

THE BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OZAUKEE COUNTY

Board Members

OFFICERS

President: Donna Fowler
 V-P. Mary Fran Lepaska
 Secretary: Jean Bromley
 Treasurer: Mary Fran Lepaska

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Dorothy Boyer-Voter Service
 Barbara Hunt-Membership
 Nancy Haacke-Program
 Patty Kubala-Bridge Editor
 Vonna Pitel-Webmaster
 Dorothy Nowicki

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Claire Vanderslice
 LWVWI Investment Committee
 Mary Fran Lepaska
 LWVWI Legislative Committee
 Marge Palleon
 LWV Lake Michigan
 Marge Palleon
 Nominating Committee
 Marge Palleon - Chair
 Jayne Miller
 Barbara Willenson
 Barbara Hunt
 Eleanore Rankin

RESOURCES

LWV-USA: www.lv.org
 LWV-WI: www.lwvwi.org
 LWV-Oz:
www.ozaukee.wi.lwvnet.org

Save the Dates

Tues., April 12 Book Discussion, *Girls Like Us*,
 by Rachel Lloyd
 6:30-8:30 pm at the home of
 member Rita Bakalars—
 Features a guest speaker
 (see page 3)

Tues., May 3 LWV-Oz Annual Meeting
 5:00-8:00 pm,
 Galioto's Twelve 21 Restaurant,
 Cedarburg
 (see page 7)

****Proposed 2016-2017 Budget and
 Slate of Officers - see pages 8-9**

June 3 - 4 LWVWI Annual Meeting
 Landmark Resort, Egg Harbor
 (see page 10)

Tues., June 28 LWVOZ Calendar Planning Meeting
 12:30-3:00 pm, (*new time*)
 Cedarburg Public Library



The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

President's Column

Winter 2016

by Donna Fowler



Some years ago, my sister and I traveled to Oslo, Norway, and stayed at the Hotel Munch. While in Oslo, we visited Munch Museum for an up-close look at Edvard Munch's paintings including The Scream. We came away

from the viewing affected by the anxiety expressed in the painting.

The reputation of The Scream has grown over the years until now it is called an icon of modern art, a Mona Lisa for our time. The fact that iPhones have a "scream" image available to attach to messages could well be a confirmation of that status.

Recently I thought of The Scream and how it can be representative of the feelings of anxiety and frustration that Americans are feeling now during the heated rhetoric of our current election cycle.

How can we tone down these emotions and move to constructive actions? As members of the League of Women Voters, many alternatives are open to us. Let's take a look at some of the choices.

Instead of standing on a bridge screaming we can continue with our civil candidate forums and model nonpartisan discussions.

Starting this spring and expanding this fall, we will provide assistance to register voters. In March alone, Dorothy Boyer organized three sessions at which our local league provided voter registration assistance. This summer we will develop a comprehensive plan to offer more voter registration assistance and voter education to the public.

We have help at the state level as well. LWVWI, with other groups, developed excellent Photo ID flyers. In addition, a full time voter education coordinator has been added to the state staff. We look forward to learning more at the LWVWI Annual Meeting in June.

With all the options we have available, we can fight the urge to scream. Instead we can continue to be informed voters and work to educate and assist voters. And avoid bridges.



Book Discussion: *Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale*, Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-8:30

by Jayne Miller

The subject matter of the book chosen for this year's annual LWV-Ozaukee discussion is disturbing. The author, Rachel Lloyd, weaves together her own story of "surviving the life" (commercial sex industry) and the girls that she has mentored as the founder and director of the nonprofit agency GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services).



The discussion will be led by Joan Kojis, PhD, clinical director at the Benedict Center in Milwaukee. She works with young women who have been recruited and trafficked into the commercial sex industry and are attempting to transition out of the life. The book discussion will take place on **Tuesday, April 12th** at the home of Rita Bakalars, W73 N906 Poplar Avenue, Cedarburg.



LWV-OZ Secretary Position Filled!

At the February 4 board meeting, Jean Bromley was elected to fill the position of Secretary. Jean's term started with the March meeting and extends to June 30, 2017. We are delighted to have Jean as a member of our board.

League Membership Report Spring 2016

by Barbara Hunt, Membership Chair

The LWV has increased its membership to 50 this year.

Newest members are : Kathy and Gary Olsen (Brookfield), Jean Bromley (Mequon), Barbara Johnson (Cedarburg), Kathy Lamb (Mequon), and Louise Mollinger (Port Washington).

The Membership Committee hosted 2 "Coffee and Conversation" gatherings this year. A time to get to know more about our members and share the latest news. We had one in fall and one in February. We hold them at AM Coffee Roastery located in the Grafton Arts Mill. It is our hope to continue them next year.

Women's History Month Annual Luncheon

The league's annual fundraising event, WHM Luncheon was held on March 18, at the Ozaukee Country Club.

Kathleen Dunn, 90.7 WPR broadcaster was the featured speaker. Thousands listen to her call-in show every afternoon Monday through Thursday. She gave a moving talk enjoyed by eighty-four guests along with a delicious lunch and the pleasant ambience of the club.

Voter Services Activities

By Dorothy Boyer, Voter Services Chair

Last fall the Ozaukee League of Women Voters board approved a policy and a guide for co-sponsoring candidate forums. We now have the structure that will guide us as the League reaches out to other civic-minded groups interested in promoting voter education.

We have a history of co-sponsoring forums with the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, Inform Mequon-Thiensville, and the West Bend Chamber of Commerce. Those relationships have been positive and productive.

The Director of Concordia University Public Affairs and University Partnerships read the Voters' Guide for the Wisconsin Supreme Court on the League's website and was impressed. Peter Welch then contacted our League to see if we would co-sponsor a Mequon Mayoral forum. Dan Abendroth, the incumbent, is being challenged by Aaron Armstrong. The League's forum guidelines were agreed to and the forum was held on March 9, 2016. Barbara Hunt was the

moderator and support services were offered by Kathy Lamb, Jim and Judy Schwengel, Marge Palleon, two Concordia students and me.

A teacher in the social studies department at Port Washington High School asked if the League would talk about the absentee ballot process during their teachers' meeting on March 16, 2016. Donna Fowler and I provided the teachers with the form to request an absentee ballot and the timeline for the absentee ballot process.

Another request to co-sponsor a candidate forum came from the Grafton Elementary School PTA. Two incumbent school board members decided not to run for re-election. Four candidates are on the ballot for the two seats. Again, the guidelines were agreed to and a forum was held on March 22, 2016. Mary Fran Lepaska was the moderator. Volunteer positions were filled by PTA member, Kate Nestler, her husband, Donna Fowler, Barbara Willenson, Vonna Pitel, another PTA member, and me.



Grafton School Board Candidates at Candidate Forum.



Voter Services Chair, Dorothy Boyer, flanked on left by Kate Nestler, President of the Grafton Elementary School PTA which co-sponsored the event, and another member on right.

Waukesha Water Diversion Public Hearing Report

by Marge Palleon

LWV Lake Michigan - WI Representative

On Thursday, February 18th, 2016, the Carroll University - Shattuck Music Center, Room 122, was filled with hundreds of people interested and concerned about the first Great Lakes water diversion application. Busloads of people arrived along with individuals from all over Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and even New York. Most eager to tell why they did not want this diversion to happen.

We arrived early to sign up to speak and observe the area. The stage was filled with 12 chairs for the Governors and Premiers or their representatives, and a microphone in center floor walkway for public hearing presenters.

At 2 pm, the officials of DNR and Waukesha were on stage with slide presentations. They also answered questions from the audience regarding the diversion, radium pollution and removal, wetlands, sewers, wells, conservation, alternate water sources, etc.

Promptly at 3 pm, the chairperson of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers explained the public hearing rules of presentation to the audience. No one could present unless they had signed in, and then been called by the chairperson. The organizers decided the order. First all 20-30 officials from mayor, alderman, city planners, water and sewer planners, and individuals of Waukesha appeared, then

mayors of surrounding communities, and finally well-known individuals from environmental organizations such as Elizabeth Wheeler, former DNR Todd Ames, George Meyer of WI Wildlife Federation, Karen Hobbs of NRDC, ACLU and many more. It was then 6 pm and supper break was announced. There were 75 presenters left and the Governors and Premiers stated they would stay "until they were done." Many individuals left as the buses were leaving. We also left. Our information had been received prior to the meeting by email, and we did not know if and when we would be called.

Interesting Information:

- Waukesha uses 6 million gallons of water daily and requested twice the amount, meaning they want to expand.
- A former DNR and one who "worked on the original Compact" stated that when the DNR changed the Waukesha diversion wording to include the surrounding areas with private wells, it changed the Compact meaning. So it is not just the needed water for contaminated and drawn down city wells but includes the private contaminated wells in the enlarged surrounding area. New Berlin's mayor stated they only requested water for contaminated wells not whole city. Brookfield removes radium from their wells as well as 50 Wisconsin communities.
- Reverse Osmosis (RO) is the best way to remove radium and pollutants from water in many communities, but removal strategies involving ion exchange are being researched.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES 2016-2017

Mary Fran Lepeska, Treasurer

The board approved a \$5 dues increase to \$65 for 2016-17 at the March meeting. This would be the first dues increase since 2010. We pay out \$62 for each member for state and national dues, and national is planning to vote on an increase in dues for 2017. Compared to other units in the state, we are near the middle with 5 units charging less and 7 charging more. Four units are the same. Lowest is \$40 with highest at \$80. We are fortunate to have members who generously donate to our unit which helps pay operating expenses. And our Women's History Month fundraiser continues to bring in extra money. The membership will vote on the dues increase at the annual meeting on May 3.



*Program Planning Meeting, January 23, 2016
"Update on Money in Politics"*

Waukesha Water Diversion Continued from page 5

- The Great Lake Compact does not define "reasonable alternate source of potable water". Waukesha diversion has used reasonable alternate source as ... "alternate supply similar in cost to..."
- Race and poor were noted as a factor for wanting to expand away from Milwaukee. Waukesha is 86% white non-Hispanic.
- All measures for conservation from lawn watering to toilet changes are voluntary and not really being activated. "It is technically ok to water your lawn as long as you wish if you are holding the hose in your hand," stated by one Waukesha resident. Waukesha has increased conservation but about equal to the rest of the country.
- Corporate industry pays less for water and sewer the more they use, and homeowners pay more if they use more, not equal.
- Milwaukee's Mayor Barrett stated that Milwaukee was the original "suitor" for selling Lake Michigan water to Waukesha and could not or would not due to the proposed Waukesha extended area. Milwaukee is still willing to supply if the extended area is dropped from the proposal.

The issue is: Waukesha is located in a county that straddles the Great Lakes basin, and it can request water, but only in extraordinary circumstances and as a last resort. Studies have proved that Waukesha has another option for water that costs almost half as much as diverting water from Lake Michigan. Perhaps only contaminated and drawn down city wells need to be supplied. If the Waukesha's application were approved in its present state, it would set a terrible precedent for the entire Great Lakes region and weaken the Compact!



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OZAUKEE COUNTY
2015-16 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Galioto's Twelve 21 Restaurant
1221 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI**



**Please join us!
Members, Spouses, and Friends**

- 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Social Time**
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner**
- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Neil Willenson
"Make Your Life Count"**
- 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. Business Meeting**

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Dinner Choices: Pan-Fried Walleye Pike, Chicken Parmesan, or Center Cut Pork Chop. All dinners come with a salad, pasta or potato, vegetable, hot rolls, and dessert bars. A cash bar is available. All meal choices are \$29.00, which includes tax and gratuity.

We encourage you to invite your spouse, a friend, or potential members to come and learn about the League of Women Voters of Ozaukee County. **Please return your reservation by Friday, April 22.**

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Meal Choice:

- Pan-Fried Walleye Pike with garlic mashed potatoes
- Chicken Parmesan with garlic butter pasta
- Center Cut Pork Chop with baked potato

To reserve your place at the Annual Meeting, complete this tear-off and send it with your check to **Mary Fran Lepeska, 334 S Eva Street, Port Washington, WI 53074.** Your check should be made out to **LWV-OZ**, and the cost is **\$29.00 per meal.** Please list guest information and any special diet requests, such as **gluten-free or vegetarian**, on the bottom of this tear-off. Enclose guest's name and check with your check.

LWV-OZ Proposed Budget 2016-2017

Income	2015-2016 Proposed	2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Proposed
Membership Dues@\$65	2580.00	900.00	\$3120.00
Totals	2580.00		\$3120.00
Contributions:			
Member	350.00	380.00	\$350.00
Nonmember	50.00	50.00	\$50.00
Totals	400.00		\$400.00
Other Resources:			
Election Reporting	280.00		\$560.00
Women's History Month	3500.00	1018.60	\$1000.00
Totals	3780.00		\$1560
Reserves	1941.00		\$262.00
Total Income	8701.00		\$5342.00

Disbursements	2015-2016	2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Proposed
Operating Costs:			
Supplies	75.00		\$50.00
Postage	10.00	23.80	\$20.00
Bank Checks		8.00	-----
Totals	85.00		\$70.00
Board / Administration:			
Board Tools	150.00	161.05	\$150.00
Annual Meeting	200.00		\$200.00
Annual Report	100.00		\$75.00
Directory	100.00	93.53	\$100.00
Membership	150.00	13.20	\$100.00
Totals	700.00		\$625.00
Delegates:			
State Annual Meeting	600.00	100.00	\$600.00
National Conv.	1000.00		0
Issues Briefing Workshop	300.00		\$200.00
Totals	1900.00		\$800.00
Support:			
State PMP@\$30	1290.00	1230.00	\$1440
National PMP @\$34	1376.00	1312.00	\$1632.00
Lake MI LWV	25.00	25.00	\$25.00
Support/Action	50.00		\$50.00
Totals	2741.00		\$3147.00

*Disbursements
Continued on page 7*

Communications:			
Web Page	200.00	200.00	\$200.00
Bridge	100.00		\$75.00
Public Relations	75.00		\$50.00
Totals	375.00		\$325.00
Projects:			
Fall Kick Off Meeting	50.00		\$25.00
Totals	2550.00		\$25.00
Educational Activities:			
Voter Service	150.00		\$150.00
Community Ed./Meeting	200.00	200.00	\$200.00
Totals	350.00		\$350.00
Donation to LWV-WI		500.00	
Total Disbursements	8701.00		\$5342.00

*Disbursements
Continued from page 7*

SLATE OF OFFICERS and ELECTED DIRECTORS

*Submitted by Marge Palleon
Nominating Committee Chair*

**Elected Officer: 2 Year Term
2016-2018:**

Treasurer: Mary Fran Lepeska

**Elected Board Directors: 2 Year
Term 2016-2018**

Barbara Hunt
Dorothy Boyer
Barbara Johnson

**Nominating Committee: 1 Year
Term 2016-2017**

Jayne Miller, Chair
Barbara Hunt
Eleanore Rankin
Barbara Willenson
Ellen McFarland

LWV Wisconsin Annual Meeting

June 3 - 4

Landmark Resort

Egg Harbor

A Matter Of Perspective: New Viewpoints, New Voter, New Election Environment is the title for the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Annual Meeting Friday-Sunday June 3-5.

The speakers include:

- Robert B. Atwell, Chairman and CEO of Nicolet National Bank, “**The Economic Case for Improving Water Quality**”
- Colleen Gruszynski, “**Engaging the Emerging Electorate**”
- Erin Grunze, our new Voter Education Coordinator, “**Engaging and Assisting Voters Under the New Election Laws**”

Attendees will learn more from a workshop and the traditional Parade of Leagues.

The meeting concludes at 4:30 Saturday. Consider staying over one more night for a Door County Trolley tour of three lighthouses. All the details are in the most recent Forward and on the LWVWI website under “News and Events.”

The web site is the source for the reservation, agenda, and details regarding the speakers. You can register online or print off your reservation form and mail it in. To qualify for special rates at hotel, make your reservation by Thursday, April 28.

