

**League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties**  
**Annual Report 2022-2023**



“If there’s one thing I’ve learned in life, it’s the power of using  
your voice.”

— Michelle Obama

**April 2023**

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# LWV/ABC Annual Meeting Agenda – May 2023

May 17, 2023 5:30-8:00 p.m.

WASHBURN CULTURAL CENTER

WASHBURN, WISCONSIN

## EVENING AGENDA

5:30-6:00 Social

6:00-7:00 Business Meeting

- Welcome –
- Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget – Roger Aiken
- Nomination Slate – Bev Lindell
- Proposed Programs –
- Other Business – Board Members
- Business Meeting Adjournment – Catherine Miller

7:00-8:00 **Guest Speaker: MATT ROTHSCHILD, retiring Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Author of 12 Ways to Save Democracy in Wisconsin, and numerous opinion pieces in major newspapers.**

## LWV/ABC BOARD REFLECTIONS 2022-2023

### Board Message

At the time of writing this column, we just finished the Spring Election. We now have a new Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice and the results of local elections that impact our daily lives. Despite our education on the topics, unfortunately the three referendums passed by a large majority. I suspect when people realize the impacts, as it hits their lives directly, they will understand how they were misled.

The League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties is proud of all the hard work our members have put into “Making Democracy Work”, especially at the local level, over the past year. In talking with one of our mentors from the state league, we were commended for the number of local candidate forums we held for the April 4<sup>th</sup> election. We find candidate forums are one of the most vital programs for local voters and candidates. They allow the voters to get **their** questions answered and the candidates have the opportunity to share their positions on topics critical to the voters in a non-partisan way. With the purchase of the OWL technology last year, we have been able to provide most forums in a hybrid way, which typically allows for a larger voter participation rate. We encourage you to view the recordings of the candidate forums on our website and consider whether you could spare an evening to be a moderator, screener, timer or general support. It takes a team of members to pull off a candidate forum and we always welcome more!

Speaking of forums, that is just one of the many events that our chapter sponsored, co-sponsored, or supported over the past year. Here are some highlights from the year so far:

#### June 2022

A Celebration of Water – Communities United by Water  
Two reproductive rights rallies in Ashland

#### July 2022

Ashland County Sheriff’s Candidate Forum

#### September 2022

Fall Membership Meeting: Inflation Reduction Act panel  
National Voter Registration Day

#### October 2022

Applefest Parade participation  
A presentation on Medicare – Threats to Health Security for Seniors/Privation of Medicare  
Earth Day: Election Edition Panel Discussion at Northland College

#### January 2023

Co-sponsored with other LWV chapters in Wisconsin: A presentation on “Imbalance of Power – How Shifts in State Government Undermines Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy” presentation  
Lively Issues

#### February 2023

Valentine’s Day (the League’s 103 anniversary) – we stood in solidarity with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women march in Washburn and sponsored refreshments afterwards  
Washburn School Board Candidate Forum

March 2023

Ashland School Board Candidate Forum  
City of Bayfield Common Council Candidate Forum  
Park Falls Mayoral Candidate Forum  
Civics 101 presentation

April 2023

Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited Expo  
Co-sponsored a table with Communities United by Water and five fund-raising baskets

Whew! That’s a lot of programming! We look forward to continuing with this type of programming in the next year. This year has been amazing in so many ways, especially considering we did so without a president or president-elect in place. The board pulled together and split leadership responsibilities between the board members to keep our chapter going. While we have a fuller slate of candidates this year, we can still use more board members and committee chairs. Please consider if you have the capacity to donate your time to this good cause. The more people and the more diversity in thoughts, the more we can do! While we make a tremendous impact locally, the League also does so at a national level. The 2022 Election Impact Report was just released, and I think the graphic below tells us a lot about the hard work the League is doing to support elections:

## 2022 ELECTION IMPACT REPORT



So if you’ve ever wondered where your League membership dues go, I think this demonstrates the widespread impact of your financial support.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 pm where Matthew Rothschild will be our guest speaker. Matt is retiring from the position of Executive Director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and is a noted author and speaker. He has strong ties to northern Wisconsin and we welcome his words of advice about keeping democracy strong. There will be in-person and virtual options to attend.

You'll also note in this report that we will be voting on a by-laws change that drops the minimum membership age to 16 years and seeks to make all members full voting members by providing full and partial scholarships when needed. Please review this important proposed by-law change, which was approved by the board of directors in March 2023 and plan to vote on it at the Annual Meeting.

With that, we thank all of our members and friends for their generous support. Next year, we want to focus on how to engage our membership more. So, if you have thoughts on how we can do this better, please send them to [president@lwvabcwi.org](mailto:president@lwvabcwi.org) or contact any one of our board members.

# LWV/ABC Proposed Bylaws Revision

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. Eligibility.

- a) Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWV/ABC -shall be eligible for membership.
- b) Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the LWV/ABC, the LWVWI, and the LWVUS.

### ~~Section 2. Types of Membership.~~

~~a) **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues; (4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.~~

Persons at least 16 years of age who join LWV/ABC League will also be members of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network, Inc. (LWVWEN) and the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). For an additional fee per person, additional voting members from the same household may be added to the membership. Fifty-year members of LWVUS shall be life members retaining all privileges of membership but excused from the payment of dues. For a reduced fee, individuals may join the LWV/ABC chapter only (does not include national or state league membership). These individuals are not eligible to be officers, serve on the Board of Directors, or vote on chapter business. Students registered full or part time at an accredited institution may join at a reduced fee.

~~b) **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.~~

### Section 2. Dues structure.

- 1. For an additional fee per person, additional voting members from the same household may be added to the membership.
- ~~2.~~ For a reduced fee, individuals may join the LWV/ABC chapter as an associate member which does not include national or state league membership. These individuals are not eligible to be officers, serve on the Board of Directors, or vote on chapter business. **Any eligible person may request a partial or full scholarship, which shall be granted.**
- 3. Students registered full or part time at an accredited institution may join ~~at a reduced fee~~ **free of charge.**
- 4. **Fifty-year members of LWVUS shall be life members retaining all privileges of membership but excused from the payment of dues.**

**Section 3. Membership List.** The membership list of the League shall only be used for non-partisan intra-League reasons.

## **VOTER SERVICES REPORT, Committee Co-Chairs Anne Chartier and Diane Koosed**

Working together as co-chairs has been a rewarding experience and we recommend a similar arrangement in the future as we continue to support and engage in the important efforts of this committee but step down from the leadership role to take on other responsibilities within our League.

As we write this report a very important Spring election approaches. The decisions our state Supreme Court has made recently regarding voting district lines highlights the importance of electing the best possible judge. There are local officials on the ballot and even Referendums that remind us how important it is to participate in the voting process, engage with the government and even run for office.

Candidate forums and getting out the vote, including postcard writing within our state and for the runoff election in Georgia, have been our focus. For our forums, we have had a dedicated team of members including Roger Aiken, Linda Calhan, Linda Jorgenson, Joyce Kiehl, Alison Luterman, Lynn Maday, Kate Miller, Sue Niemi, Matt Oestreich, Gary Sherman and Sharon Stewart. In various capacities such as moderator, screener, timer, and a variety of technical tasks, they have stepped up to offer candidate forums throughout our community. We started with one for Tribal Council in Red Cliff last July, followed by one for Sheriff in Ashland, and our first attempt at a meet-and-greet in Bad River, also for Tribal council. This past February we organized forums for the Washburn and Ashland School Boards, Alderperson candidates in the City of Bayfield and for the Mayoral race in Park Falls. We are most grateful for the use of Zoom and OWL which have allowed us to have virtual and hybrid events. Building on last year's effort to engage youth, we were delighted to have the participation of a student timer for the Washburn forum.

Due to lack of interest on the part of one or more candidates in the races for Bayfield Sheriff, the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate, and the Mellen School Board, we were unable to organize forums in spite of committed attempts to make them possible. We appreciate the participation of members who attend the forums and we always come away inspired by the quality of the candidates and the wonderful opportunities we offer for voters to make an informed decision at the polls.

Our Committee met on Zoom on the third Friday morning of every month with participation by members from Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer Counties. We thank Linda Calhan and Ginger Quay for taking minutes, and all the other attendees who have shared their experience, knowledge and expertise to make our virtual gatherings valuable. Our efforts to reach out to potential voters throughout the region, with additional help from Units representing our three counties, have involved going in person to area businesses, Northland College, Northwood Technical College, high schools, libraries, farmers' markets.

We have provided LWVWI materials and those we printed ourselves to food assistance outlets, Meals on Wheels and CORE. In addition to participating in LWVWI Community Conversations and voting-related training, we have collaborated with Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), Disability Vote, Native Vote, Fair Maps, UW Extension and Municipal Clerks.

Our League co-sponsored an Earth Day Election Edition panel with CCL in October where we displayed materials from several of the nonpartisan organizations mentioned above. In preparation for the fall election LWV/ABC members canvassed in both Red Cliff and Bad River under the auspices of member



Dee Sweet who works with Native Vote. Member Lisa Radke, UW Extension Community Development Educator, has created outstanding election report cards for Ashland County after each of the past three elections. Sawyer County's Clerk Lynn Fitch is also a member of our Voter Services committee and clerks from Ashland and Bayfield County, and the cities of Ashland, Bayfield and Washburn have also been extremely helpful in numerous ways.

Postcard writing to get out the vote has had particular appeal and support among our LWV/ABC membership. About thirteen hundred postcards encouraging voters to get to the polls have been mailed since December. We agree that every vote counts, and feel a difference has been made! Thanks to the efforts of Fred Haueter and Roger Aiken, we have continued to participate in the Vote411.org voter guide. Both the platform and candidate involvement produce mixed results. The potential is there, particularly if those running for local office would take the time to respond.

On behalf of the LWV/ABC Board of Directors, our Committee wrote a Letter to the Editor about voting for the February primary. We also submitted several articles to the Bottom Line, with the valued assistance of member Liz Seefeldt; the topics included voter feedback from the Fall election, school funding, the Wisconsin Supreme Court election, and the referendums on the Spring ballot.

Our work with Voter Services has been rewarding, and we thank the Board of Directors, along with members and friends for their ongoing support.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT, Committee Chair Sue Niemi

March 26, 2023

### Membership Report

Full Membership (\$65)	Local Membership (\$20)	Total Members
110	13	123
2 are lifetime members		
3 are on scholarship		

We are on a schedule to send out renewal reminders to members 1-2 months prior to their renewal date.

The Fall Membership meeting occurred on September 26, 2022 and addressed the implications of the Inflation Reduction Act. The focus of this program was “Local Vision and Implication of the Inflation Reduction Act.” This landmark federal Act (IRA) addressed some primary topics:

- Medicare
- Transition to Sustainable Energy/Climate Chaos Action
- Some taxation loophole changes.

It is a complex piece of legislation. We invited Ashland/Bayfield County and Bad River representatives as well as leaders from the local Utility and Health Sectors to serve on a panel. They helped interpret the IRA and address the local vision of how this will impact our community and our citizens.

Future opportunities for membership:

- Creating an active Membership Committee
- Creating a welcome packet for new members to help them navigate all the opportunities the League has to offer

Submitted by: Sue Niemi, Membership Chair 2022-2023

## NATURAL RESOURCES ADVOCACY REPORT, Committee Chair Joan Elias

The Natural Resources Committee had another intense year. We met weekly during the first part of the year, relaxed a bit over the summer, picked up the pace again in autumn, and now in recent months have relaxed our schedule to every three weeks or so. We're trying to keep a finger on the pulse of natural resource-related happenings while simultaneously trying to avoid burnout. It's a tricky balance sometimes!

We accomplished many things in 2022, which are detailed below. We worked closely with several other organizations, sharing ideas and news, dividing up needed research, and collaborating on letters submitted to agencies jointly. We are enormously grateful for the support we received throughout the year from our board and the LWV-Wisconsin.

The Enbridge Line 5 pipeline continued to dominate our focus. Our actions around this issue will come first, followed by our other activities.

### **Enbridge Line 5 Actions**

At the time of this writing, lawsuits between the State of Michigan and Enbridge and between the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Enbridge are pending. The decisions on those lawsuits will have important ramifications on the future of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline through Wisconsin and Michigan. As we wait on these decisions, the permitting process at the state and federal levels continues, offering opportunities for public comment.

March was an extremely busy month. In this month alone we submitted the following:

- A letter to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources asking specific questions about the Horizontal Directional Drilling process so as to be better informed for commenting on the soon to be released draft technical standards for HDD (submitted by LWVWI). The HDD process, which is used to install pipeline under streams, rivers, wetlands, and roads, uses fluids which when leaked can cause serious environmental damage. During the construction of Line 3 in MN, the HDD process punctured aquifers, allowing groundwater to gush to the surface and potentially contaminating the aquifers.
- Comments to the WDNR about their draft technical standards regarding the HDD process (submitted by LWVWI). We made several specific recommendations to increase protections in environmentally sensitive regions.
- A letter to the Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District on the Enbridge Line 5 permitting process (submitted by LWVWI). We expressed our many concerns about the impacts the construction, maintenance, and operation of the pipeline would have on the environment, public safety, and emergency response capacity. We requested that the ACE complete a federal-level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and once a draft is available, hold a public review period followed by a public hearing and comment period on the draft EIS. We also asked that the Corps complete a forensic analysis of mishaps that occurred during the HDD process along Line 3 in MN and assure the same disasters do not occur in WI.

- Comments to WDNR on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (submitted by LWVABC both orally at a public hearing and in writing, and in writing by LWVWI). These comments were thorough and detailed, and concluded with a statement on the deficiencies of the draft and the resulting impact on the public’s ability to comment effectively. We believe the WDNR does not have the material needed upon which to base decisions that will affect the people and natural resources of the area in perpetuity. We strongly urged the WDNR to prepare a new draft EIS and hold a new public comment period.

During the summer we staffed a table at the Communities United by Water event in Ashland and together with Wisconsin’s Green Fire, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Mashkiiziibii Natural Resource Department, and the Sierra Club, we co-led a field trip focused on the potential impacts of Line 5 on specific natural resources. We also developed a self-guided driving tour along the proposed Line 5 re-route with stops at special historical, cultural, and natural resource locations.

In August we collaborated with several organizations on a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District requesting that the ACE prepare an EIS that would address the significant environmental impacts that would result from the Corps’ approval of Enbridge’s permit application. Similar in intent to the letter we submitted in March, this letter was co-signed by Midwest Environmental Advocates, Honor the Earth, Clean Wisconsin, Wisconsin’s Green Fire, Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter, 350 Wisconsin, and the LWVWI.

In September we sent comments to the Army Corps of Engineers - Detroit District on the proposed tunnel project under the Straits of Mackinac (submitted by the LWVWI). Similar to the state Environmental Impact Statement process in WI, the ACE held a scoping period during which time the public was invited to comment on what should be included in the EIS. We pointed out that the League has position papers on the protection of water quality, and that the proposed tunnel project poses unacceptable risks to the water quality of the Great Lakes. We said the EIS must include thorough analyses of cumulative impacts; cultural, archaeological, and indigenous rights; alternatives, including a no-action alternative; climate and greenhouse gas emissions, risk of explosion, spill, and release of toxic compounds during construction, maintenance, and operation of the line.

The Story Corps Project, which is a spin-off of our direct work in opposition to Line 5, gained traction and held several public storytelling events. People shared stories of their connection to the land and water of our region at potlucks in Ashland, Mellen, and Gurney, and at the Communities United by Water event in Ashland.

### **Other Actions**

- We worked with the River Alliance of Wisconsin to promote an initiative to draw state-wide attention to the need for legislative follow-through on clean water legislation. We started in Bayfield County by asking the County Board to put the following referendum on the November 8th ballot: “Should the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin?”

The County Board expressed unanimous support. In preparation for the election we placed yard signs around the county, and took additional measures to get the word out. The clean water referendum passed overwhelmingly.

- In July we sent comments to the USDA Rural Development on the Nemadji Trail Energy Center project in Superior, a proposed natural gas plant. We pointed out that the gas plant would not be a clean source of energy, and that we should be moving away from fossil fuels rather than building new infrastructure to support an energy source that is projected to decline.

### **Looking Ahead**

In the coming year, we are looking forward to increased interactions with the inter-league organizations of the Lake Michigan and Upper Mississippi Regions. Additionally, as the natural resources committee at the state level gains new energy, we anticipate increased involvement in state-wide issues.

## PROPOSED PROGRAMMING FOR 2023-2024

### Voter Services

#### Goals for 2023-2024

In terms of a program for the coming year, and in preparation for a presidential election the following one, our committee recommends focusing on the following actions:

- Outreach to Elders
  - Expanding our reach with Candidate Forum
  - Jail Voting
  - Youth Engagement
  - Civics Education
  - Increased Fair Maps
  - collaboration with Native Vote and area tribes
- We thank the Board of Directors, along with members and friends, for ongoing support.

### Natural Resources

#### **Natural Resources Advocacy Committee Proposed Focus for 2023-2024**

The Natural Resources Committee plans to continue taking strong stands to protect the water resources of our area. Social and environmental aspects of climate change are interwoven with water. The two issues together - water and climate - are priorities for our local League.

We expect to continue our work in opposition to Enbridge's Line 5 re-route and expansion. The Canadian company proposes to re-route Line 5 around Mashkiiizibii (the Bad River Reservation), crossing approximately 185 waterways along the way. The entire proposed re-route lies within the Bad River watershed and poses grave risks to the tributaries of the Bad River, Copper Falls State Park, and the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs - a RAMSAR designated wetland of international importance. The re-route is opposed by the Bad River Band. Enbridge also proposes to construct a tunnel under the straits of Mackinac, putting our Great Lakes at risk. The tunnel project is opposed by the State of Michigan.

We plan to continue working with collaborators to gather and disseminate information about Line 5 issues and provide input to state and federal agencies at every opportunity.

The NR Committee's other focus is on getting a Clean Water Now joint resolution passed by the Ashland County Board and the Bad River Tribal Council. Bayfield County passed a similar resolution in cooperation with the Red Cliff Tribal Community.

In addition to these two main projects, the NR Committee will provide input on state issues as our time and expertise allow.

## Local Unit Formation 2022-2023

LWV-ABC made the decision in 2021 to reactivate community unit groups in Ashland, Bayfield and Washburn. This allows members in their regions to track local issues as well as build social connections with a more personal alliance to LWV. Those involved would have the ability to decide priorities for their unit. There would be a process whereby the groups' focus would be reported back to LWV-ABC and the larger unit would be able to request local action on behalf of Board of Directors.

These groups were started Spring of 2022.

Ashland and Bayfield groups focused on Getting Out the Vote.

Ashland had a presence in local businesses on recent election days. There was a strong emphasis on new and first time voters. In addition, there was close attention to civics education in schools and general school board actions.

The Washburn/Southshore Unit has been following the regional problem of affordable housing, the lawsuit to allow high volume water extraction from a spring in the Town of Clover, school board conflicts over curriculum and books, and the straightened financial status of all our towns and municipalities with the erosion of state revenue sharing in the past 20 years. The pressure to find additional revenue has led Washburn to expand summer camping rentals into green space along the Lake and Bayfield to install parking meters.

The Bayfield Unit decided that the midterm elections would be their priority.

Thanks to Dianne Judd and Teri Beganvik for setting up an informative and comprehensive display on voting in the Bayfield library. Updated flyers were placed in 150 distributed food boxes by Core volunteers.

Members of all units joined in the Bayfield Applefest parade to be a presence for voting. It was a pleasant day and we were well received by those attending the parade.

Members were also invited to work with Native Vote to Get Out the Vote in Red Cliff and Bad River by LWV member, Dee Sweet. Two cultural orientations were arranged by Dee Sweet, in preparation for canvassing along with Native Vote volunteers. Members did participate in deep canvassing in Red Cliff and Bad River to encourage voting and to listen to the concern of voters. Members also assisted in distributing voting information packets in Red Cliff and Bad River.

### **2023-2024 Focused Goals**

Promotion of Units to expand membership

Explore possibility of additional Units in Sawyer and Iron Counties

Review efforts of coordination between Board and Units including scheduling, leadership, communication between units and Board of Directors.

## **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – May 9, 2022**

**League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties Annual Meeting  
May 9, 2022  
6:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting**

30 people attended. 22 are members.

### **1. Welcome**

President Sue Niemi called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. She welcomed the group and thanked outgoing board members Kate Siegler and Gail Syverud for their service.

The consent agenda and minutes from the 2021 annual meeting were passed unanimously barring no objections.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Roger presented the Treasurer's Report. We have total assets of \$27,317.35 in checking and savings accounts. We continue to do well financially even with challenges presented by the pandemic. A significant purchase was the OWL system for use during candidate forums. We will have some challenges next year with the new unit structure and the move to hybrid meetings.

Motion to approve the proposed budget for 2022-2023 by Joan Elias. Seconded by Bev Lindell. Motion passed unanimously with an 18-0 vote.

### **3. Nomination Slate**

Sue Niemi presented the nominations slate. There are open positions for President and Vice President (or co-presidents). There is also an open position for Nominations Chair.

Motion by Anne Chartier to accept the slate as presented. Seconded by Kate Miller. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion passed unanimously with an 18-0 vote.

### **4. Proposed Programs**

Sue Niemi summarized the proposed programming for 2022-2023. Kevin Stranberg facilitated two strategic planning sessions for the board. The focus of future programming will be on voter services, natural resource advocacy/climate change, and increasing member engagement. We also are committed to engaging younger people in the League and building leadership infrastructure. Due to the lack of a President and Vice-President, the board has decided to divide the duties of the president among all board members until those positions are filled.



Motion by Linda Jorgenson to approve the proposed programs for 2022--2023. Second by Joan Ackerman. Motion approved unanimously with a 17-0 vote.

#### **5. Unit Structure**

Linda Jorgenson discussed the current status of the units and encouraged all units to invite non-members. The Washburn unit has had three meetings. They are focusing on the housing shortage. Their next meeting will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Bayfield unit is focusing on Roe v. Wade and will hold their third meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the library and have invited Beth Meyer to speak. Gary Sherman will speak at a future meeting. The Ashland unit will hold its first meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Vaughn Public Library. (Note: This is a correction from the 6:30 pm time stated at the meeting).

#### **6. Voter Services Report**

Diane Koosed gave the Voter Services report. The committee continues to work on student voter registration and will continue that work after the end of grant funding. They have held seven candidate forums over the past year. They need more volunteers to help as moderators, timers, screeners, as well as tech support. Volunteers can be easily oriented to these jobs.

The committee focuses its work on getting out the vote, supporting election workers, and fighting gerrymandering in partnership with Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition.

#### **7. Natural Resource Advocacy Report**

Joan Elias gave the Natural Resource Advocacy report. The committee has focused its work on the Line 5 reroute around the Bad River Reservation. The committee prepared comments on the Wisconsin DNR's draft environmental impact statement and President Sue Niemi presented those remarks at the DNR's public hearing. The committee has collaborated with several regional and statewide non-governmental organizations as well as Bad River and Red Cliff Tribes.

There will be a Communities United by Water Gathering on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Bayview City Park in Ashland. We plan to have a booth there.

The Army Corps of Engineers will be accepting comments on Permit 12 as part of a nationwide permit.

Wisconsin citizens have a right to clean water which impacts the environment and health. The committee will be pursuing clean water resolutions to put on the ballot in each county.

Motion to adjourn from the business portion of the meeting was made by Kate Miller. Second by Roger Aiken. The business meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

#### **Panel Discussion**

Kate Ullman facilitated a panel of three young adults: Emerson Ziehr, Jenise Swartley, and Paige Crenshaw. The three are recent Northland College graduates who live and work in the area. They were all politically active at Northland and continue to be politically active in the community. Panel members spoke on the types of civic engagement that interest them, their concerns over the strength of our democracy, how our political structures can work against our democratic goals, what actions besides voting are best able to bring about change, and barriers to voting among young adults.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FY 2022-2023

### Treasurers Report April 2023

The LWV/Ashland Bayfield Counties is a subsidiary organization of the State League of Women voters. We operate under their tax status but maintain our finances independently. Annual reports are made each year to the State League detailing our revenues and expenses. The dues members pay for full membership go primarily to support National and State league activities. Only a very small processing fee is retained by the local league. In order to support our local activities, we conduct a finance drive each December and attempt to raise the funds we need for our actual operating activities. We do not have an active finance committee so yearly audits are conducted on an ad hoc basis by members who volunteer to look at the finances. The information presented here should be adequate to perform a summary desk audit by anyone who understands some basic accounting. The original records are maintained by a software called Manager.IO, which is a free double entry accounting system for businesses. I have modified it for our non-profit purposes and continue to find ways to improve on the reporting

The following four pages describe our financial condition in detail. I will offer a short description of each document listed below and a summary statement of our financial condition below. Original reports are available to any member who might request them for clarification or in case of typos.

#### *Summary of Fiscal years 2021-2023.*

This document shows our income and expenditures over a several-year period. The Fy 21-22 results are final and the current year to date document is as of 3/31/2023. This document shows how we obtained our income and where we spent money. Notable in this document is that expenses exceeded income on the YTD column. This is expected and the Board has authorized reserve funds to make up the difference which are applied at the FY end.

#### *Budget History 2021-23*

This document is intended to show how we arrive at a budget. It shows actuals for FY 2022 compared to our budget for our last fiscal year and it shows the budget projection for FY 22-23. The budget is based on the amount of money we expect to raise in the finance drive and what our total expenses might be in any given future year. We establish the budget in March of every year for the future fiscal year.

#### *Master 23-24 Budget*

This is our proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2023-2024.

#### *Multiple Year Balance Sheet Comparison*

This sheet is presented primarily for audit purposes. It shows our net worth and account balances at the beginning and end of each Fiscal period.

#### *Bank Statements*

These excerpts of our bank statements show our checking and savings accounts at the end of specified periods and are also included for audit purposes.

**Summary:**

Our organization remains committed to engaging voters to get out and vote. Our expenditures have exceeded our fundraising in the Finance drive for the past several years. Given the importance of the last few elections the Board has authorized additional funds from reserves. Our membership is growing and support for the State and national League remains strong. We have budgeted less than in previous years for fundraising, but believe it is possible to exceed these goals. An additional \$25.00 contribution by each member would easily bring us into the black for next year.

**Treasurer's Reports Appendix:**

- Master 2023-2024 Proposed Budget
- Budget History 2021-2023
- Multi Year Budget Comparison
- Summary FY 2021-22023 YTD Cash Flows
- Bank Statements

## LWV/ABC PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2022-2023

<b>Board Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Email</b>
President	Catherine Miller	1 year	catherineclarkmiller@gmail.com
Vice President	Suzanne Niemi	1 year	suzysisu64@gmail.com
Treasurer	Roger Aiken	1 year	roger.aiken@gmail.com
Board	Val Barber	1 year	valorb76@gmail.com
Board	Barbara Bell	1 year	48babz@gmail.com
Board	Anne Chartier	2 year	achartiercoates@gmail.com
Board	Joan Elias	1 year	elias99@gmail.com
Board	Diane Koosed	2 year	koolake@gmail.com
Board	Linda Jorgenson	1 year	Jorgensonla@gmail.com
Board	Jan Penn	1 year	janmpenn@gmail.com

### Committee Chair assignments:

Secretary	open
Voter Services	open
Natural Resources	Joan Elias
Membership	Diane Koosed
Diversity/Inclusion	Anne Chartier
Nominations	open
Communications	open

## NATIONAL AND STATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTACT INFORMATION

### League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)

1730 M Street Northwest, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036-4508  
Phone: (202) 429-1965  
FAX: (202) 429-0854  
Web address: <http://www.lwv.org>  
Contact/Feedback Form: <http://lwv.org/content/About/ContactUs.aspx>

### League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI)

612 West Main Street, Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: (608) 256-0827  
Web address: <http://www.lwvwi.org>  
Contact/Feedback Form: <http://www.lwvwi.org/About/ContactUs.aspx>  
Email: [lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org](mailto:lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org)

## PATHS TO POWER

### Federal Government

#### President Joe Biden

Address: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500  
Phone: (202) 456-1111 Contact Form: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

#### Vice President Kamala Harris

Contact Form: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>  
Website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-harris/>

#### Senator Ron Johnson

Address: 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-5323  
Contact Form: <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator>  
Website: <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov>

#### Senator Tammy Baldwin

Address: 717 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-5638, (800) 247-5645 (Wisconsin Only)  
Contact Form: <http://baldwin.senate.gov/contact>  
Website: <http://baldwin.senate.gov>

### **Representative Tom Tiffany**

Address: 1714 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515

Phone: 202-225-3365

Contact Form: <https://tiffany.house.gov/contact>

Website: <https://tiffany.house.gov>

### **State Government**

#### **Wisconsin Legislative Hotline**

(800) 362-9472 or (608) 266-9960 (Madison Only)

#### **Governor Tony Evers**

Address: 115 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702 PO Box 7863, Madison, WI 53707

Phone: (608) 266-1212 (Madison) (414) 227-4344 (Milwaukee)

Email: [EversInfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:EversInfo@wisconsin.gov)

#### **Senator Roman Robert Quinn**

25<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Address: Room 123 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

Phone: (608) 266-3510 or (800) 469-6562

Email: [sen.quinn@legis.wi.gov](mailto:sen.quinn@legis.wi.gov)

#### **Representative Chanz Green**

74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Address: Room 125 West State Capitol PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708

Phone: (608) 237-9174 or (888) 534-0074

Email: [rep.Green@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.Green@legis.wisconsin.gov)

State contacts updated March 2022 from <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/about/contact>