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## What is so great about July 1st, 2015?

It is the beginning of the fiscal year for the League and it is time to pay your Membership Dues. Yes! 2015-2016.

### Membership Information

\$90.00 for Family Membership

\$60.00 for Individual Membership

Feel free to add any dollar amount for an additional donation to your membership dues if you wish.

Get your checkbook out and write your check today! Dee is smiling already!

Where to send your check:

Dee Peacock -Treasurer  
2102 S. 29th St  
La Crosse, WI 54601-6968

## League Summer Celebration

August 26, 2015

Celebrate 95 years since the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution: **Women's Right To Vote.**

Where: Weber Center for the Performing Arts,  
428 Front St. S., La Crosse

Time: 5-7 pm. (Brief program 6:00 pm.)  
Cash bar and light refreshment provided.

## **Special Registration Deputy Training Schedule**

La Crosse City Clerk Teri Lehrke will be having SRD training on Monday, August 31 at 1:30 p.m., and Wednesday, September 2 at 9:00 a.m. - both in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall. RSVP is appreciated but not required. Please note that this deputization will be valid until end of December, 2016 but only for registration of City of La Crosse residents (unless local clerks allow otherwise). Address RSVP info to:

Teri Lehrke, WCPC  
City Clerk  
400 La Crosse St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
[608-789-7556](tel:608-789-7556) (phone)  
[lehrket@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:lehrket@cityoflacrosse.org)

## **September Program**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA  
**September 8, 2015 Program**  
Radisson Hotel  
11:30 - 1:00

## **CIVICS IN THE CLASSROOM**

What do our students know about government or civics?

Our speaker, Sandra Brauer, is the Supervisor for the La Crosse School District for K-12 in the area of social studies. She is also the Principal of Northwood International School and the Supervisor of World Languages for the La Crosse School District. In addition, she serves on the Advisory Board for the State of Wisconsin in the area of social studies.

Sandra will tell us what our young soon-to-be voters learn as to how our government works.

Maybe the League can help the schools and students learn more about civic responsibility and government and develop an interest in government issues and even run for office!



The program is free to all. If you choose to have lunch, the cost is \$13.00. Please RSVP to Dee Peacock at 788-5160 by September 3rd.

### **Feminism On Tap**

On Wednesday, July 1st the League of Women Voters hosted a presentation, "About LWV", for three community organizations, Options Clinic, New Horizons and the YWCA. The event took place at the Radisson Hotel just as River Fest was starting to kick off. The event started at the Three Rivers Lodge bar/restaurant for a social and then proceeded up to the Iowa Room.

Former LWV president, Jane Klekamp, gave a brief history of the league's mission and talked about the "positions" that league has taken on a wide variety of issues from education, the environment, reproductive health, to voter services. It was easy to see the compatibility of all four organizations and a common bond for supporting one another. Jane talked a little about the process of how the "positions" are studied and how consensus defines the final outcome. Each local and state league is part of the process that helps defines the national league, yet each local league has the opportunity to create their own programming and focus on issues that are "dear" to them.

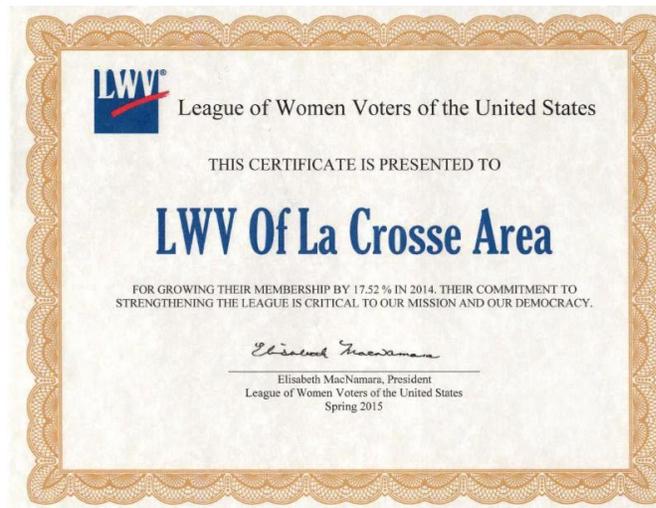
Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, a league member, opened a discussion about some changes coming in regard to Voting. We discussed the new Voter Photo ID requirement and how it will impact the upcoming elections and how best to get the word out to Voters. All three organizations expressed interest in providing some type of education/awareness about Voter Photo ID and other voting changes. The LWV offered support by either coming to their place to assist

in registering voters and making sure each voter would have appropriate Voter Photo ID at time of an election or having some of the organization's members join the league members when City Clerk, Teri Lehrke provides Voter Registration training.

Sheila Hilke, a league member, had just recently attended the LWV State Annual Meeting in Ashland, Wisconsin and shared the sense of power and pride of what is going on throughout the state in local leagues. She also talked about the Upper Mississippi River Region-Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) that is forming between state leagues along the Mississippi River to properly address fresh water issues that we all share. League members Nancy Hill and Ellen Rosborough have been involved in the project since its inception and continue to attend meetings moving the cause forward.

Several other LWV members were present at the presentation and special thanks go to Bill Oldenburg, Sue Hessel-Mial, and Janet Kusch for sharing their LWV experiences with the crowd. In turn, it was great to learn about other community organizations, network with their personnel and learn better how we can support one another in the future.

### **Congratulations: League Recognized for Membership Growth**



The La Crosse League grew its

membership in 2014 from 97 to 114 (an increase of

17.52%). This growth in membership was the 2nd largest (based on percentages) in the state. The LWV of Northwoods increased its membership by 30.4% (from 23 to 30). Currently, the LWV of Wisconsin has 1,313 members, up 73 members from the previous year.

## League Book Club

September 30, 2015  
6:30 pm at **Java Vino**  
1505 Losey Blvd. S.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

"The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" by Michelle Alexander

The Amazon book notes indicate that law professor Lani Guinier praises the book as "brave and bold" and directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of color blindness.

Hope to see you there!

Contact: Maureen Kinney, [\(608\) 784-5678](tel:6087845678), [maureen@johnsflaherty.com](mailto:maureen@johnsflaherty.com)



## Statewide Conference

### League of Women Voters® of Wisconsin 2015 Annual Meeting

Ashland, WI

By Sheila Hilke, Mary Nugent & Kathy Mulliner



This year 90 people attended the LWVWI State Conference in Ashland, WI. This included 6 members from the La Crosse League.

(Pictured left to right: Kathy Mulliner, Sheila Hilke, Nancy Hill, Betty Kruck, Mary Nugent, not pictured Ellen Rosborough)



The overarching theme was Ensuring a Healthy Environment & Strong Economy for All. The key note sessions were exceptional. Following is a list of topics and presenters:

- Jody Knauss - Economic Growth and Inequality in Wisconsin: What Has Gone Wrong? How Can We Fix It?



- Dawn White and Esteban Chiriboga -- The Socioeconomic Value of Healthy Ecosystems
- Madelaine Herder, Lousie Petering & others - Memberships, Leadership and Fund Development Workshop for Local Leagues

- Connie Ferguson - CelebratingOurPast, EmbracingtheFuture: Preparing for League's100th Anniversary and beyond!
- Interested League members attended a meeting Friday evening to learn more about the Inter League Organization (ILO). Ellen Rosborough provided handouts and discussed the creation of the multi-state ILO. The ILO will study and advocate for water quality issues. This will elevate the League's voice in the Midwest. Nancy Hill will keep us updated.



The attending members adopted the following items as the State Program for 2015-16:

- Position Update: Review and update of Urban Policy Position
- Action: Education & advocacy campaign on infrastructure/economy
- Action: Continuation of campaign on protection of water resources
- Action : Education & advocacy campaign on redistricting

The Parade of Leagues allowed each league 3 minutes to give an overview of what members have done during the past 12 months - Betty Kruck did an outstanding job presenting what our League has accomplished. Following are some of the key ideas or tools that we will consider using:

- Year-in-Review Table -- an easy way to document educational programs and actions completed by our League
- Volunteer Form - in an effort to actively involve more involvement by volunteers, put a list of all volunteer activities on the back of the annual membership form.
- Voter registration - set up tables at high traffic areas, such as grocery stores and clinics.
- Website resources from the Center for Media & Democracy - [watch.org](http://watch.org) & [prwatch.org](http://prwatch.org) (suggested by Mr. Knaus).
  - Sponsorship of a breakfast for Municipal Clerks throughout the county - shows support and fosters joint planning (Door County).
  - La Crosse members -- you do not need to commit to a position on the local board or a committee to meet a valuable need. Let the local League know you want to help or have your voice heard.
  - Volunteer involvement - ideas for different ways to get members involved, especially becoming certified to register voters.
  - Advocacy - the LWV Lake MI Region shared how their advocacy on water issues has impacted public awareness of the need to protect our waters and advocated for legislation that supports clean water, all goals of the recently formed Mississippi River ILO.
  - Fundraising - necessary but not fun! Develop a contribution form that goes on the backside of the Membership Form.

Plan now for next year's state convention - it's a great experience!



*Melanie Ramey and Betty Kruck and the LWVWI meeting at Ashland*

### **New Board Member: Nancy Danou**

My husband and I moved to La Crosse from Marshfield after our three children had completed high school and were enrolled in college. We have six grandchildren who live within a 300 mile drive from here. Our family is completed by two spoiled cats. My husband is a retired sociology professor, and I am retired from teaching child health nursing at Viterbo University and "somewhat retired" from a few other nursing activities.

Becoming part of LWV has been my goal for some time, but fitting meetings into my work schedule was impossible. Now it's not. I firmly believe that not enough of us (ordinary U.S. citizens) pay attention to the workings and issues challenging of our democracy, but LWV has demonstrated repeatedly its ability to attend and take action. Thanks for the opportunity to serve on this board.



### **Wisconsin LWV Changes Leadership**

Retiring President Melanie Ramy receives an award for her dedicated service to the League over the past 10 years from Debra Cronmilleer, the new state president and member of the Appleton League. (photo courtesy of Vonna Pitel, LWV Ozaukee County League)





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