

IN LEAGUE



*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed, **diverse**, and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT

June 2020

Upcoming League and Community Events:

Thursday, June 18, 3:30 p.m. Local Education Study Committee

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87069477040?pwd=QmlQMlR2Y5QWtrZnB1UT09>

Meeting ID: 870 6947 7040

Password: 647127

Friday, June 19, 1:30 p.m. Local Centennial Committee

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81735975635?pwd=Y1hBbWpiZzJXNVZzNHBUbDFXamVUUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 3597 5635

Password: 246338

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m. Book Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87045273574?pwd=ZzB5YmhZQUREbzlxREU2eVlFbTFiQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 4527 3574

Password: 649054

LWV Leadership Team/Board Meetings (members are always welcome; please call us ahead of time)

July 13, 4:30-6:30 p.m. via Zoom

August 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m. via Zoom

BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Adams, Anne Bua-Demus, Betsy Brewer, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Dave Dobson, Sam Erickson, Gayle Hotchkiss, Joyce Metter, Barb Porter, Dorothy Scavera, Pat Zody

Volunteers Needed for Virtual Voter Service

Due to the COVID-19, the Voter Service committee is taking on new approaches to voter registration, elections, and civic duties. Please let us know if you are interested in collaborating with any of the following projects: Facebook, Twitter, virtual voter registration for high school and college students, and community groups and organizations throughout Beloit.

As soon as we hear from you, we will put you in contact with the members in charge of these projects.

Voter Service Co-chairs

Joyce Metter - jdmetter23@gmail.com

Pat Zody - patzody@gmail.com



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)

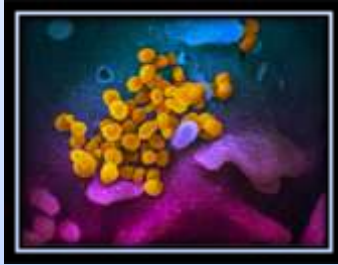
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Check out our

Beloit League of Women Voters web site: www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org

Challenging Times



Due to national and state circumstances and the well-being of our members, our League meetings for the summer will be held electronically by Zoom. Zoom is an electronic platform that allows all participants to see each other and hear each other. We realize that many businesses and families are beginning to feel more comfortable having face to face encounters and we are hopeful we will be able to hold meetings that way as well. Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time. Stay safe!!

From the LWWUS:

Virginia Kase, CEO

I'm sure you have watched the events of the last week with as much sadness as I have. Black people across this country continue to be the target of police violence. It is not enough to stand in solidarity with the Black community. We must take action to deconstruct systemic racism everywhere. We honor George Floyd's life by committing to deepening our anti-racism work throughout the League.

Today LWWUS issued the following statement which you can [read online here](#).

The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America's pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that

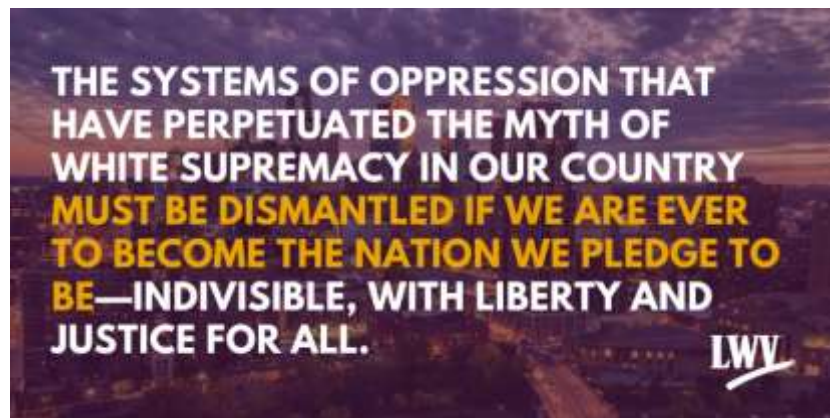
have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be—indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government.

We join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family, and his community.

Finally, we echo the call of our partners at the NAACP: we must all vote in November – the road to change lies at the ballot box.



We commend the Minnesota, Minneapolis, and St. Paul Leagues for their leadership in their communities at this trying time and the national office stands with you. You can read the Minnesota League statement [here](#). In these trying times, the League's commitment to democracy requires us to speak out against racism and violence. I hope you will join me in this commitment by doing the work required of us to be an anti-racist organization.

Working with Others on Voting Rights -- DEI GRANT -

~ Susan Adams, President LWV of Beloit

The Beloit League received one of the 50 national Diversity, Equity and Inclusion grants for \$500. Three other Wisconsin leagues also received grants. The initial process is completing a mandatory on-line DEI training program run by *Leadersity*. I need to complete it by June 15, and we have until June 30 to use the materials. The website is <https://communities.nonprofitleadershipalliance.org/leaguewomenvoters/home> and the log-in is my email (adams.sue.e@gmail.com) and the password is BeloitLWV2020.

A lot of the material is geared for non-profits with paid leaders and employees, but much of the material is helpful. For example *How Diversity Can Drive Innovation* - <https://hbr.org/2013/12/how-diversity-can-drive-innovation>. Another was "*So you don't think race, equity, diversity, and inclusion are relevant to your mission*" <https://nonprofitaf.com/2019/03/so-you-dont-think-race-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-are-relevant-to-your-mission/>

For me, the very best was the LWVUS DEI webinar by our African American LWVUS President, Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins, Ph.D. In the webinar, she talked about the importance of discovering and remembering the stories of African American Women who fought for the right to vote. She shares some of their stories and pictures. The LWV did not honor these women like we should have. The website for the webinar is <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/lwv-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-webinars>. Look at August 9, 2019. *Acknowledging the Past, Reimagining the Future.*

The Beloit League plans to work with the local NAACP, Janesville LWV, and other groups at a workshop 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 the voting process, particularly with the absentee process, (see the state voting report for details <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VaVDxfiiAr-rVYzZ2DExeuAwCbviTha/view>). We must work vigilantly together to address these problems.

We are hoping to hold this workshop in September, but we are not sure whether it will be in person or virtually. If you'd like to be involved in planning, please contact me. My phone number is 608 207-3689.

LWV Beloit Action Oriented

The League has been actively writing Letters to the Editor of the Beloit Daily News. You can find all letters on our League webpage: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/beloit/articles/beloit-lwvs-news>. The most recent two letters are also printed below. We appreciate the League Board taking action to help educate the public on important issues.

Submitted to the Beloit Daily News Letters to the Editor, June 11, 2020

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy --

We support the editorial written by Dorothy Harrell, President of the Beloit NAACP and a League of Women Voters member (06152020). 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 the 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*

Published in the Beloit Daily News Letter to the Editor on June 8, 2020

People Oppose Gerrymandering

Our community and all of our elected officials must go on record to oppose partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

The rigging of political maps is wrong, regardless which party - Democrats or Republicans - do it. It makes for too many "safe seats." Elected officials can ignore the wishes of many of their constituents. It also makes for hyper-partisanship and lack of cooperation because the elected officials have nothing to fear.

No party should be able to draw district maps to keep themselves in power for ten years. It is just plain wrong! Banning gerrymandering has enormous bipartisan support in Wisconsin. A Marquette Law School poll last year showed that 72 percent of Wisconsinites want to ban gerrymandering, and that includes 63 percent of Republicans, 83 percent of Democrats, and 76 percent of Independents.

Over 50 county boards—representing about 80% of the state's population—have passed resolutions urging the state legislature to ban gerrymandering in Wisconsin and give us independent, nonpartisan districts. In April, Rock County passed an advisory referendum on nonpartisan redistricting by 80%.

The time is long overdue for fair political mapping for Beloit and all of Wisconsin.

(Submitted by Joyce Metter, voter service co-chair, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Beloit)



Passing of long-time member Carolyn Balson Hansen

Carolyn was a 50+ year member of the League of Women Voters of Beloit. She was the treasurer for many years and continued to remain an active member through the League's most recent Annual Meeting. She will be very missed for all the community activism she has always been involved in.

When Redistricting Brought the Rock County Leagues into Court

At the Annual Meeting on April 25, Anita Williams gave a presentation of what action the Beloit League was involved in, in the 1980's:

Let me begin by expressing my debt of gratitude to Joyce Schoenfield, who back in the early 1980's when this was happening faithfully documented the events in our monthly newsletters. If it were not for her detailed reports from those days, I would have been unable to reconstruct the events for this meeting in the centennial year of women's suffrage. I would also like to express my thanks to Rick Dexter, a volunteer at the Beloit Historical Society, who found the materials in the Society's files so I could cull the information from them.

After the 1980 census, the Rock County Board created an Ad Hoc Reapportionment Committee to study the size of the board (which was 41 members at the time), make a recommendation as to size (the committee recommended reducing the board to 29 members), and create the new boundaries for the County Board going forward.

As was required by state statute, the county assigned a specific number of districts to Beloit and Janesville and sent their planning departments tentative ward boundaries. The tentative plan was approved in Janesville with few questions. In Beloit the situation was different. The ward plan was released with very little opportunity for public perusal of the boundaries, let alone time for comment, but Joyce – as Action Chair – had questions. Fortunately, after the plan was presented, it was laid over under the rules of the Council. When the plan was ready to be brought back to the Council two weeks later, little information had been released to the public, let alone any changes to the plan. Joyce was able to make phone calls and get the plan laid over again. We were able to persuade the Daily News to print the plan – which had not been done earlier. Following meetings with Merrill community members and city planners, and two iterations of alternate maps, a map was drawn by the city planning staff and accepted by the Council that met the apportionment standards of the time. But the battle of the '80's was not over.

Beloit Township was upset – to put it mildly – that the County committee had combined one of Beloit's supervisory districts with one from the township. The Beloit town board brought a plan to the County Reapportionment Committee that would have combined White Oaks, Canterbury Woods, and Lathers Woods with a small part of Beloit Township to form a supervisory district in the interest of there being one district entirely within Beloit Township. Fireworks were about to ensue!

In mid-September 1981, the Ad Hoc Reapportionment Committee approved the City's alternative plan to the tentative plan that had been sent down to the municipalities. The alternative plan corrected a serious problem in the tentative plan, which had divided the Merrill neighborhood into two supervisory districts, diluting minority voting power, a violation of statutory and case law. The alternative Beloit plan also produced the lowest malapportionment rate for both the city and the county as a whole.

On October 2, 1981, the County Board refused to approve the amended plan that had been sent to it by the Ad Hoc Committee and created further confusion by having a 41-member plan drawn up for its October 22 meeting. [As an aside, both Joyce and I noticed that this seemed to be the moment that county board supervisors really realized that 29 is less than 41, and that board members would have to run against their 'buddies' if the Ad Hoc Committee's plan was approved.] This action put the Board in violation of Wisconsin state law, because an approved plan was due at the State Elections Board office on October 13th.

The Beloit and Janesville Leagues acted in concert to address the problems that the County Board had created. The Beloit LWV board authorized Joyce to speak to a member of the

District Attorney's office and discuss whether a violation of the law had taken place on October 8 when the County Board voted on Board size, an item not on the agenda for that meeting. The Beloit Board also agreed to join with the Janesville Board in a lawsuit asking the state court to declare that the County Board had forfeited its right to reapportion through its failure to act by October 13, as required by state statute. The lawsuit would also have asked the court to reapportion Rock County, using as its base the plan passed by the cities and the Ad Hoc Reapportionment Committee. After consultation with staff from the Attorney General's office, the idea of a lawsuit was dropped for the moment, and the focus moved to the County Board meeting on October 22nd. At that meeting the Board voted to reaffirm its determination to retain a 41-member board and adopted a plan based on the 1970 districts with some adjustments for population changes.

The cities of Beloit, Janesville, and Edgerton received the 41-member plan from the County Clerk with instructions to re-draw ward boundaries to fit the new plan. On October 29th, the city councils of Beloit, Janesville, and Edgerton voted to seek an injunction to prevent further action until the court issued a ruling on the cities' request for a declaratory judgment forcing the County to use the ward boundaries the cities had already established, and the Beloit and Janesville Leagues filed amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs. A temporary restraining order was granted very quickly, with a favorable ruling coming shortly thereafter. The county promptly – and predictably – appealed, and the state supreme court refused to take the case directly, despite the issue of timeliness that was involved. The Appellate Court on March 19, 1982 handed down its opinion, upholding the state circuit court opinion, but failed to order either the spring election be stopped, or a special election be held before 1984. So, the malapportioned districts would have stood for two years. Any appeal to the state Supreme Court would have been resulted in a decision too late to affect the 1982 elections.

At this point, the Beloit and Janesville Leagues conferred and agreed it was time to seek help from the federal courts. A joint emergency board meeting was held to share information, followed by separate meetings so each board could come to its own decision. Both boards agreed that we should, together, seek an injunction in Federal District Court to stop the election and ask the court to order a special election be held in conjunction with the September primary. We further agreed to urge the federal court to order the fall election be held under the "29B" Plan approved by the Rock County Ad Hoc Reapportionment Committee because the plan was available and met the legislative requirements for the plan.

With the help of Robby Kiley who was doing the state LWV's legislative work, Sue Cleary who was the secretary in the state office at the time, and the work of Mr. Hempe and Mrs. Wickham in Janesville who did pro bono ("free") legal work for us, the Leagues were able to file a request for an injunction on March 25th. The hearing took place on March 29th, and on March 30th a three-judge federal court ruled in the Leagues' favor, ordering a special election be held on September 14, 1982, based on the "29B" plan (but did not grant the injunction to halt the spring election on the grounds that the time was too short). The County Board chose not to appeal – the Leagues had won!



Wisconsin Election Protection Report

Full report: https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/april_7_2020_election_report_2.pdf

From the Wisconsin Election Protection Report, provided by the Legal Coordinating Committee of Wisconsin Election Protection & League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, dated May 11, 2020:

Wisconsin was the only state to hold an election in the midst of a pandemic. Shifting and overly stringent rules, overwhelmed clerks and frightened voters and poll workers created, in many communities, a dangerous and chaotic atmosphere. While this was not true in every community in the state, it was a major problem for far too many Wisconsin voters. There are specific problems that need to be addressed and rectified before future elections.

We have been participating in Election Protection efforts for more than 15 years and never have we been contacted by so many voters – more than one hundred - who were disenfranchised because of the way the election was carried out. Stories have poured in from across the state, from big cities like Milwaukee and Madison, medium-sized cities like Waukesha and Oshkosh, and small towns and villages like North Freedom and Lakeland. For many, this was the first time in their adult lives they were not able to vote in an election. To read the stories, go to the [Full Report](#) or the [LWV Beloit website](#).

“DO IT YOURSELF” HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

LWV Milwaukee County has developed an information sheet and an app with DIY (do it yourself) voting instructions for high school students (could be adapted for college students, too). It includes videos, and other resources for helping students register along with a pledge to vote. It is very comprehensive. Local Leagues are invited to use it and replace Milwaukee area information with locally specific details.



The Voter Service committee has Shelly Mueller heading up this project for the LWV of Beloit. For more information contact Shelly at shelly.mueller@aol.com, Joyce Metter jdmetter23@gmail.com, or Pat Zody patzody@gmail.com

~Joyce Metter

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State and National Conventions Go Virtual

The LWVWI held their state conference on Saturday, June 13, 2020. The LWV of Beloit had members Susan Adams, Shelly Mueller, Dorothy Scavera and Yuri Rashkin participate in the conference. Reports will be coming in future newsletters.

The LWVUS National Convention will be held on June 25-27 virtually. Pat Zody, LWV Beloit, will be our delegate to the convention. There will be many opportunities for LWV Beloit members to feel part of the convention as well. Please see the message below with regard to joining a Virtual Caucus through the National Convention, and when Norah O'Donnell's (CBS Evening News anchor and managing editor) keynote video will be available to members.

Here is a link to a list of Virtual Caucuses and the dates if you are interested in signing up for one: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-virtual-caucuses-and-info-sessions> There is no fee to participate and it will be very interesting to listen in on. Let Pat Zody know if you would like to summarize one of the caucuses for her.

Proposed Program for 2020-2022

Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

The LWVUS Board recommends a League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting

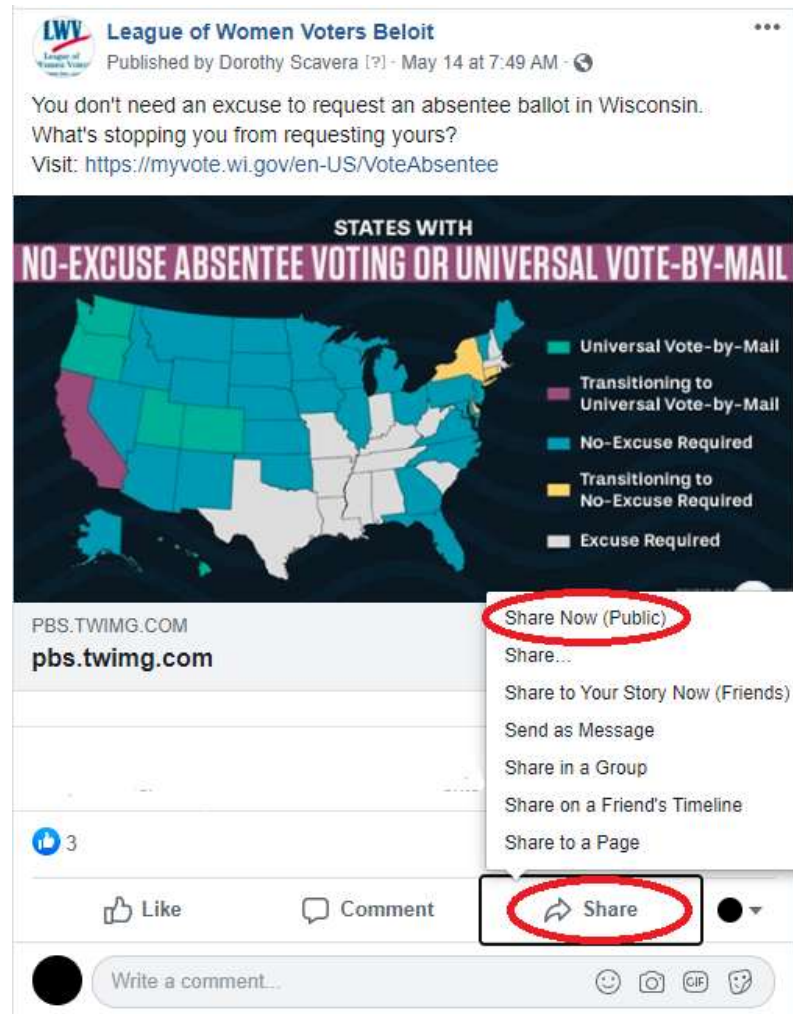
The LWVUS Board also proposes continuing work on urgent issues: **Climate Change, the Equal Rights Amendment, Health Care, Gun Safety, and Immigration.**

Finally, the LWVUS Board recommends that the Electoral Systems Concurrence should go to Convention floor for a vote in accordance with [Article XII, Section 2\(C\) and \(D\)](#) of the LWVUS Bylaws along with other concurrences that are properly noticed per same section of the bylaws.



Social Media

If you see information on the League's Facebook page that might be beneficial to your friends and family, you are encouraged to share it. Simply click "Share" located at the bottom of the post to view your options. The easiest option is "Share now (public)" as it will copy the post right to your page for anyone to see. Your support on social media can help get out the vote and is appreciated! See the image below.



Dorothy Scavera is gauging interest in a training via Zoom video call on how to use Facebook for those who may be new to the website or would like to become more comfortable with it in order to share information and resources to their network. If you are interested, email dslwv2020@gmail.com with some general preferred evening or weekend times and what your experience level with Facebook is.

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League of Women Voters of the United States 1920-2020 Celebrating 100 years



100 Years Strong League of Women Voters

1920 - 2020

June 10, 1919 - Wisconsin is the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment

February 14, 1920 - The League of Women Voters is founded

August 26, 1920 - The 19th Amendment declared in effect following final ratification on August 18, 1920

The right to vote didn't come easy for the majority of people who now make up the citizenry of the United States. That's to say, in our history – the histories of people of color, women, and young people – there has been a struggle, a fight for the right to vote.

The League of Women Voters was born from such a struggle. Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the Amendment in 1919 that would give women the right to vote by August 26, 1920 when the 19th Amendment was finally included into the US Constitution. In 1920, the League was formed on the premise that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. Founder Carrie

The Book Study Committee members have also been researching local and state information and initiatives to share with the League members. Highlights from research on state-level climate change response include the following:

- Governor Evers has created a Climate Change Task Force to strategize how to reach 100% renewable energy by 2050; be on the lookout for the report in August.
- In 2015 Wisconsin's utilities met the Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring that 10% of the state's energy come from renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, hydroelectric), but recommendations to further increase the goal to 25% have not been implemented.
- Prior to the creation of the new task force, the state of Wisconsin prioritized the development of hazard mitigation plans, accepting that climate change will create future challenges.
- Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability were adopted in 2018 to be used with K-12 students, but teaching to them is not mandatory.
- The Wisconsin League of Women Voters include climate change, energy, and environmental topics in their lobbying efforts. Lobbying information can be found here: <https://lobbying.wi.gov/Who/PrincipalInformation/2019REG/Information/8429?tab=Profile>

The next meeting invite is below:

Topic: Book Study-Environmental Issues

Time: **Saturday, Jun 20, 2020 10:00 AM** Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87045273574?pwd=ZzB5YmhZQUREbzlxREU2eVlFbTFIQ09>

Meeting ID: 870 4527 3574

Password: 649054

Beloit League's Education Study Committee welcomes others to be part of the committee!!



Committee members are still gathering research and interviewing individuals as part of the Beloit League's education study. We are planning on giving information to our members in our next several newsletters to prepare for consensus discussions with our members in the fall. Our committee members also have been trying to be observers at the school board committee and business meetings virtually. If you would like to join this committee or listen in, please email bclwv2010@gmail.com. The next committee meeting is coming up on **Thursday, June 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** via Zoom. Here is the Zoom invite:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87069477040?pwd=QmlQMERWV21wcFptR2Y5QWtrZnB1UT09>

Meeting ID: 870 6947 7040

Password: 647127

Recent Acknowledgement:

WOMEN WHO INSPIRE

A 2020 Initiative of the Wisconsin Governor's 19th Amendment Centennial Committee

In celebration of living Wisconsin women who inspire us
through their work affecting social change to increase gender equality.

Bette Carr is a LWVWI's WOMEN WHO INSPIRE Nominee to the Wisconsin Governor's 19th Amendment Centennial Committee

Bette Carr is one of seven nominees submitted by local Leagues for the Wisconsin Governor's 19th Amendment Centennial Committee's WOMEN WHO INSPIRE initiative. We thank LWV Beloit for recommending Bette to the state League office. Bette says thank you to the Beloit League for nominating her. Bette's story is below regarding who inspired her.

1. Describe your work and what person, event or issue inspired you to engage in your work?

When I was in high school, I wrote for our school newspaper; I enjoyed provoking discussion on topics that were a bit controversial. I tackled the right to die, the death penalty, women's health choices, racial disparities, and of course, the right to vote. This was during the Vietnam era, and there were many things to be having discourse about. One of the things that made a big impression on me was my journalism teacher's wife, Joyce Schoenfield, who happened to be a member of the League of Women Voters. I admired all of her eloquence as she wrote letters to the editor of our local newspaper about local issues that mattered. I was so impressed, that soon after high school I joined the League and became an advocate for women in a more organized manner. I currently write the newsletter for our local league, of which Joyce was the former editor. I feel privileged to be following in her footsteps, writing about the issues that our members need to hear about.

2. What would you say to other women and girls who want to make or support change in their community, state or world?

I have talked with many women and young girls about the positive effect that they can have on their communities, state and world by becoming involved in issues that matter to them. One person can make a difference. I try to be encouraging to other women by modeling social and political involvement in organizations and in the process of democracy.

I was a foreign exchange student to Spain many years ago, and it took some time to get people that I came in contact with to understand the United States, just like it took time for me to understand those that I came in contact with. My Spanish-family sister was sure that all Americans were capitalists, and that I was only there for a "vacation," but we had so many good discussions on what politics and social issues looked like for both countries, that we both respected the other by the end of my visit. She has continued to be an advocate for immigrants in Spain and we remain in contact.

I have also tried to model that behavior for my children. Both of my children were involved in community activism at an early age; my mother, daughter and I walked the Washington D.C. mall together to protest injustices to women. My daughter continues to fight racial disparities and women's rights with her three daughters. And my son fights educational disparities as he works in the under-served area of LA-Watts, CA.

Involvement never ends...

3. Inspired by the centennial of the 19th Amendment, do you have a story about voting to share? Perhaps something from your family history, the first time you voted, or a voting rights issue you encountered?

Although I have never encountered a voting issue personally, my daughter and her husband did. In a past year's election, my daughter and her husband went to vote at their local polling place. She had voted there multiple times before (before identification was needed to vote). As she went up to the poll worker, she was asked for identification, which she had, although the driver's license was not her current address. Her name was in the poll book, as she had been voting at that location, but because her identification did not match, the poll worker said she could not vote. My daughter was devastated and called me crying. I told her that was not the law, and that she needed to go back in and request the poll site manager and she did and the problem was resolved.

4. What would you say to a woman thinking about running for elected office?

Running for an elected office takes courage, but there are many who will support you and encourage you. You must be true to yourself, to the office, to the people that you represent, and an advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves. Be brave and strive to be responsible for your actions.

Additional Comments on the Nominee

Comment from Joyce Metter about Bette Carr:

"Years ago, Bette made a comment that has stuck with me. She said that as a young girl she was so impressed by the letters to the editor and community work done by the LWV of Beloit in general, and Joyce Schoenfield in particular, she couldn't wait till she was old enough to join the League. And, she has worked tirelessly for the League for many years."

~Thanks again for nominating me! ~ Bette

Sharlen Moore was selected by LWVWI as the state League's submission to the Centennial Committee's initiative. Watch for Sharlen Moore's inspiring story to be posted on the Centennial Committee's [Women's Right to Vote](#) website sometime this summer.



The Annual Meeting was held on April 25th, and new officers include:

President: Susan Adams

Secretary: Anne Bua-Demus

Treasurer: Gayle Sullivan Hotchkiss

Board Members: Betsy Brewer, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Dave Dobson, Sam Erickson, Joyce Metter, Barb Porter, Dorothy Scavera, Pat Zody

Action Chair: Joyce Metter

Membership Chair: Deb Fallon

Web Manager: Gregg Schneider

Thank you to Beatrice McKenzie for all of her service to the Board and League!!

Renewing or Joining the League of Women Voters membership is easy!

Simply print out this page and cut off this form.

Write your check to the League of Women Voters of Beloit. Dues are \$65. Student \$10.

Mail it to the Beloit LWV Membership Chair: Deb Fallon

1232 Elm St., Beloit, WI 53511

name _____ phone _____ date _____

street _____ city/state _____ zip _____

e-mail _____ In League is sent by email, please check your email for notices.

Amount enclosed for dues: _____ Donation: _____

Application for LWV Dues Scholarship: I hereby request consideration for a LWV Dues Scholarship for one year's membership. I understand that it is my responsibility to pay \$25 of the annual dues and that a Board member will be in contact with me regarding final completion.

Signature

(Dues are renewed by the end of October each year)
