gathering & Refreshments; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Program

Shorewood Village Center

3920 N. Murray Ave., (ground-level meeting room) Shorewood, WI

Presenters:

George Meyer, Executive Director, WI Wildlife Federation, Past Secretary, WI DNR
"The Perfect Storm"

Kimberlee Wright, Executive Director, Midwest Environmental Advocates,
"The Role of Citizens in Protecting Wisconsin's Natural Heritage"

Learn about: exemptions to environmental laws in the Foxconn incentive package; new laws for iron mines that reduce protections for streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater; restrictions on citizen involvement in the iron mining permit process; limitations to the authority of WDNR professional staff to apply sound science to the review of high-capacity well applications; how YOU can help protect Wisconsin's natural resources.

For more information, visit lwwmilwaukee.org

Housing in MKE: Evictions, Race Relations and Policy Drew Large Crowd at UWM

Ann Batiza, VP Organization, and Solana Ramos-Patterson, Social Policy Committee Chair



Kori Schneider Peragine of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council explained the testing methods used to gauge racial bias in renting.

The Social Policy Committee's Public Meeting on *Housing in MKE: Evictions, Race Relations and Policy*, co-sponsored by the UWM Black Culture Center and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, drew a large audience at the UWM Union on October 4. Social Policy Chair, Solana Ramos-Patterson, organized a great panel of speakers, including Raphael F. Ramos, J. D., the Eviction Defense Project Coordinator for Legal Action of Wisconsin. He was joined by Marquette history professor and Director of the Center for Urban Research, Robert S. Smith, and Senior Administrator Kori Schneider Peragine of the Inclusive Communities Program for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council. The speakers discussed the history of racial discrimination in housing, legislation, and policy decisions such as urbanization that devastated many people of color neighborhoods.

The panelists also discussed an array of issues impacted by access to housing and evictions; those issues include schools, access to loans, and health. The Housing First program, they noted, attempts to provide housing in order to address many of these issues, recognizing that housing is often a prerequisite for sustaining employment.

For the first time, a LWV-MC public meeting was live-streamed and uploaded to our Facebook page! Daniel Folkman, who catalogues civic events, donated his time to do this. Many League committees helped to make

this event a huge success, including our new Hospitality Committee led by Chair Liddie Collins, who set up the hospitality area and provided food for the event. As always, the Membership Committee, led by Barbara Rasmussen, greeted participants and signed in non-members. Teri Lane populated our Calendar and Events pages and Peggy Creer and Teri spread the word through email and a press release. A special thanks to Solana for introducing the League to a new venue (the UWM Union, Room 191) and partners, and to Daniel, Solana, and Teri for encouraging promotion of this event on social media.



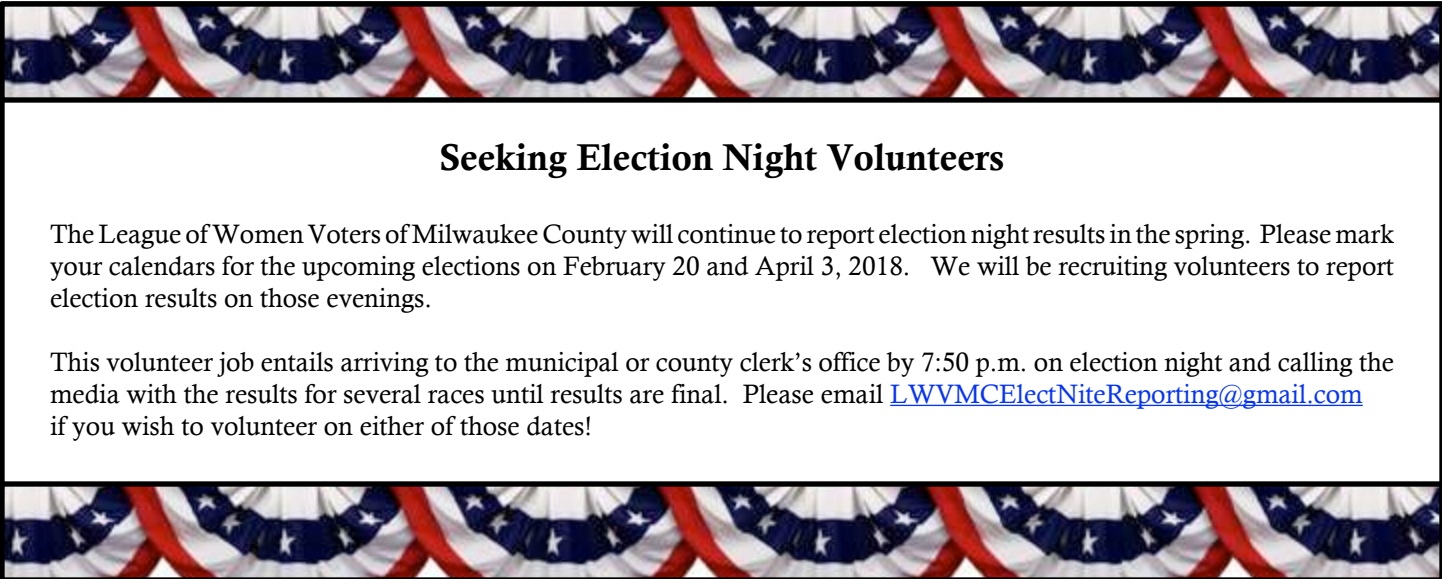
THREE RECOMMENDED READINGS

to Educate Ourselves about Social Policy Issues

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein
Published in 2017, this book draws on extensive research to argue that racial segregation is not the result of individual prejudices or the actions of institutions like banks and real estate agencies, but rather intentional government action at all levels through legislation and policy decisions.

The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics by George Lipsitz
This work, initially published in 1998, approaches the phenomenon of racism broadly, beyond white vs. black to encompass Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans. The book explores the effects of personal prejudice, asset accumulation, employment, housing, and health care as well as legislation and policy-making.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
This 2012 volume addresses the problem of the mass incarceration of African American males. The author, a civil rights litigator and legal scholar, proposes that such mass incarceration is the new Jim Crow. Reviewers describe the book as "profoundly necessary" and "a must-read for all people of conscience."



Seeking Election Night Volunteers

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County will continue to report election night results in the spring. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming elections on February 20 and April 3, 2018. We will be recruiting volunteers to report election results on those evenings.

This volunteer job entails arriving to the municipal or county clerk's office by 7:50 p.m. on election night and calling the media with the results for several races until results are final. Please email LWVMCElectNiteReporting@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer on either of those dates!



New Representative Government and Social Policy Committees

Kathy Johnson, VP Program

Two committees are in development at this time: the Representative Government Committee, chaired by Erin McCarthy, gov@lwvmilwaukee.org, and the Social Policy Committee, chaired by Solana Patterson-Ramos, sp@lwvmilwaukee.org. These committees provide an excellent forum for members to explore issues, identify which League positions relate to the issues, and develop strategies for action.

The Social Policy Committee has already discussed Matthew Desmond's book, *Evicted*, and is now developing strategies to impact the housing situation in Milwaukee. The Representative Government Committee has had an initial exploratory meeting titled *Democracy in Our Backyard*. Look for more information about these meetings in this issue and in upcoming emails. If you have completed an interest survey indicating interest in either of these areas, you may already have or may in the future receive informational emails.

Connecting to a committee helps ensure that the LWV-MC addresses issues of concern to YOU. You can also connect by sending an email to Kathy Johnson, VP Program at vpprogram@lwvmilwaukee.org.



LWV-MC
WINTER SOCIAL
 Tuesday, December 5
 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 The Fuel Cafe
 630 S. 5th Street
 \$10 /Person & Cash Bar



Making Nuclear Weapons Illegal: A Letter to the Editor

Charles Baynton

Chuck Baynton is a former LWV-MC member currently living in Minneapolis. His letter to the editor on nuclear weapons, revised and reprinted below, was recently published in the Star Tribune. His stance coincides with the LWV-US position limiting proliferation and supporting the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons (p. 51, 2016-2018 Impact on Issues).

Back-and-forth taunts and nuclear threats between the political leaders of the United States and North Korea have been making almost daily headlines. Likewise for rumors about what President Trump will do about the 2015 agreement among Iran, the US, and various others which severely limits Iran's nuclear program.

Meanwhile, another development regarding nuclear weapons has almost completely escaped notice in this country. If we, meaning people everywhere, are fortunate, this will prove in the long run to be by far the most important story of the three.

On September 20 at a United Nations ceremony presided over by Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez, the Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) opened for signature. This treaty proclaims that nuclear weapons — just like poison gas and germ weapons, and for the same reasons — are illegal. Their possession and threatened use (“nuclear deterrence”) will henceforth be increasingly understood to be the acts of rogues, of international outlaws. Within hours, the Vatican was among the first three to both sign and ratify it. By contrast, the United States has said that it will never sign.

For the TPNW to play its intended role, it will need very broad support. No one yet knows whether that will happen, but we do know that its text was endorsed by 122 UN member countries and opposed by one when it was adopted in July.

Americans who would sooner look to Pope Francis than to President Donald Trump for moral guidance should pay attention to these developments. To learn more, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), winner of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, is one of many great resources. (<http://www.icanw.org/>)

Have Positions, Take Action

Kathy Johnson, VP Program

One strength of the League of Women Voters lies in its grassroots advocacy. There are two important terms in that statement: “grassroots” and “advocacy.” Let's take a look at each and what they mean for the League of Women Voters.

According to LWV-US, “[t]he process used in formulating positions and in taking action at the grassroots level makes the League unique and sets the League apart from other organizations.” The League has a bottom-up approach where members are taking action at the local, state and national levels. Decisions regarding positions are made by members at the local level and sent up to state and national levels.



What does advocacy refer to? It is the action that is taken by the League and its members based on positions developed through a process of study and consensus. LWV-US identifies several forms advocacy make take:

- Developing public policy briefs that analyze issues and provide detailed information and recommendations for addressing them through specific reforms.
- Providing forums for discussing issues and educating policymakers and the public.
- Lobbying, which is the attempt to influence specific legislation, both legislation that has already been introduced in a legislative body and specific legislative proposals that the League or others may either oppose or support. The League conducts lobbying at both the national and state levels.
- Lobbying includes action that transmits a point of view on a specific piece of legislation to elected officials or their staffs, as well as action urging the public to contact their legislators about a specific piece of legislation.

It is important to remember that while members are encouraged to take action based on League positions, they do this not as members of the League but as private citizens. Only the President or their designee speaks for the League, in the name of the League.

Advocacy starts with familiarity with the League's positions in relation to issues of concern. Then, using existing positions, members can individually communicate concerns with elected representatives at local, state and national levels. Or, working within one of the LWV-MC committees (Natural Resources, Social Policy, and Representative Government) or an ad hoc committee, members can develop action strategies within a group of members. Finally, members can work together and with the Board to study an issue, obtain consensus from members, formulate a new position and develop action strategies.

Once we have positions, we are in a position to take action!

National Voter Registration Day 2017: League and Community Members in Action

Michele Goldstein, Voter Services Committee Co-Chair

This year, the League of Women Voters participated in a broad coalition for National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) led by Wisconsin Voices. We were thrilled to work with Wisconsin Voices and collaborate on events for the day across Wisconsin. Angela Lang was the LWV-MC Coordinator involved in coalition planning for NVRD, including registration events throughout Milwaukee and a press conference. The 2017 NVRD press conference included remarks by City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee Election Commission Executive Director Neil Albrecht, LWV-MC President Anne Golden and Wisconsin Voices Program Manager Shauntay Nelson. Angela Lang live streamed the press conference on her phone and posted it to Facebook. (<https://www.facebook.com/lwvmilwaukee/videos>)



LWV-MC volunteers were stationed throughout the day at Pete's Fruit Market in Bronzeville and Outpost Natural Foods on Capitol Drive as well as Riverside University High School. At the two community



sites volunteers talked with 393 individuals spreading the word about the new online voter registration system in Wisconsin. Leigh Ann Tidey, Team Leader for the High School Voter Education and Registration Project, trained members of Riverside's Student Council a few days before NVRD so they could assist their peers to register using the MyVote online system. On the day of the drive, students visited one class every half hour and invited eligible students to come to the library to register. Other Student Council members were on hand to triage the incoming students and send them to a computer or laptop where another Student Council member was waiting to assist them. League volunteers were on hand to help with more challenging issues and

pitch in when all Student Council members were busy. The librarian was available to assist with printing out the proof of residence for those students whose application was on paper. The registration continued throughout the school day. At the end of the day, at least 100 students were registered and 87 students signed up to receive election-related text message reminders.

In all, 33 League and community volunteers and 20 student volunteers provided information and helped eligible individuals register to vote using the online system or paper registration forms. A terrific day!



Democracy in Our Backyard Begins

Erin McCarthy, Government Committee Chair

On Monday, September 25, about ten enthusiastic citizens met at the Bay View Library for our first Democracy in Our Backyard chat. We met new faces and reflected on the role the League of Women Voters has played as a stabilizing force in government around Milwaukee County in the past.

Among many ideas discussed, the group shared an interest in being part of a visible presence in our local government. Our first step will be to establish an observer corps to attend public meetings and report back to the group. We will continue to watch the fair voting maps issue and possibly work towards meeting our representatives. As a solid organization that has stayed nonpartisan and built a trustworthy visible presence in national, state and local politics for nearly 100 years, the League continues to lead the way as an example of citizen participation in metro Milwaukee. At the next DIOBY Chat we hope to discuss avoiding burnout and moving towards a role for the government committee where mentoring citizen participation is a focus. Using LWV positions as a guide, we will look at methods that have worked and develop next steps to get a reinvigorated public looking for a non-partisan way to "show up" in the democratic process.

Our next Democracy in Our Backyard chat will be Monday, October 30 from 6-7 p.m. at the Bay View Library.

The Natural Resources Committee of the LWVMC is presents a public meeting

Wisconsin's Changing Environmental Laws and Regulations

Saturday, November 11

Gathering time 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Program 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Shorewood Village Center, 3920 N. Murray Ave.

ground-level meeting room
(Parking available in Library lot.)

The program includes two presentations:

The Perfect Storm by George Meyer, Executive Director, WI Wildlife Federation, Past Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The Role of Citizens in Protecting Wisconsin's Natural Heritage by Kimberlee Wright, Executive Director, Midwest Environmental Advocates

Recent developments in Wisconsin that prompted this program are:

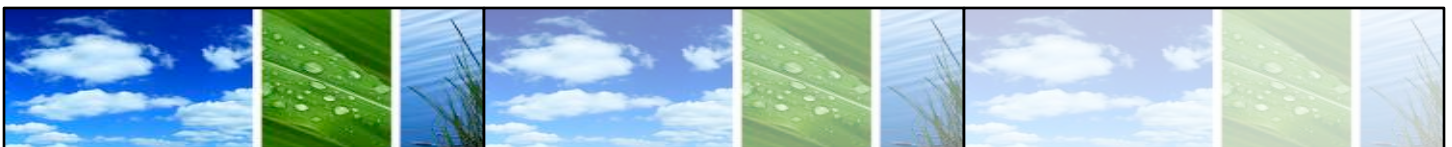
- In September, 2017, an incentive package signed by the governor exempts Foxconn from Wisconsin wetland regulations and an extensive environmental analysis. (<http://tinyurl.com/js080117>)
- 2013 Wisconsin Act 1: This law largely written by lobbyists for iron mines substantially reduced protections for streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. It also reduced the opportunity for citizen involvement in the iron mining permit process.
- In June, 2017, Act 10 created legislation that further erodes the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources authority to apply sound science to the review and approval of high- capacity well applications. (<http://tinyurl.com/fox10bill>) (In October, 2016, Clean Wisconsin challenged nine high capacity well applications approved by the DNR.)

Environmental Laws and Regulations Basics:

Laws written by Congress provide the authority for EPA to write regulations. Congress has authorized EPA to write regulations that explain the technical, operational, and legal details necessary to implement laws and other federal agencies to help put those laws into effect by creating and enforcing regulations. (<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/basics-regulatory-process>) Regulations are mandatory requirements that can apply to individuals, businesses, state or local governments, non-profit institutions, or others. (<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/regulations>) Regulations are codified annually in the *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR). Title 40: Protection of Environment is the section of the CFR that deals with EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Comparison: State vs. Federal

- **Rules.** In Wisconsin, the counterpart to EPA is DNR. DNR is responsible for protecting Wisconsin's land, water, and air from pollution.
- **Administration and enforcement.** DNR has received authorization from EPA to implement state air, water, and waste management rules. To receive federal authorization, DNR's rules must be at least as stringent as the federal rules. To maintain its federal authorization, DNR continues to either adopt EPA's latest environmental rules or implement more stringent state standards. (<http://tinyurl.com/blr-epareg>)



The Annual Program Making Meeting Is Coming in January

Kathy Johnson, VP Program

One focus of League is advocating for voting rights and engaging in activities that promote voting. Indeed, Voter Services is a reflection of volunteerism with the League at its best. However, there are many issues within the scope of the League's advocacy. Our advocacy is based on the positions established after a process of member study and agreement on selected issues.

This time of year, League members are asked to review League positions, national, state and local, and determine for themselves whether the positions as written address their own areas of concern. If not, they can identify the inadequacy of an existing position relative to the issue of concern, or the need for development of a new position. Decisions regarding League positions are made at the annual Program Making Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Look for emails in November and December for more information and details about the time and location.

What Does "Program" Refer to in the League?

Kathy Johnson, VP Program

Dictionaries define the word program in various ways, including "a plan or system under which action may be taken toward a goal" (Merriam Webster). This particular definition relates very well to the League of Women Voters' use of the term. LWV-US states that its "program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state or local level." Below are the steps in this process of study and action as defined by LWV-US alongside how they are accomplished at the local level, by LWV-MC:

Formal adoption (by members at an annual meeting or by state/national convention delegates) of an issue for study.	Members make proposals to the annual Program Making Meeting (to be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018).
Member study and agreement on broad concepts.	To develop a new position, a member committee forms to study the issue and make recommendations to the Board. The committee takes the information and recommendations to the membership to develop consensus about going forward.
Formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors.	The results of consensus meetings are reported to the Board which then works with the committee to formulate a position.
Action as directed by the board of directors.	The Board directs action steps. It is important to remember that while members are encouraged to take action based on League positions, they do this not as members of the League but as private citizens. Only the President or their designee speaks for the League, in the name of the League.
Annual or biennial re-adoption of the position.	Members review League positions, re-adopt positions, and make recommendations for changes or new positions yearly at the Program Making Meeting held every January.

The League's program affords members the opportunity to do something about the issues they care about, and arms them with the information they need to take action. Many issues of concern can be addressed under existing positions. Additionally, national and state positions can be used for action at the local level.

All League positions may be accessed at <http://lwvmilwaukee.org/StandsonIssues.html> . Do not hesitate to send questions regarding the meeting and this process to vpprogram@lwvmilwaukee.org .

Living, Learning, Leadership

Barbara Rasmussen, Membership Committee Chair

I heard it on NPR the other day: People who live with purpose stave off dementia. I believe that membership in the League of Women Voters is about living with purpose. We live out our life's philosophy. For many of us, that includes the goal of improving life for ourselves and others. More specifically, we want to live in the freedom to choose who governs us, and to have an influence on laws that are passed. While our work may or may not be a matter of life and death in the immediate future, it does have an impact on our quality of life.

In order to live out our goals and values, we learn. We learn about the issues that affect us. We learn about them in depth. Each of us may not learn about every issue, but we have the opportunity to study those most important to us. We do so with the intention of making a difference in the outcomes of our political process. (As always, we do it without being partisan. We do not support any candidate, but fight for certain issues and laws.) We learn in a way that enriches our lives.

We lead. Simply by being an informed member of the LWV, you and I lead. For 97 years the LWV has been a leader in our democracy. Therefore, you are a leader in a powerful, tried and trusted organization. Thank you to everyone who has made any contribution through finances or time or skills to the League so that it can continue to lead.

Your dues and additional gifts keep the organization going and producing results. Your dues, your time and your skills put to use in the LWV-MC keep us at the forefront of very important issues. So, please remember to **renew your dues** for 2017-18 now, if you have not already done so.

We also want to remind you that our online **Interest Survey** is used to connect you with the part of the organization that will be most fulfilling for you. Please take a few moments and fill it out. You can do it right here: (<http://tinyurl.com/lwvmcsurvey>). Thank you.

League Year Begins with Fall Kickoff Salad Supper

Ann Batiza, VP Organization

The new League year unofficially commenced on September 20, 2017 with the Fall Kickoff Salad Supper, held once again at the Pavilion within Lake Park in the lower level of the Lake Park Bistro building. A large number of League members helped in the preparations, so thank you to everyone who made this event possible! The weather cooperated to provide a lovely evening initiated with a toast on the patio to our new president, Anne Golden.



Anne Golden introduces Board members and Committee Chairs to those at the 2017 Fall Kickoff Salad Supper.



New Members

Shirley Halloran, Membership Committee

Noreen Cook, Fox Point
Debra Fifer, Milwaukee
Michael Gordon and Michele Sumara, Milwaukee
Joan Janus, Milwaukee
Cheri McGrath, Milwaukee
Catherine Millington, Milwaukee



League members and guests toast incoming LWV-MC president Anne Golden.

Anne introduced League leaders who in turn discussed their plans for the coming year. More than 50 members and prospective members got a preview of our League's proposed activities while enjoying a potluck of salads and desserts.

Learn Our League Positions

League of Women Voters Summary of Public Policy Positions

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation - Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment - Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President - Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation - Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making).

Individual Liberties - Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Constitutional Amendment Proposals - In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

Constitutional Conventions - Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by state.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices - Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

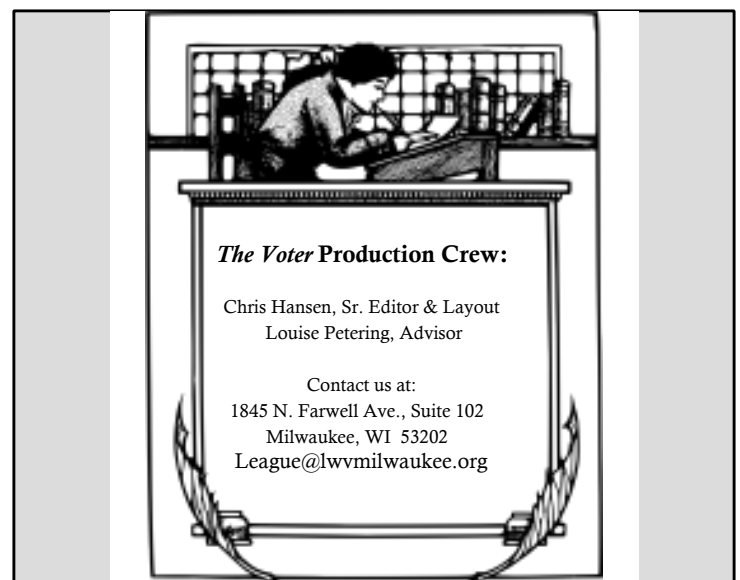
Congress - Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency - Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

Consult future issues of The Voter for a summary of the League's public policy positions on International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.



Join Up! Join In! Join the League of Women Voters - Today!
Non-partisan, non-profit since 1920!

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement and leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

Website: lwvmilwaukee.org

Email Address: league@lwvmilwaukee.org

Milwaukee County Dues (circle one):

\$70 Individual \$110 Household \$ 25 Student

\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$170 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Financial support available upon request -- call 414-559-2632.

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work/Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ Email _____

Please complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County,
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202

OR join online at lwvmilwaukee.org.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

**JOIN UP!
JOIN IN!**

1845 N Farwell Avenue
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Milwaukee, WI 53202
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league@lwvmilwaukee.org
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