

President's Update – March 2025

Dawn Smith, President

I'm writing this fresh off our annual Lively Issues meeting, and after what's been a tough two months, I'm feeling engaged and energized. We had 35 members (and potential members) join us recently at the Central Library, and we took three hours reviewing what we did this past year and what we want to do moving forward. There's a lot going on right now in our country, and I've been struggling to figure out how to move forward. Yesterday helped me to feel empowered and gave me a sense of direction. Now we need to act on the areas of focus we discussed:

- DEI
- National Popular Vote (NPV)
- Public Education (with a focus on educating the public about the impacts of vouchers)
- Women's Health Care
- Voter Education and Registration
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Renewed focus on the League's mission and non-partisan philosophy – as Denise Gaumer-Hutchison explained, "The League is political, not partisan."

That's a lot of important stuff we'd like to do next year – all of which requires people to do that work.

Part of the conversation was around how we can impact these issues. We discussed: embedding DEI into everything we do; using the talents of our League members to push more digital content around NPV to our YouTube channel; vouchers and school funding. We also discussed using the format of the current call-to-action for Medicaid funding that was sent out in February, and providing League members direction to advocate to our legislators on important issues.

Getting involved can be difficult, especially taking that first step. I want to make sure all our members feel like they're able to engage in a way that is meaningful to them. As president, I'm here to help if you're struggling to figure out how best to engage. Don't hesitate to reach out; I'm happy to help you identify your options and then put you in touch with the right people to get you involved.

The other big update I would like to share regards the **new membership system** the League implemented at the beginning of the month – *ChapterSpot*. Previously we managed our roster through spreadsheets. The process to join on the website was disjointed: You had to fill out a form to join, and then click a different link to pay via PayPal. The payment was a separate step, and everything then had to be manually entered into a Google sheet and reconciled. It was confusing for members and a lot of administrative work. The new system should be a huge improvement for our members' experience, and much more efficient for our leadership.

Most of our members have a renewal date of March 31, so this next month most of us should be getting an email to renew our League membership. It will include a link to the new portal. When we renew our memberships, it's important to understand **how the new dues structure works**. We no longer have family memberships, associate memberships, or sustaining memberships. You'll find a single membership with a "pay what you can" due's structure, starting at \$20, with a recommendation of \$75. Whatever you decide to pay, our local League will get 20%. If you paid for a sustaining membership in the past (which many of our members have done), and would like to continue doing that moving forward, my recommendation would be to pay for your membership on

line and then write a check or go to our PayPal account to send an additional amount directly to our Greater Green Bay League.

If you have any questions when you get your renewal email and need some help, don't hesitate to reach out. [Feel free to email me here](#). This will be a learning experience for all of us.