

**LWW** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

*Leaders for*  
**DEMOCRACY**

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
June 9, 2022

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the LA CROSSE AREA**  
**98<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**June 9, 2022**  
**Virtual**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Robin Schmidt

This past year has been a year of opportunity, innovation, and collaboration. I am humbled to be a part of this great organization and the talented volunteers who make everything happen! I've learned not to ask when we will get back to normal but to recognize that each day is a new normal. With that mindset, I'm proud to highlight some of our accomplishments this past year.

**Modernized Platform:** We completed our transition to Club Express and used its many features to continue to update and enhance our website, manage the membership process, register participants for our programs, link to community events, organize and store our documents, conduct surveys, and more. We also continue to collaborate with Leagues all over the country who are also using this platform to learn best practices, share experiences, and become more proficient in the system.

We hope our move to Club Express results in convenience to you as a one-stop shop for all info for the LWVLA. Using this platform to renew membership and register for events saves us considerable time and money, allows us to track participations and minimizes volunteer workload. We thank those of you who use our system for our events and membership renewal!

**Expanded Programs:** Given the reality of the continued pandemic, we opted to offer all our programs virtually. While we certainly missed being able to see you all in person, we were able to greatly increase the breadth of speakers (from across the state and globe!) as well as viewers because of the virtual programs. In addition, we were able to incorporate polls, follow-up small group discussions, and offer evening programs to try to accommodate members' schedules and interests.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):** The Board established a DEI workgroup that created a LWVLA DEI action plan, leading to the transformation of the Membership Committee to the Membership and Inclusion (M & I) Committee. The M & I committee will oversee the implementation of many of the actions recommended in the plan. We hope that through this effort we expand our partnerships with diverse organizations, expand and retain more diverse membership and ensure that we practice DEI principles in all that we do.

**Expanded Communications into social media:** The LWVLA has embraced the modern world by using social media to share information, events and action items. Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are embraced by the talented members of the Communications Oversight Committee, and the data is showing increased followers and shares of our information throughout the community.

**Making Democracy Work:** No report would be complete without recognizing and highlighting the commitment, effectiveness and creativity of the Voter Services Committee and volunteers who continue to shine as they educate and inform voters – from the Vote411 candidate guide to hosting candidate forums to the “Why I Vote” campaign – these efforts and more helped contribute to high voter turnout this spring. And the LWVLA maintained credibility and leadership as a non-partisan but political organization.

More information on these and other committee accomplishments is available in this Annual Report. I hope you take a few minutes to read through it – I think you'll be impressed with what your League is doing and be proud to be a member of our organization!

**2021-2022 End of Month Values: Treasurer's Report**

	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sept 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	YTD	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>														
Dues	2,900	945	1,667	215	175	35	421	70	160				6,587	7,000
Contributions: Member	80	104			150	1,330		445	250				2,359	250
Contributions: Non-member	47	2	100			503							652	250
Programs/Events	240	90											330	2,500
Fund Raising													0	500
Grants/Other Income							-4,789	600	6,050				1,861	800
Withdrawn from Savings													0	5,330
Carry-over Grants	3,227												3,227	3,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6,494</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>-4,368</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>6,460</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,016</b>	<b>19,630</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>														
Administration			218		25								243	700
Programs/Events			100		300	400		400	100				1,300	3,725
Membership													0	300
Communication/tech	99	61	36	31	101	129	13	24	29				523	2,988
Voter Services	65	181	43		266	120		275					950	2,050
Nat'l Convention													0	1,500
State Convention													0	800
New Member Subsidies													0	0
LWVUS PMP				4,208									4,208	4,192
LWVWI PMP				3,390									3,390	3,375
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,613</b>	<b>19,630</b>
<b>Income/(Loss) for Month</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>-7,415</b>	<b>-367</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>-4,381</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,402</b>	<b>0</b>
Reconciliation with Bank:														
		27,865	28,764	30,135	22,720	22,353	23,572	19,191	19,607					
		899	1,371	-7,415	-367	1,219	-4,381	416	6,330	0	0	0		
	27,865	28,764	30,135	22,720	22,353	23,572	19,191	19,607	25,937	0	0	0		
Checking	27,865	28,762	30,133	22,720	22,353	23,572	19,191	19,605	25,937					
Heileman Voter Services	15,603	15,603	15,603	15,603	15,607	15,611	15,611	15,611	15,615					
<b>All Available Ckg/Sav</b>	<b>43,468</b>	<b>44,365</b>	<b>45,736</b>	<b>38,323</b>	<b>37,960</b>	<b>39,183</b>	<b>34,802</b>	<b>35,216</b>	<b>41,552</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

**2022 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
Kathy Mulliner/Robin Schmidt

As of April 15, 2022, the LWV of the La Crosse area has 161 members. The breakdown of membership is as follows:

- ✓ household members - 46 (23 households)
- ✓ primary (individual) members - 100
- ✓ student members - 3
- ✓ life members - 12

**Welcome to our new members (3/1/2021 – 4/15/2022):**

Jaimie Anderson	Alia Henrichsen	Cari Redington
Erin Behlen	Sharon Hindley	Tara Johnson
Kim Cable	Christine Kahlow	William Sacia
Robert Carney	Vicki Lopez-Kaley	Vicki Sanwick
Gail Cunningham	Eileen McGuine	Barbara Sotorin
Rusty Cunningham	John Newman	Heather Suby
Angela Galatt	Dianne Pederson	Leslie Wegener
Sharon K Hampson	Carla Pena Pena	Cornelia Van Aelstyn
Patricia Heim	Dick Record	

Our lifetime members have dedicated more than 50 years to the League.



Joyce Arthur	Shirley Hass
Grace Stuckey Brinker	Sharon Imes
Nancy Goode	Monica Lazere
Judith Greene	Marilyn McElligott
Carol Gundersen	Lenore Rodman
Rachel Gundersen	Signe Schroeder

**Membership Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**

The LWVLA approved the merging of Membership Committee and DEI oversight activities into one committee now named the Membership and Inclusion Committee. The roles and responsibilities of this committee are defined below. We believe that to fully embrace DEI as a League we need to give it visibility and a voice. Some responsibilities are short-term, some are long-term, and as always, we try to prioritize based on the talents and interests of our many wonderful volunteers. If you are interested in being part of this re-visioned committee, please contact us – we'd love your involvement!

## **Membership and Inclusion Committee Responsibilities**

### **Increase membership diversity to reflect community diversity**

#### **Ongoing:**

- Engage communities of interest to build trust and relevance for the LWVLA

#### **Long-term, one-time, or annual activity:**

- Collect and analyze demographics of LWVLA
- Develop budget to include funding for participating in outreach events for underrepresented groups, including memberships to organizations such as the Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council
- Review/develop materials for engagement activities (GS badges, essay contests, etc.)

### **Maintain existing memberships and grow new memberships**

#### **Ongoing:**

- Identify barriers for membership renewal

#### **Long-term, one-time, or annual activity:**

- Develop member engagement plan for less active members to contribute and engage with other members/leadership
- Develop and maintain a process for mentoring new members on a short-term basis
- Evaluate effectiveness of membership types and investigate new member types for individuals and organizations (ex. Milw LWV)

### **Membership/Roster management**

#### **Ongoing:**

- Serve as Roster Manager for LWVUS/LWVWI
- Serve as point of contact for membership questions/prospective member inquiries

#### **Long-term, one time, or annual activity**

- Manage membership renewal process (Club Express):
  - Review and update automated emails
  - Update non-member database
- Manage membership renewals for those who won't renew on-line

### **Integrate DEI into League management**

#### **Ongoing:**

- Add agenda item to board meeting for sharing DEI programs/training/initiatives
- Maintain cross-representation between M & I Committee and other working committees for collaboration and ensuring DEI is considered in committee work.

#### **Long-term, one-time, or annual activity**

- Develop and maintain a leadership manual that includes updated committee charges, overlaps and coordination
- Establish procedures for choosing board members and committee chairs to ensure opportunities for all members
- Review and update the DEI Goals, Objectives and Action Items plan annually

## **Integrate DEI into League operations (w/program cmte/board/COC)**

### **Ongoing**

- Maintain and expand options for member engagement (member meetings, Lean-in programs, implementing “units” (based on topic – e.g. environmental or types of members – e.g. UWL students, etc.)

### **Long-term, one-time, or annual activity**

- Assess operations, programs, and impact for application of DEI principles
- Poll members annually regarding program and communications options and accessibility: times, venues, types of meetings, topics in developing annual program.
- Consider adding a general membership meeting to consider LWVLA program priorities each year as one of their agenda items
- Annually review Program DEI outcomes and use to develop following year’s LWVLA program for board information/action as part of annual retreat

## **2021 - 2022 Communications Report**

### **2021-22 COC Members**

Nora Garland, Chair   Martha Linville  
Chris Haskell   Kathy Mulliner  
Karen Kroll   Mary Nugent  
Barb Roberts

Throughout 2021-22, LWVLA's Communications Oversight Committee (COC) met monthly to coordinate communications among our League's various standing committees.

The COC's communication work included

- timely information essential to voters about elections and voting rights,
- announcements about our League's local programs and candidate forums,
- information and advocacy related to the League's positions on current issues,
- support for local and regional partners who share the League's mission.

If 2020-21 was the year we expanded our knowledge and skills in the virtual world, 2021-22 was a year for developing strategies that support and promote the public face of our League on various media platforms. The COC developed a communication calendar that is reviewed and updated monthly. It provides a record of support for board and standing committee projects as well as a tool to coordinate messaging on our various platforms. The COC also assisted in planning a campaign of writing letters to the editor in the La Crosse Tribune and the creation of a LWVLA bookmark that is disseminated through our county and city libraries. Our working media team met weekly to plan and create posts for our various platforms, tracking and adjusting our messaging based on Facebook analytics.

Barb Roberts directs our Public Relations efforts, providing press releases to local media outlets with information to keep the public engaged and aware of important events and activities supported by the League. We had media coverage of several Lunch and Learn events, the Fireside Chat with Mayor Reynolds, and candidate forums. We added one more avenue for promoting our public events in the form of an email distribution list to "influencers." Each mailing includes a graphic image and flyer to describe our event. We are still building this list so if you have suggestions for individuals or organizations who may be interested in our events, please let Barb know.

Look for our communications in the following places:

- on our website ([lwvlacrosse.org](http://lwvlacrosse.org));
- on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube (LWVLa Crosse);
- on local community calendars, and
- in the *La Crosse Tribune* and its affiliates.

In conclusion, thanks to the following colleagues whose generosity with their time and talent made our communications work possible:

- COC members for your invaluable guidance and input;
- Martha Linville for great work as the new writer, illustrator, and editor of the News Update;
- Margi Hanson, Chris Haskell, Martha Linville, and Barb Roberts for their esprit d'corps and social media creativity;
- Karen Kroll for managing the Book Club pages and Cindy Berg for the Photo Album on our website;
- Ellen Franz, Mary Nugent, Martha Linville, and Robin Schmidt for our strong and consistent presence in the local newspapers;
- Chris Haskell and Barb Roberts for developing and supporting the "Why I Vote" series in the *La Crosse Tribune*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nora Garland  
*COC Director*  
Barb Roberts  
*Public Relations Director*

## **Voter Services Annual Report**

**Committee Responsibility:** Voter Services Responsibilities encompass two main thrusts: 1. Forums and 2. Voter Registration/Education

### **Forums**

This spring the LWVLA held 2 voter forums for school board races. We held one for the La Crosse School District race before the spring primary in February and invited all 8 candidates. Unfortunately, 3 did not participate and only 1 of those 3 responded to any of the emails and invitations that went out.

The other forum was held before the spring election in April for the Holmen School District. Again, 2 of the 4 candidates did not respond to any emails or the invitations, but at the last minute chose to participate.

This cycle of nonpartisan local races turned out to be extremely partisan. None of the candidates told LWVLA directly the reason why they chose not to participate, but we understand it is because the League continues to be seen by some as partisan. This is an information war that we need to continue to fight with correct facts.

Each forum was held virtually with questions submitted by voters in advance. Thanks to Mary Nugent for providing the timing.

### **Voter Registration/Education**

Voter Services traditionally registers voters and educates the public in a wide variety of venues including K-12 schools, colleges and universities, parades, festivals, celebrations, fairs, workplaces, and other public events and gathering places. COVID made these in person events impossible. We were very pleased to be able to get back to some of these events.

We were at the universities in September. Under the leadership of Anita Evans, we were engaging and registering UWL students as they returned for the school year. We tabled at the three outdoor events Sample the City, Eagle Fest, and Involvement Fest. We were also at Viterbo's Welcome Back Bash under the leadership of Jan Gallagher and Paul Schoenfeld. Our leads were supported in tabling by Jean Hammons, Margi Hanson, Peter Nelson, Leah Reimann, Jane Powell, Sandy Sechrest, and Cindy Killion. We were also invited into Andrea Hanson's Women's Studies Class at UWL to talk about Women's Suffrage and the importance of voting. Pam Theil, Kim Vogt and Chris Haskell represented us.

In the spring we were back in area high schools with our program which is a combination of voting history, statistics and encouragement. It consists of speakers, Power Point slides, and YouTube videos which we present to large all-senior assemblies. We end with students registering online. The presenters are a team made up of League member Margi Hanson and

Cia Siab member Elleen Thao supported by LWV members Peter Nelson, Mary Nugent, and Jane Powell and Cia Siab members Leader Thao and Emily Yang.

We are looking forward to getting back to our usual series of outdoor events including Earth Day, Juneteenth, the Interstate Fair, Pride in the Park and Hmong New Year.

We also have a devoted crew who are out putting up our Everyone Vote signs before every election in front of area churches, schools and residents, and in city parks. They are fearless regardless of weather about reminding citizens that an election is coming up. With thanks to Anita Evans, Jan Gallagher, Jean Hammons, Mary Nugent, Nancy Danou, Nora Garland, Paul Schoenfeld, Peter Nelson, Sandy Sechrest and Jane Powell.

### **New Adventures**

We are excited to report about three new initiatives that we have undertaken.

Encouraged by the state League, we have begun doing presentations in the La Crosse County Jail. We have worked with our partners from Project Proven, Colin Walsh and Dillon Mader. to develop a program which focuses on the value and history of voting and the laws regarding the rights of felons to vote. We have twice presented via Zoom to multiple sections of Dillon's Community Resources Class. We have also worked with jail programmer, Mike Keiffer, to follow up our presentations by registering inmates. Anita Evans, Kathy Mulliner and Jane Powell were the planners and presenters.

Observer Corps, although a part of other Leagues, is new to us. We have a team that observes area governing bodies, writes follow up reports which are stored on the website, and reports back in a monthly meeting. Jan Gallagher and Jean Hammons observe the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan Committee, Peter Nelson and Sally King the La Crosse County Criminal Justice Management Council, Martha Linville the La Crosse School Board, and Nora Garland and Chris Haskell the La Crosse City Plan Commission's Long-Range Plan. The purpose of Observer Corps is to educate LWVLA members on local government activities and to refer topics for further study and advocacy.

Our newest initiative, Clerk Engagement, is in partnership with a coalition of state groups including LWVWI. Its purpose is to support clerks, gather information from them, and advocate for improvements. Sally King is engaged with the Onalaska City Clerk and Chris Haskell with the La Crosse City Clerk.

### **Members and Partnerships**

The end of the year report is always a terrific reminder of all that's being done in Voter Services none of which happens without our wonderful members and community partners. We are also fortunate to have received many grants including this cycle one from the LWVUS and another from the La Crosse Community Foundation.

We're a dedicated group who takes our Everyone Vote motto quite seriously. Come join us.

*Chris Haskell, Voter Services Chair  
Ellen Frantz, Forums Coordinator, April 2022*



## **Vote411.org**

**Members: Jade Johnson, Jane Powell, Jan Gallagher, Nora Garland, Pam Theil, Mary Nugent.**

**Martha Linville, Chair**

Vote411 is a national endeavor of the League of Women Voters. National League contacts candidates that govern in Washington, D.C., Wisconsin League contacts candidates that govern in Madison, Wisconsin, and the La Crosse League's reach is local elections: school boards, county boards, city, town, or village boards, municipal judges, and multijurisdictional judges. All candidates receive an invitation. Everyone is treated the same, whether at the local, state, or national level.

VOTE411 is committed to providing voters the information they need to successfully participate in every election. Whether it's local, state, or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities.

The Vote411 committee of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area works diligently to provide voters with the information they need to make informed decisions as they vote.

Our committee work began just after the new year. We contacted area municipal clerks and school board secretaries to access information about the candidates running in the spring election. Municipal and school board clerks were asked to provide four major items about their candidates: full name, physical address, phone number and, if possible, an email where we could contact them. We also asked clerks for information about the races being held: terms of service, how large an area they cover, and how many would be elected to each post.

Because Vote411 uses precise information about where the voter lives, voters are able to hear from just those candidates that will appear on their ballot when they go to the polls. Candidate responses are published verbatim. Whatever message candidates would like to give to their constituents, they can. The only restriction placed on them is the length of their answers.

Two races for spring resulted in a primary, held on February 15, 2022. Candidates were contacted by phone and email by January 14. Reminders were sent on January 20 and our online voter guide was published on January 24. 80% of the candidates responded to our invitation to participate. Once the primary was over, we archived the losing candidates and held the other responses to publish again for the spring general election. Congratulations were sent to winners, telling them how we would handle their information.

The committee contacted the rest of the candidates running in the general election, a total of over 100 candidates in all. Invitations were sent on March 1, except to those who won in the primary, and a reminder to participate went out on March 7. The voter guide was published on March 14 and 15, with a total of 54 races. The general election had a 60% participation rate.

Our committee worked hard this year, and we feel a great sense of pride that we provided information that helps all the voters in our area. We continue to expand the outreach and popularity of the guide we publish. Come join the Vote411 team and help voters make informed decisions.

April 19, 2022

## **PROGRAM 2021-2022**

Mary Nugent

Program: Mary Nugent Chair, Maureen Kinney, Nancy Hill, Barba Sotirin, Ellen Frantz, Robin Schmidt. Other members pitched in to help with various programs.

Centennial: Sheila Garrity Chair, Margaret Larson, Deborah Lutjen, Nancy Hill, Pam Theil, Robin Schmidt, Carla Townsend, Mary Nugent, Anita Evans

Once again, Covid meant our programs were virtual, although we, with some exceptions, tried to keep to our second Tuesday of the month schedule. Using the Zoom format allowed us to both be live and to record all events to make them available for a larger audience. Live Zoom participant numbers ranged from 20 to 96, about the same or better than our in-person Lunch and Learns. Using Zoom also allowed us to have larger panels of experts from across the state. Our most popular program was the January Elections presentation with 96 live attendees.

Programs presented:

September: Criminal Justice Management Council with Margaret Larson, Scott Horne, Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy, and Tim Gruenke

October: How Our Policing System Works: Jeff Wolf and Shawn Kudron

November: Homelessness in the La Crosse Area: Cheryl Hancock, Kim Cable, Julia McDermid, Mitch Reynolds

December: Winter Celebrations in La Crosse: Nahoua Yang, Rabbi Brian Serle, Zelda Moore, Marta Martinez

January: Lessons Learned from Election 2021: Ginny Dankmeyer, Meagan Wolfe

January: Fireside Chat with Mayor Mitch Reynolds

February: School Boards: A Public Service: Cheryl Hancock, Juan Jimenez, Catherin Griffin, and Mary Jo Rozmenoski

March: International Women's Day

March: How Feminism Affects Our Lives: A Short History: Dr. Jodi Vandenberg-Daves

April: Climate Change Actions in the Urban, Suburban and Rural Coulee Region: Dave Vetrano, Rob Tyser, Jared Greeno, and Carolyn Jenkins

Due to Covid, our final celebration of the 100th Anniversaries of the 19th Amendment and the formation of the League scheduled for September 2, 2021 at the Waterfront with NYC jazz pianist David Marck and bass player Karen Quinn was cancelled.

It is our hope that the 2022-23 Program year will be face-to-face at the Waterfront and again offer lunch. For those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person, we are planning on offering a hybrid format where presenters and/or attendees may be live or appear via Zoom. In addition, all events will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel.

## **LWV Upper Mississippi River Region-ILO Annual Report 2021-2022**

**Date: April 15, 2022 for League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Region**

Our Interleague organization consists of local Leagues in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin that are located within the Upper Mississippi River Region. UMRR is made up of about 60+ local Leagues that cover the Upper Mississippi River watershed, from the headwaters in Itasca State Park, Minnesota, to Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio River enters the Mississippi.

### Focus

Our work focuses on nutrient pollution reduction, other water contaminants and the impact of climate change on our water resources. We are concerned about both surface and ground water in the Upper Mississippi Basin.

### How do we do this?

- Learn about and educate our local Leagues on water quality and quantity issues
- Partner with like-minded organizations to support one another to expand our scope and learn from their expertise
- Meet with local, state, and national governmental representatives to express our concerns and partner with their legislation by informing the public

This past year LWV UMRR-ILO has been busy making sure there are articles in local newspapers addressing numerous water quality issues and discussing the impact of climate change on weather trends and agriculture. Along with letters to the editor, there have been testimonials to support legislative efforts on state and federal levels and to support/endorse projects and programs:

- various pieces of legislation regarding PFAS standards at the state level and national level
- clean fuel standards for energy-efficient transportation
- reduction in fossil fuels by encouraging city ordinances for household solar-Minnesota
- approval for impaired water issues related to wild rice nitrates & PFO
- testimonials for PFAS standard (drinking, groundwater, & surface water) in Wisconsin
- involvement in a collaborative effort -“Clean Water is a Right” referendum La Crosse County
- testimonials for PFAS national standards and related issues- EPA
- creation of educational flyer for PFAS-impacted citizens
- Oct, 4, 2021 PFAS webinar for the public--speakers included toxicologist, hydrogeologist/activist & public policy advocate
- promotion and endorsement of new federal programs, MRRRI & SMRT that focus on the Mississippi River

- promotion and endorsement of “Forever Green” program at University of Minnesota

Future Planning?

LWV UMRR-ILO will begin researching and discussing the potential need of a Water Compact for the Mississippi River that addresses specifically-water diversions.

Submitted by

Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins

WI Rep. LWV-UMRR-ILO

## League Book Group

Approximately 5 years ago some members of our local League decided they would like to meet to discuss books. You will note that I did not call this a Club. It is a very informal group of members and non-members. One does not have to be a member but we do encourage membership.

I am not going to list all the books we read this past year as all the books we have read since 2018 are listed on the league's web site at [lwvlacrosse.org](http://lwvlacrosse.org). Click on "Engage on Issues" and then "Book Club Lists" to see a list of past reads along with a brief summary.

In the past, participants at each meeting selected the next book to be read and when we should get together. We used to meet at Java Vino in its back room. Since Covid we have met primarily via Zoom, although last summer we met twice at Riverside Park. The participants still decide what book to read for the next month or two but we have settled into a regular meeting date of the last Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday).

You do not have to join the group as a league member but you do need to register for the next month in order to be sent the zoom link to the group. The League's web site home page displays the "LWVLA Event Registration" for Book Club which includes information on the book for the month and the date. We meet for about 90 minutes from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. No one really leads the discussion (that can have pros and cons) and we can all chime in. If you can't finish the book please attend anyway. No one always gets all the books read all the time 😊. The group can vary in size from a low of four to around 15. We do read primarily non-fiction and then we may chose a fiction book to lighten things up a bit. Look at the list and you will get the general idea of the types of books. It has been a very a wide range of genres.

We hope you can join us. Please call me if you have questions.  
Maureen Kinney  
608-797-8442

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LA CROSSE AREA PAST PRESIDENTS

1924-25	Alice Hixon	1976-77	Barbara Bogart
1925-27	Grace Robarge	1977-78	Dea Oleson
1927-29	Charlotte Lees	1978-79	Jenny Stoner
1929-30	Eva Wolf	1979-81	Dea Oleson
1931-42	May Morgan	1981-83	Penney Murn
1942-43	Christine Fraulin	1983-85	Judith McCaslin
1943-47	Carroll Gundersen	1985-87	Marilyn Van Wyk
1947-49	Lorraine Dahl	1987-89	Sharon Imes
1949-51	Olga Sauber	1989-91	Ellen Frantz
1951-53	Martha Gilbert	1991-93	Dea Oleson
1953-55	Lorraine Setzer	1993-95	Shirley Haas
1955-57	Becky Moody	1995-97	Maureen Kinney
1957-59	Libby Shirmacher	1997-2001	Ellen Rosborough
1959-61	Flora Grover	2001-03	Rosalie Hooper-Thomas
1961-63	Kay Munson	2003-05	Kay Adams
1963-65	Signe Schroeder	2005-07	Roxanne Reynolds
1965-67	Ruth Anderson	2007-11	Nancy Hill
1967-69	Jean Marck	2011-15	Jane Klekamp
1969-71	Rachel Gundersen	2015-16	Ellen Frantz
1971-72	Lois Riley	2016-17	Peter Nelson
1972-73	Joyce Arthur	2017-19	Deb Lutjen
1973-75	Norene Goplen	2019-21	Mary Nugent
1975-76	Mary Bakalars/Pat Roslansky		

## Membership Approval Documents (5)

- Please review the following approval documents:
  - Minutes of 2021 Annual Member Meeting
  - 2022-2023 LWVLA Budget
  - 2022-2023 LWVLA Program
  - By-Law Changes
  - Nominations
- If you participate in the Annual Membership meeting live on 6/9/2022, you can cast your vote during the meeting.
- If you are not able to attend or vote at the June 9, 2022 Annual Membership meeting, a Survey Ballot link will be emailed to you on June 10, 2022 to obtain your approval or disapproval (for those without email, the ballot will be included with this report). Complete the on-line survey and your responses will be recorded.
- Ballot responses are needed by June 15, 2021.
- Please submit any questions you might have to:  
lwvlawi@gmail.com

***Approval Document 1***

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA**  
**97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2021**

The 2021 Annual Meeting was held via recorded Zoom meeting due to Covid 19 restrictions.

**President's Address.** Mary Nugent reviewed how our League adapted to the challenges of an unusual year, which included pandemic, isolation, election scandals, riots and marches, and insurrection. In reaction, plans were changed regarding Centennial celebrations and the election cycle, and there were two grants for increased efforts to reach voters. Our expanded use of technologies also allowed us to adapt, necessitating great learning efforts, but yielding great benefits. Zoom allowed us to continue our programs, meetings, and communications. The move to Club Express, which has had extraordinarily positive effects on our organization and communications, was executed and managed so well that other Leagues are now looking to us for advice.

Mary discussed the importance of volunteers and how they affect what makes League respected and effective. She highlighted:

- The Oral History project, which interviewed and recorded the experiences of 50-year members;
- The Census Committee, which worked with the County on the importance of census information;
- Forums, of which there were five, all held virtually;
- Vote 411, with 100 candidates contacted to participate and almost 4,000 people checking out the site for candidate information;
- Participation in Fair Maps, which seeks to persuade counties to adopt fair map referendums or resolutions, thus far influencing La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Monroe counties;
- Work with a midwest League consortium on drinking water quality and the local PFAS problem;
- Changes to the Centennial Committee celebration plan, with a hope for an in-person make-up event; and
- The importance of various Committees: Voter Services; Membership, which has overseen continued growth and is at 155 members; Communications which has met the challenge of moving into the virtual world; and Programs, with topics that included the National Popular Vote, climate impacts, and gerrymandering,

**Voter Services Report.** Committee Chair Chris Haskell highlighted:

- Relationships with schools and changes such as moving voter efforts outdoors and holding virtual presentations of "Every Student Vote" at the high schools;
- Tabling at Oak Grove Cemetery Silent City in period suffragist costumes;

- Partnership with the County and the Driftless Voter Coalition in a GOTV (Get Out the Vote) campaign with ads and billboards;
- A new relationship with HeadStart, which included sharing voter materials and signs and doing parent meeting presentations;
- The effectiveness of yard signs at businesses, institutions, and residences, and also the effectiveness of a door hanger initiative;
- The GOTV efforts and dedication of volunteers and other groups, resulting in increased voter turnout in all four elections;
- A call for interested volunteers to send an email via the “contact us” button on the website;
- Thanks to Laura Milner for her previous leadership as Voter Services Chair.

**Speaker Presentation:** Nikki Elsen, City Clerk of La Crosse, talked about the challenges of being a municipal clerk, highlighting that it is one of the busiest and most diverse government jobs, does not have enough hours for the workload, and is deadline-driven, forward-thinking, and anticipatory of problems. She also discussed her extensive duties and the need for an understanding of local laws, policies, and governments.

**Additional Recognitions.** Mary Nugent thanked board members and committee chairs, with special thanks to Sheila Garrity and her efforts at obtaining grants and organizing the centennial, Laura Milner and her expansion of voter services, Pam Knudtson for keeping our message in the public eye, and Maureen Kinney who is leaving the board after 40 years in many capacities. She also thanked the Driftless Voter Coalition for their technical expertise and added outreach, and to donors, especially the La Crosse Community Foundation, the Marck Family Fund, and the Wisconsin Education Network.

**Voting.** Robin Schmidt presented the ballots and voting process and explained that members could vote live, and also online through May 21. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Seventeen members responded during the live voting.

Approved: 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, Proposed 2021-22 Annual Budget, Proposed 2021-22 Program Priorities, Proposed 2021 Bylaw Changes, and 2021 Recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Election of Officers and Board Members.

**Concluding Remarks and Recognitions.** Mary Nugent thanked all members, volunteers, and partners, She also thanked all for the privilege and honor of being president as well as for the gifts, and congratulated President-elect Robin Schmidt.

Robin Schmidt expressed her gratitude to Mary for the past two years. She discussed possible new activities for keeping members engaged, including Study Groups, Issues Champions, and Observer Corps. She informed all of members’ ability to renew online starting in June, along with a request for members to fill out an online survey on issues of interest and how they might wish to participate. She concluded that a volunteer-driven organization becomes better when members are engaged in our mission and help to steer our future efforts.

**Approval Document: 2 - LWVLA Proposed 2022-2023 Annual Budget**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2021/2022 APPROVED Projections</b>	<b>2021/2022 ACTUAL (as of 4/15/2022)</b>	<b>2022/2023 REQUESTED Projection</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Dues - LWVLA		\$1,021	\$1,140	
Dues - LWVUS/LWVWI	\$7,000	\$7,598	\$8,685	
Contributions - member	\$250	\$306		
Contributions - non-member	\$250	\$2,080		
Donations*			\$2,000	
Programs/Events (Meals)	\$2,500	\$100	\$3,500	
Fundraising	\$500	\$0	\$1,000	
New Grants	\$800	\$6,650	\$2,700	Anticipated new grants and final grant awards
Grant Carry-Over (incl. Oral Hist. Proj)	3000	\$5,839	\$7,700	Carryover of 2021 grants for upcoming elections
Withdraw from savings	5330		\$1,871	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,630</b>	<b>\$23,594</b>	<b>\$28,596</b>	

\*Starting with the 2023 budget, the category of "Contributions - member" and Contributions - non-member" are being consolidated as one budget line under the heading "Donations".

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2021/2022 APPROVED Projection</b>	<b>2021/2022 ACTUAL (as of 4/15/2022)</b>	<b>2022/2023 REQUESTED Projection</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Membership/Inclusion	\$300	\$0	\$450	Membership event/DEI training
Administration	\$700	\$280	\$698	Fees, Partnerships
Programs/Events	\$3,725	\$6,112	\$3,760	Venues, overhead, speakers, oral hist. return \$
Programs/Events (Attendee Meals)	\$2,500	\$0	\$3,500	
Communication/Tech	\$2,988	\$515	\$4,468	IT renewals, hardware, software, tech support
Voter Services	\$2,050	\$1,696	\$6,650	Events, printing, outreach, registration support
Nat'l Convention	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	For June, 2022 LWVUS Convention
State Convention	\$800	\$0	\$0	For June 2022 LWVWI Convention
New Member Subsidies	\$200	\$0	\$385	For scholarships, trial member subsidy, etc.
LWVWI PMA	\$3,375	\$3,390	\$4,125	Payment to State League
LWVUS PMP	\$4,192	\$4,208	\$4,560	Payment to US League
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,330</b>	<b>\$16,201</b>	<b>\$28,596</b>	

Note: The total ACTUAL expenses for PMA and PMP is only for one year, 1/21 - 1/22. Income is calculated on memberships from 1/21 - 4/15/2022.



“In League, Program means the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels.

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. Program can include both education and action.”

*--from LWV of Wisconsin*

**Approval Document 3**

**2022 – 2023 PROPOSED PROGRAM PRIORITIES LWVLA**

In the course of discussions about the coming year’s program, members may give suggestions to the board on the scope of inquiry, timing, emphasis, and ways to handle the study and/or action phases for their area of interest. Our board looks forward to hearing from you as program planning for 2022-23 progresses.

<b>Program Priority Issues</b>	<b>LWVLA Action Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Representative Government</b></p> <p>Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.</p>	<p><i>Advocacy and education on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair Maps/Redistricting,</li> <li>• Rank Choice Voting and other voting alternatives,</li> <li>• Voter accessibility/voter suppression/access to voting by incarcerated individuals</li> <li>• Other related issues impacting elections based on member input</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Resources</b></p> <p>Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.</p>	<p><i>Advocacy and education on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water/flooding Issues</li> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Land Conservation/Stewardship</li> <li>• Other related issues that impact the natural resources based on member input</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Policy</b></p> <p>Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.</p>	<p><i>Advocacy and education on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equal Rights Amendment passage</li> <li>• Infrastructure (roads, sewer and water, airports, bridges)</li> <li>• Uniting communities</li> <li>• Narrowing the Rural/Urban divide</li> <li>• La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>• Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within the League and the community</li> <li>• Other related issues impacting social policies based on member input</li> </ul>
<p><b>Emerging Local Community Issues</b></p>	<p><i>Advocacy and education on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable, quality and safe housing</li> <li>• Economic growth and sustainability</li> <li>• Policing policies</li> <li>• Criminal Justice Reform</li> <li>• Mental Health challenges</li> <li>• Other emerging issues that impact the local community based on member input</li> </ul>



## **Approval Document 4**

# **BYLAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS 2022 (1)**

## **1. LWV WI Bylaw Change Recommendation**

*Original Bylaw (Strikeout is what is removed in the revision):*

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **Financial Administration**

**Sec. 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVLA shall commence on the first day of July each year.

**Sec. 2. Dues.** Annual dues shall be ~~paid using rolling membership. Annual dues shall be due one year from the date joined. If dues are not paid within three months of the membership expiration date, or by January 15 of the following year, the member shall no longer be an active member.~~ For members who are eligible for household membership, the primary member shall pay full dues and each additional member shall pay one-half annual dues. The annual dues shall be payable on the due date of the primary member. A trial membership shall be eligible to pay one-half the annual membership dues. Life members and students are excused from making a per member payment (PMP) to LWV/US and a per member assessment (PMA) to LWVWI.

*Revised Bylaw According to LWVLA Board Approval (Red indicates the recommended revision):*

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **Financial Administration**

**Sec. 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVLA shall commence on the first day of July each year.

**Sec. 2. Dues.** Annual dues shall be payable on the anniversary date of joining. A sixty-day grace period after the expiration date will allow members to pay their dues and maintain their membership. At the end of the grace period, members who have not paid the annual dues will be removed from the membership roster. For members who are eligible for household membership, the primary member shall pay full dues and an additional member shall pay one-half annual dues. The annual dues shall be payable on the anniversary date of the primary member. Trial membership for an individual is one-half of the annual dues and for a household is two-thirds of the annual dues. No dues are assessed for students or life-time members.

