

The LWV VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

November 2013

www.lwjvjl.org

Issues Briefing-The Perspective of a Novice

Debbie Fisher
Board Member

League President, Amy Golackson, encouraged our attendance at the October 5th Issues Briefing in Madison. The topics sounded intriguing; I had the date available and the icing on the cake was Kay Deupree said she was going to attend and would drive us to Madison. My registration was in the mail the next day. I felt excited with anticipation about what the day would hold. Then I received the agenda. My heart sank. The agenda promised five hours (with a 15 minute break) of sitting, sitting, sitting and listening, listening, listening. The schedule cheerfully proclaimed a "working lunch" with more sitting and listening while we ate.

The morning began quite well. Kay arrived at my house promptly at 8:00 with three other passengers in her car; Amy Golackson, Ellen Trewartha and Carolyn Brandeden. We had a lively conversation sprinkled with laughter all the way to Madison. In typical League of Women Voter's fashion the day was well organized. The registration table held our name tags, packet of information and the dreaded agenda. It had not changed. We were scheduled for five hours (with a 15 minute break) of sitting and listening. I made a beeline for the coffee pot.

I drank my cup of coffee because it was really good coffee. However, I did not need the caffeine! The topics for the day were: *A New Proposal for Judicial Selection; The Climate Crisis and American Health; Leaders of Today and Tomorrow* which is a new organization launched by the LWV of Minnesota and *Redistricting in Wisconsin*. Each speaker

had both depth and breadth of knowledge on their topic and amazing charisma. They held our attention and the time passed rapidly. You will want to see Kay's sum-

mary of the Climate Crisis and American Health in this newsletter.

I strongly encourage you to attend the next Issues Briefing. The coffee will be good, but you will not need the caffeine!

Notes from Issues Briefing presentation by Joel Charles: *The Climate Crisis and American Health*

Kay Deupree
Board Member

This presentation summarized specific health concerns resulting from warmer weather, rising seas and more extreme weather events.

Factors include:

- Warmer air holds more smog =more asthma, COPD and heart disease deaths.
- Warmer air = longer pollen season
- Longer/higher temp heat waves = increased stroke, suicide, respiratory disease affecting children, elderly and those on psychiatric meds.
- More forest fires make the air unhealthy.
- More heavy rain events increase risk of drinking water contamination in some areas.
- Standing water due to heavy rain events may lead to infectious disease increase.
- Extreme weather events affect food crops and therefore food costs.
- Rising seas will inundate some cities requiring mass migration/ relocation putting stress on resources.

According to Mr. Charles, reducing fossil fuel use is essential to veer off of the path we are on. He has chosen to work with the Citizens Climate Lobby to promote "carbon fee and dividend legislation." Check the website for more information. <www.citizensclimatelobby.org>



Meet Your Janesville Historic Commission

This would be
a great event
to invite new
and prospective
members!



Wednesday, November 13, 6:30 p.m.

presented by City of Janesville and The Janesville League of Women Voters

**Preserving Janesville's heritage, history and its
excellent examples of period architecture.**

Gale Price, Manager of Building and Development Services will discuss the role of the Historic Commission as well as past and current work programs, including the establishment and proposed signage for the Courthouse Hill district.

Historic Commission member James Dumke will talk about the Commission's experiences working with individual property owners to help them maintain the historic character of their properties.



316 S. Main St. • Janesville, WI 53545 • 608.758.6600 • www.HedbergPublicLibrary.org

Adult Programs
Hedberg Public Library



Wisconsin's Legislature leadership

Legislative leaders are backing away from a fast-paced bill that would strip local governments of police power authority to regulate air quality, water quality, and water quantity inside their boundaries. It is unlikely the bill will progress in the Assembly or Senate this fall, according to leaders of both houses. Read the League of Women Voters of Ashland-Bayfield Counties' letter of opposition, which was published by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Thanks to all who contacted their legislators about the proposal.

Almost 250 people attended a lively public forum Monday at UW-Stevens Point, sponsored by Common Cause in Wisconsin and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The panel of speakers, including former Congressman Dave Obey, represented differing perspectives and discussed the need for redistricting reform, how to reduce the influence of money in government, and how to keep elections free, fair and accessible in Wisconsin. Click here to view the event on Wisconsin Eye.

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County recently held a forum about poverty in the county. Experts on the panel reported that almost 30 percent of households headed by single women in the county live on incomes at or below the poverty level. The Winnebago League currently has two areas of local focus: the poverty study and the Oshkosh Area School District Strategic Planning process. Learn more.

The distinguished federal Appeals Court judge who in 2007 wrote an opinion upholding Indiana's voter ID law recently said the court was wrong in upholding "a type of law now widely regarded as a means of voter suppression rather than of fraud prevention." This is significant in Wisconsin as three of the four lawsuits challenging voter ID in our state go to trial in November, according to a League column in The Capital Times. The League has enhanced our summary of the status of voter ID lawsuits in Wisconsin with links to national compilations of state voter ID requirements and legislation, as well as pending election law litigation cases in the states.

Leadership Update LWV US

We are almost there, Election Day 2013 is just five days away. On November 5th, millions of voters will head to the polls and stand up for what matters most in our communities and our lives. Nationwide, more than 5,500 races and ballot initiatives will be decided this election season. It may not be a presidential election year but there is a lot at stake in this election and the best news for voters is that Leagues around the country are hard at work on their behalf.

Leagues are continuing to educate voters about the candidates and issues on their ballots through voters' guides, on League websites, including www.VOTE411.org, and by speaking out in the media as part of informational news articles and well-placed op-eds and letters to the editors. Soon you will be turning your attention to get-out-the-vote activities and helping Election Day go smoothly by working at or observing the polls.

Given the prevailing cloud of negativism that surrounds politics and government, we will all need to work even harder this year. Voters who stay home on Election Day are missing the opportunity to take part in building stronger communities and to have a say on the issues that matter most to them. There's a reason why Lyndon B. Johnson called the vote "the most powerful instrument ever devised by man" and why Carrie Chapman Catt called it "the emblem of our equality." Voting is the very foundation of our great democracy.

As we head into the final stretch, each of us can do our own get-out-the-vote campaign by reminding those around us to go vote and to help those around us to get the kind of accurate, fact-based information that only the League can provide. These last days before Election Day are an important time for all voters to take advantage of every available opportunity they have to research the issues, get their questions answered and learn about any changes to the elections process in your area. [VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) has the information voters need to make sure they're ready for Election Day.

As you go about your last minute preparations, remember to send out a press release and letter to the editor, update your Facebook page, call up your neighbors, and make sure your voters' guide is available in local grocery stores, schools, lobbies and bus stops. This is what the League does best. But voters can only take advantage of the resources if we share them far and wide.

In League together making democracy work, Elisabeth



It's Coming! Don't miss out! **Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party**

We're making ready for the annual Susan B. Anthony birthday party!

Mark your calendar now for Noon, February 16, 2014.

This year Susan B. will be attending, she'll be portrayed by Rose Stephenson, will be speaking this year along with Wisconsin LWV Executive Director, Andrea Kaminski.



Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

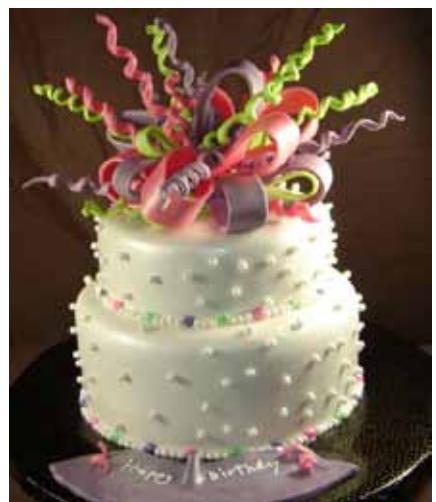
To check out the action go to: **LWV-US** <www.lww.org>

LWV-WI <www.lwwi.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.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please e-mail me, Carol Herzog at caherzig@charter.net Thank you.