

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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT

JANUARY 2016

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

Up-coming Events:

Lively Event! - Lively Issues!

this Saturday, January 9

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Breakfast will be provided at no charge

Join us in the Garden Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Mental Health Study Kick-off meeting: Journey into Mental Illness

Thursday, January 28 6:00 pm Rock County Job Center 1900 Center Ave, Janesville

A Celebration of the Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony

11:00am Saturday, February 6, 2016

Brunch at the Armory, Janesville

Tuesday, February 16
Spring non-partisan primary election

Beloit LWV Leadership Team / Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 1 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Members are always invited.

Beloit Public Library 605 Eclipse Boulevard

Mark your Calendar:

City Council Candidates Forum; Tuesday, March 22

BELOIT LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Adams, Dave Dobson, Stephanie Dobson, Deb Fallon, Effie Garrett, Gayle Hotchkiss, Alice Lamont, Beatrice McKenzie, Joyce Metter, Lynda Owens, Joyce Schoenfield, Wanda Sloan

Jottings

As many of you know, I've taken a little leave from League activities while Ray has had open heart surgery. The surgery involved replacing his mitral valve with a pig's valve and repairing the tricuspid valve. That explains why you haven't received a newsletter since last fall. I've been following the activities of your League board through Deb Fallon's detailed minutes of the monthly meetings. Let me tell you- the Beloit League has a hard-working board!

Alice Lamont not only takes care of all the somewhat complicated treasurer's duties, but also coordinates our annual finance drive, has written the successful 'Young Voters' grant, and is our "go-to" person on voter registration issues.

Joyce Metter sends regular 'action' communication to our governmental representatives. She also organizes the League's Candidates Forums, and does zillions of League tasks that 'fall between the cracks'.

After members at the Annual Meeting voted to renew our Observer Corps activities, board members took the lead in carrying out the observations which involve a marathon session of school board committees each month.

Board members also completed a LWV survey on our state Urban Policy Position, compiled the Constitutional Amendment Consensus and sent the results to the national League, attended the State Issues Briefing, and planned and organized November's Education Forum on charter schools, education vouchers and related topics. Board members also delved into the massive amounts of background reading for the up-coming Money in Politics (MIP) study/ consensus, planned voter registration events and served as registrars at those events.

And that's just the last couple of months, listing only the tip-of-the-iceberg activities. There's lots of work to do and everyone just pitches in to help.

p.s. Did you notice the great variety of achievements? That's why the LWV is so interesting!























League of Women Voters Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Beloit subscribes to the belief 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 Events Jottings / In This Issue Lively Event! Sπusan B. Anthony Celebration \$700 Grant YOU can make a difference Mental Health study **Upcoming Events** Press Release It's not too late: Dues

Check out our Beloit League of Women Voters web site:

www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org

Lively Event! - Lively Issues!

this Saturday, January 9

9:00am - 12:00pm

Breakfast will be provided at no charge

Join us in the Garden Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 212 W. Grand

Parking is available in back of the church or across the street in the public parking area.

There will be time for socializing
Breakfast will be provided
We'll gather ideas for local study
and

We'll join Leaguers nationwide in the "Money in Politics" consensus







Please RSVP to Wanda Sloan, wsloan1@charter.net

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, February 6, 2016 11:00am

A Celebration of the Life and Work of

Susan B. Anthony

Sponsored by the Janesville and Beloit League of Women Voters

Susan B. Anthony, leader of the Women's Suffrage Movement, was first a teacher. In September 1840, she returned to Center Falls New York to be close to her family. She was offered a job teaching in the local district school, replacing a male teacher who had been dismissed for inefficiency.

He was paid \$10.00 a week. Her salary, because she was a woman, was \$2.50 a week. In her diary she expressed anger that she, an excellent teacher, was paid so much less than a man who was dismissed because of inefficiency.

175 years later women are still consistently paid less than men for the same work!

Our speaker for the 2016 Susan B. Anthony celebration is Martha De La Rosa the State Director for '9 to 5'.

Over 40 years ago, a group of female office workers in Boston, fed up with being powerless and undervalued in the workplace, mobilized to change the way they were treated and paid. The group organized around their grievances; terms that didn't yet exist – sexual harassment, pay equity and family leave.

Forty years later, '9 to 5' has emerged as one of the largest, most respected national membership organizations of working women in the United States.

Brunch at the Armory 10 S. High Street, Janesville

Tickets \$30.00 adults \$20.00 students





Send check to:
Deb Fisher
4304 N. River Road
Janesville 53545
or call 608-743-0937



Beloit League is awarded \$700 grant

A Youth Voting Registration Grant was awarded by the United States LWV Education Fund in response to the Beloit League's proposal to engage first-time voters in 2016. The grant will allow our League to promote Wisconsin voter registrations and follow-up activities targeting 18- to 29-year old youth within our secondary and post-secondary educational schools.

The new Wisconsin election laws effective in 2016 are complex and will necessitate providing expanded information for everyone. Efforts to register and inform young voters before the February, April, August, and November elections will require extra effort in schools and wherever young people can be found.

The Beloit League's goal will be to communicate the pertinent requirements and laws - particularly of new voter registration and new voter ID laws - to assist Rock County Clerk Lori Tollefson in certifying new voters and prompting them to vote. We will use as many different venues, dates, times, and media as possible to reach youth between ages 18 and 29.

Unless the new elections commissions and Wisconsin legislators eliminate the use of special registration deputies (SRDs) later this month, Rock County Clerk Lori Tollefson has agreed to hold another group training session for SRDs.

Some of the grant money we've been promised will be used to finance that training session. The rest will cover mileage for members to go Rock County schools and events for no more than an hour or two at a time.

Permission to go into the schools must be sought from school administrators to register voters during acceptable school hours and at as many after- school extracurricular events as possible.

Voter registration opportunities will be publicized via media-outlets including websites, radio, television, and public service announcements. Flyers, posters and daily announcements will be used to advertise registration hours in high schools and colleges. Visibility of the Beloit League will increase at extracurricular high- and post-secondary school events as well as at the events of area churches, the NAACP, Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, municipally-held farmers markets, and the Stateline Community Foundation.

The Beloit League is certainly grateful to Alice Lamont for the superb application she submitted to the national League!

Are you concerned about the current political scene?

Po you think young voters can be a force for change?

YOU can make a difference!

thanks to the Beloit League's \$700 grant - Here is your chance!

Here's how you can help!

If you are willing to become a special registration deputy
in a municipality other than that in which you live
and
would be able to go to area high schools and colleges to register new voters
email Alice Lamont to let her know
aholmnt@charter.net

Those of you who live in the City of Beloit and who have already been scheduled for the training sessions held in early February, March, or April - and if Clerks from adjacent municipalities agree - may find that getting certified in other municipalities won't be difficult or time consuming.

Another job you could do:

To meet the requirements of the grant, we will also need volunteers to send reminders to new voters to vote just before the April 5, August 9, or November 8 elections.

Contact a member of the LWV board (see front page)

Mental Health is focus of LWV Study

The Janesville LWV has had a study committee working on mental health issues in Rock county for over a year. They are preparing a series of public meetings for this spring.

Many Beloit LWV members have often indicated an interest in health issues. This is an opportunity to learn what is being done right here in Rock County. You will want to attend one or more of these meetings to increase your awareness and become more informed on mental health.

Kick-off meeting: Journey into Mental Illness



(BHRSC and historical background) Thursday, January 28 6:00 pm Rock County Job Center 1900 Center Ave. Janesville



The following meetings are also planned

Wednesday, March 2, 2016: Mental Illness & Law Enforcement; 6-7:30 pm Thursday, March 17 - legal issues with mental illness Wednesday, April 13, 2016 Mental Health Treatment Options; 6-7:30 pm Thursday, May 12 - policy & legislative challenges

Due to collaborative relationships with other organization and meeting place availability, topics and dates may change slightly. Watch for updates.

What is BHRSC?

The Rock County Board of Supervisors established the Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee in March 2012. BHRSC brings stakeholders involved with the behavioral health system together on a regular basis, to discuss issues affecting the system, resolve problems, and plan for the future.

The aim of the BHRSC is to Develop a system of care that welcomes and inspires hope for those with co-occurring disorders and other complex needs. Through the effort of this committee, these individuals will experience improved access to effective treatment and support resulting in decreased involvement in the justice systems.











Here are some upcoming events that will be interesting, worthwhile, and enjoyable.

Annual Martin Luther King program

Blackhawk Technical College
Saturday, January 16 from 3-5:00 pm
Ethnic food tasting to follow program.
Youth from Latino community will perform.
Several awards for diversity work will be awarded.
Free/open to public.

Community Martin Luther King Gospel Program

Sunday, January 17

New Zion Baptist Church

Sponsored by Minister's Fellowship

4:00 pm

(There will be NO MLK ribbons sold this year.)

Free/open to public

"Dream Big Dreams"

Documentary film: The Life Story of Vel Phillips

Sponsored by Diversity Action, University Women, and Janesville LWV
Tuesday, Feb. 23
Hedberg Public Library
6:00 pm

Ms. Phillips is one of our state's greatest civil rights leaders. She was the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison law school. She was the first to win a seat on Milwaukee's City Council and was the first to become a judge. She was the first to become Secretary of State of Wisconsin.

Presence of Latino Women in the US

Thursday, March 3
Held at the United Auto Workers in Janesville
6:30–8:30 pm
Sponsored by the Diversity Action Team and others

Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, recently sent the following press release to Wisconsin's newspapers, radio, and TV stations:

Are you ready to vote?

By Andrea Kaminski

MADISON - Judging by the headlines, you might think the only election this year is the one that will name President Obama's successor. In fact there will be **four important elections** in Wisconsin in 2016.

- In the February 16 primary, voters will select the two top candidates for Wisconsin Supreme Court as well as for any local and county races with more than two contenders.
- On April 5 we will elect the final winner for those contests and also vote for our favorite Presidential candidate to be the nominee of his/her party.
- The fall partisan primary election will be held August 9 for U.S. Congress and the Wisconsin Legislature. In districts that are heavily Democratic or Republican, the primary election is particularly decisive.
- On November 8 we will elect the next President along with our state and federal representatives.

Now is the time to get ready to vote. If you have not voted in Wisconsin before, or if your registration has lapsed, you will need to register. If you have a Wisconsin driver's license or state ID card, you will have to provide that number. You will also need proof of residence. To learn more, contact your municipal clerk or go to the Wisconsin voter Information website at myvote.wi.gov.

Once you are registered, you will need a photo ID when you vote. If you have a Wisconsin driver's license or state ID with an expiration date of November 4, 2014 or later, you are all set. For a list of all acceptable IDs, talk to your clerk or go to the Wisconsin photo ID website at bringit.wi.gov. If you don't have a photo ID, you can get one for free. Instructions are on the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin website.

If you need assistance with voter registration or photo ID, contact your local League of Women Voters or the League's state office at 608-256-0827. Don't be discouraged if you do not currently possess an acceptable photo ID. The League, the DMV and others are happy to assist you.

Next you'll need to get informed. The League sends a questionnaire to federal, state as well as local candidates in some areas. We will post their answers on VOTE411.org. (our elections website). The League does not endorse or oppose any political candidate or party. We just post candidates' answers verbatim, so voters can make up their own minds.

Don't put much store in 30-second ads about candidates. They often present information out of context, and sometimes it's flat-out false. Look for information from unbiased sources, or get it from the candidates themselves.

Wisconsin is known for high voter turnout, compared to other states.

Even so, a relatively small number of eligible citizens actually vote in our elections.

Government affects many aspects of our everyday lives.

Don't let a small number of citizens choose your representatives.

Take a little time now to be sure you are prepared, and then vote in every election!

It's not too late!

In case you've meant to pay your dues --but haven't gotten around to it ---

There's still time!

Our League must report our list of dues-paying members by January 31

SO you have a few days to

Get your act together!

(Please notice: Our League faithfully follows the policy of removing from the list all members who have not paid their dues.)

(See dues amount and mailing info below.)



Are YOU reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?

Joining the League of Women Voters is easy!

Simply print out this page and cut off the form below.

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

Mail it to Beloit LWV Treasurer: Alice Lamont

2429 Lathers Road (*Phone: 365-4747*)

Beloit, WI 53511

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Application for LWV Dues Scholarship: I hereby request consideration for a LWV Dues Scholarship in the amount of \$_____ for one year's membership. I understand that it is my responsibility to pay at least 20% (\$13.00) of the annual dues.