



The VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

October 2014

Top 10 reasons to join the League of Women Voters of Janesville

10. You like the Justice League and so joining anything with the name "league" in it sounds great.
9. You secretly have always wanted to understand redistricting.
8. You are non-partisan curious.
7. You like to vote and want to see more then 20% of the electorate cast a ballot.
6. You know who Mike McCabe is and will give up a few hours one night to hear him speak.
5. When you hear someone say they are going to the polls, you want to be with people who quickly think "voting booth" not "a pole dancing class".
4. You don't tune out when you hear the words Candidate Forum or Issues Briefing.
3. You want to hang out with smart community oriented people.
2. The idea of actually delving in and studying an issue rather than reducing it to a "sound bite" of trigger words interests you.
1. You think a strong democracy is actually possible and really good for our country.

Senate District 15 Candidate Forum

Janis Ringhand and Brian Foltzgerald

Candidate forum to be held Wednesday, October 15, 2014 in the program room at Hedberg Library in Janesville. 7:00 p.m.

The sponsors are the Beloit and Janesville chapters of the LWV, Forward Janesville, the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce and JATV, which are all pleased to offer this event to the community.



44th Assembly District Candidate Forum

A candidate forum for the 44th Assembly District general election will be hosted by the Janesville chapter of the League Women Voters, Forward Janesville and JATV on October 22, 2014 starting at 7 p.m. The forum will be held in the program room of Hedberg Library in Janesville. The program is free and open to the public; questions for the candidates will be solicited from the live audience that evening.

CANCELLED

The LWV has decided to go forward with an interview of Deb Kolste as the remaining candidate on October 22nd at 7 p.m. to be aired on JATV.

www.lwjvl.org

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Wellness Committee - Mental Health Study

Mary Buelow
Co-Chair

The first two meetings of the Wellness Committee - Mental Health Study were held September 8 and September 29 at the Hedberg Public Library. Attendees discussed risk behaviors that feed into lack of wellness in Rock County: STDs, drug and alcohol abuse, obesity, physical illness, mental illness. The two risk behaviors most relevant to the mental health topic are mental illness and substance abuse.

Rock County has few resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment. There are no inpatient facilities for mental health or substance abuse treatment - patients must be sent to Madison or Milwaukee. Madison has one bed allocated for all Rock County residents. If it is full, the patient must be sent to Milwaukee - provided there is a bed is available. If the individual has criminal charges against them they must be transported to Winnebago, near Oshkosh, by a sheriff's deputy. If the individual is combative they must send two deputies. Once people are released from jail they have no aftercare or follow through for any mental health issues or substance abuse issues they might be facing.

For a League study we need to define a need, provide

evidence, and advocate for resources. A proposed track for the Mental Health portion of the Wellness Study could be to analyze resources available and their effectiveness, then identify what resources would improve treatment access in Rock County.

This is an opportune time for LWV to be studying mental health and AODA (Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse) issues. Rock County has formed a working group on the subject - the Rock County Behavioral Health System Integration Redesign - and is looking at system changes to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness or AODA issues. Since the County is already looking at these issues we will have more opportunities to influence policy.

The next meeting will be Wednesday October 29, 6:00 p.m. in the Hedberg Public Library Group Study Room #3. If you cannot attend but have questions or information to contribute please contact Mary Buelow or Christy Marsden.



The Delphi Committee – Rock County Parks

Carolyn Brandeen
LWV-JVL Representative

The 2014 Delphi Committee, nine county residents with diverse outdoor interests including me, a member of the League of Women Voters, met a total of six times over the summer and early fall. We reviewed Rock County Parks operations, properties, facilities, programming and funding. The recommendations are being created to assist in the creation of the 2014-2019 Rock County Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space (POROS) Plan.

The 2014 Delphi Committee found value in reviewing past recommendations and benchmarking progress being made toward implementation. With its current 18 parks and 4 trails there was discussion about what county land resources have been preserved and what land acquisitions and opportunities should be a priority for the future.

In addition it reviewed the resources available to service the 1100 acre park system with a budget of \$326,268 (2014), staffing at 5.75 FTE'S or equivalent positions, and a capital improvement budget of

\$180,000 (2014). The many accomplishments made in the past five years implementing the current POROS Plan were discussed. While the Delphi Committee felt that much is being accomplished with very little staff and funding, the need for a long-term consistent source of funding is clear.

The Leagues of Women Voters, Beloit and Janesville, have addressed the County Board of Supervisors in the past from our 2002 position, updated in 2014, on Rock County Parks. We support timely preparation and adoption of a 5-year plan for parks operation including adequate staffing.

The 2015 county budget process is

The County Administrator submits a recommended budget to the County Board of Supervisors in October each year.

The County Board adopts the county budget and sets the tax rate in November.

I anticipate LWV statements may be helpful to speak to the issue of funding for the community coordinator. Learn more about our Rock County parks at <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/departments-m-z/parks>

September 25th Membership Event



Amy Golackson photos

Mike McCabe at the Pontiac Center

“Tonight was awesome! Our speaker was extremely well informed and inspiring! Thank you Nancy!!” - Deb Fisher

“We owe a great deal of thanks to the publicity committee for doing such a good job of getting the word out!” - Nancy Stabb.



The Domestic Abuse Study underway

Jean Randles, MBA-HR
Chair

What does it mean to study a position? As an action group, a committee was created to review the current Domestic Abuse position statement. This process will be accomplished through our model of Study, Discussion, Consensus, and Implementation. A group of experts have been gathered to form this subcommittee, which will provide information to members and the public to determine if the current position should be modified. This will allow for membership to support or oppose legislation. The Domestic Abuse Study scope involves study of the issue, consen-

sus, and formulation of the position, which will be used to influence public policy. The purpose of a study is to educate members so that they can be informed participants in consensus and provide the necessary data for formulating the ultimate position. The committee will refine the areas to be studied, research and write background information about the different areas contained in the scope, and prepare consensus questions and other materials to help direct local League discussion to consensus. Upon reporting of the consensus (or lack thereof) the committee will formulate the position which, when approved by the Board, can be used for action.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities 2014-15*

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

October

October 4 Issues Briefing
October 14 Board meeting
October 15 Candidate Forums 15th Senate District
TBD Publicity for General Election
TBD Wellness Committee
TBD Domestic Violence Committee
TBD National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
TBD Susan B planning

December

December 9 Board
meeting
TBD Wellness
Committee
TBD Domestic
Violence Committee
TBD Susan B
planning



November

November 4 General Election
November 11 Board meeting
TBD Wellness Committee
TBD Domestic Violence Committee
TBD Susan B planning

January 2015

Board meeting
Publicity for Spring Primary
Voter Registration
Winter Membership Event
Wellness Committee
Domestic Violence Committee
Susan B planning

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.*

