

Annual *Lively Issues* Meeting

February 2025 – Brown County Library



More than 35 members and prospective members gathered in the downtown library on February 22 to consider the topics and issues we might want to focus on for the upcoming year. President Dawn Smith opened by recognizing all the poll workers among us; she also announced that our annual meeting will be May 17 at the ADRC, and she thanked Denise Gaumer Hutchison for providing the buffet of snacks for today's gathering.

Dawn updated folks on the **new membership system** and how to renew, noting that Christine Lemerande will take over as Membership Chair. She announced the imminent unveiling of our new **website** and the **new membership fee structure**, per LWVUS. Then she introduced the board members present.



Jean Marsch offered a recap of the past year's work by the **Healthcare and Environment Committee**, including 8 key topics of study over ten meetings. She asked members to review the February 13 call to action regarding Medicaid cuts and take action if they had not already, and she recognized committee members who serve on

various local health and environmental boards.

Karen Schley provided an overview of the **Observer Corps**, of which she has been a member for four years. She said she has loved the work, and she has a few other members who help out, but she could use some more participation. The purpose of the Observer Corps is to demonstrate an interest in the work of local governing boards and councils.



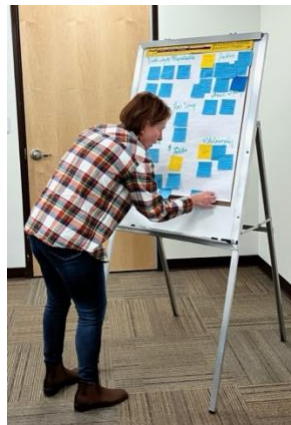


Standing in for **Education** Chair Denise Gaumer Hutchison, who was unable to attend, Lynn Gerlach recapped the objectives and recent work of the committee, which has been focused on Special Education funding, the private school voucher system, and transparency for property taxpayers. Lynn explained that a huge chunk of money taxpayers believe they are paying to the public schools actually gets siphoned off to private

schools (\$33 million from the Green Bay Area district this school year).



Jill Fermanich explained the **National Popular Voting Interstate Compact** and how it would, if enacted, force the electoral college to choose the presidential candidate that had received the most popular votes nationally. Jill explained the origins of the electoral college, how an interstate compact works, and the League's 50+ years' commitment to improving the way the U.S. elects the president. She noted that April 16 will be a state legislative day of action regarding NPVIC.



Dawn Smith reported on the work of the **Voter Services Committee**, detailing the wide variety of work our local League has accomplished over the past year to register and educate voters, including several candidate forums and video interviews. She introduced the LWVUS book called *Impact on Issues, 2024-2026* and told members how they can get a copy.

Following the committee reports, all of which included Q&A and robust discussion, two smaller groups were formed to fine-tune a vision for meaningful action our League might take to make a difference in the upcoming year. Christine Lemerande, Vice President, took notes and will provide a report on the directives the group seems to support.

