



The

VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

May 2015

www.lwjvl.org

League of Women Voters of Janesville Elects New Officers

By **Katie Kuznacic**
President

The League of Women Voters of Janesville elected new officers at their annual meeting April 28.

The following officers were elected unanimously:

- Katie Kuznacic, President
- Christy Marsden, First Vice President
- Sarah Kopp, Second Vice President
- Debbie Fisher, Secretary
- Carol Herzig, Director

- Mary Buelow, Director
- Laura Boettcher, Director
- Fran Brien, Nominating Committee
- Jennifer Johns, Nominating Committee

Officers continuing their terms are Director Jean Randles and Treasurer Judy Adler

The all volunteer local League of Women Voters of Janesville is a nonpartisan organization which works to register voters, host candidate forums, study local, state, and national issues and to bring informative programs to the citizens of Janesville and northern Rock County.



Carol Herzig Photos

Annual meeting attendees follow along as President Amy Golackson reviews the activities and accomplishments from the pervious year. More photos on pages 2 and 3.

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Annual Meeting Photos
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Calendar



Carol Herzig, Photos
President Amy Golackson presiding over her last Annual Meeting in Basic's Community room.



Secretary Mary Buelow transcribing her last minutes as secretary. Thank you Mary for taking such detailed minutes over the years.



Carol Tidwell



Left to right: Judith Jaggard and Carolyn Brandeen



Officer Erin Betley, a DVI office representing the city of Janesville Police Department. Erin gave us information on what Janesville's Police Department has in place to deal with all of the complex issues involved with domestic violence. Thank you Erin for your assistance.



League members following along on the agenda.



Immediate past President Amy Golackson thanks her board for their help, assistance, and friendship.



Newly Elected President Katie Kuznacic presenting Amy Golackson and Mary Buelow with thank you gifts from the board. Mary will be continuing on the board, however, she will no longer be in the position of secretary.

Mental Health

Janesville League of Women Voters voted to continue the Mental Health study at the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting. This past year, the committee studied issues surrounding mental health and mental illness, the intersection between the mentally ill and the criminal justice system, and some of the political, economic and legal issues surrounding mental health

★ See MENTAL HEALTH, Page 6

Are you aware of The Clearinghouse?

<https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/>

This is a great resource that features League studies in more than 50 subject areas. The Clearinghouse provides scope and focus of a topic, research methodology, sources consulted, information about positions, and consensus questions.

... make sure your League members are aware of the Clearinghouse--the great resource that features League studies in more than 50 subject areas. The Clearinghouse provides scope and focus of a topic, research methodology, sources consulted, information about positions, and consensus questions. Note: the Clearing-

Newly Elected Officials, members of the League of Women Voters of Janesville

The League of Women Voters of Janesville is fortunate to have many members who have been elected to public office. We congratulate each of them for stepping up and representing the members of their communities. Pictured here are three of them who were elected this past April.

We are also lucky to have four other wonderful people elected to local and state office: Lori Stottler, County Clerk (newly resigned to take a position as Beloit City Clerk); Cathy Myers Aubrecht, Janesville School Board; Deb Kolste, WI State Assembly; and Kristin Koeffler, Municipal Judge in Milton.



★ Clearing

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house accepts positions without studies, even as multi-position documents, if they are accompanied by a single submission form. The description section could have «Resulting Position:» and the position statement or a link to the position. Complete studies are preferred, and Leagues may add study documents at a later date. Share your studies! Share our strength!

Debbie Fisher, Photos
Kay Deupree and Carol Tidwell being sworn in as Janesville City Council members.

Carol Herzig, Photos
Kay Deupree and Carol Tidwell's first City Council meeting.



Carol Herzig, Photo
Anissa Welch being sworn in a Mayor of the City of Milton.

Anissa's first City Council meeting as Mayor of Milton.



Thanks to Past President Amy Golackson the League made it into 5ive for Women magazine

Reprinted from the 5ive for Women Magazine May/June issue

What is the League of Women Voters? The League of Women Voters, in Janesville and Beloit, is complex and simple all at the same time. Simply put, the mission is to help engage and inform the electorate on issues and to encourage them to vote. There is a local league, a state league and a national league. Joining one will gain you membership to all levels of the league. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for active and informed participation in government. They bring people and communities together to consider challenging policy issues. The League provides unbiased voter education through candidate questionnaires and forums. Never supporting or opposing a candidate or political party, the League does take policy positions that our members agree upon after study and debate. Indeed, the league never endorses a candidate, but at the same time, the League is wholeheartedly political and works to influence policy through advocacy. The organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens. With a strict nonpartisanship policy, the League of Women Voters is a trusted source of unbiased information and a force for positive social change. Many people are interested in the work of the League and having an interest in good government is a starting place for some but when they step into the details they can get overwhelmed. The League is a great forum for people to have opportunities to study complex issues, fact find and get informed without the slant of partisan politics. Gathering information from a wide variety of informational sources is key to getting a balanced picture of issues. A strong democracy depends on engaged citizens and dedicated, competent, leaders willing to step forward and serve in public offices. No matter which public office— school board, town board, county board, sheriff—our public institutions become stronger when interested candidates offer voters choices as to who will represent them. Historically speaking, The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920. The League is a national network of concerned women and men who act to make a difference in the lives of citizens with the energy and passion of members committed to our principles. The Janesville and Beloit League members have studied many different topics including privatization of government services, redistricting, fair housing, parks, mental health, diversity in our schools, juvenile detention policy, sustainability, Affirmative Action in public institutions, incarceration rates, and many more issues. They have jointly reviewed Rock County parks, and together they hold an annual celebration of Susan B. Anthony in February. They study, discuss, debate and vote on a position statement that then, when topics come up to our local governmental entities relating to these issues, allows members to speak to what they have learned. Hearing from citizens with informed, engaged testimony is valued by the elected officials. To learn more: Janesville League of Women Voters: lwvjvl.org or facebook.com/JanesvilleLWV Beloit League of Women Voters: www.beloit.wi.lwvnet.org

You may get a copy of the magazine, online here: <http://www.stateline5iveforwomen.com/2015/05/01/download-may-june-2015-issue-vol-2-no-3/> or a real-life copy at the following locations: **Aglo Spa & Salon**, 15 W. Milwaukee St, Janesville; **Choice Cleaners**, 610 E Memorial Dr, Janesville; **Choice Cleaners**, 1926 E Milwaukee St, Janesville; **Dubes Jewelry**, 21 W Milwaukee St, Janesville; **Janesville Athletic Club**, 1301 Black Bridge Rd, Janesville; **K&W Greenery**, 1328 U.S. Hwy 14, Janesville; **Northleaf Winery**, 232 S Janesville St, Milton; **Piggly Wiggly**, 727

S Janesville St, Milton; **Romanelli Orthodontics**, 1504 N Randall Av, Janesville; **Schnucks**, 1501 Creston Park Dr, Janesville; **Sentry Foods**, 2501 W Court St, Janesville; **Sentry Foods**, 2822 E Milwaukee St, Janesville; **The Gazette One**, S. Parker Dr, Janesville; **Woodman's**, 2820 N Lexington Dr, Janesville



CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2015*

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

May.

May 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting

★ Mental Health

Continued from page 3

treatment. The committee also learned about a new local initiative, the Rock County Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee (BHRSC), which is bringing public and private stakeholders together to make services more effective on the local level.

There are many exciting programs and initiatives in progress for Mental Health services here in Rock County that may benefit from League advocacy. The committee met again on May 5 to map out the committee's strategy for the coming year. They identified seven programs or issues to investigate further - local

Crisis Intervention Teams, the role of the new social worker at the county jail, transport for those needing hospitalization, implementation of the co-occurring competencies model, improvements to Rock County Crisis Services, the Wisconsin Trauma Project, and Diversion Courts such as the drug court. The committee plans to use its research to begin work on a position statement starting October 2015. Once a position statement has been developed and approved by the membership LWV can advocate and support promising initiatives in Rock County's mental health services.

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.*

