



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-July 2018

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

Upcoming League Events:

June 8-9 League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Annual Meeting

Location: Oshkosh

LWV Leadership Team/Board Meetings (members are welcome)

June 12, 4:30 Board Retreat, Gayle Hotchkiss' home

July 9, 5:00 p.m. TBA

Aug. 13, 5:00 p.m. TBA

Summer Restaurant Discussions:

June 12, 11:30; La Casa Grande

July 19, evening; Bushel and Pecks

August 9, 11:30; TBA

Watch for further details and locations!!

July 17 Community Fair, Beloit Public Library, Voter Service Information

July 18 Sheriff Candidate Forum, Beloit

BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Susan Adams, Bette Carr, Stephanie Dobson, Deb Fallon,
Gayle Hotchkiss, Mardell Jacobsen, Beatrice McKenzie, Joyce Metter,
Dalynda Owens, Dorothy Stroud, Pat Zody*

**Community Events**

June 11: JOB/WISDOM *Race to Justice* (see flyer at end of newsletter)

June 25: *Courageous Conversations—The Rock County Diversity Task Force*

monthly discussion will consist of a "fish bowl" with white people in the center talking with one another about issues of race. Our hope is to focus on how we as Whites can make a difference and can educate ourselves about issues of racism and inequity.

1. Here are three videos that give a feel for what might be conversation starters:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX-i11IGj5w>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuVMJmC0V98>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1PviSrWYqw>

League's Rummage and Bake Sale Held

The League's sale was very successful with over \$460 raised!! Thank you to all that contributed either by donating or visiting the sale. We appreciate you all.



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 Issue:

- Calendar of League Events
- Annual Meeting Success
- Local Women Discussion
- Summer Restaurant Discussions
- Homelessness Study
- Observer Corps
- Sheriff Forum
- Schoenfield Award

Check out our

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



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS BELOIT'S LOCAL LEAGUE HISTORY

The League of Women Voters of Beloit held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 28. The business meeting included revision and adoption of current positions and programming with emphasis for the coming year on a local study on Homelessness. Also, the membership voted to reduce the current student membership dues to \$10 in the hopes of attracting more students. The local league will not have to send per member dues to state or national for student members. Members should encourage any student who is at least 16 and who is interested in the political process to join.

Continuing board members included officers, Bette Carr, President; Susan Adams, Secretary; and Dorothy Stroud, Treasurer; and board members Deb Fallon, Joyce Metter, Stephanie Dobson, Lynda Owens, Gayle Hotchkiss and Beatrice McKenzie. Newly elected board members were Barb Porter, Mardell Jacobsen, and Pat Zody. Retiring board members who were recognized were Alice Lamont, Effie Garrett, and Joyce Schoenfield.

Joyce Schoenfield was also recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Making Democracy Work Member Award. Joyce has been a member of the Beloit League for more than 40 years and has been instrumental in league communication, membership, historical data, and leadership.

Guest speaker for the Annual Meeting was Professor Beatrice McKenzie from Beloit College. Dr. McKenzie's presentation was about the history of the Beloit League and its 70-year history.

Proposed Program for 2018-2019

Continuance of Homelessness Study begun in 2017

"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 or struggling become homeless?"

To become involved in the Homelessness Study, contact Deb Fallon.

WOMENS DISCUSSION

Cyndy Bagley gave an inspirational presentation on local women in history. Cyndy led a discussion on people, events and activities from statehood in 1848 to 1920, when women first cast their vote.

A look at history provides us with a renewed sense of gratitude for the many individual women (and men) and the many years it took to access the ballot box. Cyndy encourages others to search the internet and public records to further one's knowledge on all of the wonderful women who helped make history! Cyndy provided a great timeline; for those interested in reading more about her presentation, please contact Cyndy or Bette.



Summer Restaurant Discussions



June 12, 11:30 a.m. Hear an update from Bette Carr and Deb Fallon on the Wisconsin State League Conference. Fresh back from Oshkosh, Bette and Deb will summarize the state's work and the plan for the future. Please RSVP to Bette by Monday, June 11, by emailing at bclwv2010@gmail.com or calling, 608-322-4816. Location is at La Casa Grande, front room, luncheon menu on your own.

July 19, evening meal and speaker; Bushel and Peck's back room. At this meeting we will hear speaker, Beatrice McKenzie discuss the not-so-easy "Road to Citizenship." Please save this date and make plans to attend. The speaker will start at 5:30 p.m., so please stop in the restaurant ahead of time and pick up a bite to eat before the meeting starts. Bring your friends to hear this interesting topic.

August 9, 11:30 a.m. Hold this date for the final session of our Restaurant Discussions. Sure to be an engaging session!! More information to come.



Homelessness Study Recognizes Continuum of Care Resources

This is the second [**Rock County Homeless Intervention Task Force**](#) (HITF) meeting I have attended. Bette Carr and I attended their January strategic planning/prioritization meeting. We were impressed by the many agencies providing services to the homeless population in our area. And, especially impressed by the coordinated effort to work together to provide for those in need.

Carrie Poser was the speaker at the May meeting. She is the director of the [**Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care**](#) (WIBOSCOC). She presented a history of how once various organizations helping the homeless were run individually and are now coming together and working as a community. She attributes this going back to 2009 when legislation, known as the Hearth Act, was signed. It was enacted to help people who were likely going to be losing their homes because of the mortgage crisis. In order for government dollars to be appropriated to states, a coordinated system of homeless service providers would have to come together.

It was 2011-2012 when Wisconsin coordinated the various agencies into coalitions (that would be responsible to report to HUD in order to be able to receive money), called Continuum of Care (COC) groups. There are four separate HUD recognized COC's in WI: Dane County; Milwaukee County; Racine County and WIBOSCOC, which represents the remaining 69 counties comprised of 21 coalitions. HITF of Rock and Walworth COC work together as one of the 21 coalitions.

Although homelessness will always exist, the shared goal is: 1) to help identify and engage people at risk or currently homeless; 2) to intervene to prevent loss of housing and divert those at risk of losing their home; 3) and when it does occur, to provide shelter and crisis management and to direct to available services.

In 2016 WIBOCOC began their Coordinated Entry System Policy, as required by HUD. I have included a copy of a flyer, below, that explains how this works, and the participating agencies in Rock and Walworth counties.

There was so much additional information and facts shared at this meeting! I encourage anyone interested in learning more to visit the websites of HITF, WIBOSCOC, HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) and Institute for Community Alliance (AIC).

I would suggest participation in HITF meetings/events would be most useful as we continue our local homelessness study. They meet the 4th Wednesday of Feb, Mar, May, June, Sept, and Nov at noon, at Echo Inc., 65 S. High St. in Janesville. January is their annual Prioritization Meeting. They conduct their county homeless count in January and July.

Submitted by Barb Porter, Board Member and Homelessness Study Member



No Wrong DOOR



WBOSOC

Coordinated Entry is a way people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness may find housing and get connected to resources in their community. In most counties in Wisconsin, you can get help at agencies that assist homeless people and/or people in poverty.

Are you eligible? You might be eligible if your primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for people, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, camping ground; Or living in an emergency or domestic violence shelter.

To access Coordinated Entry Contact ONE of the following Participating Agencies

Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center Call (608) 364-1083 to schedule a Coordinated Entry appointment	House of Mercy Homeless Center 320 Lincoln Street, Janesville (608) 754-0845 Mon.- Fri. 8am to 7pm
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee St. Benedict's Church, Fontana (262) 215-7989 Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 5pm	The Salvation Army of Janesville 514 Sutherland Avenue, Janesville (608) 757-8300 Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 4:30pm
Community Action, Inc. 20 Eclipse Center, Beloit (608) 313-1300 Mon.-Thurs. 8am to 5pm and Fri. 8am to Noon	Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless W9865 US Highway 14, Darien (262) 882-3662 Mon. 8am to 9pm and Tues.-Fri. 8am to 4pm
ECHO 65 S. High Street, Janesville (608) 754-5333 Mon.-Fri. 9am to Noon and Mon.-Thurs. 1 to 4pm	Walworth County Housing Authority 735 N. Wisconsin Street, Elkhorn (262) 723-6123 Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am to 4:30pm and Fri. by appointment only
Family Promise of Greater Beloit (formerly Hands of Faith) 737 Bluff Street, Beloit (608) 363-0683 Mon.-Sat. 8am to 5pm	

How it works and what to expect

Are you staying in emergency shelter, outside, in a car or actively fleeing domestic violence?

Yes

No
If you are not literally homeless you MAY be eligible for prevention assistance.

Prevention assistance is extremely limited and will follow a similar coordinated entry process.

Contact ONE of the participating agencies listed, in person or by phone, to complete an assessment.

After the assessment is completed you are placed on the Prioritization List for Rock and Walworth Counties.

Completing the housing assessment does not guarantee housing or program eligibility.

As an agency has an opening they contact the person most in need first. If you are contacted you will be asked to verify your homeless status and possibly scheduled for an intake.

This is NOT a waiting list but a list that will first prioritize those most in need of housing.

It is important to contact one of the listed agencies if/when any of your information changes. If we can't find you we can't help you!

A case manager will follow up with you every 90 days to verify your status but there is no guarantee or timeline provided if/when you will be offered services.



Observer Corps Continues to Monitor Blackhawk Technical College Changes

Susan Adams, Alice Lamont and others have been monitoring the changes going on at the Beloit Blackhawk Technical College. The following is a report from Susan Adams:

"The first BTC Community meeting had only four people in the audience. Alice and I were both there on the 16th. They talked mostly about partnering with the school district. That one was at the high school. The idea is that they would have sites on both sides of town so people could attend, but they would only have one or two classes at these places. They want to have or improve partnerships with Beloit Health Systems, the library, the school district and the Stateline Literacy Council. They passed out lists of classes they plan to offer in the fall in Beloit - at the Community Action building - GED and ELL and communications and math-low level. At Beloit Learning Academy (the old Wright school) they'd have writing and reading. I found out later that the reading will actually be at the main campus because students have already registered for it thinking it was at the main campus... so we'll need to watch such things. That fact was NOT mentioned at the May 22 meeting.

On the 22nd at the library - after people had received their cards advertising it in the mail - they got about 8 or 9 people, including Laverne Hays (a BTC board member). At this one they got questions about partnering with the school district (John Acomb - former school district board member). They want to offer dual credit classes and would partner with the district to provide graduate credit through UW Whitewater for \$200 a credit for teachers to become certified to teach in the technical college system. That way students would take a high school class and get credit for it at BTC. They may then be encouraged to attend BTC later.

Another question about nursing was asked - yes - they'd expand that in partnership with Beloit Health systems - possibly in the Ironworks building.

There was a request for community development classes like upholstery, cake decorating, fly fishing- no plans right now for those type of classes. The classes need to be self-supporting.

Parents' university and the initiative to improve literacy was raised by Linda Fair and John Acomb. They were all for getting parents better trained to help their children prepare for school to improve the achievement gap. BTC can help by educating the parents. Questions were asked on how to get parents to come - feed them and get to them through churches and their children."

There is another community session scheduled at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, **1151 East Grand Avenue, Beloit**, on June 18, at 5:30 p.m. League members are encouraged to be in attendance to voice their thoughts on the BTC closing their main building in Beloit, at the Eclipse Center.

SHERIFF CANDIDATES' FORUM TO BE HELD JULY 18

The Beloit and Janesville League of Women Voters, the Beloit NAACP, and Justice Overcoming Borders (JOB) are partnering to hold a candidates' forum on July 18 in Beloit (place to be determined), for the Rock County Sheriff. A partisan primary election will be held on August 14 to see which Democrat candidate (Gary Groelle or Troy Knudson) will move forward to run against Jude Maurer (R). However, all candidates are being invited to participate in the forum, so that their individual voices can be heard. The candidate information can be found here:

<http://www.co.rock.wi.us/countyclerk-election-information#election-schedule-what-s-on-your-ballot>



League of Women Voters of Beloit

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK MEMBER AWARD GIVEN

Joyce Schoenfield was recently given her award as the first recipient of the Making Democracy Work Member Award, at her place of residence at Wesley Willows, in Rockford. Both she and Ray were present and the award and plant were given to her by Deb Fallon and Bette Carr. She thanked the League and asked lots of questions about what League is doing. She is a true Leaguer and we miss her from active duty! She wanted everyone to know that she misses being active in League but continues to support the mission of League.

Thank you, Joyce!!



(Deb Fallon, Joyce Schoenfield)



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. Student \$10.**

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 _____

RACE TO JUSTICE



WISDOM

WISDOM Gubernatorial Candidate Forum

Monday, June 11th 2018

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Country Springs Hotel
and Convention Center

2810 Golf Road,

Pewaukee, WI 53072

Candidates who have
confirmed their participation:

**Matt Flynn, Andy Gronik, Mike
McCabe, Mahlon Mitchell,
Kelda Roys, Kathleen Vinehout,
Dana Wachs**

Candidates **Unable to Attend**,
Expressing Regrets:

Tony Evers, Paul Soglin

Also invited, awaiting response:

Scott Walker

WISDOM leaders from around the state will be **asking the candidates very specific questions** about their intentions in the areas of:

-Criminal Justice Reform

(Including: Parole, Crimeless Revocations, Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, and Solitary Confinement)

-Public Transportation

-Childhood Poverty

-Health Care

-Immigration

-Education

-Mining

Bus transportation: (Make donation on bus)

3:30 Load at former Elder Beerman, Eclipse Ctr

4:00 Load behind Ramada Inn, 3900 Milton Ave

To reserve spot on bus: reply to this email