

LWW[®]

The

VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

www.lwvjvl.org

January 2019

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Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

I hope that you all celebrated a wonderful winter holiday (Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, Yule, etc.) with your family and

friends, and are ready for a happy and productive new year.

Our mid-term election results are in: Ten members of our Janesville LWW and friends put in 90 hours of work to conduct 46 election-related events, at which we contacted/passed out information to approximately 1200 potential voters, directing them to Wisconsin's online voter registration (OVR) portal, and to the Vote411.org website and our own website for information on candidates. We directly assisted 51 citizens register to vote through OVR with cell phones and tablet computers. We extend our thanks to the Voter Services Committee, with special thanks to Jennifer Bleak and Christina Barrett, the committee's co-chairs. I know that they already are working on plans to prepare for the upcoming Spring Elections. Please consider giving some of your time to help in this core League activity. We make extra efforts in the spring to register new voters in the high schools where many students will have turned 18 years of age since the beginning of the school year.

Our January membership event will be a program, "The

Challenges and Success of Economic Development in Milton" led by Al Hulick, City Administrator for Milton. This topic follows upon on our November program on the relationship between housing and general economic development in Janesville, and will help us gain a perspective on economic development in our area beyond the Janesville city limits. The program is scheduled for Thursday, January 10, at 6:30 pm, in the Council Chambers of Milton City Hall, 710 S. Janesville St. in Milton.

The Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration that the Beloit and Janesville Leagues hold each year will be coming up soon, on Saturday, February 9, at noon at the Boundaries Bar & Grill on Highway 51 between Janesville and Beloit. Our guest speaker will be Eloisa Gomez, co-author of the book Somos Latinas: Voices of Wisconsin Latina Activists. Ms. Gomez will relate stories of the efforts of Latina activists to build community and she will help us consider what we can do to build relationships with the Latinx community to further progress toward our shared goals.

BTW, it is not too early to be thinking about the SBA celebration that will be held in Janesville in 2020. That year marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment that guaranteed women the right to vote, and February 14 is not only Susan B's birthday, but is the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Please contact me or another member of our

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★ President

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Board if you would like to help us plan the 2020 SBA Birthday Celebration and other special ways to celebrate democracy in 2020.

Coming up later in the winter, League members

JLWV presents:
The Challenges and Success of Economic Development in Milton
- led by Al Hulick, City Administrator in Milton

Thursday, January 10th at 6:30pm

in the Council Chambers of Milton City Hall
710 S. Janesville Street, Milton, WI

General membership meeting open to the public.

HELP WANTED: Members for the LWVJVL Observer Corps

The League of Women Voters has long believed that government processes should be transparent and accountable to the citizens/voters.

Many Leagues, including the Janesville League, have members who adopt a local body of government or one of its committees and attend their regular meetings. Observers monitor government compliance with the Open Meetings Law, and learn how local government deals with community issues and conducts its business.

The Observer Corps program increases League visibility and alerts members to possible action. Members have been asked to serve on committees and weigh in on various issues and other collaborations because of the program. Last year Janesville League Observers of 3 different Rock County committees realized the Opioid Crises was having a serious impact on local agencies and working with Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change, planned a public forum on the topic.

If you are intrigued, please contact Nancy Stabb who will gladly answer your questions. nstabb@charter.net.

will have a second opportunity to view and discuss the documentary series, *Race: The Power of an Illusion* on three Saturday mornings. Look for details on times and locations elsewhere in this and future issues of *The Voter* and on our League's website: www.lwvjvl.org.

“Why Milton?”



Al Hulick, City of Milton

Milton has seen tremendous growth over the past 12-18 months, outpacing our neighboring communities... but why? Rock County continues to be the model for Economic Development in the State of Wisconsin, and Milton seems to be leading the way in terms of growth per-capita within the region. How

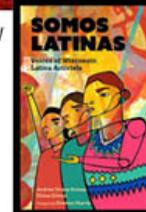
does a small community of just under 6,000 people garner so much interest and investment during this boom period? City Administrator Al Hulick will discuss the overall economic picture of our region as well as what makes Milton so well positioned to capture so much of this success.



Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration!!

The annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration will be held February 9, 2019 by the League of Women Voters of Beloit and Janesville. Plan to attend!

Event speaker is Eloisa Gómez, co-author of, *Somos Latinas: Voices of Wisconsin Latina Activists*, who will provide an overview presentation highlighting some takeaways on Latina Activists (50 years and older) and their community building efforts in Wisconsin. She will also engage the audience to strategize on relationship- and alliance-building opportunities with the Latinx/Latina communities to further civic engagement.



The Annual Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Boundaries, 3807 S Riverside Dr., Beloit, WI

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 11:00 a.m.



Tickets: \$25 (includes meal and event) Send payment to Deb Fallon, 1232 Elm St., Beloit, WI 53511

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2018-19*

*Additional events may be planned. Check website: lwvjl.org/calendar

January 2019

January 7 Board Meeting
January 10 @ 6:30 p.m. Milton City Council Chambers
Al Hulick, General Membership meeting



February 2019

February 4 Board Meeting
February 9 Susan B, Anthony Party

March 2019

March 4 Board Meeting
Spring Election - Candidates

Forums

April 2019

April 1 Board Meeting
Spring Elections

May 2019

May 6 Board Meeting
Annual Meeting

Recommended Reading

Slaves in the Family by Edward Ball

Mary Buelow
Diversity Committee

Edward Ball was raised to be proud of his family's heritage. Ball ancestors faced off as Tories and Patriots during the American Revolution. Edward's Confederate great-grandfather fought in the War Between the States while other family members defended their homes from the encroaching Yankee army. Edward knew a lot about the Balls, but knew next to nothing about the nearly 4,000 slaves the Ball family owned between 1698 and 1865. His father told him, "There are five things we don't talk about in the Ball family: religion, sex, death, money, and the Negroes." Edward decided to find out about the slaves in the family history.

In the late 17th century Carolinas, workers were so badly needed in colonial times it didn't matter where they came from - free labor, indentured servants, captured Native Americans, or captured Africans. What mattered was for every worker a settler brought in (slave or free) he or she was gifted 150 acres of land. This first Ball sought out labor in every avenue he could. He may have participated in scouting parties against the Indians, raiding Native villages to capture people for labor. He definitely bought Africans.

After the Emancipation Proclamation, 842 people freed from the Ball plantations. Edward traced their genealogies forward to find living descendants - educators and ministers, construction workers and secretaries, musicians, journalists, business owners, and military officers. The author was able to share the what bits of written evidence he had on their families; in one case, connecting a family with the name and place of origin of their African forbearer. In return, some descendants share their own family stories of slave times, segregation, and protest.

Day by day Africans and African Americans had to

make individual choices how to cope with their situation. Do you have a strong will to live no matter what your circumstances, or so you curl up and die because life is not worth living? Are there opportunities for escape, and what are the risks? Did resistance or acquiescence make the most sense? After the war choices continued: to stay in the Carolinas or move north and west, to integrate or develop their own communities, to become bitter or to find emotional peace.

White slaveholders made choices too. Ball men regularly participated in Slave Patrols, a sort of neighborhood watch to police African Americans in the area. Runaways who were caught were often deliberately disfigured so they could be identified if they ran away again. In the 1770s, they became revolutionaries as mother country England showed signs of turning against slavery. Rhetorical pro-slavery writings developed as abolition forces grew in strength. The social order continually evolved to preserve slavery and increase its efficiency.

It has been said that heritage is history with all the bad parts left out. *Slaves in the Family* tells a more complete story of the black and white families who lived side by side through 300 years of American history. In other hands, family genealogies can be tedious recitations of births, marriages, deaths, and the children that start the cycle over again. Edward Ball has taken dry facts and woven an engrossing history of the development of slavery in the Carolinas from early days to the Civil War and beyond.



Are you reading this newsletter as a 'guest'?
Joining the League of Women Voters is easy simply fill in this form and mail.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Individual \$65.00
 Student \$30.00

Household \$95.00

I am unable to join the League at this time but enclosed is a contribution of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters -
Janesville, P.O. Box 8064, Janesville, WI 53547-8064

I request consideration for a LWV scholarship.

Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: **LWV-US**

<www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI *<www.lwvwi.org>*

JANESVILLE LEAGUE

<www.lwvjvl.org>