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LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. (June 2019)

The League of Women Voters of Beloit Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

CALENDAR

Friday, September 4, 1:00 p.m.
Local Education Study Speaker

Saturday, September 12, 9:30 a.m.

**The Woman's Hour has Struck: Wisconsin's Role
in the Women's Suffrage Movement**

Register @

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6562984215849121552>

Monday, September 14, 4:30 p.m.

League Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 100 717 842

Password: 168516

Saturday, September 19, 9:30 a.m.

Exchanging the Baton of Political Leadership from Him to Her

Register @

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8230339723301849104>

Tuesday, September 22, all day
National Voter Registration Day

Save the dates:**Wednesday, October 07, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Candidate Forum via Zoom****Thursday, October 22, 5:30 p.m. Local Education Study Consensus via Zoom****Saturday, October 31 Harvard Case Study Presentation:****"Democracy and Women's Rights in America: The Fight over the ERA"****The 19th Amendment Celebration Continues...**

Thanks to all who rang bells and "toasted to tenacity" on August 26, but our work is not finished.

Gayle Hotchkiss, the Chair of our Centennial Committee, with the support of Leaguers, and several other women's groups in the area, continue to educate our communities by presenting a two-part series on voting rights on September 12th and the 19th. The struggle was hard-won and it is still not over. The first talk follows the historical struggle beginning as the US was forming, continuing up through the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment ending with the 26th amendment, which extended the vote to people on their 18th birthday.

"The Woman's Hour has Struck: Wisconsin's Role in the Women's Suffrage Movement" will be Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. Jenny Kalvaitis formerly of the Wisconsin Historical Society, will present the free virtual program. We will be able to take a march through suffrage history exploring the stories of leaders, tactics, losses, and victories as women worked for the right to vote. We will also see how Wisconsin fit within the larger story of enfranchisement and analyze the conflict and complications that suffragists faced as they sought the right to vote. Free and open to the public. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6562984215849121552>.

at 9:30 a.m. Retired executive Thelma A. Sias, is one of Milwaukee's most powerful women due to her leadership and commitment to serve her community. She has received many leadership awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Milwaukee Business Journal. She will inspire us to get involved in voting rights. Then a panel of local organization leaders from the League of Women Voters, NAACP, and others will share their plans for voter education and ask for your involvement in this work. Free and open to the public. Join and get motivated to make a difference! Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8230339723301849104>.

Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

**“The Woman’s Hour Has Struck: Wisconsin’s Role
in the Women’s Suffrage Movement”**

Speaker: Jenny Kalvaitis, formerly of the Wisconsin Historical Society

We will be able to take a march through suffrage history exploring the stories of leaders, tactics, losses, and victories as women worked for the right to vote. We will also see how Wisconsin fit within the larger story of enfranchisement and analyze the conflict and complications that suffragists faced as they sought the right to vote.

Register <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6562984215849121552>

Saturday, September 19 at 9:30 a.m.

**“Exchanging the Baton of Political Leadership
from Him to Her”**

Speaker: Thelma A. Sias, CEO of The Sias Group, LLC

Retired executive and one of Milwaukee's most powerful women due to her leadership and commitment to serve her community, will inspire us to get involved in voting rights. Then a panel of local organization leaders from the League of Women Voters, NAACP, and others will share their plans for voter education and ask for your involvement in this work.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8230339723301849104>

Both Webinars are free and open to the public. Make reservations for one or both on LWV Facebook page-- to register <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersBeloit/> or register directly at the above links.

**These programs are possible thanks to generous grants from the Women's Fund, Stateline Community Foundation and the League of Women Voters.

Organizations on the local Centennial planning committee include - League of Women

**

Visit the display at the Beloit Public Library

LWV Beloit asked the Beloit Public Library to host a new popup exhibition from the National Archives, Rightfully Hers, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Rightfully Hers contains simple messages exploring the history of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women's voting rights before and after the 19th, and its impact today.

Despite decades of marches, petitions, and public debate to enshrine a woman's right to vote in the constitution, the 19th Amendment – while an enormous milestone – did not grant voting rights for all. The challenges of its passage reverberate to the ongoing fight for gender equity today.



Local Education Study Continues it's Work

The League Local Education Study will conclude its work by October 22, when the member consensus occurs. The Zoom invite will be sent out closer to the date.

On Friday, September 4, at 1:00 p.m., Mitch Briesemeister, Director Of Career, Technical & Alternative Education, will speak on what the School District of Beloit provides on Career Education to its students. If you would like to hear the program, please email Gregg Schneider, schneider.gregg@gmail.com to receive an invite.

In this newsletter the "Alternative Education" and the "Budget Process" positions will be

Alternative Education

The LWV of Beloit supports:

- the commitment by the school district to alternative education.
- an organized, sequential, ongoing, comprehensive plan to provide a variety of alternative methods to educate students at all grade levels who are not achieving their full potential in the traditionally structured classroom.
 - comprehensive alternative education plans would not include state-mandated special educational programs
- identification of student needs as criteria for setting up long- and short-range funding priorities within a comprehensive alternative educational plan.
- seeking a variety of sources to finance alternative education programs including community resources, the local tax levy, available grant funds, and state and federal aid.
- the involvement of teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community representatives on an individual basis to determine appropriate support services needed.
- a system of selecting participants for alternative education programs which includes:
 1. use of established criteria to identify student needs,
 2. referral by teachers, counselors, or administrators,
 3. student application.

The LWV of Beloit supports:

- the following for students who have been “placed” in alternative education:
 - ensuring due process is followed during the placement process.
 - specific educational/support goals are developed and implemented.
 - specific criteria for returning to their home school be established at time of “placement” and evaluated at regular intervals.
 - when criteria are met, the placement program will begin the process for re-admittance to the home school or other designated alternative education.

The LWV of Beloit supports:

- Students with Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or 504 plans having equal access to all alternative educational settings.

The LWV of Beloit supports:

- policies which allow the school system to respond to constantly disruptive students, not through punitive measures, such as suspension or expulsion, but through positive interventions, including short-term alternative settings.
- putting a priority on prevention programs at the transitions between elementary and intermediate schools and intermediate and high schools, which appear to put students at greatest risk.
- programs in elementary schools that are targeted primarily for high-risk students and recommends that these and other programs can be expanded as excellent preventative tools.

The LWV of Beloit supports preventive services and positive interventions which take into consideration possibilities of limited funding, such as the following:

- Development of instrumentality* charter schools to meet the diverse and particular needs of students.
- A truancy abatement program in cooperation with Juvenile Probation and the local Police Department.
- Placement of suspended children into community service projects.
- Increased involvement of other community businesses, agencies and resources to create and fund programming.

The LWV of Beloit does not support:

- voucher schools,
- independent non-instrumentality non-district* authorized charter schools, and
- Any educational institution that draws funds away from public school districts.

(2020 – Carr, Harrell, Lamont, Metter, M. Miller, G. Schneider, Seguin, Wiersgalla)

(2002 – Boutelle, Fossum, Henderson, Hotchkiss, Kades, Schneider, Thompson)

(1982 – Driggins, Mueller, McNamee, Seguin, Schoenfield, Hotchkiss)

*Definitions:

Instrumentality charter schools: are run by public-school district employees and follow district guidelines and charter bylaws; the elected school board governs.

Non-instrumentality charter schools may or may not be public school sponsored:

- Non-district authorized, non-instrumentality charter school: governing board of charter makes decisions, independently run

Budget Process

- a truly balanced budget formed equitably through open and free communication and responsive to the needs of students, teachers and staff.
- citizen participation in the budget process.
- maintaining provisions within the budget which would allow the average person to understand the budget.
- a budget that is developed and maintained according to the Wisconsin state statutes and guidelines.

(2020 – Carr, Harrell, Lamont, Metter, M. Miller, G. Schneider, Seguin, Wiersgalla)

(2002 - revised: Boutelle, Henderson, Kades, Schneider)

(1989 - revised) (1977 - Henderson, Hansen, Page)



Voter Service

DEADLINES for November 3, 2020 Election

Go to myvote.wi.gov and put in your information--you can find deadlines, polling places, request an absentee ballot, and check on your absentee ballot's return.

Committee Projects

Signs Available Re: Absentee Voting:

Beautiful absentee voting yard signs can be picked up on Pat Zody's porch (no cost) at 709 Harrison Ave. Please let Pat know when you'd like to pick it up, and she will have it on the porch. Pat can also have a sign delivered to a member's home. We will let the member know ahead of time when the sign will be delivered. (patzody@gmail.com)

High School Voter Program

The Beloit Voter Services committee has adapted a High School Voter Program created by LWV-Milwaukee County to be used by Beloit's high school and college students in the fall. Many thanks to Leah Ann Tidey and LWV-Milwaukee County for sharing their work. The program will be offered as a virtual resource to engage high schoolers who may be new or

that may be useful to voters of any age on topics such as why youth voter turnout is so low, how to register, and information needed for voting. You can view it here: [High School Voter Program](#)

Social Media

We want to hear from you! On Social Media we have been sharing reasons to vote and would love to hear why you vote! You can visit our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersBeloit/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/lwvbeloit>), or if you don't have social media yourself but want to share why you vote, you can email your reason for voting to dslwv2020@gmail.com.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion News

Eloisa Gomez, our speaker at the Beloit hosted Susan B. Anthony lunch in 2019 was featured on the NPR Radio WHYsconsin program in July about Latinx voters. You can listen at this link <https://www.wpr.org/whysconsin-who-are-wisconsin-latin-american-voters>

If anyone wants to delve into the DEI topic, you can still go into the on-line training program at <https://communities.nonprofitleadershipalliance.org/leaguewomenvoters/home>. Our link is my email, adams.sue.e@gmail.com and the password is BeloitLWV2020. There are also many good resources on the LWV US website. I think it may only be open for a few more weeks.

Volunteers are Needed

- Volunteers needed to help stuff absentee ballots at Beloit City Hall in early September. If you would like to help, please email Susan Adams at adams.sue.e@gmail.com.
- We are signed up for the National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020. In the past, we have conducted in-person voter service at multiple areas in the community. This year we are in a completely different situation with COVID-19. Before we start thinking about safe and secure areas to hold in-person voter service on September 22, please let us know if you would feel comfortable doing so. Please do not feel obligated in any way to conduct in-person voter service. We are just trying to find out if in-person voter service is feasible through our league this fall. Email Pat Zody, patzody@gmail.com

Legislative Candidate Forum

The Legislative Candidate Forums for Wisconsin Districts 31, and 45 have been scheduled

nonpartisan forum are the Beloit League, the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP-Beloit, and the Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action. Be watching for that link next month.

Voter Experience Survey through the LWVWI

LWVWI created a voter experience survey both in English and Spanish for the August 11, 2020 election where voters were able to report issues they experienced while voting. The information collected will help guide our work to improve future elections. Please fill out the form, spread the work, and encourage your family and friends to fill it out. The LWVWI would like to hear from as many voters as possible.

Survey in English

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/article/august-2020-primary-election-voter-experience-survey>

Survey in Spanish

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/article/encuesta-de-la-lwvwi-sobre-la-experiencia-del-votante-tras-las-elecciones-de-agosto>

Voter Helpline (608-285-2141)

Please see the information below about the Voter Helpline on the state level. Pat Zody will be the contact person for issues related specifically to the Beloit area. Members of the voter service committee will help out with questions or serving as a witness for an absentee ballot when a voter is staying in due to COVID. Also, don't hesitate to share the Voter Helpline phone number with anyone having trouble registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, where to vote, etc.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, through its partner organization, the Dane County Voter ID Coalition, maintains a Voter Helpline (608-285-2141) that voters throughout the state can call for assistance with voting questions. Dane County volunteers are able to answer most questions to the Helpline. But sometimes local experts are needed to provide information unique to a community or to provide direct assistance, for example serving as a witness for an absentee ballot when a voter is staying in due to COVID. The Helpline's statewide network currently has 17 local experts covering 25 counties and communities, and continues to grow with the participation of local League of Women Voters and ACLU chapters, other grassroots groups and civic-minded individuals.



Environmental/Sustainability Group News

The Local League Environmental Committee decided take a break from meeting until after the election because voter services takes precedence. The group will meet again sometime in November to plan the speakers for the winter/spring.

We will continue to submit an article about climate change or an environmental issue in each monthly newsletter, so we don't lose the environment/climate change as an emphasis. If anyone would like to submit something, let us know and send it to Bette Carr. There will be more about the Governor's Task Force once they have written their report. There were very good presentations on what some cities are doing with regard to sustainability, and on topics of agriculture, transportation, and clean energy. You can still access the link: <https://climatechange.wi.gov/Pages/MeetingPublicHearingMaterial.aspx>

There is a presentation on energy by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, founded in 1990 which can be found here:

<https://climatechange.wi.gov/Documents/Listening%20Sessions/5/GFTCC%20-%20Midwest%20Renewable%20Energy%20Association.pdf>

One slide shows the jobs in the various forms of energy generation. Solar energy has the most jobs (3,798 compared to coal of 2,219).

They have 3,000 members, consisting of training institutions, builders, users, and installers, etc. A total of 8,400 have attended their solar power hour presentations, and 1,500 properties have gone solar. If you are considering going solar, you can get more information on their website, <https://www.midwestrenew.org/>.

Alliant Energy has some basic information on their website at

excess back to Alliant for 3 cents per kilowatt. The cost is 11 cents for the energy.



How to Watch Rock County Board of Supervisors's Meetings on YouTube

A small silver lining to the pandemic, has been that Rock County Board of Supervisors meetings are now finally able to be viewed remotely on YouTube. All one has to do is look for a channel on YouTube called: "[Rock County Public Meetings](#)". Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month beginning at 6 pm. There is a question to be raised regarding how long this will last or what will happen once meetings are resumed to being held face to face. It appears at this time that if things will proceed as they are, the board will be utilizing Zoom platform for the foreseeable future.

There is no enthusiasm within the board to begin meeting in person until at least the end of the year, and then probably only beginning in the spring or summer. Even then, until there is an effective way of treating the current pandemic, it is hard to see the Board abandoning a familiar and convenient platform. This will no doubt require certain adjustments to make for a smooth transition and some kind of hybrid meetings, allowing Supervisors at home and at the courthouse, to participate in meetings equally. If the county continues to plan for this, (the sound system has just been updated, yet our ability and commitment to streaming video from the meeting room itself remains unclear) all meetings from now on will be viewable online. That is good, if nothing else, because the public won't rely on a supervisor using a phone to stream meetings on Facebook, and can clearly see and hear what public officials are seeing and hearing. Once again, thanks to everyone who tunes in to check out the going-ons of the Board of Supervisors. Transparency in our government is paramount to the success of our democracy.

Yuri Rashkin, LWV member, Rock County Board Supervisor, district #15, provided this information.



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