

January 13, 2025

ChapterSpot - New Dues Collection for First Time and Renewing Members to Begin in February

LWVUS is instituting a new structure for the collection of dues which will begin in February of 2025. Here is some information from the LWVUS League Management website to help you understand what will take place.

First, “ChapterSpot, the new League membership platform, will provide a centralized portal where any person can join the League or renew their membership, regardless of which League they are joining. This will improve the member experience by making the joining process consistent across Leagues and will allow new members to join their local League from LWV.org.” (LWVUS website)

BACKGROUND (This information was also provided by the LWVUS League Management website.)

“LWVUS has announced that, starting in [February] 2025, all local LWV Leagues will be required to cease setting and collecting their own dues locally, and will, instead, participate in a national Membership Management system. The system [has been developed] for LWVUS by ChapterSpot. This is in keeping with the Structure Transformation Plan of 2022.

“In the new system, dues are set as follows:

- ‘Pay what you can’: Any individual may join the League for one year by paying any amount equal to or greater than \$20.
- The suggested amount will be \$75.
- Member Types:
 - There is no longer a Household/[Additional] membership type - only Individual Member.
 - There is no longer a Student Member type. Like any other member, they must pay at least \$20, unless the local League subsidizes them out of their local League budget
 - Persons who have been members for 50 years are Life Members and will continue to have their member dues waived.
- Auto-Renew: Members will be encouraged to register their financial information to sign up for automatic renewal.
- [Members will renew in the same month each year – the month you paid dues for 2024-2025.] Notices for dues payment will be emailed 60 days in advance then again 30 days in advance and on due date. There will be a grace period of 60 days before a member is made inactive. [Local Leagues will still have to follow up to try to collect dues from members who don’t act promptly.]

“The PMP (Per-Member Payment) system will be...abolished [for local Leagues like LWVLC]...

“Instead, dues income for National, State, and Local Leagues will be shared as a percentage, calculated as follows: After financial fees (such as credit card processing), LWVUS-33%, state LWV-47%, local LWV-20%. A chart of sample dues is available on the ChapterSpot Resources page. [Because of loss of income resulting from credit card fees, members will be encouraged to use direct draws from a bank account/EFT (electronic fund transfer). It is like writing a check without the paper.]

“ChapterSpot is the company selected to create the new membership system. Their selection was announced in October 2023. Beta testing [was conducted during the] the fall of 2024. Training for local League leadership [occurred] after the November 2024 election. [Recordings of those trainings are available on the LWVUS League Management website under ChapterSpot Resources.]

“It has been announced that every local League is expected to launch on this new system on February 1, 2025. The February 1, 2025 cutover date has been chosen so that the traditional annual January 31 PMP cutoff can be used for 2024 PMP payments to LWVUS and State Leagues. Rolling renewals have been chosen from then forward to do away with the issue of prorated dues.”

From Local League Planning Guidance, p. 6, created by LWV of Cupertino/Sunnyvale
This paper was written by Marilyn Sherry, LWVCS. Edited by LWVUS. Last revised 9/10/24 – with updates in brackets by Nancy Duck for the January 2025 Leelanau Voter 1/11/2025

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- Remember under ChapterSpot, Leagues will have rolling renewals. Each member will enter their own information and pay dues directly to LWVUS through ChapterSpot. They will pay in the same month as they joined or last paid dues. This should help with confusion about whether one owes dues or not. Members will receive an email notifying them that dues are due in 60 days, again at 30 days and the date of renewal. There is a 60 day grace period.
- When members first log in to the LWV website to pay dues, they will be asked to fill in or verify their contact information and to answer some basic questions that give LWVUS helpful information as they seek grants. This information remains anonymous.
- For members who have had a Household membership, one member may pay two dues. Each will pay the same amount for dues. (All memberships are equal.)
- Members will be able to make an additional donation to their local League when they pay their dues through ChapterSpot. At this time this is the only opportunity for making a donation when one pays dues.
- There will be a way for members to pay dues by check and to have someone else fill out their information if they do not have access to a computer.
- Each member will need a valid email address in order to have the dues reminders sent.
- ChapterSpot will have a place for local Leagues to store their Bylaws, minutes, newsletters, etc.
- Only those in leadership positions will have access to roster.
- Stripe is the company that is actually processing dues collection. LWVLC has a Stripe account as required by January 31, 2025. (LWVLC will be able to accept donations through PayPal on LWVLC's website as before.)
- Soon LWVLC's website will have a link to ChapterSpot, but it is not available yet.

Details about ChapterSpot and the transition are available on the League Management website (button at bottom of home page for LWVUS <https://www.lwv.org/>) under ChapterSpot Resources. The League Management website is for LWV members only and should never be shared with non-members.