

# The VOTER

## Board Resignations...

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Sarah Kopp from the board, Sarah was our second Vice President and a key member of the publicity committee. Thank you Sarah for everything you have done for our board and League!

Nancy Sonntag has resigned as Voter Education co-chair. The other co-chair is Kay Deupree. We need someone to volunteer to assist Kay in this very important committee. With the

election schedule this fall there isn't much to do until next spring with the forums for city council, school board and any contested County Board seats. *A good way to get your feet wet!*

We also need volunteers for the Susan B. Anthony party. ***This committee needs to hit the ground running!***

If you would like to fill any of these vacancies, please contact Linda Reinhardt.

## Communications from the President

Dear Friends in League,

Poverty, is a multifaceted problem that can overwhelm us in its complexity. There is certainly no one program or policy that can "fix" the problem, but that won't keep League members from trying to understand particular aspects of poverty and the programs designed to address them.

**"What's for Lunch? The School Lunch Program and Food Security for Children"** is the theme of our September General Membership Meeting. Our speakers, Jim Degan, Nutrition Manager for the Janesville School District, and Jessica Locher, Associate Director of ECHO, will give us perspective on how well our community is meeting the nutritional needs of lower income children.



Please come

to meet with these local experts and League members, and bring friends. We'll meet in the upper room of Bodacious Brew, 119 N. Main Street, on **Thursday, September 14, from 5:30-7:00 pm.** Snacks will be provided, so come at 5:30 to socialize. You can purchase a beverage on the main floor and bring it upstairs for the meeting.

**There will be no charge for this event, but we suggest that you bring a perishable food item and/or a cash donation for ECHO.**

I want to give you an update on some League activities of this past month:

Mary Buelow and Neil Deupree spoke on behalf of the Janesville LWV at two meetings of the Rock County Human Services Board. Representatives of the Beloit LWV also spoke. The speakers based their presentations on the Behavioral Health Position that the two Leagues developed together and adopted at their annual meetings this past May. Several other members of the two Leagues were seated in the audience of these meetings, and our presence was defi-

★ See PRESIDENT, Page 2

## What's Inside this Issue

# ★ President

Continued from page 1

nitely noted—and appreciated—by members of the Human Services Board.

The Janesville LWV weighed in on a proposed ordinance to allow the city to register vacant properties. While League members were unable to attend the City Council's public hearing on the ordinance, I did send an email in support of the ordinance to each member of the Council on behalf of the Janesville League prior to the City Council meeting. Five of the seven Council members acknowledged that they had received our

message, and the day following the Council meeting two of the three Council members who voted against the ordinance wrote back with a rationale for their vote.

I share these stories with you, not to boast, but to give you some assurance that many of our public officials at the City and County level do respect and attend to statements made by the League of Women Voters.

Your ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT in the League of Women Voters is valued. Come to the September General Membership Event to learn more!

Thank you.  
Linda

Dear Janesville LWV members:

The Janesville City Council, on August 14th, passed a new ordinance that allows the city to register vacant properties and charge fees to the owners to fund the program.

Earlier on that day, on behalf of the Janesville League of Women Voters, I sent an e-mail message to each of the members of the City Council, urging them to vote for this ordinance because it was consistent with the Leagues' local Housing Code Position that was developed in 1980 (revised in 2013).

As you know, the League of Women Voters advocates for the enactment of legislation and public policy ONLY when it relates to a position that the League has studied and adopted,

It is gratifying to see a government body take a affirmative vote on an issue related to a LWV position. I wrote to the Council members to thank them for taking action on this ordinance that will help to make neighborhoods in our community safer and more stable.

I want to thank League members Kay Deupree, who alerted the LWV Board earlier in the Summer that the City Council was considering action on the Vacant

Building Register, and to Nancy Stabb, who over the weekend saw that the City Council was going to vote on the ordinance and encouraged me to present our League's position to the City Council members. (Kay and Nancy also sent personal messages to the City Council

members in support of the ordinance.)

Below is the text of my e-mail message:

Dear Council Member \_\_\_\_\_,

Writing on behalf of the Janesville League of Women Voters, I urge you to vote in favor of Ordinance No. 2017-688 creating a Vacant Building Registration Program.

Since 1980, the Janesville LWV has held a Housing Code position developed through study and consensus, revised in 2013, and readopted on an annual basis. Our position supports improved rental housing conditions and neighborhood stabilization in the city of Janesville.

A vital component of our position is support of the creation of a "Vacant Building" list for unoccupied buildings including those in foreclosure with owner contact information and plans for securing the building.

The proposed ordinance, which includes a method of generating funding for enforcement, is a sensible way to improve the strategic goal of a "Safe and Healthy Community"

The LWV Board of Directors is meeting this evening, and this prevents us from attending tonight's City Council meeting and speaking at the public hearing. Please accept this letter as a statement of the Janesville League of Women Voters' support of this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Linda Reinhardt  
President, Janesville League of Women Voters



# What's for lunch?

## School Lunch Program and Food Security for Children

League of Women Voters  
of Janesville  
September General Membership  
Meeting September 14, 2017  
from 5:30 - 7:00 p. m.  
at Bodacious Brew, 119 N. Main St.

Speakers:  
Jim Degan, Nutrition manager  
for Janesville School District  
& Jessica Locher, Associate  
Director for ECHO.



*Simple snacks will be provided, drinks on  
your own.*

*Bring guests! And a donation for ECHO!*

## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Activities 2017-18\*

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

#### September 2017

September 14 Membership meeting & Program  
September 11 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting @ Con-  
gregational Church

#### October 2017

October 9 @ 6:30 p.m. Board meeting  
October General Membership Meeting - Redis-  
tricting meeting  
October 27 State  
Issues Briefing @  
Truax Campus in  
Madison



#### November 2017

November 13 @  
6:30 p.m. Board Meet-  
ing

November Book Discussion - Diversity

#### December 2017

No Board Meeting

#### January 2018

January Membership meeting & Program  
January 8 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

#### February 2018

February Susan B. Anthony Birthday Party  
February 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting  
February 20 Spring Primary

#### March 2018

March Candidate Forums  
March 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

**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.

# 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.*

