

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF IOWA

THE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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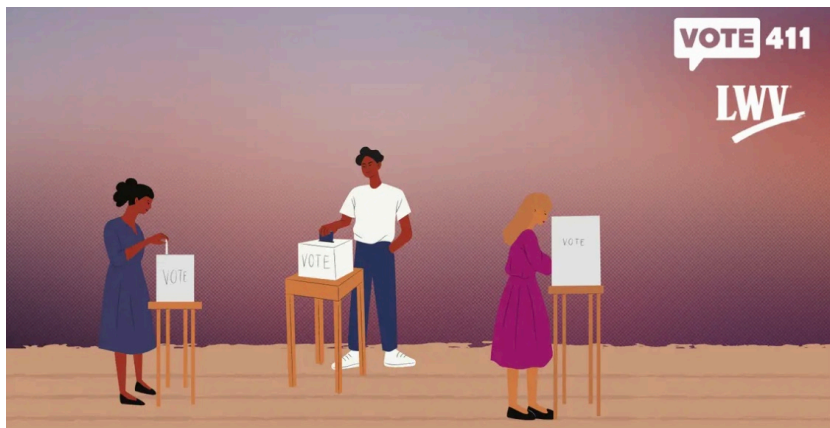
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President's Message

By Terese Grant, LWWIA President

These bimonthly newsletters are such a great opportunity to share information with fellow League members across the state of Iowa.

The first item that I want to highlight is the outstanding Issues Briefing for Reproductive Rights that we held on February 21. We are grateful to our Lobbyist Amy Campbell who helped to organize this event and also for serving as our virtual host.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

We need to also recognize Dr. Deborah Turner for not only being an expert panelist, but also for inviting the other participants to join her for the great discussion. These panelists included Dr. Amy Bingaman, Professor Sally Frank, Mazie Stilwell, and Pete McRoberts. And finally, we want to recognize Dianne Bystrom for doing an excellent job as Moderator. This was such an informative discussion and prepares all of us to advocate on this issue.

Watch the Issues Briefing on Reproductive Rights here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y96WNHEllc>

This Legislative Session has been full of disappointments with new laws that are doing harm to our public schools, teachers, librarians, LGBTQ youth, and also a complete reorganization of state government.

There are also bills that have passed out of committee to reduce SNAP benefits for many families and children, to institute the death penalty in certain cases, to expand gun laws and child labor, and so much more. It is truly disheartening, but we need to keep advocating for these issues with our Legislators so that they hear from their constituents across the state of Iowa.

We need to do what we can to return to what Iowa used to be when we truly embodied the statement of "Iowa Nice."

We do have a wonderful event planned in April with our Defending Democracy Award Dinner and Fundraiser.

And of course in June we will be traveling to Dubuque for our LWV of Iowa Convention on Saturday, June 10. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at these special events that are now happening in person. It is always such a great way to share ideas and to encourage each other in the work that we are all doing across the state.

It takes a team effort as we work together to "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy."

In League,

Terese Grant

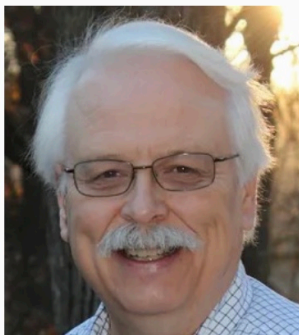
President
League of Women Voters of Iowa

Save the Date:

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 4 - 7 p.m.



Defending Democracy Award Dinner



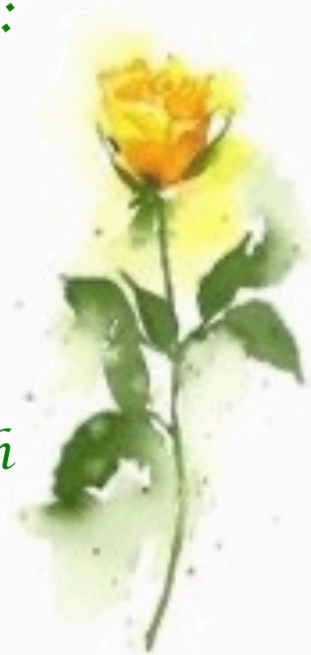
*Award Honoree:
Randy Evans*

Executive Director of
the Iowa Freedom of
Information Council



*Guest Speaker:
Kathie Obradovich*

Editor with the
Iowa Capital
Dispatch



At Jasper Winery, Des Moines
Dinner buffet catered by Baratta's - Cash bar
5:15 p.m.: Program & Award Presentation
Tickets \$75 per person
Fundraiser for the LWVIA

Register by April 4, 2023:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defending-democracy-award-dinner-tickets-539728972887>

Groundwater and Surface Water - Critical and Vulnerable

Webinar

Monday, April 3, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Groundwater and surface water are inextricably linked, and what happens on the land affects both.

In this meeting, LWV UMRR will examine how the system works and how human activities are impacting our water resources. We'll look at two examples: the Winona-La Crescent watershed in Minnesota and Bloody Run in Iowa.

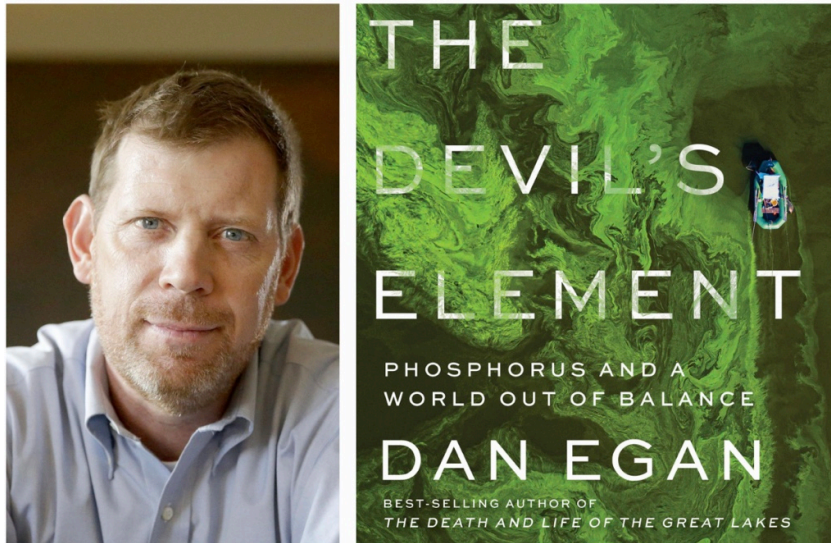
Speakers will be Jeff Broberg, Paul Wotzka, and Larry Stone. This dynamic trio will explain how groundwater moves from the surface, through the ground, to come to the surface again in this Karst landscape, and then look at specific examples of how land use and drinking water quality are as integrally linked as surface and groundwater are.

Register for this webinar here:

<https://www.lwvumrr.org/blog/groundwater-and-surface-water-critical-and-vulnerable>



Author & Journalist Dan Egan on the Dangers of Phosphorus



Book Discussion with Dan Egan on the Dangers of Phosphorus

Please join ELPC Thinks for a conversation with journalist and author Dan Egan to discuss his new book: "The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance."

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

12:00 p.m. CDT

This is a virtual event. Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9016781160451/WN_cYLIZAxWTJyoM9B_kWNs9Q?utm_source=Full+E-List&utm_campaign=87d793f1d4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_02_21_03_41_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-27b45715f9-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

Phosphorus is at the center of an increasingly dire environmental crisis poisoning freshwater sources all over the globe. The abundance of phosphorus from many sources causes toxic algae blooms and "dead zones" in waterways from coast to coast including the Great Lakes.

Convention 2023

By Mary Rae Bragg, LWVIA Past President

April, already? Now if we can just get it to stop snowing...

But what do we care if winter hangs around? We've got June to look forward to ...

Specifically, June 9 and 10, when we'll be meeting in Dubuque for League of Women Voters of Iowa's 2023 Convention.

Now that's a thought to warm your chilly toes!

Watching the sun sparkle off the Mississippi as you stroll Dubuque's river walk, gathering with League buddies around the Holiday Inn's fire pit in the evening, being inspired by Iowa's own National League President, Deb Turner, as she keynotes Saturday's program.

But enough of this day dreaming! You've got deadlines if you're going to have a great time.

* If you are planning on staying at the convention hotel, reservations at the Holliday Inn need to be made by May 10. Call 563-556-2000 and tell them you want one of the League's block of rooms. Wherever you decide to stay, get your hotel reservation now, because Dubuque is a tourist Mecca in the summer!

* The Dubuque League needs to know you are coming, so contact your local League's president to get a registration form and get it to Dubuque folks by the end of May, please.

* Ask your local president what special items from your part of the state she needs to put in your gift basket for the convention silent auction. Make it delicious, make it darling, but be sure to make it a gift basket that does your League proud!

* For convention-goers who want to go a-sailing on the Mighty Miss, Dubuque's American Lady has happy hour cruises from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for \$29.95 plus tax, and a dinner cruise from 7:20 to 9:30 for \$47.95 plus tax. Call 563-557-9700, but again, do it soon before space is gone.

The convention program begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, June 10, and will run to mid-afternoon, giving you plenty of time to focus on League business. As for the rest of your time in Dubuque, that's your business.

So get busy and plan to have a great stay in Iowa's First City!

Fun is waiting to happen!

Mississippi River Celebration, UMRR-ILO (lwvumrr.org), Mississippi River Network (1mississippi.org)

By Nancy Porter, Co-Vice President of UMRR-ILO, MRN Engagement Committee

Dear Colleagues,

It's time to Celebrate the Mississippi River, again! We had a great time last year at the National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque with our tour guide, Jarod McGovern. If you get a chance go to the Museum, look up Jarod. He's such a fine professional.

In 2021, we dined along the Mississippi River and visited Eagle Park in Clinton. We learned a lot from our friend, Tim Wagner, Isaac Walton League, on Soil Quality.

This year's plan is to dine at the Stone Cliff Brewery in Dubuque then drive to Galena Public Library for a presentation from Steve Repp about the History of the Mississippi River. The plan is for Saturday, June 9, just before the annual LWVIA convention. Let me know if you're interested. Email me at nancy55555@icloud.com with Mississippi River in the subject line.

The UMRR-ILO will hold its even month, bimonthly, meeting on Monday, April 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the Board and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. for the webinar program. (Webinar details and registration are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.)

If you're thinking Iowa, think about the Farm Bill. Call your U.S. Senators and Representative and ask them to support the bill. President Terese Grant has signed a letter of support of this important bill. Of course more money is always needed for projects, but the ask this year includes grants for those living along the Mississippi River to do what they think is necessary to prevent runoff of soil and protect habitats to keep the River flowing naturally. Our representatives particularly like to hear "for flood control" in your conversation. Representatives Miller-Meeks and Feenstra have their own ideas as to what the Farm Bill should look like: <https://thehill.com/policy/future-of-farming/3904321-the-2023-farm-bill-protecting-us-agricultures-productivity-profitability-and-competitiveness/>

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources released its PFAS report. You might remember that you read it here a while ago. I wrote about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, human made) and the dangers of this chemical mix.

Iowa State University had one of the million dollar grants to work on getting PFAS out of our waters. Just this last year, Iowa's DNR began testing our waters in Iowa for PFAS. At least three rivers in Iowa were noted having too much according to the standards of the EPA (which is four parts per trillion, which is four nanograms per liter). World Food Organization's Dr. Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment, states that any level is dangerous and should be eradicated.

Among other things, PFAS causes cancer. Go to EPA.org and check the links concerning PFAS. There is a hearing scheduled on May 4 in Iowa, and you can make comments in writing now. Thank you to Syndy Conger for bringing this information to my attention.

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Additional information about PFAS:
 (Click on each underlined item/link to view.)

The complete summary and results can be found at [iowadnr.gov.
 proposed drinking water standards](http://iowadnr.gov/proposed_drinking_water_standards) for PFAS chemicals

- [General Overview Webinar Presentation: Proposed PFAS NPDWR \(pdf\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation FAQs for Drinking Water Primacy Agencies \(pdf\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Understanding the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Proposal Hazard Index \(pdf\)](#)
- [EPA PFAS Drinking Water Health Advisories](#)
- [May 4, 2023 Proposed PFAS NPDWR Public Hearing Registration](#) [Exit EPA's website](#)
- Press Release: [Biden-Harris Administration Proposes First Ever National Standard to Protect Communities from PFAS in Drinking Water](#)

A6 | TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023

NEWS

League of Women Voters NI looks to expand membership

Meeting offers info on current issues

ROBIN MCCLELLAND
 Globe Gazette

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Parents, retirees, current and former lawmakers, agency representatives and everyday citizens make up the local chapter, and Saturday's meeting included a rundown of impactful Iowa legislation and where it stands.

Board President Jessica Tierney informed the group on gun safety and Second Amendment bills, gender identity and equality legislation that has passed as well as other bills relevant to women voters.

Importantly, the meeting in-



ROBIN MCCLELLAND, GLOBE GAZETTE

Attendees at league of Women Voters North Iowa prepare for the meeting to come to order.

cluded tips for communicating with elected officials that are suitable for all voters. Those tips

include: Share individual emails written in your own words; be brief and civil; ask your legis-

lator specifically to support or oppose the legislation you are reaching out about. Be aware of timing. If a bill is moving quickly, a call or email may be best.

Membership coordinator Emily Bruns welcomes new members.

"League of Women Voters is open to all voters," she said. "We're very welcoming. These issues affect everyone, and even if they only affected women, men should and do care. We're happy to accept everyone."

The league was officially founded in Chicago in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment was ratified and women won the vote. Formed by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the league began, according to its website, as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 mil-

lion women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

The league sponsored the first televised presidential debates in 1960 and received an Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Journalism for that program. In 2006, VOTE411.org was launched by LWV. The website provides both general and state-specific nonpartisan resources to the voting public, including a nationwide polling place locator, a ballot look-up tool, candidate positions on issues, and more.

As a nonpartisan organization, League of Women Voters North Iowa invites citizens to participate in the democratic process. It neither supports nor opposes candidates and is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. For more information or to join the league, contact Emily Bruns at emilybruns93@gmail.com or (319) 231-3466.

Show Your Colors!



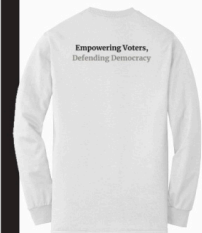
Logowear from the League of Women Voters is now available in a variety of colors and styles!

- Affordably priced
- Easy care, comfortable to wear
- Produced & sold in Iowa
- Makes a great gift
- Convenient, secure online ordering



Shop now! Visit our online store at:

https://stores.inksoft.com/league_of_women_voters/



All net proceeds from sales go to the League of Women Voters of Iowa





Silent Auction Basket Preview!

By Miriam Timmer-Hackert, LWVJC Co-President

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County went to Coralville’s 150th birthday celebration ready to celebrate the outfits of 1873 and Amelia Bloomer and Carrie Chapman Catt. We have plenty of petticoats and accessories to borrow if anyone wants to try a dress up activity. Feel free to email Miriam at lwwjcpresident@gmail.com with questions.

We will also be bringing a flowered hat, sash, lace collar, brooch, and purple velvet skirt as a silent auction basket to the State Convention on June 10.

Here’s a sneak preview of a Suffragist outfit silent auction basket with purple skirt, white shirt, jacket, sash, brooch, hat, and a purple and yellow flag. Sizes on shirt and skirt are a stretchy medium.

Pictured from top left, clockwise: Miriam Timmer-Hackert, Mem Rosse, and Coralville city council member Hai Huynh; items to be included in silent auction basket; Miriam modeling the basket items.

LWV Upper Mississippi River Region Annual Meeting - United, We Stand Stronger!

Via Zoom - May 22: 5:30 sign in, 6pm business meeting, 7pm program begins with speakers Jessica Rohloff and Joy Guscott-Mueller.

LWV's foundation is our local Leagues. We work locally to build and defend democracy, joined together through our State Leagues. Beyond local and state Leagues, we work together regionally and nationally through ILOs and LWV US. We need each other and can depend on each other. United, we stand stronger!

This year's Annual Meeting will focus on the ties that bind us, and how we can work together more effectively. After the business meeting, the program will start off with Jessica Rolhoff, Midwest Regional Organizer for LWV US. For the first half hour, Jessica will give an update (and answer questions) about the LWV US transformation plan, introducing this new LWV US initiative to our members.

At 7pm, we will then turn to the LWV US Climate Interest Group. 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.

To advance League action on this urgent issue, the LWV Climate Interest Group was formed to collaborate nationwide. The Climate Interest Group is a group of League members from across the United States working together to fight climate change. Joy Guscott-Mueller is Chair of the Water Team for the Climate Interest Group. She's also the Chair of LWV Lake Michigan Region, the other regional, multi-state Inter-League Organization focused on a major water body. Joy will speak about how the work of the Climate Interest Group strengthens the work of ILOs and our member Leagues, followed by questions and discussion.

Email notices for the Annual Meeting were sent to member Leagues on Monday, March 20. Delegates are asked to pre-register using the form at this link. Each paid member League can send one delegate. Additional members from local Leagues are welcome to attend, but will be asked not to vote when voting occurs.

