

President's Update, January 2025

Dawn Smith, President

Happy New Year, League Members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and was able to take some time and recover from 2024.

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend our Holiday Brunch on December 14, and a special thanks to Kathy Lefebvre for a lovely job on the decorations. We're so blessed to have free use of the Brown County Libraries for our events – the new East Side Library was a perfect space for us to celebrate. Take some time to check out the pictures for the brunch – it really was a great time to get together and visit.

At the Holiday Brunch we also debuted the new LWVGGB *Democracy Defender* t-shirts, designed by our very own Lynn Meshke. T-shirts will be on sale the month of January, delivered in February. A link for the order is included in the newsletter this month – be sure to check them out! My husband and I got the black (I spill on absolutely everything), and Lynn's artwork looks absolutely fantastic.

The other big news for our League is the upcoming change in our membership system and dues structure. The National League has purchased a new software, ChapterSpot, for all Leagues to use at no cost. Our current roster is managed on a Google sheet, and payment is separate, making roster management a real challenge. The new system is going to be a definite improvement, making it much more efficient to manage, but it will result in some (minor) changes for our members. Please check out the article in this newsletter on the New Dues Structure to see some of the changes you can expect.

Our next big event will be our **Lively Issues**, which will be held sometime in February. We will determine the date at our board meeting on January 9, and an email will be sent out to League members so they can update their calendars.

Lively Issues is one of the four events we hold every year (the other three are our annual meeting, summer picnic and holiday brunch). During Lively Issues we decide as a League what we want to accomplish in the upcoming year. Following a general election year, Lively Issues is going to be especially important in determining how we move forward. I hope to see you there.