



The

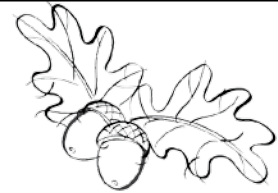
VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

October 2013

www.lwjvl.org

Revised 09/16/2013



Issues Briefing

October 5, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel

4402 E Washington Ave, Madison



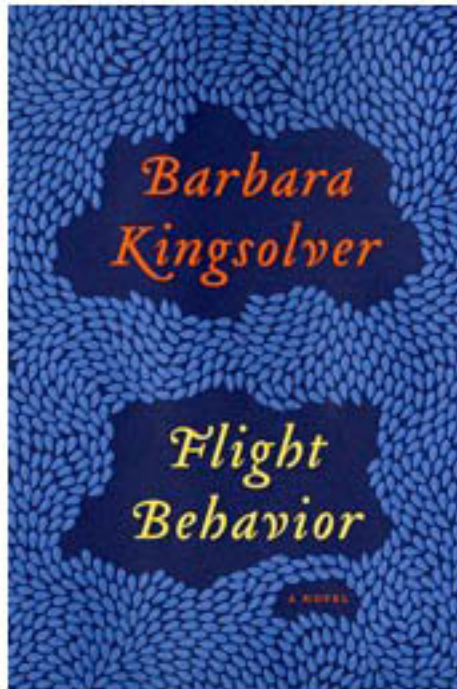
AGENDA

- 8:30 Registration opens
- 9:00 **Welcome and introductions**
- 9:10 **A New Proposal for Judicial Selection**
Attorney Joseph Troy
Former Circuit Court Judge, Chair of Wisconsin State Bar Judicial Task Force
- 10:10 **The Climate Crisis and American Health: Threats and Opportunities**
Joel Charles, M.P.H., M.D. Candidate, UW-Madison School of Public Health
- 11:00 **Break**
- 11:15 **Leaders of Today and Tomorrow**
Katie Brandt
Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, a new organization launched by LWV Minnesota
- 12:00 **Working Lunch – State Capitol Update**
Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI Registered Lobbyist
Carolyn Castore, LWVWI Redistricting Coordinator
- 1:30 **Adjourn**

League of Women Voters® of Wisconsin Education Network

www.lwvwi.org

League of Women Voters



FLIGHT BEHAVIOR

In what may be the first novel to realistically imagine the near-term impact of "global weirding," Barbara Kingsolver sets her latest story in rural Appalachia

BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER

This book was chosen for study by the Climate Change Committee of the Janesville League Women Voters. The community of Janesville is invited to read and discuss this book with us.

Hedberg Public Library

(Ground Floor Meeting Room)

316 S. Main Street
Janesville, WI 53545

Saturday
October 19, 2013
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Discussion Leader
Neil Deupree

Call for more information
Neil – 752-8342 or
Barb – 752-7982



Contact us at
League of Women Voters of Janesville
P.O. Box 8064
Janesville, WI 53547-8064
www.lwvjvl.org

League of Women Voters - Janesville Membership Meeting September 18, 2013

By Carol Herzig
Voter Editor

Our guest speaker was Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director and Lobbyist for Wisconsin League of Women Voters. She gave us an update on the status of the Voter ID law - the investigation is not turning up any kind of fraud that voter ID would address. .00009% of all votes were cast illegally. Those were done by felons still on paper, one couple thought they should be able to vote in the two counties they owned property. The bill would affect mostly people of color and the elderly. The Birth Certificate issue, the cost involved in obtaining a copy, more of a burden on women - with their name changes from marriage, divorce, etc.



**Andrea Kaminski,
LWV-WI
Executive Director**

The League of Women Voters, one of four, to bring law suites in the State. We got a favorable ruling at the first level which was over turned by the appeals court, moved onto the supreme court. NAACP's suit is seeking evidence of people of color being disenfranchise. There was a lot of confusion during all of the elections in early 2012 with the proof of residence. Some observers of the elections were very aggressive. Confusion of how the election official could handle that problem. But by the Presidential election it was all different. We had 300 league observers in over 400 polling places. There was less confusion on same day registration, handling of observers, etc. The GAB did more training, and had clearer guidelines on identification, and what the election officials could do with the observers.

We have a right to vote in our state constitution. We



have a high voter turn out, we have local election official that are skilled, friendly and willing to help their constituents vote. These are part of the differences that we have that other states do not have. Just having the GAB is unique.

The board is made up of former judges, who really care about voting in Wisconsin. Any future reforms should address really documented issues (not like the Voter ID) retain same day registration, continue to improve the training of election officials, allow a wider array of residency requirements. Continuous on-line registration, allow municipalities to handle absentee voting, off site voting, enhance voter education.

What are we seeing: one bill has on-line registration, seeing bills that limit the availability of registration, ones that make it impossible to vote, one in which if there is a poll work error to remove ballots of random voters; it challenges the registering of voters (not at the time of registration but afterward).

How the GAB is formulated right now, it is made up of 6 former judges who go through the candidate nomination board which gives their name to the governor, a bill in the legislature would double the number of candidates thus flooding the governor with candidates and making it easier to stack the GAB.

Redistricting- Senator Cullen's bill would have the legislative reference bureau draw the lines. This last redistricting was very secretive, and expensive! We have to not let this continue. We need to give it a public hearing.

Questions and Answers:

Question 1: Will the GAB move to audit voting? Is that a good idea? **Answer:** We have really discussed it. Justice Kennedy said maybe it is a good idea.

Question 2: What are the other issues? **Answer 2:** Mining bill, medicaid, vouchers.

Question 3: What about open records? **Answer 3:** One assembly person says that they are in a continued in session and so are exempt for any open records law suit. No matter what the issue.

Amy's turn: There are many ways to be involved with the League of Women Voters. Anyone who would like to speak on the issues. Issues briefing, cash only, choose to come to general meeting, choose to get



**Amy Golackson,
LWV-JVL President**

★ Membership

Continued from page 3



involved with one of the committees. This Issues Briefing is a way of getting involved at the state level. Three big studies... Redistricting; a chance to get involve before we get shut out of the process. Water, Mining, Fracking, this is the time to get involved with this issue. Sustainability, our committee is great and very busy. Neil Deupree sent information, via Kay, on the forth coming book discussion: Flight Behavior, novel set in present day Appalachia in Tennessee it encourages discussion about environmental issues faced by monarch butterflies. The book discussion will be on October 19th at Hedberg Public Library.

Additional studies we are working on are: Federal



Government in Education, Juvenile Justice, lots of other studies. We had an Affordable Care Act forum, with other groups last winter.

We also need to raise dollars to continue our work. One of the things that we have been doing is selling reusable cloth bags. The one we have chosen to sell came from one of our book discussions, they are: ChicoBags. We decided to do an on-line order, which you can still do. The order code is: Voter4LWV. The are samples and display of items.

Another fund raiser we do is the Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party, in February each year near the anniversary of her birth. The committee has lined up both speakers for the event, they are: Rose Stevenson, a character actor, playing Susan B. Anthony and Andrea Kaminski, The event will be at the Pontiac Convention Center, Janesville. The next planning meeting will be on Monday, September 23rd at the Hedberg Public Library.

If you have friends who you think might want to be





involved with us, Amy is willing to speak with them. Being a League member only requires as much time as you want to give; another issue we are conducting locally is the studying of the city's parks (after all we are the City of Parks) Should that include terrace trees? A Forestry department? We need a chair or convener for the city park study. Please let us know if you are interested

County Parks, we have a position on this and it is being reviewed. We plan on sitting down with the county park head and discussing what is happening with them. We need to up date our position.

We are also looking at historic neighborhood preservation and will have a meeting in partnership with the City of Janesville on November 13, with the historic commission at the Hedberg Public Library. The Historic Commission is working on sign development and will have samples on hand. This meeting is open to the public.

County Wellness, some delay could be starting up soon. If you are interested in one of the many issues we work on we love to have you helps us do that. Peo-



ple joins us for a verity of reasons: which one fits you? Let's Make Democracy Work.

Social media: Facebook, we are at 98 "Likes" we would like to make it to 100.

We are going to be at the Janesville's Farmer Market to sell our products on October 5, if you would like to help staff this, contact Judy Adler.

Prize drawings: The winners were Sue Conley and Andrea Kaminski. (State Representative Deb Kolste was one of the winners but declined because of the ethic laws that apply to her and another name was drawn in her place.)

State Representative Deb Kolste had a box of Blue Book to distribute, she requested that we all, please take a Blue Book.



National Voter Registration Day – September 24th

By Carol Tidwell,
Voter Services Chair, Janesville LWV

The Janesville and Beloit chapters celebrated this day by staging a voter registration event on the main campus of Blackhawk Technical College. Deb Fallon (Beloit) and Debbie Fischer and Janet Hay (Janesville) all participated in registering students that day.

In 2008, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2013, the NVRD group wanted to make sure no one was left out.

On September 24, 2013, volunteers, celebrities, and organizations from all over the country "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts were done to create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities—reaching tens of thousands of voters or more who would not be reached otherwise.

The League of Women Voters is a strong partner with other organizations in the National Voter Registration Day.

Check it out at: <http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

League hosts Book Discussion of Flight Behavior

The Janesville League of Women Voters is sponsoring a book discussion on Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 10 to 12 noon at the Hedberg Community Room. The book chosen by the league's climate change committee is

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver. This novel imagines our world as it is threatened by disturbances in the ecosystem we so often take for granted. Kingsolver captivates her readers in a suspenseful plot while offering a delicate balance between the sacred and the scientific.



Leaguers Initiate Update of County Parks Position

Beloit League of Women Voters
Newsletter

Beloit and Janesville Leagues are reviewing our position on Rock County parks. Our current position is ten years old and contains some outdated language.

Beloit Mmembers Dave Dobson and Joyce Schoenfield met with Janesville members Carolyn Brandeen and Neil Deupree. They briefly reviewed the 2002 Beloit/Janesville LWV position on county parks and Rock County's 2009-2014 Parks Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan (POROS) posted on the county's website.

Since the current POROS plan is for 3009-3014, and another five year plan will be created for County Board adoption and necessary budgeting, this is an especially good time to update the League's position. (The Janesville League adopted the review at their Annual Meeting and the Beloit League is continuing our review of all our local positions.

As part of the initial information gathering process Neil checked with Colin Byrnes in Rock County's Planing and Development Agency and Dave and Carolyn met with Parks Department Director Lori Williams. The committee is tentatively meeting in January.

Meanwhile, committee members will be learning more about amenities in our county parks, the park plan, and status of funding and planning.

This will be an interesting study with local impact. Several members have indicated an interest in being apart of the process. Or next committee get together will be in November. We'd like to have you join us. Just contact Carolyn or Neil.

Save the Date!
**February 16,
2014**
**Susan B
Anthony**
**event. Details
to come.**



Meet Your Janesville Historic Commission

presented by City of Janesville, the Hedberg Public Library and the Janesville League of Women Voters

- Where: Hedberg Public Library community room
- When: November 13, 2013 Time 6:30 p.m.

Presenters: City of Janesville employee Gale Price and Commission Chair Timothy Maahs will discuss the purpose of the Historic Commission and the proposed historic district signage initiative.

The meeting is open to the public and this would be a good event for inviting a friend to show cases what LWV does.

The current position of the League of Women Voters of Janesville

SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

October, 1979; Revised April, 1988

The League of Women Voters of Janesville feels that preservation is important to the future of Janesville. The City has definite role in preservation. Preservation should be integrated into the overall process of planning for community development. Plans for streets, schools, and other community facilities should be evaluated in terms of their effect on the neighborhood and historic resources.

The City of Janesville is an entitlement community under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds should be used to support neighborhood goals, for rehabilitation that is appropriate to the building, and along with private involvement to undertake a survey of the historic resources of the city. Alternative housing should be made available for those who might be displaced by rehabilitation activities. In addition, re-use of historic building should be a major consideration in all redevelopment projects.

The League feels that the City of Janesville should adopt an historic district ordinance and appoint an historic preservation commission. This would allow interested property owners to take advantage of the various tax incentives for preservation. The neighborhood should be involved in the definition of historic boundaries.

The city should also:

1. publicize tax incentives which are available;
2. encourage property owners to find alternatives to the destruction of historic buildings;
3. re-evaluate 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 re-use of historic buildings;
7. make sure that the assessment of historic properties reflects their lower fair market value because of their lower potential for development;
8. enforce the existing building codes so that historic structures do not deteriorate because of neglect.

A look at Multicultural Diversity and the Janesville School System

Debbie Fisher
Multicultural Committee

On April 5, 1993 the Board of Directors of the Janesville League of Women Voters approved a position on multicultural diversity and the Janesville School System which grew out of a study on the same topic. The position was adopted at the May, 1993 meeting of the LWV. It was decided that it is time to study the position again and see if an update is needed.

Debbie Fisher and Ted Kinnaman have conducted two interviews to date. They interviewed the current president of the School Board, Greg Ardrey and two staff from the Curriculum Department of the Janesville School District, Dr. Kim Erhardt and Dr. Julie DeCook.

A couple of highlights of what has been learned include that the District has 10,308 students and 23% of them are minority students: Asian, 2%; African American 5%; Hispanic, 11%; bi-racial 5%.

Every Tuesday morning there is a required session of professional development for all teaching staff. A portion of the development is titled the "Platinum Plan". This plan has three components:

White Privilege or Unconscious Bias

Poverty

Culturally Responsive Teaching or Culturally Relevant Curriculum

There are two more interviews anticipated. If you would like to participate in this study you may contact Debbie Fisher at: 743-0937 or debmatil@aol.com



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.*



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