



The VOTER

Thank you for Your Public Service!

July 2014

League of Women Voters - Janesville



Kristin Koeffler

This spring brought the retirement of two dedicated women in public service. They are: Kristin Koeffler and Marilyn Jensen. Kristin was a long term

employee of Rock County and Marilyn was a County Board supervisor for many years. Their involvement, at the county level, will be greatly missed.



Marilynn Jensen

Officers for the Janesville League of Women Voters

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 Second Vice President
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 Director
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Amy Golackson
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www.lwjvl.org

Positions Updated and Ratified at the League of Women Voters of Janesville's Annual Meeting

SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

The League of Women Voters of Janesville feels that historic and neighborhood preservation is important to Janesville's economic and cultural sustainability. The City has a definite role in preservation activities. Preservation should be integrated into the overall process of planning for community development. Plans for streets, schools, and other community facilities should be evaluated for their impact on historic resources. Zoning changes and/or variances should be evaluated in terms of their effect on the neighborhood and historic resources.

The City of Janesville receives grants under various federal and state programs. Funds should be used: to support neighborhood goals; to rehabilitate historic structures in an appropriate manner; to continue surveys of the historic resources of the city. Alternative housing should be made available for those who might be displaced by rehabilitation activities. In addition, reuse of historic buildings should be a major consideration in all redevelopment projects.

The League supports the City of Janesville's historic district ordinance and the work of the historic preservation commission. This allows interested property owners to take advantage of the various tax incentives for preservation. The affected neighborhood should be involved in the establishment and definition of historic district boundaries.

The city should also

1. publicize the tax incentives which are available;
2. encourage property owners to find alternatives to the destruction of historic buildings;
3. reevaluate existing city ordinances for their affect on historic structures;
4. require that new construction in historic areas be compatible with the area;
5. require that renovation of historic structures and those in historic districts be in keeping with the style of the buildings.
6. allow variances to the ordinances to encourage the reuse or repurposing of historic buildings;
7. enforce the existing building codes so that historic structures do not deteriorate because of neglect.

Adopted October 1979: Revised April, 1988 and May, 2014

MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY AND THE JANESVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Background

The League of Women Voters of Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1993 created a position that supported an emphasis on multicultural educational efforts in the Janesville School District. We recognize and support the work of the Janesville School District to bring greater understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism throughout the entire school system.

- Five years ago the District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) was formed. The purpose was to work to close the cultural/racial achievement gap in the District. The progress toward closing the racial/cultural achievement gap is reflected in the District Report Card as published in the Janesville Gazette and on the DPI website.

- New history textbooks have been introduced in the classrooms at all levels. The new books acknowledge the perspective of persons of color. In many chapters history is viewed through the eyes of the minority.

- The Library Media

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★ Positions

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- Specialist works hard to make available books written by authors from racially and culturally diverse backgrounds.
- There is now some racial/ethnic diversity in the Central Office Staff and in the individual building Administrative and teaching staff.
- The Platinum Plan was introduced to the weekly mandatory staff development two years ago. It has three components: White Privilege or Unconscious Bias; Poverty and Culturally Responsive Teaching.
- Currently there are six Youth Advocate Staff members who have been hired to coach and mentor students of color. Their goal is to help students of color succeed.
- March of 2008 a scholarship committee was created which is now administered by the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin. They raise funds to pay up to \$5,000 tuition for five years for minority students from Parker and Craig High Schools who will work toward a degree in Education. The students are required to apply to teach in the Janesville District. Currently a 2013 graduate is teaching at Edison School, a second student graduated in January, 2014 and four more students are on schedule to graduate in June, 2014.

The League of Women Voters, Janesville supports and encourages the followings actions:

- Because Latinos are conspicuously absent from leadership and teaching roles within the District, there will be a strong effort to recruit Latinos for these positions since 11% of the students are Latino.
- The Platinum Plan needs to be expanded. We suggest it be offered a minimum of four to five times a year in every building.
- The Janesville School Board will be aware of these changes and become vocal in support of them.

Adopted April, 1993 and May, 2014

ROCK COUNTY PARKS LWV BELOIT/JANESVILLE: 2014

Rock County Parks

The Beloit and Janesville Leagues of Women Voters support an updated five-year Rock County “Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan”.

- The plan should contain a clear vision and mission for parks, outdoor recreation, and open spaces in Rock County.
- The plan should include site development plans with an inventory of parks, clearly saying how county park improvement priorities are set and how the priorities are monitored.
- The plan should be “user-friendly”, i.e. written at a general-public reading level.
- The plan should provide mechanisms which intentionally seek public participation at every step of

setting and monitoring park priorities.

- The plan should meet national and state standards. for quantity and quality.
- The plan should identify sources of funding for implementation.
- The plan’s provisions should be achievable.
- The LWV endorses the use of outside consultants, when funds can be secured, to plan for park improvements in order to ease the county staff workload and to benefit from the expertise that consultants could provide.



★ Positions

Continued from page 3

of Women Voters recommend that the “Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan” be fully implemented.

- The LWV recommends use of the following options to implement the plan:
- Provide funding through general tax revenues as well as governmental and private grants.
- Utilize the Rock County Green Fund and other volunteer funding support.
- Consider user fees while allowing accessibility to the public.
- Acquire additional land for parks or open spaces through purchase, abandonment, donation, dedication or designation. or land given ‘in lieu of’.
- Seek and maintain partnerships with special interest user groups.

The Beloit and Janesville Leagues of Women Voters recommend that the county administrator and supervisors address more effective ways to oversee the administration of Rock County’s parks.

note: The LWV finds the present county organizational structure “Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan” planning process less than ideal confusing when the roles of the Planning and Development Committee and the Public Works Department/Parks Division are unclear.

- The LWV recommends the continuation of the an additional staff person position, serving under the parks director, to coordinate volunteer efforts in planning, developing, maintaining, promoting, and funding our county parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces.

Adopted March, 2002 and May, 2014

July is Rock County Parks and Recreation Month

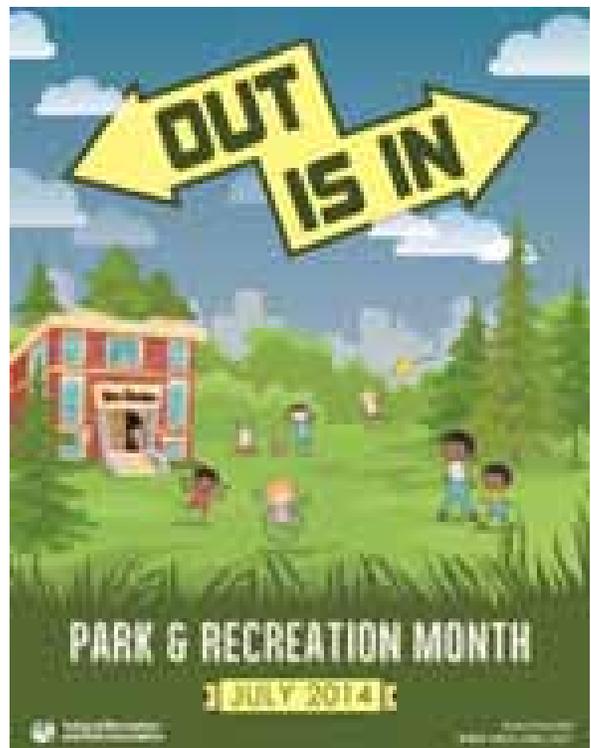
Carolyn Brandeen
Rock County Parks Committee

county site, please respond. We’ll keep you posted – out is in.

The Leagues in Rock County, Beloit and Janesville, have studied and spoken in support of our county parks and open spaces - see our updated position that was adopted this spring at each of our annual meetings. Planning has begun to update the county’s five-year plan for parks and we are monitoring not only the process but the product of their work.

The County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed July as PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH. This year’s theme is “Out is In!” The proclamation encourages us to make 2014 the year people go outside, change their outlook, get involved in their community through parks and recreation and show how parks and recreation can help them improve their lives from health and wellness to nature to community spirit and social equity.

Want to know more about our county parks and where they are? Go to <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/parks-home> and click on Park Info and Maps. A link is also there with the 2009 POROS Plan – being updated this year with our attention. If you get a survey about the county parks, or find one on the



Photos from the Annual Meeting



Carol Herzig photos
President Amy Golackson conducting the meeting for the members present at the Annual Meeting at Kandu Industries.



Sue Conley and Nancy Stabb enjoying a conversation prior to the meeting



The all important food table, getting everything set for the start of our pot luck.



Neil and Kay Deopree with Sue Ellen Madere in a discussion prior to the start of the meeting.



The pre-meeting distribution of Amy's Annual Report and other items needed for the running of the meeting.

Special Registration Deputies Training

Carol Tidwell
Voter Service Chair



For those of you who are SRDs (Special Registration Deputies), Jean Wulf has offered a refresher course which we should take advantage of.

The new Proof of Residence (POR) requirement to be completed at the time of registration is something we should all become familiar with. I will contact her for the date and time she can do this and let you know.

As you can see from the article below, there have been substantial changes that we need to be aware of.

If you would like to become a SRD, contact Carol Tidwell at 608.563.2293 or caroljtidwell@gmail.com

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

212 E. Washington Ave., Third Floor • Madison, WI 53703 • gab@wi.gov • (608) 266-8005 • Help Desk (608) 261-2028 • <http://gab.wi.gov>

Beware Old Voter Registration Forms

MADISON, WI – The Government Accountability Board cautions everyone registering voters for upcoming elections to make sure they're using the new forms.

Many Wisconsin municipal clerks report receiving

State law changed on April 4, and most voters who register must now provide proof of residence

voter registrations on old forms that do not have space for newly required information about the voter's proof of residence, said Kevin Kennedy, director and general counsel of the G.A.B.

"State law changed on April 4, and most voters who register must now provide proof of residence," Kennedy said. "The G.A.B. has revised the form and informed the public about the change. Unfortunately, some organizations which register voters are still using old forms, and it is creating a lot of extra work for clerks and headaches for voters."

G.A.B. Elections Division Administrator Michael Haas urged anyone who wants to register to vote to go online and fill out the form at MyVote.WI.gov.

"When you register with MyVote, you can be sure you're getting the right form, the right instructions and the right clerk's office address," Haas said. "MyVote lets you start your voter registration online by saving your information in our system. All you have to do is print, sign and mail the form and a copy of a valid proof of residence document to your local clerk, and you'll be all set. You can also drop off the application at the clerk's office and show a copy of your proof of residence document."

Haas also reminded voters that MyVote.WI.gov is their best source of information for polling place loca-

tions and what will be on their ballot.

For those who need a blank printed form for voter registration drives, the current form is available on the G.A.B. website: <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab-131-english>. A fillable form is available here: <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/gab-131-fillable>. Forms in Spanish and Hmong are available here: <http://gab.wi.gov/forms/voters>.

All electors, except those in the military and those residing overseas permanently, must provide a valid proof of residence document when registering to vote. Under previous law, a document establishing residency was not required if an elector registered to vote more than 20 days before an election, unless they were a first-time voter in the State.

"The Legislature sought to make the proof of residence requirement consistent for voters regardless of when they register to vote," Kennedy said. "It is important that voters understand that they must have a valid document showing their current name and address when they register with a clerk or at a voter registration drive, or that they must submit a copy of the document when registering by mail." A list of acceptable proof of residence documents is available here: <http://gab.wi.gov/publications/voter-guides/proof-of-residence>.

Haas said some clerks are also experiencing problems with voter registration mailer forms designed by outside groups that put the proof-of-residence language in very small print. As a result, some voters using those forms are not sending required proof of residence documents. Clerks who receive registration forms without valid proof-of-residence documents must contact the voter to request proper documentation, which Haas said is an expensive and time-consuming process.

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2014*

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

The calendar for 2014-15 is being worked on, we will update this site as

soon as dates and information become available.

Check website: lwvjvl.org/calendar



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>

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.

