

League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties
Annual Report 2019-2020

"To the wrongs that need resistance,
To the right that need assistance,
To the future in the distance,
Give yourselves"

Carrie Chapman Catt

May 2020

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LWV/ABC PRESIDENT’S REFLECTIONS 2019-2020

I am a proud member of our centenarian League of Women Voters because we contribute to the political process and are devoted to Making Democracy Work[®]. How we elect our representatives is flawed for several reasons: money plays a big role in determining who gets elected; Gerrymandering creates districts that favor a specific party; rules are designed to suppress votes; and perhaps most importantly, civic engagement and civics education are not valued sufficiently by a significant portion of our citizenry.

Many potential voters aren’t interested in participating in the electoral process because they don’t believe it will make a difference in their lives. But I am convinced that in spite of all its limitations, democracy is worth exercising, defending and improving. And that is what the League is all about.

There are many examples of democracy at its best. I recently attended city council and county board meetings and was impressed by the dedication demonstrated by those in elected office.

Candidate forums are also a great way to observe democracy in action. Among our partisan politicians we also have great leaders who strive to make things better for us.

Two years as president of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) has afforded me many rewarding opportunities to learn. I am particularly thankful for the support of experienced Leaguers. As we look to the years ahead, I am confident that Sue Niemi, who this past year served both as secretary and president-elect, will lead us forward with enthusiasm and expertise. Her outstanding skills have made it possible for us to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We have used video conferencing for our March board meeting, and other committee meetings. Sue also gets credit for compiling and producing all the documents you are receiving electronically in lieu of an in-person Annual Meeting.

Our committees did great work throughout the year and you can read about their accomplishments and goals for the future in the attached reports and program. It is particularly gratifying that all current board members will continue to serve on the LWV/ABC board another term. Their contributions to our League have been significant, with countless hours devoted to the causes we hold dear. An additional reason to celebrate is that Lynn Bigboy will step into the role of president-elect. Lynn is a member of the Bad River community who will enhance our success.

As I write these reflections we are still looking for a secretary, and communications and finance chairs. You can be sure that stepping forward to fill one of those positions would be worth your while and much appreciated. During the voting process you will have a chance to propose candidates that may have slipped by our diligent nominations committee headed by Jo Bailey, but the fact is that typically the slate of officers we vote on has been uncontested. This speaks to the League's commitment to consensus.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion have taken center stage in the work of the League. Our membership ought to reflect the community we serve. As a result the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI) has decided to waive the state portion of dues for any member applying for a scholarship. Our scholarship fund created initially with donations in memory of Bo Dunne will cover the difference between what members are able to pay and what we send to Washington, D.C. for our national dues. Having had the privilege of working with the Madison staff and of attending several meetings at the state level, I can assure you that our dues in Wisconsin and at the national level are a great investment. And students can join for free!

It is impossible to ignore the tough times we are going through due to COVID-19. This is a new and stressful situation. We are all trying to proceed with what needs to get done in the midst of uncertainty and concern. It is comforting that the rule of law prevails in these difficult times. The courage and selfless care of those responding to the disease or meeting essential needs is humbling for those of us who are not on the front lines, and we are profoundly grateful.

We will emerge into a different world, perhaps one that better protects the planet and invests in the wellbeing of those who have been ignored by an economic system that values profit over welfare. Solidarity has been demonstrated in many instances and places. People are helping each other in unprecedented ways. We have been forced to put our lives on pause, and consider what matters most.

Finally, I want to thank all those who made possible and participated in our March 8 Gala to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. It was a fabulous party that brought together our community and its leaders in honor of a hard-fought accomplishment that moved our country closer to full representation. We have more work to do, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Anne Chartier

VOTER SERVICES REPORT, Committee Chair Margie Braun

Voter service is a primary effort of the LWV. Thank you to all League members and volunteers who have helped with online voter assistance registration events at many locations in Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer Counties, including our tribal communities.

Our year began with organizing National Voter Registration Day, the week of Sept.27, with volunteers willing to set up registration assistance events at schools, grocery stores, tribal events and libraries. It was a great way to kick off the many Registration Assistance Events for the election year. Registration Assistance Notebooks have been newly created as references to help volunteers. At this time the Coronavirus has interrupted the events and most likely will affect the elections. Absentee Ballot voting is now being encouraged. New messages are being received daily.

We have concentrated on "Getting Out the Vote" with a new opportunity to educate voters online with VOTE411.org. a state and national website dedicated to candidate information. Our league was awarded a grant to use this website and decided to go with gathering information from local candidates only this year. A committee was formed and they travelled to Eau Claire in December to do training with Eileen Newcomer, our state Voter Registration Specialist. Fred and Peggy Haueter, and I along with Eileen, uploaded Sawyer County candidates and discussed the types of questions we should ask our local candidates. Roger Aiken is the Ashland/Bayfield leader. We met at the Hayward library to create questions for our town supervisors, school board candidates and county clerks. A description of each position had to be posted online as well. An introduction letter was mailed to each candidate urging them to respond to the questions with a provided link online or by mail. Please check out Vote411.org "What's on My Ballot" to see how the site works. As of now, we are still waiting for online and written responses from some candidates. We hope most candidates will respond.

We are beginning to organize regional Voter Services committees to alleviate the burden of recruiting the many area volunteers needed for holding events. The Bayfield area has organized and has events scheduled. Ashland is in the process. With the addition of a large Sawyer County

group, we feel this is a necessary step to be successful. We are managing a large group of volunteers.

Forums remain a challenge as we search for experienced leadership willing to lead a team in contacting candidates and doing the set ups for these events. The Corona Virus restrictions have now affected future efforts to hold forums for the Spring Elections and possibly future 2020 elections.

There is a need for this committee to have a group of team leaders to make it successful. Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to help!!

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT, Committee Past-Chair Dianne Judd

Committee Members: Kate Bortel (Website), Anne Chartier (Eblasts, Facebook, newsletter, LTE's), Nina Hirth (Social Media with an eye of the youth), Dee Johnson (Facebook), Dianne Judd (ExOfficio, newsletter, G-Suites), Matt Oestreich (G-Suites Admin), Liz Seefeldt (Bottom Line, Facebook), Pete Skoro (Newsletter)

As you can see many people took parts of the Communication Team this past year. We did not have a chair. Roles were shared and other board members jumped in as needed.

Pete Skoro again this year did a fabulous job for us in creating our Newsletter, *The Leaguer*. Each of the board members, and some members not on the board, wrote articles that Pete skillfully put together with beauty and interest.

Kate Bortel was brought in mid-year and took over updating our Website. She is creating interest and excitement with keeping us current and up-to-date. She also brings Website information to our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Like us on Facebook and ALL social media! Nina, Liz, Anne, Dee, Kate all have been part of this messaging to various groups in different formats.

Liz Seefeldt kept us on schedule to submit articles monthly to the Bottom Line keeping our articles crisp and clean.

Matt Oestreich recently became our G-Suite Administrator. The League Board members will greatly appreciate his capable handling of this set of applications that permit us to have internal communications, with emails, files, calendars, etc.

Anne Chartier's Eblasts are always keeping us abreast of what is happening in League and our community that League has an interest in. She keeps us informed and encourages us to be active advocates. Anne is responsible for many Letters to the Editors and is the Spokesperson for the League.

Heads of Committees each have been responsible to showcase their events in the local papers.

Communications is an ever-changing landscape. What was traditional with newspaper and telephone calls is now a variety of media platforms. The League has strived to communicate with our members and the outside world with Newsletters, Website, local newspapers, Social Media, Eblasts to members and friends, posters and flyers in the community. The end of one size fits all is an opportunity to reach a more diverse group, and to evolve our work. What we use today may in fact shift again and we need to keep our tech skills sharp.

As a member of The League of Women Voters, you will receive emails from our Local LWV/Ashland & Bayfield County, State at LWVWI and National at LWV.org.

Thank you to our Communications Team and our Board of Directors.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT, Committee Chair Bev Lindell

Over the past year, we have been developing a civic engagement strategy to deploy within the League. Based on the strategy, we were awarded a \$500 grant from the Rotary which will be used to build civic engagement activities within our respective communities. Based on the current pandemic situation, we are unable to host community in-person events but plan to once we are able to gather in person again.

At our annual membership meeting October 2019, League members and friends agreed with this definition of “civic engagement”: working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make a difference. The larger goal as identified by local members is to build enthusiasm for civic engagement through actions that build a cohesive community approach. Our committee working within this structure is planning on implementing the following actions: 2-3 Civic Saturdays; Joy of Voting celebration; youth collaboration including civic games project. We would be partnering with community organizations to achieve these goals.

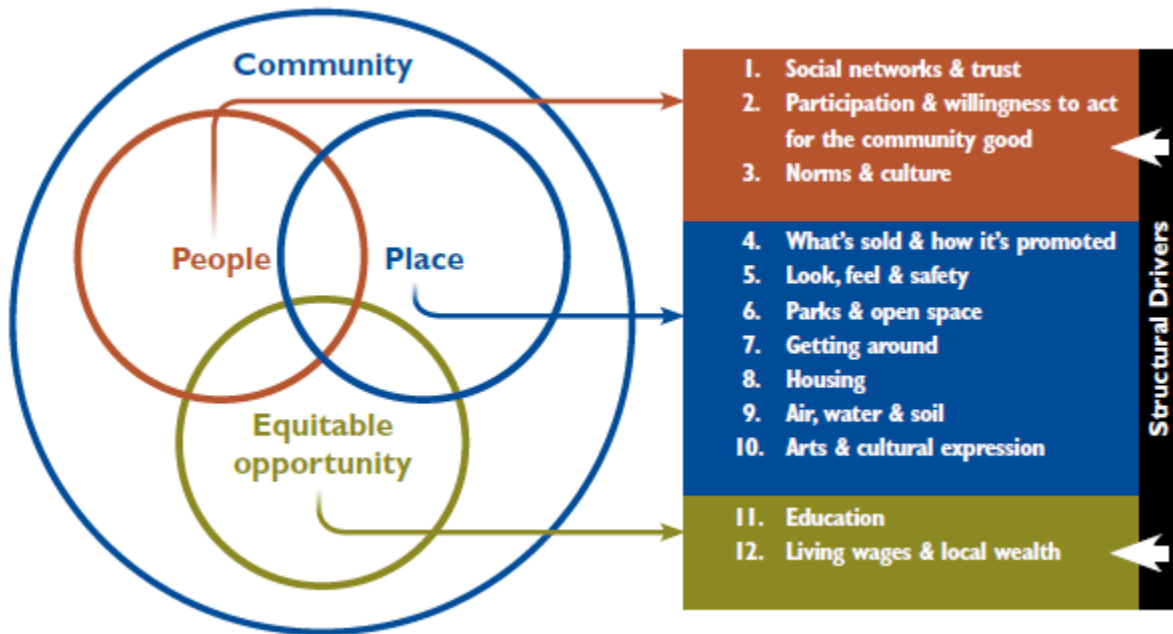
ECONOMIC INEQUALITY REPORT, Committee Chair Jan Penn

The work of the Economic Inequality Action Committee as outlined in the 2019 report employed the “upstream model” which is one of prevention. At the outset of the year members broke into 3 workgroups. These workgroups were intended to address topics which research has demonstrated to be effective in impacting children and employ the strategy outlined in the WI End Childhood Poverty Campaign:

1. Education-Early Childhood Programs and School based Nutrition Programs
2. Health Care-impacts of additional trauma to families/children and options to address
3. Role of the Faith Community in the End Childhood Poverty Campaign
Building a Healthy Community

The upstream work with children incorporates the social determinants of a vibrant healthy community. (Community Thrive Model- Prevention Institute of California) The model is the less

discussed portion of what we have traditionally addressed in discussion of “Health”, although both direct health care and the social determinants are drivers of action toward raising healthy children.



This year the committee sponsored one community action program, Health Care-It’s Ills and Remedies. Dr. Dorothy Skye offered a rather comprehensive survey on the topic and a local panel of stakeholders responded identifying local implications. The conversation included audience participation thus helping to identify critical components for a health care plan which need to be addressed in the platforms of those running for office in 2020. It is hoped that this insight will drive voters to demand candidates define a comprehensive health plan and cast ballots for those whose plan meets our needs.

The second action was in the arena of public-school based nutrition programs. The committee monitored federal proposals which threatened balanced nutritional programs, in particular for rural schools. Eblasts calling for action were sent to members and friends encouraging their work to address elected officials on these threats to “equitable opportunity” in the educational arena. (see model)

Driven by the social determinants that create a vibrant community in which healthy children grow into healthy adults, the greatest work for committee members involved unanticipated partnerships with our LWV’s other programs:

1. The Gala Event was more than a celebration of our history. The Gala envisioned the LWV/ABC’s next century of work, that being, the social determinants of a healthy community and globe, with a special recognition on community youth and young adult leaders.

2. Our committee also partnered with the Natural Resources Committee on the urgent threat to the health of our region imposed by Enbridge Line 5. This was unanticipated, but critical to securing a healthy shared “home” for future generations.

The next year of work will continue the work within partnerships. While we anticipate new and unexpected challenges to Economic Equality may arise the 2020-2021 program will continue work on:

1. Education-Early Childhood Programs and School based Nutrition Programs (Advance)
2. Health Care-impacts of additional trauma to families/children /plans to address (Monitor)
3. Role of the Faith Community in the End Childhood Poverty Campaign
 - a. Building a Healthy Community (Partner to Implement)
4. Local threat to a Healthy Community for future Generations imposed by Enbridge Line 5, fossil fuels as it impacts Climate (Partner to Address)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, Committee Chair Gail Syverud

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

With this in mind, the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield County reviewed the \$65 cost of membership and has offered scholarships for local men and women who would like to join League of Women Voters of the United States and League of Women Voters of Wisconsin but are simply not in a position to pay that amount. Thanks to President Anne Chartier and the Board of Directors we have addressed the need to incorporate the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion into the local membership policies.

This is not a new issue for the Board of Directors. In 2017, a new category of membership or the \$20 local membership category was created. In late 2019, a scholarship fund was created with funds donated to the LWV/ABC in memory of Bo Dunne, late husband of member Sonnie Dunne.

Recently on March 21, 2020 the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin voted to waive the Per Member Assessment or the \$30 state portion of the \$65 membership fee and thus reduce the

economic barriers to League membership for members receiving dues reduction or scholarships from local chapters.

Overall, these new membership policies are designed to promote growth in membership and enhance diversity with the local Leagues. The League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties is in full support and is moving forward to implement them in creating a more perfect democracy.

NATURAL RESOURCES ADVOCACY REPORT, Committee Chair Joan Elias

Early in our fiscal year the NR Committee continued our work on Ashland's wastewater overflow problem by hosting the 2nd (of 2) public forums. Attendees had the opportunity to express their concerns and to become active in a number of ongoing city programs. We followed the forums with an open letter to the city and Mayor Lewis summarizing the feedback from attendees and outlining recommendations. We offered to reconvene the committee to assist the city in future overflow-related education and outreach needs. We received a thank you letter from the mayor.

Nothing further was done on this topic until February 2020, when we attended an Ashland Public Works committee meeting and again offered our assistance. John Butler, Public Works Director, is interested in our help with public relations and outreach, and we agreed to pursue discussions later in spring.

The majority of the NR committee's work focused on the rerouting of Enbridge Line 5 around the Bad River Reservation. Our concerns include:

- Ensuring the integrity of our waters and wetlands is not compromised by a new pipeline
- Gathering and disseminating accurate information to the public
- Landowner rights relative to Eminent Domain
- Municipality rights and responsibilities, including liability and emergency response, to ensure citizens are protected

Accomplishments of the NR Committee include:

- We brought the Tar Sands Storytelling traveling art show to Salmagundi. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, Salmagundi has shut down. If we don't get a chance to see the show in person, here's a link to it. (<https://tarsandsstorytellingproject.wordpress.com/>)
- We developed a resolution in support of Bad River's and Michigan's lawsuits, calling for the decommissioning of Enbridge Line 5. The resolution received support from other organizations and LWV chapters.
- We addressed the Ashland County Board advising that the County's lawyer consult with pipeline legal experts, detailing the rights and responsibilities of municipalities, opposing the quit claim on the property sold to Mellen, and presenting our resolution (above bullet).

- We have collaborated with several regional and state-wide non-governmental organizations, as well as Bad River and Red Cliff Tribes, to strategize next steps and keep one another informed.
- We co-hosted 2 community informational meetings and contacted landowners to present information and options.
- We facilitated the Ashland County Board in passing of a resolution asking for legislative review of Eminent Domain for Oil Pipelines.
- We sent a letter to Governor Evers, Representative Meyers, and Senator Bewley related to the Commissioner appointment to the vacant Public Service Commission seat.
- We participated in a meeting with the Public Service Commission (PSC) in Madison clarifying the process of Public Input in the permitting process.

At the time of this writing Enbridge has begun the permit application process with both the PSC and the DNR. Our focus is likely to shift going forward- weighing in at appropriate times, making sure appropriate data are included in all of the applications, ensuring an Environmental Impact Statement is thorough, and requesting public hearings in appropriate locations for those of us who live here. We will continue our partnership with other organizations, agencies, and tribes.

Meanwhile, we have tried to weigh in on other local and state-wide issues. We supported the LWVWI Legislative Committee on decisions in support of the flood risk demonstration project in Ashland County (AB266) and opposed to the “felony trespass” bill (AB426). We submitted a letter to the editor supporting an Ashland County wetland ordinance and with the suggestion of larger setbacks for certain types of wetlands.

Going forward, in solidarity with the Anishinabe way of women being the Water Keepers, we feel we have an important role to play in the protection of the water resources of our area. Hence, our focus will remain on water-related issues.

The Natural Resources Advocacy Committee plans to continue to oppose Enbridge as the Canadian company pushes to reroute Line 5 around the Bad River Reservation, crossing numerous wetlands, and all major and many minor tributaries of the Bad River in the process. The proposed reroute raises concerns about environmental issues, municipality liability, and private landowner rights. We plan to continue gathering and disseminating information to inform the public of their rights and responsibilities. We also plan to provide input to the pipeline scoping and permitting process every step of the way to ensure a thorough environmental impact review is conducted, and a comprehensive discussion of the need for the pipeline occurs. We will continue our collaboration with other regional, state, and out-of-state partners.

Beyond Enbridge Line 5 issues, the NR Advocacy Committee plans to continue working with the city of Ashland to inform the public on sewage overflow issues as the city takes steps to resolve the problem.

Our focus remains local, but we will provide input on state and federal issues as our time and expertise allow.

PROGRAM AND EVENTS and REPORTS, Committee Chair Sheila Mitchell;

The Program and Events Committee is tasked with the organizing/programming of the Holiday Party and the Annual Meeting, while assisting with other committees as they need help. Thankfully, a group of Leaguers stepped in about a year ago to organize a separate Celebration Committee to plan for all the extra activities relating to the 100 year anniversaries of the 19th Amendment and the forming of the League of Women Voters!

We started the year assisting minimally with the Membership meeting in September. The Holiday Party was held in early December right after the Thanksgiving blizzard that started the winter off with a bit of a bang. Despite that, the party went ahead as planned at the Best Western/Hotel Chequamegon in Ashland with about 40 people happy to get out of their houses and check out the 30 inches of snow.

In January we assisted the Economic Inequality Committee with the planning and running of the Health Care forum. In February, we assisted the Celebration Committee and collaborated with the Bay Area Film Society in the showing of the movie *“Iron Jawed Angels”* at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center. We also helped the Natural Resources Advocacy Committee with their two Landowners Meetings which were held to educate about the proposed Enbridge Line 5 reroute plans. We also arranged for the showing of the Tar Sands Storytelling Project to be exhibited at Salmagundi in Ashland for the month of March.

Sadly, as I write this, the last event of the year (the Annual Meeting) will not be taking place as usual with a nice gathering of League members along with a special speaker at the beginning of May. However, as the League readjusts to these changing circumstances with a pandemic at our doorstep, I am sure we will still find a way to get that work done.

I wish to thank all who responded to assisting with bringing food and beverages to events, assisting while at events, putting up posters, responding to E-blasts, or helping with any of the events done in the last year. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!!

With 2019 and 2020 being momentous years, there are a number of activities that have occurred and others that will be held once the pandemic has eased, including:

Event	Location	Date	Attendance
Fall Membership Meeting	Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center	September 30, 2019	38
Holiday Dinner	Hotel Chequamegon	December 3, 2019	40
Health Care Ills & Remedies Symposium	Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center	January 29, 2020	25
Lively Issues	Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center	February 9, 2020	9

Day of Action Climate Strike March	AHS to Ashland City Hall	February 14, 2020	Approximately 20
Iron Jawed Angels Movie	Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center	February 23, 2020	Approximately 75
LWV/ABC Centennial Gala	Harbor View Event Center	March 8, 2020 5 pm – 8:30 pm	Approximately 150
Tar Sands Storytelling Project Display	Salmagundi	March, 2020	Postponed due to pandemic
WI Historical Society's Display on Women's Suffrage	Northland College's Dexter Library	April 2020	Cancelled due to pandemic
<i>The Women's Hour</i> book discussion and movie viewing in partnership with local libraries	Libraries in Ashland, Iron River, Washburn, Bayfield and Mellen	February – June 2020	Events have been postponed due to the pandemic
You Tube Video Viewing & Discussion (author of <i>The Women's Hour</i>)	Hayward Library		9
<i>The Women's Hour</i> book discussion	Tilly's (Cable)		13
You Tube Video Viewing & Discussion (author of <i>The Women's Hour</i>)	Bayfield Library (book discussion postponed)	March 3, 2020	10

The Program and Events and Centennial Committees will focus on the following:

- Continue to program/produce the Holiday Party and the Annual Meeting
- Continue to be involved in or observant of the programs that are being put on by other committees
- Continue to collect material for the Archives
- Continue to house items for events
- In addition, this committee will support other events as needed and distribute LWV-ABC collateral for such events.

CENTENNIAL EVENTS and REPORTS, Committee Members Linda Jorgenson and Ginger Quay

2020 – A Year with lots to celebrate!

June 10, 1919/2019 - We began our centennial year with a bonfire potluck to celebrate Wisconsin's being the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment. How fortunate we were to have Lu Eckles among us! Lu was a founding board member of our League in 1956 and some of the suffragist songs we sang around the bonfire included lyrics that Lu had written. We heard poetry and proclamations, and enjoyed a historical skit about Ada James rushing her father, a 76-year-old former state senator, David James, to Washington D.C. with official ratification documents in hand! Fun, music, fire, and of course the potluck kicked off our celebration year!

Reading, watching and studying about suffragists' early struggles gave us strength and inspiration to continue the fight for "Voting for All"! We were enlightened through a variety of programs: a regional Chequamegon Reads program in five community libraries featuring Elaine Weiss' book, *The Woman's Hour*, a story that kept us on our toes as we weren't sure how it would end; the author's streaming, book summaries; and the movie, *Iron Jawed Angels*. Through these historical insights we learned about the process of suffragist action and the character of these strong women who led the way.

February 14, 1920/2020 – League of Women Voters was born. We joined with leagues across America to celebrate February 14 with a Day of Action. ABC leaguers marched with student Climate Strikers to City Hall in Ashland to protest inaction on climate change. The position of LWVUS is as follows: *“As citizens of the world we must protect our planet from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity.”*

March 8, 2020 – We celebrated our 100th birthday with a gala on International Women’s Day. The theme of the party was *“Launching a 2nd Century of Making Democracy Work.”* The success of the fund-raising event enables LWV/ABC to move confidently into the next century with an expanded ability to support the national theme of *“Creating a More Perfect Democracy.”*

August 26, 1920/2020 – One hundred years have passed since the addition of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: *“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”* Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

We will rejoice and celebrate! A passage on page 323 from *The Woman’s Hour*, reads: “Church Bells rang all across the nation. . . in celebration of women’s enfranchisement. Mrs. Catt had instructed the League of Women Voters in every state to arrange a celebration of bells in their communities marking the historic occasion.” **Ring Them Bells!**

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – MAY 7, 2019

League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC)

AmericInn Convention Center in Ashland, Wisconsin

Speaker: Ellen Penwell, LWVWI Membership and Events Coordinator

Call to Order: President Anne Chartier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements:

President Chartier welcomed our evening’s speaker from Madison, Ellen Penwell, LWVWI Membership and Events Coordinator.

Adoption of the Agenda: Sharon Stewart moved, and Kathy Allen seconded a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes: Jo Bailey moved, and Barb Bell seconded a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Annual Treasurer’s Report: Kathy Allen moved, and Gail Syverud seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Annual Report. Motion passed.

Adoption of Proposed 2019-2020 Budget: Limited discussion of the budget ensued. Joyce Kiel moved, and Dora Kling seconded a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 budget. Motion passed.

Adoption of the Proposed Program for 2019-2020: Kelly Westlund moved, and Julia Waggoner seconded a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Proposed Program. Motion passed.

Recognition of Retiring Officers and Directors:

The retiring members of the Board of Directors were recognized for their years of service and presented with flowers: Mary Hasset Gabrys and Bruce Prentice (1 yr.), Barb Bell and Ginger Quay (2 yrs.), Dianne Judd and Liz Seefeldt (4 yrs.), and Mary Jo Tuckwell (7 yrs.)

Nominees of the 2018-2019 Nominations Committee and Nominations from the Floor:

Dianne Judd, Board liaison to the 2018-2019 Nominations Committee noted that she, along with Gail Syverud and Betty Schell, were the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee. Judd then presented the nominees of that Committee for the slate of 2019-2020 Officers, Directors, and the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee, noting that their terms of office are listed on page 19 of the Annual Report. All individuals stood, were introduced, and their terms of office were stated. The lack of a nominee for President-Elect in 2019-2020 was noted. Judd asked three times if there were further nominations from the floor. When no further nominations were offered, Judd closed the nominations. A question was asked about the process for filling an open seat during the coming year. Judd responded that an open seat could be filled by the Board and then voted on at the next annual meeting.

Election of Slate of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee for 2019-2020: Kathy Allen moved, and Kristy Jensch seconded a motion to accept the entire slate as proposed. Motion passed. Kathy thanked the new and retiring members for their service to the League.

The 2019-2020 slate of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee members is as follows:

Officers

President: Anne Chartier
President-Elect: Open seat
Secretary: Sue Niemi
Treasurer: Roger Aiken

Directors

Margie Braun
Joan Elias
Pam Hayes
Nina Hirth
Linda Jorgenson
Sheila Mitchell
Jan Penn

Gail Syverud

Nominating Committee

Jo Bailey, Chair

Madelaine Rekemeyer

Board liaison to be appointed by Board of Directors in June 2019

Other business:

Jo Bailey thanked Joyce Neumann for sharing her book on suffragettes with the Board of Directors. Jo read her poem announcing that Bayfield League members invite all League members and the Bayfield community to celebrate Wisconsin's being the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment at a Bonfire & Potluck Program, June 10, 6:00 p.m. at Eckels Pottery and Fine Arts Gallery in Bayfield.

To conclude the meeting, Gail Syverud presented President Anne Chartier with flowers in appreciation of her service in 2018-2019.

Adjournment: Sharon Stewart moved, and Kelly Westlund seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Ginger Quay, Secretary

Speaker: Ellen Penwell, LWVWI Membership and Event Coordinator

Introduction: Sheila Mitchell, Program and Events Committee Chair

Directly following the adjournment, Ellen Penwell, LWVWI Membership and Event Coordinator, addressed the assembly. She spoke about the many and varied components of the State League's mandate. She called attention to the upcoming State's Annual Meeting, June 8, and the plans at the state level for celebrating Wisconsin's being the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10, 1919, the founding of Wisconsin's League of Women Voters on February 14, 2020, and the 19th Amendment declared in effect on August 26, 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT FY 2018-2019

Reported Financial Statement FY 2018-2019

Account Number	Revenue	Approved Budget 2018-2019	2018-2019 Financial Status 6/30/19
	Finance Drive		
1310	Finance Drive	\$ 1,720.00	\$ 2,505.00
1314	Finance Drive - Donations Undesignated	\$ -	\$ 285.00
	Total - Finance Drive	\$ 1,720.00	\$ 2,790.00
	Membership		
1110	Dues	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,560.00
1210	Donations	\$ 200.00	\$ 35.00
1212	Membership Scholarship Donations (B. Dunn)	\$ -	\$ 655.00
	Total - Membership	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,250.00
	Program and Events		
1211	Griffiths/Inequality	\$ -	\$ 500.00
1410	Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 975.00
1420	Holiday Dinner	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,475.00
1425	Centennial General	\$ -	\$ 195.00
	Total - Programs and Events	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,145.00
	Grants/Fundraising		
1214	LWV Grants	\$ -	\$ 500.00
1320	Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -
1330	Grants from Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ -
1330	Grant #1 (PACE)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
1331	Grant #2 Joyce Foundation	\$ -	\$ 250.00
1340	Communications	\$ -	\$ 10.00
	Total - Grants/Fundraising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 760.00
1430	IN/OUT	\$ -	\$ 258.50
5110	Interest Received	\$ -	\$ 3.00
	TOTAL - REVENUE	\$ 10,320.00	\$ 11,206.50
Account Number	Expenses	Approved Budget 2018-2019	2018-2019 Financial Status 6/30/19
	Committees		
2110	Membership	\$ 200.00	\$ 11.00
2311	Inequality/Griffiths	\$ -	\$ 500.46
2340	Communications	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,542.66
2367	Voter Services	\$ 310.00	\$ 69.50
	Total - Committees	\$ 1,310.00	\$ 2,123.62
	Grants/Fundraising		
2331	Joyce Foundation Grant	\$ -	\$ 56.00
2114	LWV Grant	\$ -	\$ -
2330	Grant Expense (PACE)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
	Total Grants/Fundraising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 56.00
	Membership		
2120	National Dues	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 1,872.00
2130	State Dues	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 1,755.00
2140	Member Scholarships	\$ 130.00	\$ -
	Total - Membership	\$ 3,310.00	\$ 3,627.00
	Programs and Events		
2210	Intra-League Org Membership	\$ -	\$ 50.00
2310	Conventions/Workshops	\$ 600.00	\$ 552.85
2320	Finance Drive/Fundraising	\$ 120.00	\$ 204.00
2360	Program and Events	\$ 380.00	\$ 124.50
2410	Annual Meeting	\$ 1,057.00	\$ 1,763.78
2420	Holiday Dinner	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,110.06
2425	Centennial General Expense	\$ -	\$ 58.70
	Total - Programs and Events	\$ 3,657.00	\$ 3,863.89
2350	Presidents Expense Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ -
2430	IN/OUT	\$ -	\$ 263.00
2500	Archives	\$ -	\$ -
2520	Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ 52.74
	Total - Expenses	\$ 10,377.00	\$ 9,986.25
CHECKING	7/1/2018		6/30/2019
	\$ 9,122.22	\$	16,344.00
SAVINGS: Fund/Reserve Balance Maintained in BMO Saving Account (values as of 6/30/19)			
	Undesignated Funds	\$	1,474.78
	Bussey Memorials	\$	1,530.00
	Jorgenson Bequests	\$	3,000.00
Total			

TREASURER'S FY'19-20 YTD & PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021

Year to Date Financial Statement as of May 21, 2020 and Proposed Budget 2020-2021				
Account Number	Revenue	Approved Budget 2019-2020	Financial Status May 21, 2020	Proposed Budget 2020-2021
	Finance Drive			
1310	Finance Drive	\$ 2,130.00	\$ -	\$ 2,441.00
1311	Finance Drive - Program & Events Donations	\$ -	\$ 177.00	\$ -
1313	Finance Drive - Voter Services & Bussey Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,105.00	\$ -
1314	Finance Drive - Donations Undesignated	\$ -	\$ 709.00	\$ -
	Total - Finance Drive	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 1,991.00	\$ 2,441.00
	Members hip			
1110	Dues	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 4,120.00	\$ 4,200.00
1210	Donations	\$ -	\$ 665.00	\$ -
1212	Members hip Scholarship Donations (B. Dunn)	\$ -	\$ 215.00	\$ 775.00
	Total - Members hip	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,975.00
	Program and Events			
1211	Griffiths/Inequality	\$ 310.50	\$ -	\$ 310.00
1410	Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
1420	Holiday Dinner	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 1,000.00
1424	Centennial Celebration March 2020	\$ -	\$ 8,978.00	\$ -
1425	Centennial General	\$ -	\$ 524.00	\$ -
	Total - Programs and Events	\$ 2,610.50	\$ 10,507.00	\$ 2,310.00
	Grants/Fundraising			
1214	LWV Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1320	Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1330	Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,474.00
1331	Joyce Foundation Grant	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
1362	Civic Engagement Rotary Grant	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Total - Grants/Fundraising	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,974.00
1430	IN/OUT	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -
5110	Interest Received	\$ -	\$ 2.47	\$ -
	TOTAL - REVENUE	\$ 8,910.50	\$ 18,080.47	\$ 11,700.00
	Expenses			
	Committees			
2110	Members hip	\$ 150.00	\$ 178.23	\$ 175.00
2311	Griffiths/Inequality	\$ 310.50	\$ -	\$ 310.00
2340	Communications	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 622.04	\$ 1,200.00
2362	Civic Engagement	\$ 100.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 500.00
2365	Natural Resources	\$ 100.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 791.00
2367	Voter Services	\$ 200.00	\$ 733.15	\$ 1,105.00
	Total - Committees	\$ 1,860.50	\$ 1,843.42	\$ 4,081.00
	Grants/Fundraising			
2114	LWV Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2330	Grant Expense (PACE)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2331	Joyce Foundation Grant (Completed 2020)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
	Total Grants/Fundraising	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
	Members hip			
2120	National Dues	\$ 1,792.00	\$ 1,824.00	\$ 2,200.00
2130	State Dues	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,710.00	\$ 2,000.00
2140	Member Scholarships	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 775.00
	Total - Members hip	\$ 3,602.00	\$ 3,664.00	\$ 4,975.00
	Programs and Events			
2210	Inter-league Org Memberships	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
2310	Conventions/Workshops	\$ 450.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -
2320	Finance Drive/Fundraising	\$ 240.00	\$ 91.62	\$ 140.00
2360	Program and Events	\$ 478.00	\$ -	\$ 177.00
2410	Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
2420	Holiday Dinner	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,077.48	\$ 1,000.00
2424	Centennial Celebration - March 2020	\$ -	\$ 3,225.84	\$ -
2425	Centennial General Expense	\$ -	\$ 602.71	\$ -
	Total - Programs and Events	\$ 3,718.00	\$ 5,097.65	\$ 2,367.00
2350	Presidents Expense Fund	\$ 130.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
2430	IN/OUT	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -
2500	Archives	\$ 50.00	\$ 67.31	\$ 30.00
2520	Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47.00
	Total - Expenses	\$ 9,360.50	\$ 11,002.38	\$ 11,700.00
	Fund/Reserve Balance Maintained in BMC Saving Account (Values as of March 31, 2019)			
	Undesignated Funds	\$ 1,473.78		
	Bussey Memorials	\$ 1,530.00		
	Jorgenson Bequest	\$ 3,000.00		
	Total	\$ 6,003.78		
	Fund/Reserve Balance Maintained in BMC Savings Account (Values as of May 21, 2020)			
	Undesignated Funds	\$ 3,971.36		
	Bussey Memorials	\$ 1,530.00		
	Jorgenson Bequest	\$ 3,000.00		
	Gala Reserve Fund	\$ 2,574.73		
	Bo Dunn Reserve Fund	\$ 610.00		
	Total	\$ 11,686.09		
	Checking Balance as of May 21, 2020	\$ 11,637.26		
	Savings Balance as of May 21, 2020	\$ 11,686.09		

LWV/ABC PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2020-2021

We face challenging times at the time of this report, and we all hope to find the positive as we move to a new way of life as we come out the other end of this pandemic. Global changes such as this always produce new opportunities along with new challenges. This is not lost on the League. We are and will continue to diligently watch policy and practice changes to ensure that

the right to vote is not eroded or suppressed in the effort to level out the spread of Covid-19, especially in such an important election year. As I'm writing this, we've faced a serious setback with the April 7th election, one that not only will make it difficult for many to vote, but also presents an extremely serious public health hazard, which is a prime example of why this is where our focus needs to be in the coming year. This year alone we will have a presidential election and a special election to fill the 7th district seat in Congress. We don't know when the global changes resulting from the pandemic will end and what impact it will have on all of our elections. We intend to have a laser focus on registering voters, ensure people get to vote, and increased vigilance at the local level, to ensure we understand and combat any changes that disenfranchise eligible voters. As we dig back in our roots to grow for the future, our over-arching theme will be Votes and Vigilance in every program we undertake.

Under this over-arching theme, we will also continue our work on seeing that Enbridge's Line Five is de-commissioned; provide assistance in local sewage overflow issues; increase awareness of the rural infrastructure enhancements that our communities need to communicate effectively; engage in more civic engagement activities; promote immigration reform; support the National League of Women Voters' People-Powered Fair Maps initiatives; and provide support to Community Cares initiatives. This pandemic has significantly changed the way we live, work, educate and engage with others. While all of us are impacted, those in poverty and the disenfranchised are suffering disproportionately which makes all of this work so important and so urgent. For more details on these initiatives, please reference the preceding committee reports on pages 5-14 of this report.

All of these initiatives are large and complex, but when we leverage the full power of our membership, we are confident that we will embody the spirit of Carrie Chapman Catt and make a significantly positive imprint for all people, now and for the future.

Thank you to all members for their support over the past year and we look forward to your continued support and participation in this coming year!

FY'20-21 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring/Summer

- Rescheduled Book Discussion and Movie Reviews
- State and National League of Women Voters Conventions
- Board Orientation
- Voter Education and Registration Efforts

July

- Parade Participation
- Voter Education and Registration Efforts

August

- 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment
- Voter Education and Registration Efforts
- Board Meeting

September

- Fall Membership Meeting
- National Voter Registration Day
- Board Meeting

October

- Voter Education and Registration Efforts
- Board Meeting

November

- Presidential Election
- Voter Education and Registration Efforts
- Board Meeting

December

- Holiday Dinner

Jan-Mar

- Monthly Board Meetings

April - June

- Annual Report Distribution
- Annual Meeting
- April Monthly Board Meeting

This calendar will be updated as the year progresses

LWV/ABC PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2020-2021, Committee Chair Jo Bailey

Board of Directors

Officers

Sue Niemi	President	1 year term
Lynn Bigboy	President-Elect	1 year term
Open	Secretary	1 year term
Roger Aiken	Treasurer	1 year term
Board Members		
Linda Jorgenson		2 year term
Jan Penn		2 year term
Kate Siegler		2 year term
Sheila Mitchell		completing 2 year term
Gail Syverud		completing 2 year term
Joan Elias		1 year term
Bev Lindell		1 year term
Margie Braun		1 year term
Northland College Student		1 year term
Barb Bell		1 year term
Ex-Officio		
Anne Chartier		1 year term
Nominations Committee		
Jo Bailey (Chair)		1 year term
Kay Saari		1 year term
Board Liaison		1 year term

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://lww.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.lwwwi.org>

Contact/Feedback Form: <http://www.lwwwi.org/About/ContactUs.aspx>

Email: lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org

PATHS TO POWER

Federal Government

President Donald Trump

Address: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500

Phone: (202) 456-1111 Contact Form: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Vice President Mike Pence

Contact Form: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-pence>

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

Senator Janet Bewley

25th Senate District

Address: Room 126 South, State Capitol, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

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

Web: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/25/Bewley

Email: sen.bewley@legis.wi.gov

Representative Beth Meyers

74th Assembly District

Address: 17 West Main Street, Room 409N, PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

Phone: (608) 266-7690 or (888) 534-0074

Web: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/74/Meyers

Email: rep.meyers@legis.wisconsin.gov

State contacts updated March 2020 from <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/about/contact>