



The

VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

December 2014

www.lwjvl.org

**Celebrate the Birthday of Susan B. Anthony
with the League of Women Voters of Beloit and Janesville**



save the date
Saturday, February 7, 2015
Butterfly Club, Highway X, Beloit
5246 East County Road X
socialize and register 11:00 am
luncheon 11:30 followed by program
for more information contact:
bclwv2010@gmail.com

SUSAN B. TAKES ON THE WORLD!
a readers' theater
featuring Michelle Dennis

Holiday Wishes

What a year it has been for the League! This year our local chapter is in the midst of studying and updating our position statements on mental health and domestic violence. Our publicity committee is busy with the upcoming January membership event now called "Tastes, toasts and tidbits" as well as a few other surprises yet to come. The Susan B Anthony event is planned and sounding like one you won't want to miss.

This time of year gives me pause. As I am

★ See HOLIDAY WISHES, Page 2

Carol Tidwell resigns as second Vice President

Carol Herzig
Editor

Carol Tidwell has resigned from the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Janesville to run for the city council. Christy Marsden will be filling in as 2nd V.P. Until the election at the annual meeting in the spring. Additional assistance on the Voter Services committee is needed with Carol's vacancy. If you would like to be involved, please call or

★ See CAROL TIDWELL, Page 2

What's Inside this Issue

Page 3
Page 6

Mental Health Committee book list
Calendar

Did You Know...

Did you know in 2014 our League registered over 100 voters including 87 at our local High Schools?

Did you know we provided information on voting at the Janesville Farmers Market?

Did you know we cosponsored, with Hedberg Library, a video on the role of women in our society in honor of Women's History month?

Did you know our President, Amy Golackson, came to the above event dressed as Wonder Woman to emphasize the growing influence and power of women in our country?

Did you know we provided well-attended candidates' forums for Janesville City Council; Janesville School Board and State Senate?

Did you know that only a little over \$3.00 of your annual \$65.00 dues stays with our League? The balance goes to pay our state and national dues.

Did you know we cannot accomplish all we do with only a little over \$3.00 a member per year?

★ Holiday Wishes

Continued from page 1

thinking about what I would like to happen in the New Year, here are a few of my holiday wishes in nearly song title form.

1. **Joy to the world**

While the world is in unrest on many issues around us, I wish you a sense of joy in your personal world. Friends, family, pets and every day kindnesses are the structure of our daily joys.

2. **All I want for**

Christmas is my two front parties to compromise

On a political front, I wish for more elected officials to embrace the element of compromise and bipartisanship. It is still an element of good government that we will encourage.

3. **Deck the halls with registrations:**

I wish for some more activity from our membership on registering voters. It is an ongoing need and the type of volunteer work that is most satisfying when spread out among many people. If you are interested in helping others exercise their right to vote and you are not currently trained to be a special voting deputy, let us know.

4. **Do you hear what I hear?**

I wish more people to have the gift to listen. Find the opportunities to encourage your fellow citizens to be active in their government. Encourage them to follow the issues, join the League, be educated, vote, run for office, and/or pay attention to a variety of sources for information.

5. **God rest ye merry gentlewomen:**

And my biggest wish for you, my fellow League mem-



President Amy Golackson

Additional donations from you, our members, make it possible to continue the work of our League. Issues may change, but what doesn't change is the League's commitment to good government through nonpartisan political activity.

You may mail your donation to: The League of Women Voters of Janesville P.O. Box 8064 Janesville, Wisconsin 53547-8064

Domestic Violence Update

Jean Randles

Chair

Report from the Dec. 2nd meeting:

The committee would like the Beloit LWVs group to endorse this position.

Answer to a question asked at LWVs meeting – what is CCR Team? A description is listed at the bottom of the Position statement. Specifically, the CCR team is defined by the community as “who comes to the meetings” to discuss community action. This may include (not limited to) – representatives from each shelter, Sexual Assault Nurse, Victim/Witness representatives, etc.

Answer to a question asked at LWVs meeting – would this committee like to form a panel and present at the annual meeting? No, unless the annual meeting was longer. Preferably, the committee would like to create a training opportunity for the public.

Future agenda topics:

Plan to engage Beloit LWVs group.

Planning for future training and/or educational opportunities at U-Rock.

Elder abuse (parents/grandparents).

Change the current process of calling the significant other when the abuser is going to be released.

Rock County PDs – use of a common tool to determine indicators of danger.

Trust / Relationship building between within all members of our community.

bers, is for a restful, happy holiday season because we know, there will always be plenty for us to do the rest of the year.

★ Carol Tidwell

Continued from page 1

-mail Amy Golackson.

eThe League, while nonpartisan, encourages our members to be involved in every level of government.

Janesville will have the opportunity to elect two women to the city council, the other candidate is former League President Kay Deupree.

We wish both candidates good luck with their campaigns.

From the Mental Health Committee

Mental Health/Wellness Committee members Mary Buelow, Kay Deupree, and Nancy Stabb interviewed Elizabeth McQuillen on November 6, 2014. Elizabeth is the Criminal Justice System Planner/Analyst for Rock County.

Elizabeth shared how Rock County law enforcement and service providers were all aware that behavioral health and criminal justice services the county were not functioning effectively as a cohesive system of care, and were not making the best use of limited resources. For a long time, Rock County Human Services focused on helping people in crisis, and stepped in when their situation became so bad there was no other choice. Resources were not allocated to help people before they got to the crisis stage even though preventing crisis is a healthier option for individuals, budgets, and the communities. Additionally, law enforcement dealt with many people who had criminal justice issues AND mental health issues AND drug or alcohol (ADOA) issues. Yet services in these areas were not coordinated,

and at times protocols for one service interfered with delivery of another service.

This is changing. In 2010 the Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) hired a consultant - ZiaPartners/TriWest - to conduct a needs and resource

assessment of the Mental Illness/ADOA service system and the relationship of that system to the criminal justice system. CJCC then worked with the Zia group to develop a strategic plan to deal with Mental Illness/ADOA issues in Rock County, both in general and in relationship to the county's justice system. The resulting plan is ambitious, and is in the process of being implemented.

One area of improvement has been in the emergency detention process - where police place a person on an emergency mental health detention for his or her own protection or the protection of others. Requests for crisis help are increasing in Rock County, but at the same time the number of emergency detentions has gone down. In 2011 there were 443 emergency detentions in Rock County; in 2012 there were 343 detentions; in 2013, there were 308. Law enforcement agencies in the county are developing Crisis Intervention Teams as a strategy to continue this trend. Crisis Intervention Teams consist of officers trained in techniques to manage and de-escalate situations where people are experiencing mental health crises.

Additionally, Rock County organized a Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee (BHRSC) to coordinate implementation of the strategic plan developed by the County and the Zia group. BHRSC consists of 23 public and private stakeholders in the mental health and criminal justice community. LWV Mental Health Committee member Kay Deupree has been attending their meetings, which are held the third Thursday every month at noon at the Rock County Courthouse.



Reprinted for your convenience

Suggested reading for the Mental Health Committee

Submitted by Mary Buelow
Mental Health Committee

Books:

Earley, Pete. *Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness*

Former Washington Post reporter Pete Earley had written extensively about the criminal justice system. But it was only when his own son-in-law broke into a neighbor's house that he learned what happens to mentally ill people who break a law.



This is the Earley family's compelling story, a troubling look at bureaucratic apathy and the countless thousands who suffer confinement instead of care, brutal conditions instead of treatment, in the «revolving doors» between hospital and jail. With mass deinstitutionalization, large numbers of state mental patients are homeless or in jail-an experience little better than the horrors of a century ago. Earley takes us directly into that experience-and into that of a father and award-winning journalist trying to fight for a better way.

Carter, Rosalyn. *Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental Health Crisis*

Rosalynn Carter and coauthors Susan K. Golant and Kathryn E. Cade render an insightful, unsparing assessment of the state of mental health. Mrs. Carter has been deeply invested in this issue since her hus

★ Mental Health

Continued from page 3

band's gubernatorial campaign when she saw firsthand the horrific, dehumanizing treatment of people with mental illnesses.

Using stories from her 35 years of advocacy to springboard into a discussion of the larger issues at hand, Carter crafts an intimate and powerful account of a subject previously shrouded in stigma and shadow, surveying the dimensions of an issue that has affected us all. She describes a system that continues to fail those in need, even though recent scientific breakthroughs with mental illness have potential to help most people lead more normal lives.

Within Our Reach is a seminal, searing, and ultimately optimistic look at how far we've come since Carter's days on the campaign trail and how far we have yet to go.

Reference Materials:

All of the following articles are available through Library's research database EBSCOHost, and anyone who would like a copy e-mailed to them should call the Hedberg Public Library at 758-6600.

Hedberg Public Library Ref 327

Mental Health Policy: BACKGROUND.

CQ Researcher. 5/10/2013, Vol. 23 Issue 18, p433-440. 7p.

The article provides a background of mental health issues in the U.S. It chronicles the rise of state hospitals that care for mentally ill patients in the early 1900s and the slow creation of community mental health centers (CMHCs) from the late 1960s to the 1980s. The article also reviews the changing U.S. federal policy on mental health since the 1980s and discusses the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

Backgrounders and Reports from Treatment Advocacy Center

Treatment Advocacy Center Backgrounder: *How Many Individuals with Serious Mental Illness are in Jails and Prisons?* (updated April 2014)

Treatment Advocacy Center Backgrounder: *How Many Individuals with a Serious Mental Illness Are Homeless?* (updated 4/2014)

Treatment Advocacy Center Backgrounder: *What Percentage of Individuals With Serious Mental Illnesses Are Receiving No Treatment?* (updated March 2014)

The Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness in Prisons and Jails: A State Survey
The Shortage of Public Hospital Beds for Mentally Ill Per-

sons. A Report of the Treatment Advocacy Center.

Articles:

Avoiding Jail Pays Off. [Steverman, Sarah](#) and [Lubin, Tara.](#) [State Legislatures.](#) Apr2007, Vol. 33 Issue 4, p20-21. 2p. (accessed EBSCO Masterfile Premiere 10/03/2014)

Mental Health Advocates Brace for Budget Cuts (April 3, 2011)

Mental Health Musical Chairs. [Cohen, Erika](#) [Business NH Magazine.](#) Sep2012, Vol. 29 Issue 9, p35-37. 3p. (accessed EBSCO Masterfile Premiere 10/03/2014)

Out of the ER. [Zigmond, Jessica](#) [Modern Healthcare.](#) 5/28/2012, p32-33. 2p. (accessed EBSCO Masterfile Premiere 10/03/2014)

Trends in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at the Nation's Community Health Centers: 1998--2003. [Druss, Benjamin G.](#) [Bornemann, Thomas](#) [Fry-Johnson, Yvonne W.](#) [McCombs, Harriet G.](#) [Poltizer, Robert M.](#) [Rust, George](#) [American Journal of Public Health.](#) Oct2006, Vol. 96 Issue 10, p1779-1784. 6p. 3 Charts. (accessed EBSCO Masterfile Premiere 10/03/2014)

Information about funding:

Community Behavioral Health's Newest Leader Looks Ahead. [Edwards, Douglas J.](#) [Behavioral Health Management.](#) Jan/Feb2005, Vol. 25 Issue 1, p34-37. 3p. 1 Chart. (accessed EBSCO Masterfile Premiere 10/03/2014)

Editorial: Managed Care for the Seriously Mentally Ill. [Mechanic, David](#) [American Journal of Public Health.](#) Jun92, Vol. 82 Issue 6, p788-789. 2p. (accessed EBSCO Masterfile Premiere 10/03/2014)



January membership event
now called

“Tastes, toasts and
tidbits”



At the Armory
at 5:30 p.m.
More
information to
come.

Web address of Our League:

LWV-US <www.lwvjvl.org>

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2014-15*

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

December

December 9 @ 6:30 pm Board meeting

January 2015

January 13 Board meeting 6:30 @ Olde Towne Mall

January 28 @ 5:30 pm Winter Membership Event
at The Armory

January 6 @ 2:00 p.m. Domestic Violence
Committee - HealthNet Boardroom

TBD Publicity for Spring Primary

TBD Voter Registration

TBD Wellness Committee

TBS Susan B planning

February 2015

February 10 @ 6:30 pm Board meeting

February 7 @ 11:30 am Susan B Event at

the Butterfly Club
TBD Publicity for Spring
Primary
TBD Voter Registration
TBDSpring Primary Elec-
tion
TBD Candidate Forums
TBD Wellness Committee
TBD Domestic Violence
Committee



March.

March 10 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

TBD Publicity for Spring General Election

TBD Voter Registration

TBD Candidate Forums

TBD Wellness Committee - Book Discussion

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

*Remember you may still
contribute to the State League
with a birthday
donation and half of
your donation will
be returned to our
Janesville League.*

