



OUR MISSION: *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy*

March 1, 2023



A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

What is and why concern ourselves with DEI?

Greetings to you all! As you read through the last newsletter, you found a variety of information about DEI.

Some of you may find yourself pondering, “Just what is DEI?”

Here’s the quick answer: Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is a term used to describe policies and programs that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals.

“**Diversity**” refers to the representation of people from a variety of backgrounds – particularly referring to people of different races, genders, sexual orientations, disabilities, religions – at all levels in an organization, including the leadership level.

“**Equity**” focuses on fairness and justice; it is about making sure people get access to the same opportunities.

“**Inclusion**” is about whether people feel like they belong, and whether they feel heard or valued in an organization.

Recently, all League members were invited to complete a DEI survey online. I am not aware of what percentage of our 68 members participated, but I do have the responses from the 2021 DEI Survey (from across the state of Wisconsin):

- Population by Race and Ethnicity 94.7% White
- Are you a person with a disability? 94% No

- Age Range 60.5% 61-75 years
- Gender Identity 90.2% Female
- Sexual Identity 92.2% Straight/Heterosexual
- Level of Education Completed 27.8% College graduate
- 65.7% Post-graduate degree
- Household Income 15.1% \$30,000-60,000
- 27.6% \$60,000-90,000
- 35.9% \$90,000+
- Is English your primary language? 98.2% Yes

After reviewing the data printed above, you can see that members of the League of Women Voters, across Wisconsin, are primarily white, female, heterosexual, educated and financially comfortable.

Does this represent you? Does it reflect the area where you live? Does it represent the three-county area that our League serves?

In my opinion, the 2021 DEI Survey should open our awareness to the work that we are being led to embrace here in western and northwestern Wisconsin. If surveyed on its own, this part of our state would surely look different from the data printed above, as would the data about LWV SCV! The reality is: we are not all college educated nor are we all financially comfortable. Many of us are challenged by living in rural areas and in smaller towns or cities with limited resources. We are hindered by access to public transportation, low broadband is common, and many people live miles from our nearest neighbor.

I truly believe that LWV St. Croix Valley is positioned to become a more diverse League by intentionally considering how we include and engage folk who look to us as “a place to be involved” and/or as a source of information. The lens of DEI is a tool for our League to plan, present and evaluate our program and activities.

We may be one of the smaller Leagues in the state, but we have the opportunity to be “bigger” in scope than we currently are!

Read on ... perhaps the articles in this newsletter will assist us as we endeavor to become more diverse and inclusive in membership and outreach and more attentive to providing a greater variety of opportunities within and beyond the League.

Carolyn Saunders



IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY TO VOLUNTEER!

Here are two opportunities to get involved in LWVSCV by volunteering. The first is on **March 7** at **Northwood Tech in New Richmond**. We are looking for two volunteers. There will be a table set up during lunch break from 11:00 o'clock - 1 o'clock. Voter Services will supply all the materials you need to help students register as well as information on the candidates. It's a stress free gathering to offer students information on how to register to vote on their own.

Please contact **Patty Van Nevel (651-271-9942)** to sign up by **March 1**.

Next we are organizing a walk in the **St. Patrick's Day parade** in New Richmond on **March 17**. The parade starts in front of **McCabes Shamrock Bar** on **West 3rd St and S Knowles Ave**. The parade starts at **4PM**, line up on **W. 3rd** at **3:30**. The parade route is only about **5 blocks** long and we will have signs. We need a hard commitment for **6 - 10** volunteers to show up and join the shenanigans.

Are you in? Contact Patty Van Nevel (651-271-9942) by March 8

REWIND
YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW

VOTER TURNOUT

More than 958,000 people cast a ballot, which is approximately 20.5% of Wisconsin's voting-age population, according to unofficial results.

That shatters previous record of 705,138 or 16% during the 2020 primary when Supreme Court and Presidential candidates were on the ballot.

VOTE

WIS EYE
WISEYE.ORG

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS:

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

This upcoming year will be an exciting one for the LWVSCV. Our Program Committee has events planned for current and future members. Our Voter Services, Communications & Media, and Member Services committees are working on ways to make our League fun, empowered and more visible to the public. Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is learning new ways to support all communities within our three-county area. As always, our Budget Committee is ensuring we use our money wisely and the Nominating Committee is bringing our new leaders forward. You'll want to be a part of the fun, learning and growth of the LWVSCV during 2023.

- To renew, go directly to <https://lwvstcroixvalley.org/membership/>
- Fill out the form and pay online,
- Or print off the form to pay by check

It's as easy as 1-2-3. Encourage your friends to join in as well. Renew before May 5, 2023 and your name will automatically be entered into a prize raffle. The winner's name will be drawn at the Annual Meeting.

And speaking of that, after two years of distance meetings, we're really looking forward to seeing our members live and in person at the Annual Meeting on May 7, 2023!

Please join us for this return to our fun gathering.



FROM THE STATE LEAGUE!

The LWV WI Voter Services Committee would like to invite any interested member to participate in our upcoming Voter Services Community Conversations.

The purpose of this series is to create a space for League members interested in voter services to join together in conversation around a voter services topic each month.

These informal conversations will be held over zoom. Each session will have one or more discussion leaders who are knowledgeable about the topic. Sessions will be held over the noon hour on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Each conversation will begin with 15 minutes of free form networking with the topic driven conversation to begin at 12:15pm.

Our next community conversation is on March 21, 2023 - the topic is:
Nonpartisanship in a Hyper Partisan World

Join the Call <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004537563#success>

Save the Date for future Voter Services Community Conversations as well!
Here is our schedule:

4/18/23 - Infusing DEI into Voter Services Work

5/16/23 - Social Media Monitoring and Other Efforts to Combat Mis/Dis Information

6/20/23 - Voter Services Outreach Materials Show and Tell

If you have any ideas for topics to include or would like to host a session, please don't hesitate to reach out to Eileen Newcomer, LWVWI Voter Education Manager, at enewcomer@lwvwi.org

May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**THINGS ARE COMING TOGETHER FOR THE
ANNUAL MEETING!**

SUNDAY, MAY 7 AT 2PM.

Two speakers are scheduled plus snacky things and beverages will be provided!

Sunday, May 7th 2023



**DON'T FORGET TO DROP BY WITH A COFFEE ON FRIDAY
9AM on March 3.**

This informal gathering is a great space to share ideas, ask questions, and have a few laughs.

Follow this zoom link to join

<https://tinyurl.com/coffeeconversations4>

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE LEAGUE!

Voter Services Co-chairs: Patty Van Nevel and Rita Kearns

Member Services Co-chairs: Marla Olson and Nanette Del Monaco

Program Committee Chair: Vicki Harmon

Communication & Media Committee Chair: Kris Surbaugh

Budget Committee Chair: Kate Manecke

Nominating Committee Chair: Beth Wood

For more information check out our website:

<https://lwwstcroixvalley.org/joinus/>

