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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

July 1 4:30 p.m.

[Local Centennial Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 863 1326 3917

Password: 950291

July 1 5:30 p.m.

[Book Study - Cooler, Smarter Meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 830 7122 3324

Password: 233112

July 6 2:00 p.m.

[Education Study Committee Guest Speaker: Chief Zibolski, "Student Resource Officer Program Data" via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 871 3864 6087

Password: 644562

July 13 4:30 p.m.

[League Board Meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 100 717 842

Password: 168516



Local League 19th Amendment Celebration

The LWV Beloit and several organizations were planning a delightful afternoon gala to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. Unfortunately, the committee does not feel that we can safely produce an in-person celebration in August 2020, so we have abandoned the planning of the August 22 event. However, we are continuing to look at other ways to mark this historic landmark and will give more details in future newsletters.

We Must Remember...

We celebrate August 26, 2020 National Women's Equality Day and the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. Though a monumental achievement, fought for by many people over numerous years, the 19th Amendment did not guarantee this right to **ALL** women.

Japanese, Asian, Indian, Chinese American, Filipino and Native American women were not eligible to become naturalized and would not benefit. Many African-American women and men, especially in the American South, were denied suffrage for decades through state Jim Crow laws, which enforced segregation and imposed poll taxes, fees and literacy tests as prerequisites for voting which were discriminatory and unconstitutional requirements. Women of color faced discrimination and racism at the polls until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Black suffragists fought for their rights as both women and African Americans. There were racial divides within the suffrage movement, where whites excluded women of color

back.

We can celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, but let's not rest on our laurels. We need to pay attention to what is happening now and recognize and learn from the injustices that have happened in the past. There is work to be done to remove barriers to voting that continue to be erected nationwide to disenfranchise people based on their socioeconomic status - notably people of color, students and people with disabilities.



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

DEI Leaderosity Grant/Course: This informative course has three modules, with each about five hours long. They compiled many great resources, but with a slant toward non-profit boards, not for volunteer organizations such as ours. After June 30, we cannot access the course, so I am trying to spend time copying the best things myself for distribution later. This particular 4 minute video from the African American Policy Forum is so good – it says so much. Please watch it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBb5TgOXgNY&feature=youtu.be&list=UU1v-P-40Uj0LE2CgcVrEYUA>

Below is the letter I wrote to the Beloit Daily News (never published) in support of Dorothy Harrell's June 15 editorial. It outlines what we want to do next with the \$500 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grant we received.

We support the editorial written by Dorothy Harrell, President of the Beloit NAACP and a League of Women Voters member. The LWV is a non-partisan organization working to uphold democracy and voting rights. George Floyd is one in a list of far too many Black lives extinguished by police brutality. We deplore such violence and stand with the peaceful protesters locally and across the nation.

As the National CEO of LWV, Virginia Kase, stated “Speaking out is an important first step, but this moment requires more than words – it requires us to change.” She stated we must remain “dedicated to work focused on dismantling racism within our electoral system: People Powered Fair Maps, voting rights restoration for formerly incarcerated people, combating unfair voter purging, fighting voter ID laws and polling place closures.”

Our local League was recently awarded one of 50 national LWV Diversity, Equity and Inclusion grants for \$500 to work with the local NAACP, Janesville LWV and other groups at a workshop to join together to develop a plan to work on common goals, particularly to strengthen voter rights. As a result of this workshop, we will educate citizens about their voting rights, so they can become more involved in this effort and hold government accountable. As the last April primary demonstrated, Wisconsin was not perfect in voting process, particularly with the absentee process, and we must work vigilantly together. We welcome your participation.

Susan E. Adams, Ph.D

President, Beloit League of Women Voters



Education Study Committee Invites Speaker

The Education Study Committee continues to research and review the Beloit League's Education Position Statements. The committee is hoping to have a membership consensus meeting in the fall of all of the positions that have been reviewed with suggestions for changes and updates. For the next few newsletters the committee will present to you information about the position and changes that are being considered as part of the study.

This month, we will look at the Police Liaison position statement and share some information with you for consideration. We will also be hosting Beloit Police Chief Zibolski who will share data and information on the current and past School Resource Officer Program. That meeting will be held on **Monday, July 6th at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Please see the Zoom invite in the Calendar above. All members are invited to join and other interested persons.

The committee has reviewed [articles](#) on School Resource Officers, the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction guidance](#), and interviewed surrounding school districts. Please look at the old position statement from [2002](#), and what will be suggested for discussion in the fall:

The LWV of Beloit supports:

- maintaining the School Resource Officer Program at the intermediary and secondary school levels in the local public-school districts.

program.

- sharing equitably financial support with the municipalities and area public schools.
- creating a positive learning environment through the use of the School Resource Officer Program.
- ensuring that the rights of students are protected through the School Resource Officer Program.
- providing redirection, guidance, and engagement in educational and relationship-building activities through the School Resource Officer Program. *
- distinguishing between disciplinary misconduct, which is typically handled by teachers and school administrators, and illegal conduct, which may be handled by law enforcement, through the School Resource Officer Program. *

* School Resource Officer Program/ Best Practices -Department of Public Instruction

(2020 – Carr, Harrell, Lamont, Metter, Schneider, Seguin, Wiersgalla)

(2002 - Boutelle, Henderson, Kades, Schneider)

New Members are Always Welcome

Interested in becoming a member of the League of Women Voters of Beloit?? Please go to the following website and complete the [membership form](#).



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