

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

JULY 2017

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

Up-coming Events:

Summer Porch Discussion #2

at the home of Barb Porter, 8933 Suburban Drive

Wednesday, July 19

1:30pm

**Special Guests will be Steve Howland
Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission; and
Dorothy Harrell, of the Beloit NAACP**

Beloit LWV Leadership Team / Board Meeting

Members are always invited.

Wednesday, August 16

5:00 pm

Beloit Public Library

Library Conference Room

Summer Porch Discussion #3:

Water Issues & the Tar Sands Pipeline

on Thursday, August 24, 4:00pm - Nature at the Confluence

The Beloit LWV will be at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, September 9

BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Susan Adams, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Deb Fallon, Effie Garrett,
Gayle Hotchkiss, Alice Lamont, Beatrice McKenzie, Joyce Metter,
Dalynda Owens, Joyce Schoenfield, Dorothy Stroud*

- Beloit LWV delves into study of HOMELESSNESS: -

*At the spring Annual Meeting, our Beloit League voted to undertake a study of homelessness. To initiate the study we're reading the bestselling and acclaimed book, **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City** by Matthew Desmond. Included here are some of the comments in an interview published in 'magazine@habitat.org'.*

The 2017 Pulitzer prize-winning book is a deep dive into the eviction landscape in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is told through the stories of families Desmond lived with while researching his book.

Desmond's findings surprised even him. Among them were: the sheer numbers of families being turned out of their homes; the high cost of shoddy apartments in the poorest neighborhoods; and the extent of the physical and emotional toll on families, most of them women with children.

Desmond says, **"I think that without stable shelter, everything else falls apart.** If you are a typical poor working family today, you are spending at least half of your income on housing costs, and sometimes you are spending 60, 70 percent of your income just on rent and utilities. Under those conditions, you are unable to buy enough food sometimes. And you face eviction at a really high rate, which not only can result in you losing your home, but can result in you losing all sorts of other stuff, too, like your possessions, your school, your community."

There is a growing gap between what poor families are bringing in and what they have to pay for basic shelter. It has reached a point where we have moved from a time when evictions used to be rare and draw a crowd to a point that you go to a major American city like Milwaukee where 1 in 8 renters is evicted every two years. That is an astounding level of residential insecurity. What's going on in that city mirrors what's going on around the United States and even the world, but Desmond still believes the landscape can change if there's the will to change it.

To get a copy of the book for yourself, contact any of the LWV board members listed on the first page of this mini-newsletter.



**League of Women Voters
of Beloit**

The League of Women Voters of Beloit subscribes to the belief that diverse perspectives and inclusiveness are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The Beloit LWV affirms this belief in diversity and pluralism through its values and practices.

The Beloit LWV is, therefore, committed to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, and programs, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the Beloit LWV on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, political activity or disability.

In This (Mini)- Issue:

Calendar of Events
Homelessness
Porch Discussion #3
Farmers' Market
UMRRILO

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

*Join us, bring a guest,
Come to the Beloit League's
Summer Porch Discussions!*

**Porch Discussion #2 will be
at the home of Barb Porter
8933 Suburban Drive**

take Shopiere Road(in Beloit) to E. Hart Road to Suburban Drive

**Wednesday, July 19
1:30 pm**

**Special Guests will be
Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission Steve Howland,
and Dorothy Harrell of the NAACP;
also, League update on fair voting districts (redistricting)**



**Gain an update on the commission's recent activities and
learn about issues the commission deals with; hear an update on the
NAACP's most recent initiatives**



Think Spring !!

Beloit LWV will be at the Farmers' Market Saturday, September 9

Since we can no longer register voters, we will use our table at the Farmers' Market as a fund-raising opportunity.

Plan to pick out some spring-blooming bulbs for your yard.

Treat your sweet tooth to some home-baked goodies.

Watch for other items you'll be able to choose from.



DID YOU KNOW? Your Beloit League belongs to

The LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League

Organization First, what is an ILO?

Inter-League Organizations (ILO) are comprised of local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area or region that form to address county, metropolitan or regional governmental issues. An ILO may also operate under the Natural Resources positions of the LWV.

ILOs adopt bylaws, hold annual or biennial conventions at which all Leagues in the ILO are represented, elect officers and directors, choose program, and approve a budget. ILOs are formally recognized by the LWVUS Board and are entitled to send one voting delegate to LWVUS conventions.

ILOs are established because their members recognize the need to work together at the regional level to most effectively and responsibly solve problems that transcend political boundaries.

UMRR ILO

LWV's newest ILO, the **League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region** officially came into existence on October 24, 2015. Its mission is to advocate on environmental issues involving the Mississippi River Region.

Almost 50 local LWVs in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin responded when asked to commit to joining the new UMRRIO. In recognition of this strong interest, the LWV-US gave the ILO Steering Committee the "go ahead" to formally organize. For our local LWV to become a member league of the ILO, the board simply voted to do so, then sent an annual dues payment of \$25.00. Watch future newsletters for more information.

Jump In!

Our water is in trouble and we are all in the same boat. We need clean water for drinking and industry, and healthy eco-systems to support the life around us. It is time for us all to jump in, learn about what can be done, and get going on doing it!



Are YOU reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?

Joining the League of Women Voters 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.**

Mail it to the Beloit LWV Treasurer: Dorothy Stroud

2790 E. County Road (Phone: 815-988-2259)

Beloit, WI 53511

* * * * *

_____	_____	_____
<i>name</i>	<i>phone</i>	<i>date</i>
_____	_____	_____
<i>street</i>	<i>city/state</i>	<i>zip</i>
_____	_____	
<i>e-mail</i>	<i>signature</i>	

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 a portion of the annual dues and that a Board member will be in contact with me regarding final completion.

Signature_____