

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

December 2017

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

Up-coming Events:

Beloit LWV Leadership Team / Board Meeting

Members are always invited, email Bette to let her know you are coming.
Wednesday, December 20, 2017 Atonement Lutheran Church
5:00 pm 901 Harrison Ave.

December 2, 9-10:30 a.m.

League of Women Voters of Beloit

70th Birthday Celebration

Bushel and Peck's

Come join us for a piece of cake, coffee, and mimosas as we celebrate our 70th Birthday; casual drop in event, bring a friend who might be interested in joining!

December 6th, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mr. Anthony Bonds speaks on the

School District of Beloit's

"Academic Achievement:

Interventions for Improvement"

Place—to be announced soon

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.*

On November 20th, the LWV of Beloit's Homelessness Study kicked off at the Beloit Public Library. This study is projected to last two years, with this first year being a fact-finding, listening sessions, book-reading, and resource availability review. The book "Evicted" will be discussed as a parallel program, with the purpose of offering the author's perspective on the many factors of homelessness.

The League's study will also factor in current state and national League positions that may intersect with the study. The scope of the local study as voted on by the League in April was:

"With homelessness out of control across the country, what should the City of Beloit, Rock County or the state do to prepare for the inevitable federal budget cuts to help those already homeless or struggling not to become homeless."

Speaker Laura Laux, of the Homeless Initiative Task Force spoke about the task force's duties and committees. She also talked about the counts that are done twice a year to determine the number of people who are homeless or living in shelters. The audience of 30 people were asked to write down information on their thoughts about homelessness.

Organizing committee members: Deb Fallon, Gayle Hotchkiss, Lynda Owens, Effie Garrett, and Stephanie Dobson



**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
Member Dues DUE!
December 2- 70th Birthday!
Holiday Civility
Joan Mueller
Academic Achievement
Lively Issues
Job Openings

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

The LWV of Beloit membership dues are renewed in **October—have you sent in yours???**

It's that time of year to stand up, be counted and be proud as a **MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**. League members are encouraged to be as active in League activities as their time and interest allows, but it is essential that you be a dues paying member to receive the information and benefits that your membership brings from the local, state and national leagues.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

email _____

Please send this form and a check payable to **LWV of Beloit**: Deb Fallon, 1232 Elm Street, Beloit, WI 53511

Don't let this form get lost in the holiday chaos--Please **send your check no later than November 17, 2017**.

The dues categories include basic membership and additional categories which recognize that many members are passionate about the League. Therefore, they want to acknowledge the bravery and leadership provided by women who worked and suffered to achieve the rights we now often take for granted.

____ \$65 Individual Membership _____ \$98 2 person household _____ \$33 Student

____ Additional \$ to specifically support dues scholarships in the amount of \$ _____

____ \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt, LWVUS Founder, reorganized the National American Woman Suffrage Association, then after the 19th Amendment, reconstituted the group as the League of Women Voters.

____ \$100 Susan B. Anthony, Suffragette Susan B. Anthony was arrested twice just for trying to vote!

____ \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Suffragette, often credited with initiating the first organized woman's rights and suffrage movements in the U.S.

____ \$200 June Swannack, a LWV Beloit founder and a lifelong member and supporter

____ Additional support for LWV of Beloit (general fund) \$ _____

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the Beloit League! Total enclosed \$ _____.

LWV Dues Scholarships are available where member responsibility is to pay at least \$25.00 of the annual dues. For more information, please contact a Board member.

With revisions to the By-Laws of the LWV of Beloit in 2011, LWV of Beloit is recognized as a 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code where dues and contributions are charitable and can be tax deductible. Receipts for tax purposes will be provided.

Beloit League celebrates its 70th Birthday...



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT

70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!

Bushel and Peck's, 328 State St., Beloit

Join us for our casual drop-in event. Cake, coffee, and mimosas available! Bring a friend!

December 2, 2017

9:00-10:30 am





Setting the Table for Civility * shortened and adapted for the LWV newsletter

During the Holiday Season, beginning at Thanksgiving and extending into the new year, the National Institute for Civil Discourse is inviting people from all over the country to take part in NICD's Initiative to Revive Civility and help "Set the Table for Civility." NICD and more than 80 national and local partner organizations (LWVUS is one of the organizations) are urging Americans to make a special effort during the Holiday Season to do two things:

1. Pause and reflect on the need to heal the divisions in our country; and
2. Take some action to help increase civility and respect between our fellow citizens.

NICD has created materials to focus on three basic questions that Americans are invited to discuss:

- What are you most thankful for about living in America?
- How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?
- What can we do to revive civility and respect and find more effective ways to work together?

A particular goal will be to get Americans of different points of view to talk together and, most importantly, listen to each other. These discussions can take place as people gather over meals or at events created to promote civility over the holidays. People can engage either in pairs, in small groups of friends, within families or in organizations or institutions.

Below are some suggestions of things you can do to participate in "[Setting the Table for Civility](#)" starting with Thanksgiving and throughout the Holiday Season.

In your family/with friends:

- Sit down with members of your family or friends for a discussion about what you are thankful for about living in America and where our country is in terms of civility. Use our [Setting the Table for Civility Resources](#) to assist you in exploring these "[Three Questions](#)"
- Play our [civility holiday card game](#) to explore questions and have some fun together as you gather over the holidays.
- [Express civility online](#) during Thanksgiving and throughout the holiday season--i.e. email exchanges with friends or family with different views, etc.
- Offer a prayer at Thanksgiving dinner or other holiday meals that expresses thanks for our country and a hope that we can increase the amount of civility and respect between citizens.

- Watch the [short video "Unlikely Friendships"](#) with others in your family/friends and talk about how you might cultivate such relationships in your lives. Our friends at LivingRoom Conversations also have examples of [people talking across differences](#).
- Invite each member of your family to [sign the personal pledge](#) to promote civility.
- Take turns watching the news on Fox and then MSNBC and talk about the similarities and differences on the two networks.



See next page for “Three Questions”....

3 QUESTIONS

Setting The Table for Civility

What are you most thankful
for about living in America?

How do you feel about
the deep divisions and incivility
in our country?

What can we do to revive
civility and respect and to
work together more effectively?

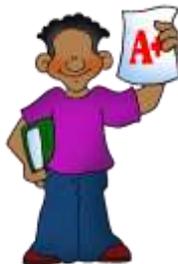
Long-time member Joan Mueller passes away



Joan Mueller was a member of the League of Women Voters for many years and had been very active in her earlier years. Even when she became unable to participate in meetings more recently, she read the newsletter and would send comments about issues. She believed in equality, voting rights, and peaceful discourse and will be remembered for her calm, but passionate voice. We will miss you Joan...

Academic Achievement in the Spotlight

Recently the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction came out with the school districts' "Report Cards." The School District of Beloit has shown some improvement. Come listen to Mr. Anthony Bonds, School District of Beloit, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Innovation, who will give an update on what the school district is doing to intervene so that all children will succeed. Mr. Bonds will be speaking on Dec. 6th, starting at 4:30 pm, with the place to be determined. Watch for a newsbreak email with the site of the presentation.



Lively Issues

Grab your thoughts and ideas and prepare for the January 27th Lively Issues event. That Saturday morning we will discuss what is currently happening in League and see if we are following the path that members are hoping for. Watch for further details.



JOB OPENINGS

Website Manager

- Do you have your own website and love the intricacies of websites?
- Do you love keeping up on timely information?
- Do you have time to commit to keeping up the League of Women Voters of Beloit website?

If interested in this volunteer job, please contact Bette at bclwv2010@gmail.com for more information. Training is available. www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org

Facebook Manager

- Are you a Facebook fanatic?
- Have you used Facebook tools that your friends have never even heard of?
- Does Facebook come easy to you and you have used Facebook professionally?
- Do you have the time to keep the League of Women Voters of Beloit Facebook page up to date and send out invites and messages on it?

If interested in this volunteer job, please contact Bette at bclwv2010@gmail.com for more information. Facebook page can be found: <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersBeloit/>



Are YOU reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?
 Joining the League of Women Voters is easy!

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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

name _____ phone _____ date _____

street _____ city/state _____ zip _____

e-mail _____ signature _____

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 _____