

## **President's Update – July 2024**

*Dawn Smith, Board President*

Greeting Fellow League Members – I hope everyone has taken some time to enjoy the wacky summer Wisconsin weather.

My first month as president of the Green Bay League has been an eventful one, with the State Annual meeting being held in Green Bay. It was my first State meeting, and not only was I attending, my daughter and I were also speakers. Since the Green Bay board is one of the youngest boards in the state, with 5 of our 7 members under age 50 last year, I was asked to speak about building young leadership within the League. My oldest daughter Emilie became a League member in Milwaukee last year after graduating from Marquette Law School. I told the State I'd speak if Emilie could speak with me. I could share my thoughts on how we can make the League attractive to younger people, but I thought hearing from a young professional woman would be even more valuable. And it was a chance for me to show off my kid, of whom I'm super proud, so it was a win/win situation.

I really enjoyed my time at the annual state meeting, and Christine (our VP) and I are thinking about trying to attend National next year. It was valuable to hear what all the other Leagues are doing, and it was just nice to meet some amazing people.

Regarding local League news, there's a ton of going on, so read the newsletter carefully. We're putting together our fundraising team, and we have some fun ideas that we'll be sharing this summer, so watch for those. We have a date for our summer picnic (August 8), and we're hosting two educational sessions: one with the YWCA in July about the new maps, and a session with Green Bay City Clerk, Celestine Jefferies, on elections and all the security that's in place, in September. All our committees are super busy, and we have opportunities for everyone to be involved. One of my favorite things to tell people when I talk about the League is, "You can be involved as much or as little as you want."

I do want to call out all the League members who took time this month to attend the Green Bay Common Council meeting on June 11 to speak in support of extending early absentee voting to additional sites on the west side and the east side. I was extremely proud to see all the people in the audience with their League of Women Voters shirts or pins, and after the meeting someone came up to me and thanked the League for showing up. This was a huge win for the city of Green Bay, and I was so proud to be a part of it, along with my fellow League members.

I hope to see you all at some of our summer events we have planned, and definitely our summer picnic – and please bring a friend with you! We're a fun group – bringing a friend is the best way to help us grow, and we love new members.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions on how the Board can better serve our community, please let me know. Our goal is to make the League of Women Voters of Greater Green Bay a League that everyone wants to join; we welcome your feedback.