

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

NOVEMBER 2016

THE LWV IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT DOES A PROFESSIONAL JOB

VOTE!

TUESDAY, November 8 Election Day!

State Issues Briefing

Saturday, November 19

Madison

Beloit LWV Leadership Team / Board Meeting

Members are always invited.

**Tuesday, December 6
5:00 pm**

Beloit Public Library
Library Conference Room

Special Events coming up next year

Mark your calendar now:

Beloit LWV Lively Issues

**Saturday, January 7
9:00 - 11:00am**

Judy Robson's home
2411 E. Ridge Road

Susan B. Anthony Celebration

Saturday, February 11

Domenico's Beloit

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*

Be sure to vote on Tuesday!

Plan ahead, so you won't miss your chance.

You probably already have the photo ID you'll need; such as a Wisconsin driver license, ID card or other DMV-issued document. Voters can also use military and veterans' IDs, some student IDs, tribal IDs, or a certificate of naturalization.

Your photo ID does not need to have your current address, and your name on your ID does not have to exactly match the name on the poll list.

If you do not have a photo ID on Election Day, or if poll workers say your ID is not acceptable, you can still cast a provisional ballot that will be counted if you bring an acceptable ID to the clerk's office by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election.

Do you need to arrange for a ride? Check with your friends and family to be sure they are ready to vote. Smile and nod if you see an LWV Election Observer at your polling place. Contact the City Clerk's office if you see activity which doesn't seem right.

VOTE!!



**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 Events
VOTE!
New Member
Observer Corps.
Waterways
Thanks - Dues Paid

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

Driver Cards & Public Safety

S.O.S Latin@
JOB- JUSTICE OVERCOMING BORDERS



Undocumented immigrants in the country cannot produce the necessary documents (like a social security card) to obtain a driver's license under state laws. Beginning in 1993 with Washington state, 12 states and DC have changed their laws to allow undocumented immigrants in the country to obtain driver's licenses. Those states hope to encourage unlicensed drivers to pass the driver's license test and obtain car insurance.

Benefits of Providing Driver Cards to Undocumented Immigrants

- People with Driver Cards would be entered into a DMV Data Base.
- Providing positive proof of identity helps law enforcement.
- Allowing all residents the opportunity to drive legally would make Wisconsin safer, help its economy and increase the well being of many families.
- Following the lead of 11 states and Washington D.C. in providing driver cards would ensure that all drivers, regardless of their immigration status, are tested, trained, licensed, insured and accountable for their driving records.
- Allowing undocumented residents to drive legally appears to reduce the share of uninsured drivers in a state.
- Ensuring that all Wisconsin drivers are knowledgeable of traffic laws, have been tested for driving ability and are insured would reduce fatal road accidents and decrease the number of uninsured motorists that flee from accident scenes.
- Following states that were early adopters of license or privilege card laws for undocumented residents reveals reductions in fatal accidents that exceed the national average.
- Driving legally, immigrants are more likely to work, find better jobs and contribute more to their local economies.
- Allowing undocumented residents to drive legally would help Wisconsin's economy in three ways: reducing the number of uninsured drivers, modestly increasing state revenues and making more employment opportunities available to undocumented workers and others who have difficulty meeting the current requirements.
- Allowing undocumented parents to drive legally would not only reduce the chance of deportation and family separation, it would also help ease the anxiety that can damage a child's development. In addition, it would make it more likely that parents would enroll their eligible children in programs like subsidized childcare and Medicaid that can enhance their development.

Wisconsin LWV members at the Issues Briefing in Madison on November 19 will attend a presentation by Beloit Leaguers about Drivers' cards for immigrants. A thumbnail review is printed above.

‘Bits of Business’ from the board minutes include:
establishing a LWV internship

Members of the Beloit League board took time over the last couple of months to discuss the possibility of establishing a Beloit League Intern position as suggested by **Wanda Sloan**. The intern would be able to earn a Beloit College class credit or half credit for fulfilling a number of requirements set by the League. The requirements include observing and participating in LWV projects and activities. The intern would gain valuable community service experience.

Susan Adams and **Beatrice McKensie** have written up a League intern contract/ job description; the internship has been advertised at the college, and the league has already started to receive applications.

and reviewing our official Positions

The board is planning to thoroughly review our Beloit Positions for updating, if necessary. The goal is for individual (or small groups) of Leaguers to read through a specific section and check with the related governmental agency (such as library, zoning, housing, school district budget process, etc.) to see how currently relevant the positions are.

If there is an issue which is particularly meaningful to you, plan to volunteer to check that topic. If you were on a study committee which developed a position, you may receive a request to check out that topic.

Obviously, you’ll be hearing more about this in the new year.

The Beloit LWV has another New Member!

Dennis Murphy

Dennis joined League as a second household member.

Did you know that a second LWV member of a household only pays half the regular dues?

Welcome Dennis!

We’re proud to have you as a League member!

Here is an experience only LWV will provide

For the past several months the Beloit League has renewed a commitment to actively re-energize LWV Observer Corps. As Observer Corps volunteers, League members attend governmental meetings just to watch what is happening. The observer takes notes about what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League. An observer wears identification as LWV member, but does not take part in the meeting in any way, even to provide commentary or testimony on issues on behalf of the League before or after the meeting.

By attending public meetings of local governmental bodies/agencies, observers learn more about what their government is doing. By reporting back to the board, the League as a whole learns more about what government is doing. Members of the governmental bodies are very aware of being 'watched.' The presence of observers encourages better, more transparent government.

The board decided to begin by focusing on observing the school board, with possibly later adding the city council. Beloit's board members took it upon themselves to be the first observers. They have found attending the governmental meetings to be very interesting (and so have the rest of the board members as news is shared at the board meetings). The observers so far have been **Susan Adams, Deb Fallon, Alice Lamont, Beatrice McKensie, Wanda Sloan and Dorothy Stroud.**

League Observers usually attend the **school board committee meetings** which meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The general board meeting is held on the 4th Tuesday each month in the Board Room. Meetings are held at Kolak Education Center/ Roosevelt Building. **City council meetings** occur on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Forum at City Hall.

Please consider this your invitation to become an Observer.

You will be surprised at how much you will learn

- and -

you will accomplish a valuable public service!

Contact any of the board members with your questions.

The Beloit League and the Beloit Public Library recently hosted Ellen Rosborough, Madison LWV member who served as guest speaker on:

Waterways in Danger

As a representative of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization, Ellen told about watersheds, such as the Mississippi Watershed and the Great Lakes Watershed, and described how watersheds affect us. Members of the audience learned about the processes of forming an inter-league organization.

An abundance of interesting printed materials was made available. One set described the successful completion of a project called Yahara WINS (Watershed Improvement Network). The project focused on excessive levels of phosphorus that can impact the quality of rivers, streams and lakes. It was the first project in Wisconsin, and nationally, to test the new adaptive management concept.

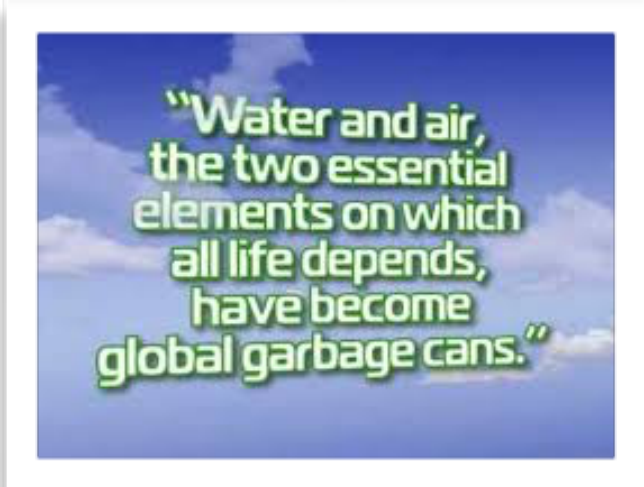
Yahara WINS to Improve the Rock River

In watershed adaptive management, all sources of phosphorus (wastewater treatment plants, cities, villages, towns and agriculture) work together to implement cost effective phosphorus reduction practices. The compliance strategy unique to Wisconsin, was introduced in 2010 in a set of state rules related to phosphorus reduction.

In addition to the Wisconsin phosphorus rule, the Yahara Watershed is also subject to the Rock River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which requires all sources of phosphorus in the basin to reduce phosphorus to meet clean water goals.

The WINS project implemented a mix of urban and rural practices ranging from standard conservation practices to innovative, cutting-edge solutions. On the rural side, practices may include cover crops, no-till, contour farming and/or structural practices such as covered barnyards. In urban areas, practices may include construction-site erosion control improvements, specially-designed settling basins, changes in leaf-collection methods, ordinance modifications and/or other approaches to settle-out and remove phosphorus.

Each of the 30-entities has a financial commitment to the project and many have a regulatory compliance requirement. All the partners are making it possible to reduce phosphorus in the rivers, streams and lakes in the Yahara River basin. This project is being followed locally, statewide and nationally for the far-reaching benefits of its success. By working together, we can cost-effectively reduce phosphorus to our waterways.



"Water and air,
the two essential
elements on which
all life depends,
have become
global garbage cans."

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*Thanks to all the League members who have
 so promptly paid their annual dues!
 (In case you forgot, October is Dues Month.)*

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: 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. _____
signature