

# THE BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OZAUKEE COUNTY

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Marge Palleon

### LWV Lake Michigan

Marge Palleon

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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 Barbara Hunt  
 Ellen MacFarlane  
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### RESOURCES

LWV-USA: [www.lv.org](http://www.lv.org)  
 LWV-WI: [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)  
 LWV-Oz:  
[www.ozaukee.wi.lwvnet.org](http://www.ozaukee.wi.lwvnet.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### SEPT 13 TUES

Fall Kick-Off Salad Supper at the home of Barbara Willenson, 2038 17th Avenue, Grafton, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

### OCT 5 WED

**Gear Up to Vote** voter registration assistance and voter education for the students at the Mequon campus of MATC, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### OCT 14-15 FRI, SAT

LWV-Lake Michigan Region, Annual Meeting, Spring House Inn in Porter, IN; ([LWVLMR.org](http://LWVLMR.org))

### OCT 26 WED

Book Discussion and view author's presentation at the LWVUS National Convention June 2016: "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America by Ari Berman. (Presentation is 35 minutes.) Cedarburg Library Community Room, N63W589 Hanover Ave, Cedarburg, 5:45-7:45 p.m.

**NOV 8 TUES GENERAL ELECTION:** President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, even-numbered Wisconsin State Senate seats, all Wisconsin Assembly seats, and all District Attorneys.

### NOV 19 SAT

Issues Briefing: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison 9:00-2:00. Car pools will be organized.



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

by Donna Fowler



The June 16-19 LWVUS national convention, with 600+ attendees, offered the opportunity to learn from our national leaders, to hear from notable speakers pertinent to our organization's goals, and to discover the strategies from the many talented people who make up our membership.

On Friday, June 17, the new CEO of LWVUS, Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris, delivered a powerful speech praising the legacy of the league along with the necessity for the league to evolve, engage the new generation, demonstrate our results, and tell our stories more effectively.

Chris Carlson from California was elected as the new president of LWVUS. The speeches of Chris and Wylecia are available on the LWV website. To read them and other convention information, search "forum.lwv.org," select convention/council, and then convention 2016.

Other speakers included Jennifer Lawless, author of Running from Office: Why Young Americans Are Turned Off to Politics; Peter Overby of NPR; Joe Goldman of the Democracy Fund; Ari Berman (whose book we are reading in October), and more. This was my second national convention, and, once again, I was amazed at the number of outstanding speakers. In two years, the national convention will be held in Chicago June 28-July 1 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue. This would be an excellent opportunity for more members to attend a national convention.

This year's convention offered a variety of opportunities for leaguers to learn from one another. One early morning sessions entitled "Youth Voter Registration: Learning Winning Tactics" featured presentations from members from North Carolina, Kansas and Alabama--states that are fighting restrictive voting laws.

During the youth voting presentation by the North Carolina of the Piedmont Triad (LWVPT), the panel members described an effective way to use social media with youth voters. LWVPT set up a system so that students, after leaving the voter registration area, could send a text to a provided number, and request message "vote2016" that would later generate a reminder to their cell phones when it was time to vote. This is a big leap from the hand crank wall telephone of my youth, but it is a leap we must learn to make.

Within the four days of the convention, much more was covered including bylaws, elections, and the program for 2016-2018. Look for reports on these subjects within this edition of the Bridge. Thank you for supporting my attendance at the national convention. The experience will impact our work in many ways throughout the year.

# LWV Membership Events

*submitted by Barbara Hunt*

On August 16 at 7:00pm the Ozaukee County LWV held a Meet and Greet for members and their guests who are interested in learning more about the League and its Mission. The event was held at Water Street Brewery.

Barbara Hunt, Membership Chair, welcomed the 16 ladies who attended. The group enjoyed chatting with members over appetizers and refreshments. Donna Fowler, President, talked about the League and explained the specific activities planned for this year. Carol Hertz shared her membership history with the League and why she continues to volunteer and serve. Kathy Lamb, new member added her comments about why she recently joined the League.

Several attendees decided to join the League and we feel this event was most successful.

Our Annual Fall Kick-Off Event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at Barbara Willenson's home in Grafton. The address is: 2038 16th, Avenue. Her number is 262-376-2221.

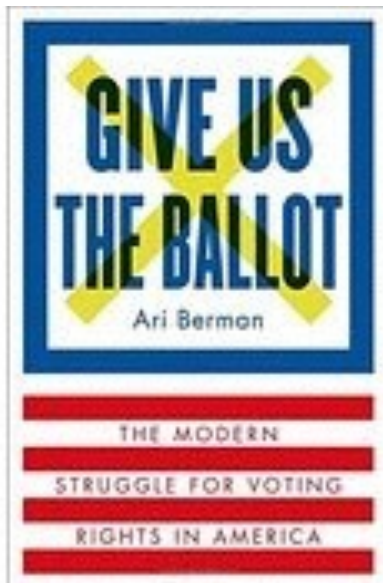
The salad supper begins at 5:30 with a meeting to follow. We encourage all members to attend and to bring potential members/ guests too.

At the meeting we will receive an annual program and membership list booklet. Donna Fowler, President will also share some extremely significant activities we are planning as we prepare for Nov. election, with special emphasis on education of voters, registrations, etc.

Pease RSVP: Barbara Hunt 262-377-7766. If you wish to bring a dish, please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Grafton on Tuesday, September 13, at 5:30.

**EDUCATING  
VOTERS  
PROTECTING  
VOTERS  
LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN  
VOTERS**



## **“Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America”**

*Submitted by Vonna Pitel*

We all remember the civil rights movement of the 1960s, but do you know what happened after the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, and the battle it unleashed by individuals and political groups? This is one of the most important acts passed in U.S. history to make sure every citizen has an opportunity to vote in our country. Many court cases, including Supreme Court cases, tried to stop the VRA and leave many Blacks, Latinos and other minority groups with difficulty trying to vote and hold government offices. In some cases they succeeded. Ari Berman tells about the people and groups who pushed the voting rights movement forward and those who were opposed to it, which will surprise you.

The struggle for everyone to be able to vote still goes on with the passage of Voter ID laws and states passing other requirements that try to limit voting 51 years after the VRA passage.

One suggestion I have, as you begin to read this book, is to look up additional information on Section 5. and Section 2. of the VRA. These two sections are discussed through most of the book. There are specific articles about Section 5 and 2 if you type in “Voting Rights Act Section “ and number on the Internet.

Give Us the Ballot is just over 300 pages and is a detailed book, but I think it is well worth the time and effort to read. Read a few chapters at a time, highlight or take a few notes on the important events that happened. Every member of the League of Women Voters should read this book because voter protection is our program focus. At the LWVUS national convention, the Campaign for Making Democracy Work includes this statement, “In Congress, we must continue to push for restoration of the Voting Rights Act by supporting the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA).”

The author Ari Berman spoke at the closing banquet of the LWVUS national convention. Part of the time at the book discussion will be dedicated to viewing his presentation.

I hope to see you at the book discussion on October 26, 2016, at 5:45-7:45 p.m. in the Cedarburg Public Library Community Room.

For more information, look at the map on Bill Moyer’s Internet site below concerning law suits that have sprouted up across the country this year which try to limit voting. <http://billmoyers.com/story/2016-election-lawsuit-tracker-new-election-laws-suits-challenging/>

# National Convention News

## Bylaws Amendments

Voting membership was expanded from “citizens at least 18 years of age” to “persons at 16 years of age.” This expansion applies to members at local, state, and national levels. These changes are found in Article III, Section 2 of the LWVUS by laws. Because all leagues are required to have consistent language for the first three articles of the LWVUS bylaws, LWVOZ bylaws will be updated to conform to this language.

## Program for 2016-2018

When the LWV was first organized, the expression “program of work” was used to define the goals of the organization. Now, just program is used, but the history helps clarify the special meaning of program when it is used by the league.

Campaign for Making Democracy Work, building on the 2014-16 Key Structures of Democracy, will be the focus of our group. The opportunities are as follows:

- **Voting Rights and Voter Protection:** In particular, pressing for restoration of the Voting Rights Act by supporting the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA).
- **Money in Politics:** Push for action by the Congress to reform money in politics.
- **Supporting Voting Rights and Voter Protection in the States:** In many states, the fight continues in

statehouses and courthouses to prevent/change legislation that suppresses the vote. State Leagues take the leading role in advocacy for voter protection but also in coordination of statewide campaigns around voting issues.

## Approved Concurrences

- Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. The national position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position, and Leagues may choose to act under the national position or their own state positions.
- Based on the LWV Colorado position on Behavior Health, the LWVUS Health Care position will include the following sentence, “Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care. (Behavior Health, as the nationally accepted term, includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.)

In addition, five resolutions were approved. More details are available in the July Forward or follow this path to the LWVUS coverage of the convention: [forum.lwv.org](http://forum.lwv.org); [convention/council](http://convention/council); [convention 2016](http://convention2016).



## ***Gear Up to Vote Comes to Ozaukee***

*Submitted by Donna Fowler*

Gear Up to Vote is a statewide voter education tour organized by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin in collaboration with local leagues in 18 communities across the state. The “tour” travels in a colorful minivan (hence the title of the tour) along with state members and voter education materials. Dorothy Boyer is picture by the van.

On August 18, the van arrived at the Grafton High to assist voters attending the annual Senior Picnic. Six LWVOZ members and Erin Grunze were on hand to help voters. We didn't know what to expect and neither did the attendees. Below is Carol Hertz's summary of the day:

The six league members who volunteered to assist the senior guests at this in-door picnic were ready and waiting when the 150+ guests began to arrive. At first the guests thought we were there to collect their tickets to the event as they were anxious to find their seats. By the starting time at 10 am, the tables were full, they were welcomed, and Dorothy Boyer announced our presence over the microphone and urged guests to come to our tables where we could answer their questions about voting in the November election.

A small band was playing mellow country music, and we were anticipating many seniors who would need our help. We could see further introduction was needed, so we walked around the cafeteria and let the guests know why we were there. As we visited each table, we passed



out LWV pens, tablets, and Gear Up to Voter magnets. These freebies were very popular.

Lunch was delayed because the hamburger buns had not arrived. Taking advantage of the delay, seniors approached our tables.

The LWV members had a great learning experience as we huddled to explain the process, print their completed forms, and find their local voting locations. Afterwards, we realized that we needed to smooth out some “wrinkles” in our process which will make our next Gear Up to Vote event run more efficiently, and best of all, the seniors we assisted left knowing exactly what they need to do to vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.



*Computer and printer setup for the seniors. Dorothy Boyer far left, Deborah Stone and Carol Hertz near table; Jean Bromley and Louise Mollinger with backs to camera.*

# LWV Lake Michigan Region Report September 2016

*Submitted by Marjorie Palleon  
LWVLMR - Representative*

LWVLMR hosted a successful caucus at LWVUS Convention in June. The national convention evaluation summary listed our caucus as the second most valuable to the attendees at the National Convention. At the caucus, Lynn Scarlett, the Nature Conservancy's Global Managing Director of Public Policy, spoke on Climate Change and Water & Nature's Solutions to over 150 league members from across the country. Her slide presentation is on the LWVLMR website, if you haven't seen it already.

In addition to the caucus success, our August 12 Native Plant tour in Wilmette, IL was sold out!

Members of the LWVLMR are available to give presentations in all four states. Jeannette Neague will deliver a nutrient presentation, and Krista Grimm has a Rain Gardens and

Storm water presentation all set to go. In fact, Krista will be coming to Cedarburg Garden Club to give her presentation on October 18 at 6:30 PM at the Cedarburg American Legion Hall. If interested, please call me.

Our Annual Conference & Meeting, "The Craft & Art of Saving Lake Michigan," is October 14-15, 2016, at the lovely Spring House Inn in Porter, IN. Come for field trips, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, speakers, the arts, and more. See the schedule and

registration information on the 2016 Annual Conference page. Prices are reasonable and the events are always informative, fun and engaging. The information is posted online at [LWVLMR.org](http://LWVLMR.org). YOU can go ahead and register now.

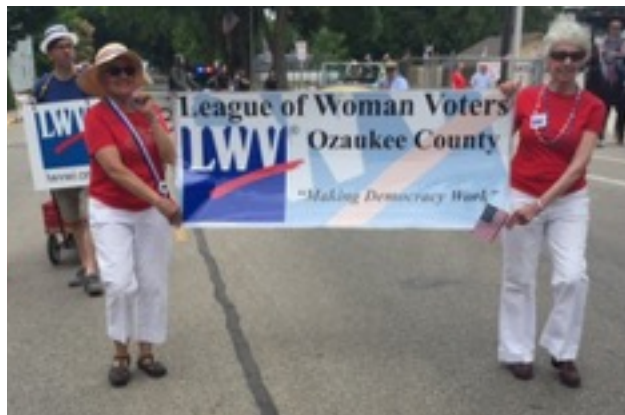


## LWV-Oz Celebrates July 4th in the Cedarburg Parade

*Submitted by Vonna Pitel and Marge Palleon  
Co-Chairs-Cedarburg 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade*

What a better audience and occasion than the Independence Day Parade to inform voters of two important days, August 9th and November 8th—election days. Hundreds of residents and visitors lined the sidewalks of Cedarburg to see the annual parade. Walking in the parade was a wonderful opportunity for citizens to learn about the League of Women Voters and to encourage them to “Go Vote” as our car signs stated on the Schwengel’s 1929 convertible.

We donned our 4th of July hats and straw hats, and dressed in red, white and blue. Leaguers carried signs encouraging the parade goers to vote. Some of the ladies passed out flags while others passed out miniature, patriotic tattoos to smiling children. Many in the audience waved, shouted “Hi!” to Leaguers, and enjoyed seeing an antique roadster roll by.



If you have ideas for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in 2017, please contact us anytime.

Yes, we will be in the parade next year in 2017! There will be a new theme to encourage everyone attending to vote and information about the League of Women Voters. It gives us a great opportunity to keep the League and its purpose in the eyes of hundreds of voters. We are planning to have more publicity, more giveaways for the children and adults, and a fun get-together for the Leaguers participating in the parade.

Our participation in the Cedarburg 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade was definitely a success. We are looking forward to making our unit bigger and better with your participation. Join us next year for a fun time on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.





League of Women Voters State Conference  
Landmark Hotel , Egg Harbor, WI  
June 3-5, 2016

