

## VOTER

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## July 2024

### *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

A welcome to our new and returning members of the Board as we begin our new fiscal year in July. Following the board election at the May annual meeting, Linda Meloy had to step down from the treasurer position. In accordance with the bylaws, the board elected Helen Dailey to the Treasurer position to fill the vacancy. In addition, the board has appointed Sami DeRagon to a one-year term, as a student member of the board. Sami is a Political Science Ph.D. student at the University of Iowa entering her third year in the program. And I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to offer a huge thank you to Paula Vaughan, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Hazel Seaba, Kathleen Kamerick, and Shannon Patrick for their two years (or more) they served on the board!

Save the date/mark your calendars for our annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. We are hoping to get a speaker on the Electoral College. This event, which includes social time, food and a speaker, is complimentary to all members and their guests. It is our membership drive, so bring a guest or two you think might be interested in joining us. Attendance in no way obligates them to join, and it might give them a better idea of what we do. I hope to see many of you at this event. More information will be sent out as the details are finalized.

A reminder to all members that annual dues are due at the end of June. You can renew online through the website ([www.lwvjc.org](http://www.lwvjc.org) under the Join/Renew tab), or send a check to LWVJC, P.O. Box 5452, Coralville, IA 52241. Thank you to those members that have already renewed! And, if you have not already done so, check out our new website at [www.lwvjc.org](http://www.lwvjc.org).

As I am writing this, I am reminded that this is the two-year anniversary of the Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade. And we may well have a decision from the Iowa Supreme Court on Iowa's proposed six-week abortion ban this week. It is still hard to understand how rights we thought were secured long ago have been taken away. I am proud to be part of an organization that continues to advocate for individual's reproductive rights. The work continues. Join us.

Vicki Aden  
*President*

The Voter is issued the last Friday of the month to provide members advance notice of activities. **The August Voter deadline is July 21.**



## MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership is 169 active members. We welcome the following new members: Kelley Donham and Maurine Braddock. We certainly look forward to meeting you and working with you on future league projects. There are many opportunities to become involved with the League.

To all members, veteran and new, please consider attending our Casual Coffees on the second Wednesday of each month. It's a good way to get to enjoy a coffee and get to know other League members. The time is 10 a.m. at Poindexter Coffee in the Graduate Hotel.

It's that time of the year to make certain you have renewed your membership. A member renewal reminder was emailed mid-June. The annual renewal date is June 30. The dues are \$70 for an individual membership and \$105 for a household membership. Renewal is easy, either by sending a check to League of Women Voters Johnson Co, PO Box 5452, Coralville, IA or online at <https://my.lwv.org/iowa/johnson-county/join>. Your prompt attention to renewing your membership is very much appreciated! We certainly thank all of you who have already renewed your membership.

Mark your calendars and please plan to attend our September 5 Member Reception and New Member Drive to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society church in Coralville. Consider bringing a friend as a guest. This is a good opportunity to learn what the league does, meet members and enjoy a light meal. We hope to have a speaker who will address the topic of the Electoral College. Hope to see you there!

Diane Duncan-Goldsmith  
*Membership Chair*



A table was setup on at the Iowa City High School graduation rehearsal. Four voter registrations were collected. This event reminded the graduates that they need to vote.

We had wonderful weather in June for both the Art Festival and Pride Festival. The Arts Festival was a great success. We gathered 31 voter registrations June 7 – 8 at this Summer of the Arts event. At the Pride Festival we had a total of 18 registrations. Our support for diversity was shown by walking in the parade.

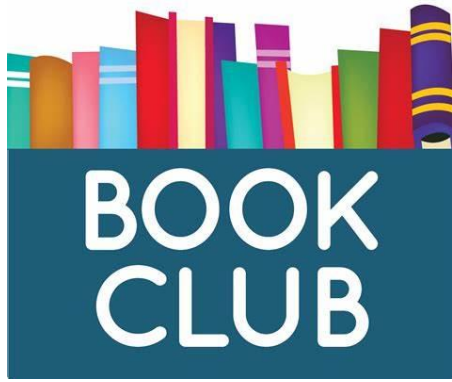
Listen to great music and watch fireworks during Jazz Fest July 5- 6. This voter registration should be a fun event to attend. You can still sign-up to help at this link: [JazzFest SignUp](#)

Coming events in September include the Naturalization Ceremony at the Hoover Library in September. This is a great way to share in the pride that new citizens have. National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 19. On Wednesday, September 25 we will be doing voter registration before and after the movie *The Scale of Hope* being shown as part of Iowa City's Climate Fest, at FilmScene 7 - 8 p.m.

If you have any questions about registering voters, email me at [jenniferplwv@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferplwv@gmail.com). You are welcome to join our dynamic team. No experience required - we will train you. Time commitment starts at only two hours during an event you choose.

Jennifer Patel  
*Voter Registration Coordinator*





### Carrie Chapman Catt Book Club

We held an informational meeting on June 12 to gauge interest and offer members the opportunity to offer input on how we might conduct our book group. It was decided that we'd meet on the third Monday of the month beginning in September. We will meet in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May for this first year. The first meeting will be Monday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Coralville Public Library. Our first book will be *Minority Rule: The Right Wing Attack on the Will of the People* by Ari Berman.

A list of books was generated by those attending the meeting. At the September meeting we will select books from that list for each month. Having a schedule will enable people to come for the discussion on books that most interest them or come every month. A member will be identified to guide the conversation on each book. All books will help to inform members on topics related to the League policy priorities. Most books will be non-fiction, but we may at times pair a fiction and non-fiction based on the same topic.

If you were unable to attend the informational meeting but want to be on our mailing list, please contact one of us by email. Or just show up on September 16!

Deanne Mirr ([dmirr@me.com](mailto:dmirr@me.com))  
Jeanne Bancroft ([jnn.bancroft@gmail.com](mailto:jnn.bancroft@gmail.com))



### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

If you missed the screenings of *Kiss the Ground* (September 19, 2023) and *Common Ground* (June 18, 2024), both of these documentaries are available on You Tube at the links below. LWVJC cosponsored the free screenings at the Iowa City Public Library on those dates. These films explain the principles and practices of regenerative agriculture and unpack the looming consequences of our current food production system.

- [Link to Kiss the Ground](#)
- [Link to Common Ground](#)

Our next event is September 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Iowa Public Library on *The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's It All About?* More information will be available in the future.

Rebecca Conard  
*Education Committee Chair*



### UMRR-ILO

We really had a fun party in Dubuque for the Mississippi River Network, Mississippi River Celebration Day on June 9 in Dubuque at the Smokestack. This was a joint event with the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, celebrating their 100th year Anniversary, which they had already organized. One special perk was having Iowa District 72 State Representative, Chuck Isenhart, introduce the bands.

Also at the event was Dean Klinkenberg, MRN Advocacy committee member. He is the author of

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*Mississippi River Mayhem*, which explores the many disastrous events that have occurred on and along the Mississippi River. For over a decade, he traveled the area after he left the life of an academic psychologist.

Also at the event was Christine Curry, the Iowa artist who designed the MRN grant pop art, expressing the definition of the Mississippi River through art. I do hope you all can meet her. One opportunity is in Davenport on Friday, July 12, at Nahant Marsh. Contact me directly if you're interested. Art and artist will be there.

Steve Marking, writer and creator of the film *A Visit from Will Dilg*, (introduced at our Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization Annual Meeting) was also there. Because his video is being produced professionally, this is one informational piece not available on the UMRR web site, but you can read about Steve and view a trailer here: [Link to Steve Marking info and film trailer](#)

Mary Ellen Miller, our illustrious and fearless leader of UMRR ILO, was at the event after starting her day at the Wildlife Refuge. We are so fortunate to have her expertise and willingness to share.

We've added quite a few people to the UMRR Executive Board, including the state of Missouri representatives. Every state may have three representatives. We are now a five state Interleague Organization. My highlight was sharing the map of the contiguous states of the US and displaying the watershed/basin of the Mississippi River through folding the map from the Rocky to the Allegheny Mountains.

Less than 20% of Iowans interviewed by the University of Missouri in a research project even

knew Iowa was a watershed for the Mississippi River. We need to change that statistic!! LWV can educate!

Thanks to the LWVJC Education Committee for cosponsoring the film *Common Ground*, we can talk about Regenerative Soil and the needs of Iowa because of drastic weather changes. This includes soil runoff from flooding.

Good news: The rivers and nature were able to take care of the pollution caused by the fertilizer spill into the Nishnabotna River before it reached the Mississippi River. The bad news is the fish, plants and microbes in Iowa and Missouri are gone forever and the Nishnabotna River will take a long time to heal.

Nancy Porter  
*MRN representative, UMRR ILO, Exec Bd*



**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

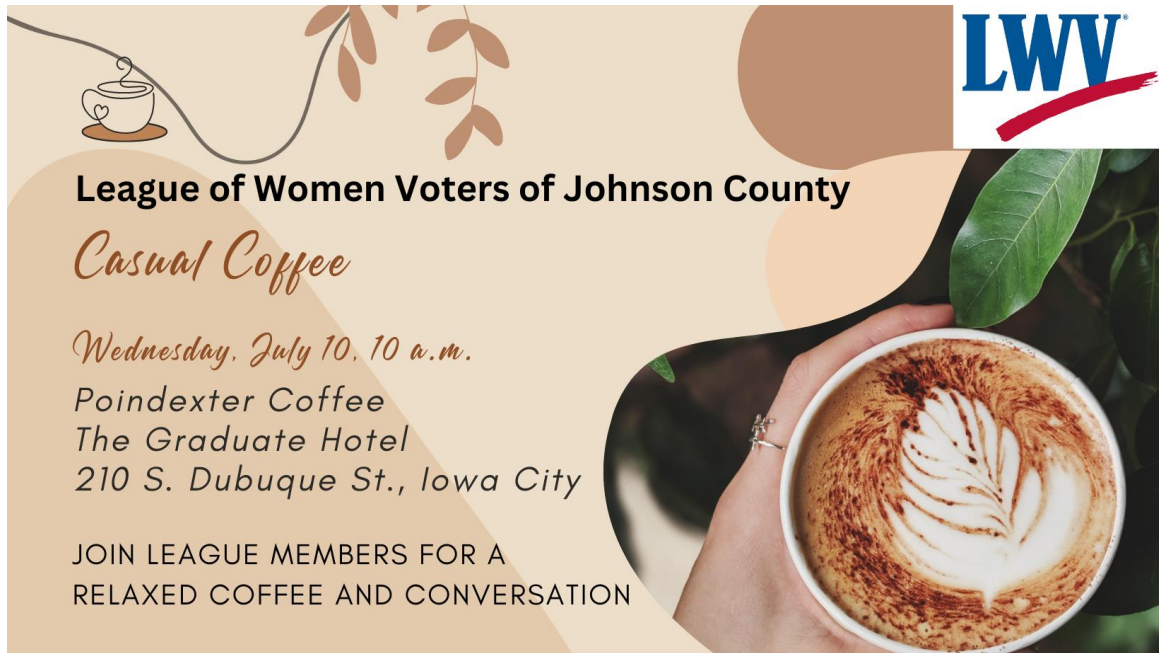


**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Fall Reception &  
Membership Drive*

**Thursday, September 5, 2024**  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Unitarian Universalist Society  
2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville



**LWV**

**League of Women Voters of Johnson County**

*Casual Coffee*

*Wednesday, July 10, 10 a.m.*

*Poindexter Coffee  
The Graduate Hotel  
210 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City*

JOIN LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A  
RELAXED COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

★ VOTING

Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted. Adopt automatic voter registration. Enact ranked choice voting. Pass a constitutional amendment allowing Iowans with felony convictions to vote after time served.

🏛️ TRANSPARENCY & CITIZENSHIP

Demand government accountability and transparency by requiring all amendments and bills discussed in committee to be available to the public prior to a vote. Demand timely processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Encourage direct citizen participation by continuing virtual committee and subcommittee meetings. Preserve gender balance requirements for state boards and commissions.

🎓 EDUCATION

Increase oversight and track public funds being used for non-public schools. Require any non-public school receiving public funds to meet the same standards as public schools. Fully fund public schools. Continue to expand access to affordable childcare and four-year-old preschool.

👩‍⚕️ REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Guarantee access to the full range of women's reproductive health services. Make contraception available without prescription. Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive and accessible. Support new moms with 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage. Set policies that attract maternal health professionals and address the state's OB/GYN deserts.

👤 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Prevent human trafficking in all of its forms, support its victims, and enact "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect human trafficking survivors from criminal prosecution.

💧 ENVIRONMENT

Increase funding for environment and water quality initiatives, including REAP, and develop state climate change strategies.

🔫 GUN SAFETY

Enact comprehensive common sense gun safety legislation to address increasing gun violence in the state. Enact background checks on all gun sales, close gun show loopholes, require gun safety locks, repeal "stand your ground" law, and resist efforts that expand carrying in public spaces and schools.



# Photo Gallery



Above: On June 8, LWVJC marched in the Pride Parade in Iowa City. Pictured, left to right, are Mary Timmer, League member Ann Satterly, League member Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Bea Kaskie, Katya Moeller, Samantha Glass, and Posey Stoeffler.

Below Left: Pictured, left to right, are League members Jennifer Patel and Barb Henke, and Bea Kaskie at the voter registration booth at the Pride Festival on June 8. Bea has been volunteering with our voter registration team over the summer to help register voters. She is a Liberty high school graduate and is home for the summer from the University of Michigan. Below Right: Jennifer and Bea are joined by Miriam Timmer-Hackert.



Below: Pictured, left to right, are League member Cathy Eisenhofer, Iowa artist Christine Curry, League member Nancy Porter, and UMRR Chair Mary Ellen Miller celebrating at the Smokestack in Dubuque in front of a mock-up of Christine's artwork, at the June 9 Mississippi River celebration. To the right is a close-up of Christine's art.



Left: League members Cathy Eisenhofer and Nancy Porter, UMRR Chair Mary Ellen Miller, Iowa artist Christine Curry, Mike Delaney from the Isaac Walton League and his wife Dell at the Mississippi River Celebration June 9. Below: District 72 State Representative Chuck Isenhart introduces one of the bands that played for the Wildlife Refuge Mississippi River celebration.





**Below: At the LWV of Iowa Council in Grinnell on June 8, LWVIA Co-President Terese Grant (left) stands with Keynote Speaker Charity Nebbe, host of "Talk of Iowa" on Iowa Public Radio. The focus of her address was "Amplifying Voices and Deepening Democracy." LWVJC was well represented at Council with Nancy Porter, Vicki Aden, Cathy Eisenhofer, Shannon Patrick (LWVIA Treasurer) and Polly Horton (LWVIA Board Member) attending.**



**Below: A little more fun from the Pride Festival – League member Miriam Timmer-Hackert in full suffragette attire is joined by Iowa City mayor Bruce Teague.**



## Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Location	Program
June 27 - 30		Washington DC + virtual	2024 LWVUS National Convention
July 5 - 6		Iowa City Jazz Festival	Voter Registration
Wednesday, July 10	10 am	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Wednesday, August 14	10 am	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Thursday, September 5	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Unitarian Universalist Society, 2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville	Annual Fall Reception and Membership Drive
Wednesday, September 11	10 am	Poindexter Coffee, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City	Casual Coffee
Tuesday, September 17	9 am – 2 pm	National Voter Registration Day, Kirkwood College	Voter Registration
Friday, September 20	1:30 pm	Naturalization Ceremony, Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch	Voter Registration
Wednesday, September 25	6:30 – 8 pm	Iowa City Public Library	<i>The \$30 Million Conservation Bond: What's It All About?</i> , Pat Heiden, Josh Schamberger, Brad Friedhof
Wednesday, September 25	7 – 8 pm	FilmScene	Voter Registration at Climate Fest screening of <i>The Scale of Hope</i>
Thursday, October 24	6:30 pm	Iowa City Public Library	<i>The Hero You Don't Know: Hubert Humphrey and the Long Struggle for Civil Rights</i> , Samuel G. Freedman, Norman Sherman

### League of Women Voters of Johnson County

**OUR MISSION:** *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

**OUR VISION:** We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

**OUR VALUE:** We believe in the power of women and men to create a more perfect democracy.