



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE, April 14, 2024

P.O. Box 306, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

lwvdc@lwvdoorcounty.org

[LWV DC Facebook page](#)

[LWV DC website](#)

Important Dates

April 23: "The Big Stink"

April 25: County Board 101

May 1: *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson, Apt. #2B* at TAP

May 16: Annual Meeting

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Message from the Chair

“Progress is possible – it isn’t guaranteed!”

This line from a new musical on Broadway called “Suffs,” referring to the Suffragists who worked to get passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, pretty much says it all. All of us that pay attention to government and political activities know how true it is.

League members believe in the possibilities. They also know that without hard, consistent, dedicated work – that is, “playing the long game” – progress is not likely to happen.

Next month we celebrate a year of that hard, consistent, dedicated work which has resulted in some real progress. To name just a few:

- Leagues in Wisconsin have worked for many decades for “Fair Maps” and look forward to an election in which Wisconsin’s districts are not gerrymandered.
- The Door County League’s Mental Health/Substance Use Committees are delighted to see progress on a sober living facility and a local affiliate of the National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI).
- More and more League observers fan out to watch school boards, county and city boards and committees, as well as town and village governments. Then as part of their collaboration with the *Peninsula Pulse*, their observations are shared with their fellow citizens in the “League Lens” column.

None of this progress was guaranteed last May when the proposed officers, budget, and program of the Door County League was passed at its annual meeting. Yet it happened, along with much more.

On May 16, please join fellow League members to celebrate this year’s annual meeting. review and savor what has been accomplished and hear about plans for next year. Find out the progress that we hope is possible, and then join us to help guarantee that it happens.

-Susie

The Big Stink

Join us at [Crossroads at Big Creek](#) on **Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 PM** for “The Big Stink.” Manure management is a complicated subject, especially given Door County's dairy fragile karst substrate and the importance of water health. We hope to make sense of the benefits and challenges of manure management through a presentation involving regulators, farmers, and environmental experts.

MANURE MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY IN DOOR COUNTY



The Big Stink

- »»» HEAR FROM FARMING, REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS
- »»» INSIGHTS FROM LWVDC NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE STUDY
- »»» PRESENTATION AND Q&A

More info. lwvdoorcounty.org

**APRIL 23
6:30 PM**

**CROSSROADS AT
BIG CREEK
2041 MICHIGAN ST.
STURGEON BAY**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DOOR COUNTY

County Board 101

The Door County League is scheduling a session entitled “County Board 101” for members who are observing meetings of the County Board and its committees. However, it is open to anyone interested.

The session on **Thursday, April 25 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Kress Center (History Room) in Egg Harbor** will be a nuts-and-bolts orientation to county government. It will cover how to find information on the county website related to meetings and agendas, departments, and overall county board processes. It will also explore the budgeting process and general county procedures. It will be hybrid, so please RSVP to susan.kohout@lwvdoorcounty.org if you wish to be sent an invitation. Better yet, join us in person!

Join LWVDC May 1 At Third Avenue PlayWorks

The League of Women Voters of Door County is thrilled to be part of Third Avenue PlayWorks Community Partner Program for the upcoming season.

Please support the League and collaborations that promote the arts in our community by attending the May 1 "pay-what-you-will" opening performance of *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson – Apt 2B*. It's a fun, female-driven "rollicking murder mystery" that puts a modern spin on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth and sidekick. Proceeds from the evening benefit our League chapter!

Advance ticket purchase is not necessary. Simply be there **May 1 at 7:30 PM**, "pay what you will," and enjoy the show!



**MS. HOLMES
& MS. WATSON
— APT. 2B**

**MAY
1-19**

Community Partner:

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF DOOR COUNTY

ThirdAvenuePlayWorks.org • 920.743.1760

Volunteers Needed

Because of the multitude of activities the Door County League is involved in, we have the need for additional individuals with these particular skills:

- Writing skills
- Ability to speak in public
- Public relations/marketing - experience not needed - just an interest in learning some basic skills to help the League promote its programs and a good comfort level with the written word.

If you want to help, contact Chair@lwvdoorcounty.org.

We're also looking for volunteers to help with the below tasks. If any of the following fall within your skillset and you'd like to help, please contact Ann Morgan at ann.morgan@lwvdoorcounty.org or text her at 608-239-0648.

- Bookkeeping - Record LWVDC's accounting transactions in QuickBooks Online
- Video Management - Trim/Edit videos and upload to our YouTube channel
- Squarespace/Website management

Annual Meeting May 16 - RSVP Now!

The League of Women Voters of Door County's annual meeting and dinner is May 16 at the Lodge at Leathem Smith. It's a wonderful opportunity to socialize with new and old friends, celebrate the impressive work completed during the past year, and help guide what's ahead for our organization.

You don't want to miss the Eileen Bohn keynote, *National Popular Vote - Interstate Compact*, featuring LWV Wisconsin's chair Dorothy Skye and executive director Debra Cronmiller. National Popular Vote is a nationwide initiative to ensure that the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide is elected president.

Reminder, this is also our annual business meeting, and we need a member quorum in attendance to vote on the 2025/25 budget, program, leadership slate, and proposed bylaws changes. Business meeting materials will be sent via email April 16.

Use the [RSVP link here](#) to register and make your meal selection. Nonmembers are welcome to attend but cannot vote on League business.

The League Lens

By Anni Lampert

Back in the olden days when print and broadcast media had lots of reporters, we could find out about recent happenings of our elected officials and everyone knew what they were up to. Alas, those days are behind us now. So who's keeping an eye on all those meetings of various school boards, the City Council, village boards, the County Board and all their committees? After all, most of the legislating that touches our daily lives happens there.

The LWV Observer Resource Guide puts it like this: Journalists, civic groups, libraries, schools and others interested in the public's right to know have banded together to help promote this non-partisan effort to enlighten and empower individuals to play an active role in their government at all levels.

The League of Women Voters Observer Corps has been in existence for decades – active and robust here in Door County and many other places until, you guessed it, COVID hit. In 2022, as the pandemic was retreating, Renee Fiedler, Ann Morgan, Dan Powers, Karen Studebaker, Susan Kohout, and other League leaders resurrected it.

“In-person meetings became the exception and virtual and Zoom meetings the norm,” explained Renee Fiedler. “Ann Morgan, our treasurer and IT person, assembled all the essential papers and loaded them onto the website, which helped members be free to do the work of observing.”

Ann Smejkal joined in late 2022 and together with Renee undertook the enormous task of creating the nuts and bolts of recruiting Observers, getting them trained and prepared to observe municipal meetings.

Here in Door County, we are very lucky to have the *Peninsula Pulse* and *Door County Daily News*, which do a great job of covering Sturgeon Bay's Common Council, area school boards, and the Door County Board of Supervisors and several of their committees.

Debra Fitzgerald, editor of the *Peninsula Pulse*, reached out to the League about creating a partnership in true community journalism, and the concept for “The League Lens” was born.

She put it like this: “Door County is a very large beat for any news organization. To have Observers out there helping us watch the 19 municipalities plus the county of Door is more than helpful – it's vital for democracy.”

A partnership like this requires dedication on both sides, and I can say we're well matched and have excellent communication and a great working relationship with ongoing training,” Fitzgerald said. “We went live in late 2023 and while we're still in the early stages, each month

the reports have improved. I do believe we are creating a model that can be replicated with partnerships like ours between community journalists and newspapers returning local news to communities that have none – or too little.”

Pull Box

What’s it like to be a LWV Observer?

Fascinating. Enlightening. Enraging.

How do I become a good Observer?

Say yes. Read the policies. Spend some time with a veteran Observer.

What’s my first meeting going to look like?

Introduce yourself to the folks on whatever board or council you’re attending. Tell them you’re a LWV Observer and have particular interest in items that relate to League priorities and that you are there to observe. Let them know that if there’s an item that particularly interests you personally that you’ll remove your Observer pin and speak as a concerned citizen.

You’ll catch on quickly about how meetings tend to run.

You’ll also learn what’s important to them – by the time they spend discussing it and how they allocate our taxes.

You’ll become acquainted with the officials, staff and other concerned citizens.

It’s not at all unusual for Observers to decide to run for office themselves or to be asked to serve on a committee.

When is the next Observer training event?

We’re planning a June potluck – a social and training time. Stay tuned for the date.

Another pull box

Observer Openings:

- Town of Brussels Board
- Town of Baileys Harbor Board
- Town of Clay Banks Board
- Town of Gardner Board
- Town of Gibraltar Board
- Town of Jacksonport Board
- Town of Sturgeon Bay Board
- Town of Union Board
- Town of Washington Board
- Southern Door School Board
- Washington Island School Board

Welcome, New Members

In this section, new members will introduce themselves. We want to get to know you! If you haven't sent us your short bio, please do.



Welcome, Brenda Lange!

After growing up and graduating in New Jersey in 1975, Brenda Lange (she/her/hers) married and partnered with her husband in a commercial printing and office supply business in the Madison area.

With their child graduating in 2002 from college, they sold their business and moved full time to Door County shortly thereafter. After relocating, she worked at Baylake Bank for 11 years before transitioning into retirement. She volunteers at many non-profits when not traveling.

Website

If you haven't explored our website recently, check it out! <https://www.lwvdoorcounty.org/>

Donate - Note the dropdown for type of donation (General Donation or Eileen Bohn Fund) and also the box you can check to help us cover credit card processing fees.

We are continuing to add information to our website. One page in progress is **Volunteer Opportunities** under the Our Work navigation link:

<https://www.lwvdoorcounty.org/volunteer-opportunities>.

Stay tuned for more ways to get involved!

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to: tech@lwvdoorcounty.org

Communicate with Your Representatives

Tip: Post the updated attached list on your refrigerator to have it handy!

PRESIDENT

Joseph Biden

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/executive-office-of-the-president/>

U.S. SENATORS

- Ron Johnson www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public; (202) 224-5323; Madison office: (608) 240-9629; ron_johnson@ronjohnson.senate.gov
- Tammy Baldwin www.baldwin.senate.gov; (202) 224-5653; 1 (800) 247-5645; Madison office: (608) 264-5338

U.S. CONGRESSMAN (8th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT)

Mike Gallagher <http://gallagher.house.gov/>; (202) 225-5665; Green Bay office: (920) 301-4500

WISCONSIN GOVERNOR

Tony Evers govinfo@wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-1212

WI SENATOR (DISTRICT 1)

Andre Jacque Sen.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov; (608)266-3512

WI ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE (DISTRICT 1)

Joel Kitchens Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-5350 or (888) 482-0001

Legislative Hotline 1 (800) 362-9472

2023-2024 Official County Directories

One complimentary copy of the 2023-2024 Official Directory of Door County (**a listing of contact information for county, city, village, and town officials**) can be picked up at the County Clerk's office at the Door County government building. Additional directories are available for \$4 each.

This directory is also online at the Door County government website:

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/967/Official-County-Directory--2023-2024?bidId=>

If you would like the directory mailed, please submit \$6.00 each. Remit to: Door County Clerk 421 Nebraska St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Join us in celebrating the year's accomplishments, paving the way for new projects and recognizing those who help advance the mission of the League of Women Voters of Door County.



Thursday, May 16, 2024

5 p.m. Registration/Social

5:30 p.m. LWVDC Business Meeting

6:15 Dinner/Program

The Lodge at Leathem Smith

1640 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay

EILEEN BOHN KEYNOTE

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE | INTERSTATE COMPACT

A nationwide initiative to ensure that the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide is elected president.

Debra Cronmiller, executive director, LWVWI

Dorothy Skye, chair, LWVWI

CLICK HERE for everything you need to RSVP and make your meal choice. Nonmembers are welcome, but cannot vote.

Watch for business meeting materials coming your way April 16.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION THE BALLOT BOX AND BEYOND

ANNUAL MEETING

———— MAY 16, 2024 ————

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF DOOR COUNTY

