

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF JANESVILLE

## The VOTER

www.lwvjvl.org

March 2019

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## Communications from the President



Dear Friends in League,

Although the temperatures are still low, the daylight hours are getting longer, and we turn ourselves to thoughts of Spring. For League mem-

bers that means Spring Elections on Tuesday, April 2 and all that goes into preparing for them.

- There is a very important statewide election for a Justice of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court on the ballot in addition to local elections.

- The Voter Services Committee needs additional volunteers to help newly eligible voters in our area high schools, colleges and other locations register to vote. You may also know of voters who have moved recently who need to update their registration. The deadline for online voter registration (OVR) at <http://myvote.wi.gov> is March 13.

- Remember that all voters in Wisconsin can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them for any reason.

- The LWV of Janesville, with partners Forward Janesville and JATV, will conduct a City Council Candidates Forum on **Tuesday, March 12, 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Hedberg Public Library. You will be able to find a link to JATV's webcast of that forum on our website when it become available.

- Candidates for the Janesville School Board have provided written responses to questions posed by the

LWV. You can find them and links to other election information on our website: <http://lwvjvl.org/Spring2019elections.html>

Other LWV Spring events include

- Three-part documentary series: ***Race: The Power of an Illusion*** that will be held on the second Saturdays of March, April and May in the BASICS Community Room from 10:00-noon. Come early to save your seat and get a cup of a coffee before the viewing and discussion of the films begin. (More information and links to background reading are in the Calendar section of our webpage.)

- **The History of Citizenship and U.S. Immigration Policy** program presented by Beatrice McKenzie, Professor of American History at Beloit College, on Wednesday, April 10, at 6:30 pm on the UWW at Rock County Campus.

- **LWVJVL Annual Meeting** will be held the evening of Wednesday, May 22. We are excited to announce that **Erin Grunze, the Executive Director of the LWV WI**, will be our guest speaker. We have gained a lot of new members to our League in the past few years, and Erin is in an excellent position to help all of us better understand the structure and functions of the three levels of the LWV, with emphasis on how the work of the state office supports our local League and furthers the mission of the League of Women Voters.

When I recently reviewed the local

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# ★ President

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positions of our Janesville League, I discovered that we had not been complying with the Diversity position that we adopted in 2017. Among other items, that position committed us to place a diversity policy statement in our monthly newsletter and on our website. We are correcting that oversight by placing the **LWV Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy** statement in our newsletter beginning with this issue of “The Voter.”

I encourage all LWVJVL members to review our local positions between now and the date of our Annual Meeting. They are posted on our website at [http://lwwjvl.org/local\\_positions.html](http://lwwjvl.org/local_positions.html). Our League has

developed these positions over the years through study and consensus. Each year at our Annual Meeting we vote to re-adopt these positions and/or to make recommendations for revision or further study. At that meeting we can also vote to initiate study toward developing a new local position, with the understanding that any local position our League develops must be based on and be consistent with positions that have been taken by LWVUS and LWVWI that you can find on their websites. I am confident that reviewing these positions will make you feel proud that you are a member of this organization.

Thank you!!

Linda

## HELP WANTED:

Looking for creative and historically-minded persons to help plan the celebration of the centennials of these historic events:

Passage the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution by Congress--June 4, 1919

Wisconsin's Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment—June 10, 1919

Founding of the League of Women Voters—February 14, 1920

Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment by the 36<sup>th</sup> state, Tennessee –August 18, 1920

Initial planning is underway.

*ning, coordinating with like-minded groups, fund raising, publicity.*

Thanks.

### LWVWI Midterm Election Observation Report

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI) and Wisconsin Election Protection have released their Wisconsin Election Protection 2018 Midterm Election Report based on the observations of volunteers who observed polling places across Wisconsin on Election Day in November. Both best practices and examples of practices that could be improved at polling places are emphasized in the report. You can access the full report through the LWVWI website at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jMNNrkeG982rZ5VWE8cpZG0fjInfzFnc/view>



*Please contact Linda Reinhardt if you would like to assist in any aspect of our celebrations such as: research of local history, event plan-*

## RECOMMENDED READING

### The Broken Ladder; How Inequality Affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die, by Keith Payne

Ethel Himmel  
Diversity Committee

We're all aware of studies examining the impact of poverty on children and their development. This book, written by a professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, focuses on the wider scope of adults at all economic levels and cites numerous experiments that show not only how poverty/eco-

omic inequality impacts those at the lower rungs of our economic ladder, but also how that inequality seeps into the minds of us all.

He says, “Among modern developed societies, inequality is not primarily a matter of the actual amount of money people have. It is, rather, people’s

# City of Milton • Economic Development



Carol Herzig, photos

The January 10 meeting with Al Hulick, Milton City Administrator.

## Welcome New Members:

We are delighted that Christine Moore, Deb Griffith, Susan Hedquist, Judith Loizzo and Susan Johnson have joined the Janesville League since the first of the year. Three of these new members have already become part of a study committee or Voters Services committee. 🙌

## Making the Most of League Membership

by Nancy Stabb  
Membership Chair

used for official business.

I joined the LWV over 50 years ago because I was intrigued by a grass-roots, multi-issue, non-partisan political organization. I was in total agreement with the core League purpose to promote informed and active citizen participation in government. The League has always emphasized that the processes of governing are as important as the outcomes. That is why the League continues to speak out boldly in support of a non-partisan redistricting process and of good governing practices, such as transparency, adequate opportunity for public participation, meeting rules that respect all voices in the process of developing legislation and public policies. League governs itself the way we believe governments should operate. All voices are respected and considered. Robert's Rules of Order are

When I joined, I met the most interesting people who just wanted to make our community, our state, our nation a safe, healthy, and fair place for all residents to live. I think that is the common denominator for our members in the 21st century as well. By simply joining the League you support the League's Voters Services and Advocacy activities and make our collective voice stronger. That said, those members who can get involved in the studies and on the Board really get the greatest value for their dues. In addition to Voters Services we have 2 fairly active policy issues committees: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee and the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Options committee. Redistricting and Immigration are ongoing concerns as well. If any of these issues interest you, please share that with any member of the Board.

# ★ Recommended Reading

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sense of where they stand in relation to others. Feeling poor matters—not just being poor. Regardless of their average incomes, countries or states with greater levels of income inequality have much higher rates of all the social maladies we associate with poverty, including lower than average life expectancies, serious health problems, mental illness, and crime.”

People on the lower rungs of the ladder have little trust in investing for the future. Poverty increases stress. He also cites studies that offer explanations of how people’s perception of their social status affects their political beliefs and leads to greater political divisions, something we’ve all pondered since the 2016 election. Economic anxieties also fuel racial conflict.

One chapter examines inequality between blacks and whites and tries to explain why our police are prone to overreact in their interactions with black males... seeing weapons where there were none: “police are

programmed to see danger.”

While I was somewhat aware of the social comparisons that we make daily, I was unaware of how deeply those unconscious thoughts guide our behaviors. Interesting, depressing, and sometimes tiring in forcing the reader to focus hard to understand the meaning(s) of the experiments’ results, the book does end on a hopeful note: “We can, in fact, exert more control over how we compare. Controlled comparison means, first, learning to recognize when we are in the grips of such a compulsion, and, second, choosing wisely what kind of comparison is really relevant and useful. The idea here is not to stop comparing; it is to compare more wisely....The point is not to compare with the winners (upper rungs of the ladder), or to compare with the losers (bottom rungs of the ladder). It is to compare, with lucidity. (In different circumstances, that might be me.)

## Positions and Policies of the League of Women Voters of Janesville

Each month we will be placing one of our positions in the Voter, so everyone is familiar with what we have taken a stand on.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.



The Janesville LWV com-

mits to the diversity of Janesville and fully endorses the LWV’s DEI policy.

**ATTENTION  
CITIZENS:  
BE HEARD.  
Your VOTE is  
your VOICE.**

**Apr 2 Election**  
**Choose how to VOTE:**

- by mail
- in-person absentee (early voting)
- on Election Day

**LWV** [lwvwi.org](http://lwvwi.org) [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

The graphic features a vintage-style silver microphone on the right side, set against a dark background with colorful light streaks. The text is arranged in a clear, bold, sans-serif font, with the LWV logo and website information at the bottom.

# Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration 2019

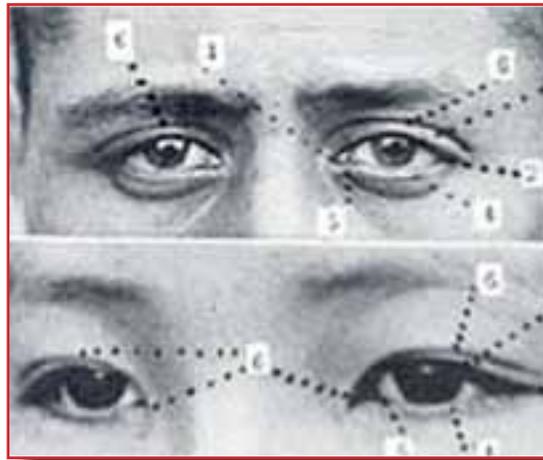


# Community Film Discussion

## Race - The Power of an Illusion

### Basics Cooperative Community Room

Film viewing: 10:00-11:00  
Discussion: 11:00-12:00



#### **The Difference Between Us ... Saturday March 9, 2019**

Episode 1 surveys the scientific findings - including genetics - that suggest that the concept of race has no biological basis.

#### **The Story We Tell.....Saturday April 13, 2019**

Episode 2 provides the historical context for race in North America, including when and how the idea got started and why it took such a hold over our minds.

#### **The House We Live In..... Saturday May 11, 2019**

Episode 3 spotlights how our social institutions “make” race by providing different groups vastly different life chances even today.

Questions? contact Mary Buelow at [buelow\\_m@msn.com](mailto:buelow_m@msn.com)



# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Activities 2018-19\*

\*Additional events may be planned. Check website: [lwvjvl.org/calendar](http://lwvjvl.org/calendar)

### March 2019

March 4 Board Meeting  
March 12 Spring Election -  
Candidates Forum, 6:30 p.m. @  
Hedberg Public Library

April 2 Spring Elections  
April Professor Beatrice McK-  
enzie of Beloit College on the his-  
tory of citizenship and US immi-  
gration policy.

May 22 Annual Meeting, 6:30-  
8:00 p.m. @ 29 South

### June 2019

June 8 LWVWI Annual Meet-  
ing @ Green Lake

### April 2019

April 1 Board Meeting

### May 2019

May 6 Board Meeting

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

**Making Democracy Work**



## Annual Meeting Notice

### Online Registration for Annual Meeting Now Open

Members and friends of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin are invited to register for the [LWVWI's 2019 Annual Meeting](#), to be held on Saturday, JUNE 8, at the scenic [Green Lake Conference Center](#) in Green Lake, Wis. [Make your online reservation today!](#)

The one-day event will be filled with intra-League discussion on membership expansion efforts and best strategies for candidate forums, statutory plenary sessions, [Meg McClane and Membership and Leadership Development](#) (MLD) award presentations, and a contextual lecture on Wisconsin Suffrage history - kicking off the League's Centennial celebrations leading into 2020.

To make lodging reservations, please call Green Lake Conference Center Guest Services at 920-294-3323. A block of guest rooms for Annual Meeting attendees will be held by the Conference Center through Friday, April 12th.

Additional lodging information and the meeting's tentative program agenda can be viewed on the LWVWI's [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact the LWVWI office - email: [lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org](mailto:lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org) or phone: 608-256-0827.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting this summer!

## Immigration

**Immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet economic, business and employment needs; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.**

### Why it matters

All persons should receive fair treatment under the law and it is critical for the U.S. to encourage immigrant participation in our democracy.

### What we're doing

We support federal immigration laws that provide efficient, expeditious systems for immigrants to enter the United States. Seeking asylum at points of entry into the United States

is part of our legal immigration process and assaults on asylum seekers are un-American. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrant rights community. The 116th Congress must take immediate action to pass common sense, fair immigration policies that end the crisis at our border, ends the separation of families, and provides a path to citizenship.

The LWV of Janesville supports all positions of the LWVUS and the LWVWI.



## 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](http://www.lwv.org)>

**LWV-WI** <[www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)>

**JANESVILLE LEAGUE**

<[www.lwvjvl.org](http://www.lwvjvl.org)>