



President's Message

Since its inception in 1920, the League of Women Voters has worked to safeguard the rights of voters. Many of us have been working towards that goal by helping prepare Wisconsin citizens to vote after the many changes in voting laws this year. Registering voters and implementing the new voter ID regulations have been major emphases for our League this winter. League members have presented voting information to numerous community groups, participated in Milwaukee Voter ID Coalition activities and have appeared on local TV and radio stations.

We have two volunteer opportunities on Spring Election Day, Tuesday, April 3rd. You can volunteer to be an election observer and help the League of Women Voters monitor the implementation of the new voter ID laws. The state League will provide free online training and support. Sign up to be a poll watcher on April 3rd at lwvwi.org. Also, LWV Milwaukee County does election night reporting, where we go to the polls at closing time and call in the results. Contact Louise Petering at 414-351-3617 if interested. Both opportunities are an excellent chance to see democracy in action.



LWV Milwaukee County received two grants this year. Grants from the Joyce Foundation and Wisconsin Voices enabled our League to print and distribute two excellent documents educating the public about the new voter ID laws. A brochure, "Voting in Wisconsin," is distributed by LWV volunteers at all naturalization ceremonies in the Federal Courthouse each month. Carolyn Castore and Louise Petering created a calendar and a simple four-column handout called "Get Ready, Get Set, Vote," using a longtime League slogan. We have been speaking at many community forums and sharing our materials with other groups involved in implementing Voter ID in the greater Milwaukee area.

All this activity has increased our visibility in the community, "reactivated" some longtime members and has brought us some new members. The regular work of the League continues as we prepare for our March 21st units on the national study, "Privatization of Government Services, Assets, and Functions." Our Natural Resources Committee is compiling the results of the Electrical Energy Consumption Survey and will present their findings at the April 23rd "Souper Supper".

As we begin planning for our Annual Meeting in May the nominating and budget committees are forming and making plans for our next program year. Let us know of your interest in serving on the board, accepting an off board position, taking a committee role or another idea of how to make a difference in LWV.

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on our many voter ID activities and to those who attended our general meeting and program-making units in January.

Mary Kae Nelson

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Editor's Note:

Please visit our website for the online version of this newsletter at: lwvmilwaukee.org, where all links contained in this newsletter are live, and where you can find up-to-date information on voter ID and all League-related activities.

CALENDAR

March 2012—Women’s History Month			
1	Thu	9 am 11 am	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Ruth Snedic, 414-771-7690.
8	Thu	10 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group St. Matthew’s EV Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave, Wauwatosa. Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222 or Gloria Weiskotten, 414-354-9783.
14	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
15	Thu	9 am 11 am 1 pm 3 pm	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Ruth Snedic, 414-771-7690.
21	Wed	1 pm	Unit Discussions: Privatization Study Consensus Afternoon Unit West: St. Matthew’s EV Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave. Contact: Gloria Weiskotten, 414-354-9783
		6 pm	Evening Unit East: Shorewood Village Center (below the Shorewood Library) Contact: Barb Hussin, 414-351-0819
		7 pm	Evening Unit West: Contact Ruth Snedic for location, 414-771-7690
26	Mon	6 pm	Natural Resources Committee Shorewood Village Center (below the library) 3920 N. Murray Ave, Shorewood Contact: Helga Guequierre 414-225-0460, or Brenda Costigan, 414-702-0997
April 2012			
3	Tue		Spring Election—VOTE—Election Night Reporting
5	Thu	9 am 11 am	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Ruth Snedic, 414-770-7690.
9	Mon		Bulletin Deadline
12	Thu	10 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group St. Matthew’s EV Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave, Wauwatosa. Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222 or Gloria Weiskotten, 414-354-9783
18	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
22	Sun		Earth Day
23	Mon	5:30	“Souper Supper” see insert and website for details
26	Thu	9 am 11 am 1 pm 3 pm	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Ruth Snedic, 414-771-7690.

Action Report

Ruth Snedic

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin recently asked its members to oppose SB 292 because it removes a basic component of the disclosure of a candidate's funding sources. With the flood of special interest monies into the election process, it is vital that we be able to track these large contributions to disclose where our legislators are receiving their donations. Requiring disclosure of a contributor's place of employment gives the voter the information to make a judgment and does not create an obstacle to the contributor's right to make a donation. We need transparency more than ever with the vast sums that special interests can pour into the campaigns of our legislators due to Citizens United. I hope every one of you made your wishes known to your senator.

This is a time to be vigilant as bills are being introduced and some of them (most of them?) are contrary to how the League thinks about issues and what our positions reflect. The legislation being introduced regarding mining and permitting is one area with which to be concerned. Some of the DNR's duties regarding grant approval for lands under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship programs have been transferred to the Joint Finance Committee when the grant amount exceeds \$250,000. Making environmental decisions will be more complicated. And of course, the Photo ID legislation, against which League lobbied and filed a lawsuit, is a major concern. Be especially observant of how things go at your polling place on election day. We can lobby as individuals on any of these issues even if we don't get specific action alerts regarding them as we keep track of all that goes on in our nation, our state and our local municipalities.

Ways to Support the League's Voter ID Lawsuit

Contributions may be made payable to LWVWI Education Fund, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

- Send a check payable to:
LWVWI Education Fund
612 W Main Street #200
Madison, WI 53703

Note "Voter ID lawsuit" on the check. It would be helpful if you would include a completed donation form.
- Make a secure online donation at: <http://www.lwvwi.org/Donate/OnlineDonationForm.aspx>. There is a checkbox on the online form to designate your gift for the lawsuit.
- Become a monthly donor using this form. We can't tell you how long this lawsuit will take, but your steady, monthly support will help sustain the effort.
- Tell others about the lawsuit, and encourage them to support it too!

On Membership

Gloria Weiskotten, Membership Committee

Let's meet some new and renewing members: Jacquleen Ivy is a friend of Barbara Toles and has been a participant in community action. Her interests include transportation, social work and political races. She is pleased to support the LWV lawsuit concerning voter registration and voting.

Diane Henke has been involved with church-based organizing for 20 years and is a member of MI-CAH. She was pleased to see the League testifying at the hearing on mining. She is presently interested in environmental issues.

Jeanette Taylor is new to League and joined because she was invited by a member. She presently works in real estate. She is looking forward to learning about League procedures and activities.

Julie Rock is also new to League. She was invited to join when she attended a League meeting. Julie teaches at MATC in the nursing department. She is eager to learn more about League.

Donna Tanzer joined LWV in the 1980's after moving to Wauwatosa and becoming a neighbor of Marianne Steigerwald. Eventually she became too busy with high school teaching and play directing to continue League. Donna rejoined because she became interested in political issues facing Wisconsin, especially the recall process. After 34 years teaching in the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District, Donna is teaching at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Donna belongs to Phi Delta Kappa and the National Council of Teachers of English. We look forward to Donna participating in League activities.

Thank you to all members who ask friends and colleagues to join League. Didn't someone ask you to join?

A generous memorial donation to honor recently deceased LWVMC members John Abelt and Ed Steigerwald was made by former LWV board member Kathleen Christensen. Thank you, Kathleen. You are a good example of how former members' legacies can be carried on.

Come One, Come All

We will be holding another orientation to League of Women Voters in March. The orientation held in November was a great success, with both new members and current members attending. If you are new to League, are interested in joining, or are curious about any of the issues we are involved in, please attend.

WHEN: March 4, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Beverly Katter's home,
L'Hermitage, 1229 N. Jackson Street #203, Milwaukee.
Parking in condo lot and on street.

(Beverly lives in a secure development. You will need to buzz her unit.)

PHONE: 414-277-9158. Please phone Bev to let her know you will be attending.

We will have refreshments and members will be available to answer questions.

Speakers Share Thoughts on Privatization at January 21 General Meeting

Sarajane Kennedy

On Saturday, January 21st, Karen Fiedler, solid waste supervisor for Waukesha County, Johnny Thomas, 18th District Milwaukee County Supervisor, and James Archambo, Wauwatosa City Administrator, shared their experiences with and thoughts on privatization of government services, the topic of the current LWVUS study.

Privatization can mean anything from sale of government assets to contracts, user fees, and franchises. Several reasons may prompt a government entity to opt to privatize a service.

A private contractor may have more experience with the particular service; the private contractor may have lower costs including employee salaries; the private contractor may have more flexibility to purchase equipment. And government may be looking to reduce its size and lower its costs.

On the other hand, there are pitfalls to be considered and avoided when outsourcing services. The private entity may be less responsive to citizens when they have complaints, less transparent re: size of service, costs, markets, etc. And there is the potential for conflicts of interest if, for example, a waste management company owns the land fill, the hauling company, and the recycling facility. There also may be less commitment to improving the program. All three speakers agreed that, in any such arrangement, the government unit must exercise oversight.

All three speakers also prefer a partnership approach to privatization rather than a transfer of assets. Fiedler explained that Waukesha County has a county-owned, privately-operated recycling processing facility. The county issues a request for proposals for the operations/maintenance of the facility and marketing materials – usually five-year agreements. The county pays a per ton processing fee and splits the revenue derived from the sale of recyclables 50/50 with the contractor.

There are positives and negatives to this arrangement; while Waukesha county maintains ownership of the facility and can hire and fire the operator, it needs to have a third party engineering firm review equipment maintenance practices. While the contractor has experienced marketing staff and long-term agreements with numerous markets, the county has no direct input into markets, i.e., use of Wisconsin industries. While the county is in a position to help ensure competition, i.e., operator does not own a hauling business, the county must have staff to oversee/mediate hauler/operator issues. Fiedler believes it is critical that the county require detailed monthly material weight, cost, and revenue reports, but asks how do you assure compliance? She believes the government entity must also require in-contract monetary penalties if the contractor does not comply. The county has less market risk since it shares that risk with the contractor, but the county must budget for market ups and downs.

Circumstances change, however, and any government entity must routinely reexamine private partnerships. Communities in Waukesha contract for collection service and require the contractor to deliver recyclables to the county facility. With severe cuts in recycling program grants, some communities are no longer contracting for trash and recycling collection for the community, reverting to subscription service where the homeowner makes arrangements for a company to pick up trash and pays directly. This has resulted in duplication of service; several trucks on the same routes leading to less efficiency, increased fuel consumption, damage to roads, and more costly service. Also, consolidation in the industry is a big problem for competition. Small haulers get bought out by large companies. Fiedler believes the role of government is to foster competition.

Milwaukee County Supervisor Thomas agreed that government has a role in ensuring competition, but also believes that its role includes diversifying revenue streams and downsizing where possible and practicable.

He sees benefits to having partnerships with the private sector. As an example of this, he cited a partnership with Starbucks at Milwaukee County's Red Arrow Park skating rink. Starbucks shares some of the revenue derived from its concession business at the rink, making quarterly payments to the County, thus providing revenue to the Parks System. It's a win-win situation where the County is also supporting a local business.

Supervisor Thomas mentioned other possible partnerships that could serve the county well. He believes lots of private entities would like to manage the county golf courses and that such a partnership bears looking into. He mentioned a failed effort in 2010 to have a private vendor pay for and expand the use of the small TVs currently on county-owned buses for targeted advertising and wants to revisit that. Currently, a company based in Menomonee Falls is exploring equipping county buses with WiFi, which Thomas believes could lead to increased ridership and provide significant annual revenues dedicated to offset county transportation costs.

Milwaukee is buying 255 clean hybrid buses. A private vendor is providing maintenance. We have purchased 125 so far. Supervisor Thomas wants to write into the contract that maintenance be provided by Milwaukee County employees. He is proposing that county engineers be trained to maintain the buses, and as these county employees continue to provide maintenance, their skill set will match the needs of buses going into the future. The county can bill the provider for time spent repairing those buses, thereby generating a revenue stream for public transportation. He expects this proposal to come before the Milwaukee County Board in April.

Wauwatosa City Administrator James Archambo feels that too often we fail to fully analyze questions of privatization. We make decisions looking at given services, but the question is much broader. What is local government's social contract with those who live within a given jurisdiction and is it more appropriate for us to provide a service

collectively as opposed to going out and buying that service? We need to take a broader look at what we do first and then decide how to provide a particular service.

In some cases political decisions substitute for analysis. We cannot simply look at the political answer. In some cases, cost is the basis for a decision. Perhaps we have a tight budget and cannot come up with the money. But we cannot simply do a surface cost/benefit analysis. In any thorough analysis, we must look at tertiary benefits, as well as primary and secondary benefits. As an example of looking at the issue more broadly, he asked, If you are spending more money to provide a service in-house, where does that money end up? If we are paying our employees who live locally and they are going to spend their money locally as a money multiplier that money is not going to stockholders who may live anywhere in the world. It is winding up in local restaurants, local gas stations, etc. Unfortunately, too often that deeper analysis is not even considered. Looking more broadly at government's social contract with its citizenry and looking at tertiary benefits, we might come up with very different answers to the question of whether to privatize a service.

Archambo thinks it ironic that our current state government, which seems prone to view privatization positively, has given public entities an edge in competing with the private sector. With the state's changes requiring public employees to contribute to retirement benefits and health insurance costs, we have much greater latitude with employees to provide a service. That and the fact that we qualify for lower borrowing costs and do not have to pay out profits means the benefit goes back to the taxpayers.

Archambo believes we are going into a period of entrepreneurial government. We may be bidding against the private sector and against our neighboring communities. And while another entity might be

able to provide better service than we can, we also have to take into account additional costs, i.e., auditing. Accountability is huge. Sometimes we estimate that some costs will go away, but they do not.

As Fiedler pointed out, in any public/private partnership, monitoring contractor performance and costs is critical. The danger when downsizing government is that you must have enough experienced people to monitor the contract - everything from verifying invoices to making sure that equipment is maintained, schedules adhered to, complaints resolved. She also believes in rewarding innovation and excellence. In performance contracting, for example, a hauler of recyclables is rewarded with increased revenue if trash goes down and recycling increases on that route; in contracting out road work, the contractor gets a bonus if the project is finished ahead of schedule

Archambo recounted that when Wauwatosa privatized recycling, the City asked the contractor, How much does your collection cost? The company was very reluctant to answer that. If they are doing everything, they can just pick a number. The City of Wauwatosa actually lost recycling tonnage.

For Archambo, the rule of thumb is: those things particularly capital-intensive are best done collectively. People-intensive services, such as health and social services and public safety need a strong government presence. Those things less capital-intensive and not within the government's core competencies are better provided privately. For example, providing water is a huge capital investment and should be done by government, but when Wauwatosa had the specialized project of rebuilding the sports fields at Hart Park, which called for unique skills/expertise not needed on a regular basis by the city's engineering department, it made sense to have it done externally.

Preparing for March 21st Consensus Meetings on Privatization

For excellent background articles, visit "Current Issues Under Study" on our website, [League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County](#), and click on "Privatization Study Background Papers."

Also on our website, visit VOTER Newsletter and find previous articles about privatization in the March/April 2011 VOTER and in the January/February 2012 VOTER.

Read "Speakers Share Thoughts on Privatization" in this issue, page 5, and most importantly, attend one of the three unit meetings on Wednesday, March 21st.

PRIVATIZATION CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Consensus questions one and two should be presented to the group at the outset of the meeting and then repeated after the other questions have been answered.

1. As a general matter, the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade is:

Much too much Too much About right Too little Much too little No consensus

2. Core government services and functions important to well-being of the people should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector. Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree No consensus

3. As a matter of good government policy, which of the following criteria should be applied when making decisions to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector? Answers to question 3:

High priority Lower priority Not a priority No consensus

a. Transparency and Accountability: All government contracts with private companies for services must ensure public access to relevant records and information regarding contracted services, functions and assets and provide for adequate government oversight and control.

b. Public Well-being: Provisions are in place to assure that, in the event any public services are to be privatized, there will be no increased risks to public well-being, especially to vulnerable populations.

c. Cost and Quality: Privatized services should not appreciably increase the costs or decrease the quality of services to the public.

d. Environmental and Natural Resources: Defined parameters should be in place to assure that environmental and natural resources are not compromised.

e. Contracts and Sales of Public Assets: All government contracts and privatized public assets should be subject to competitive bidding and comply with all laws regarding awarding contracts.

f. Economic Impact: Privatization should not result in a negative economic impact on the communities in which the services are provided.

g. Government Recovery of Services and Assets: Provisions should be in place to recover key services, assets and functions should the private sector fail to safeguard them.

4. Privatization is not appropriate: answer to question 4: Agree Disagree No Consensus

a. When the government lacks the will, ability or resources to adequately oversee contracts with the private entity and any successor thereto.

b. When there is no private entity able or willing to provide the service for the short and long term.

c. When it poses a potential threat to national security.

d. When it poses a risk to personal or security data.

e. When there has been evidence of potential corruption.

f. When the private entity's goals and purposes are not compatible with public well-being.

g. When the private entity has not complied with existing government requirements for public records, open meetings or publication of reports and audits.

h. When a loss of revenue decreases government support for mandated or critical services.

5. Some states have developed laws and regulations to control the process of privatization within their jurisdictions. As a general matter, should privatization be regulated?

a. Yes, all privatization efforts should be regulated.

b. Yes, some types of privatization efforts should be regulated.

c. No, privatization efforts should never be regulated

d. No consensus

6. Which of the following should be included in the regulatory process when privatizing public assets, services and functions? Answers: Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree No consensus

a. Timely public announcements regarding intentions to privatize and the clear and measurable expected benefits to the public

b. Public and stakeholder (investors, shareholders, experts) input into the decision and terms of the contract.

c. Feasibility study regarding performance, costs and benefits.

g. Regular performance evaluations including meaningful opportunity for public comment.

d. Adherence to all laws regarding public contracts.

e. Transition plans for displaced employees.

h. Provisions for transferring services and assets back to the government or another contractor in the event of inadequate performance.

f. Accountability and transparency provisions in all contracts.

i. Adequate resources for enforcement.

New Citizen/New Voter Committee

Sharon Munson

We continue to be busy in this election year with the new voter ID laws. Communicating to groups throughout the county on the state law changes is our current goal. We continue to do the naturalization ceremonies six times per month, talking to new citizens and registering them to vote if they live in municipalities in which we are certified as SRDs. Mary Kae and Louse Petering have addressed many groups including Job Corps, UU First Church, senior citizen centers and many others. Contact MaryKae if you have contacts with other groups that may be interested.

Voter Service

Dorothy Sherman

The Capital Times interviewed me in February regarding the impact of changes in rules for registering voters at the six monthly naturalization ceremonies. (follow this [link](#) to the article) In 2010, League Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) registered a total of 995 new voters at naturalization. Due to the change in administration in 2011, we were unable to register voters until certified by the City of Milwaukee and trained by the Government Accountability Board. As a result, only 45 voters were registered in 2011. The committee was also very busy writing a new "Voting in Wisconsin" brochure to hand out to new citizens and others explaining the new WI voting laws of 2011. So far in 2012 we have registered 50 new citizens as voters.

Ruth Snedic and I have been traveling to various municipal clerks to receive certification in order to register more new citizens from the over 1800 communities in WI. So far we have both received certifications from Milwaukee, West Allis, Tosa, St. Francis, New Berlin, Greenfield and Franklin. The unfortunate news is that these certifications will need to be renewed next year.

We wish to thank our recent naturalization volunteers: Marilyn McKnight, Gloria Weiskotten, Barbara Overstreet, Danette Lank, Helga Guequierre, Beverly Katter, Zoe Ganos, Sharon Munson, Ruth Snedic, Joann Kreimendalh, and Louise Petering for handing out brochures and registering voters during open registration periods. It's really a fun and rewarding experience!



Louise Petering registering new voters at Milwaukee Job Corps Center.



Sharon Munson at Milwaukee Job Corps Center on Jan. 16th.

International Relations

Ned Maxwell

The International Relations committee is continuing its monthly meetings and discussions at St. Matthew's Church in Wauwatosa on the second Thursday of the month at ten a.m. with much success.

We first watch a half hour DVD prepared by the Foreign Policy Institute and afterward one of our members runs a discussion. This Thursday we discussed, and debated, "promoting democracy" as a viable foreign policy. Was it effective in Iraq? Bosnia? The Baltic States? Successes and failures among them?

We are slowly adding new members as the discussions seem to be getting more -shall we say- "lively". If you would like to have your preconceptions or arguments challenged come to our next meeting on March 8th at 10 a.m. at St Matthew's church on the corner of 76th and Milwaukee in Wauwatosa. We will be discussing Mexico and the implications of the breakdown in governance in the north.

Some have suggested it is partially a lack of a female influence which has been shown to be a leading factor in civilizing the populace (think California gold rush of 1848-9). This, along with the lack of a trusted court system and constabulary, are a few of the topics we'll discuss. Bring your own ideas. We'll listen.

On April 12th, we'll be talking about cyber security, and if that doesn't concern you, you haven't been reading the papers. Or listening to Newt. Or Richard Clark (former security adviser to Clinton and Bush) a strong advocate for engagement after 9-11.

Any questions, call Ned Maxwell @ 258-9222.

Energy Study

Brenda Costigan

At its May 2011 Annual Meeting, the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County approved a study of electrical energy use by Milwaukee County and its 19 municipalities.

The goals of the Milwaukee League's study are to collaborate with our county and municipal governments to help them increase energy efficiency and to decrease costs and pollution. This supports our position to "promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest."

The LWV Natural Resource committee members have been gathering information through an energy survey and interviews with key personnel from each of the Milwaukee County municipalities. The interviews and questions in the survey seek an understanding of conservation efforts made by the municipalities for buildings, street, traffic and park lighting, and office use. There has been a high level of response with only 4 out of 20 surveys and interviews remaining.

The committee has started summarizing the information gathered and will present the findings at the League program meeting on April 23rd. Results of the study will also be shared with the participants from each municipality.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-OZAUKEE COUNTY

Invites You to Celebrate Women's History Month

Lunch with award-winning biographer Margot Peters

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Ozaukee Country Club

10823 N River Road, Mequon

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Registration, social time

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Luncheon

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Program

RSVP by March 17, 2012. For further details, see the LWV Ozaukee website, <http://ozaukee.wi.lwvnet.org/>.

Bills Proposed in State Legislature Would Mean Big Changes in the Natural Resources Board and Management of Stewardship Lands

Barb Eisenberg, Natural Resources Committee

Below is a summary of several natural resource bills in the state legislature (AB 502, SB 119, AB 104, SB 226 and Amendment 1 to SB 226) that will soon be up for a vote. They continue to give more and more power to one special interest group, hunters, trappers and fishermen, without acknowledging the contribution of the other 80-90% of Wisconsin's population who do not participate in those activities.

- AB 502 would initiate **a wolf hunt in Wisconsin** now that they are off the endangered species list- including shooting, trapping, hunting with dogs and hunting at night
- SB 104: The Natural Resources Board would be **required** to have 3 hunters and an agricultural person on it **(unfortunately, this bill has already passed)**
- SB 119: That same Natural Resources Board would appoint the DNR Secretary, the single person with the most say in how we manage our state's resources.
- SB 226: Schools would be **required** to give credit for hunter education.
- SB 226: A **15-member sporting recruitment and retention council** would be created to study, advise and recommend ways to improve recruitment and retention of hunters and trappers; initially looking for ways to increase access to private land for hunting and trapping and for simplifying DNR hunting and trapping rules.
- SB 226: Stewardship Lands would be **required** to allow hunting and trapping.

SB 226: Lena Taylor's amendment would **eliminate back tags** for deer, elk and bear hunting.

AB 104 concurrence passed in the Senate on January 17 (23 ayes to 9 nays). Here's what it means--**At least three members of the Natural Resources Board are now required to have held a hunting, fishing or trapping license** in at least seven of the ten years before the year of nomination; and at least one member of the Natural Resources Board must have an agricultural background. To find out how your senator voted, go to <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/proposals/ab104> and click on the link to the votes.

Thank your senator if she or he voted NO on this bill! Now it is even more crucial to stop SB 119 and SB 226.

All of the bills give hunters an unfair advantage and put the rest of Wisconsinites at a disadvantage.

- If *any* changes are made to the NRB, it should be to bring in people with the scientific background that would help them make decisions on how to manage our resources - hydrologists, wildlife and plant ecologists, soil scientists, geologists, environmental scientists that deal with air, water and soil contamination.
- If the NRB is loaded with hunters, of course it would be unfair to have it appoint the DNR Secretary who runs the agency that deals with ALL natural resources - air, water, soil, wildlife.
- If there is credit for hunter education, humane education credit should also be required.
- The Stewardship Lands belong to all of us and allowing hunting and trapping is not acceptable to many Wisconsinites. I would like to have places to go year round that I will not hear gunshots or have to worry about finding an animal suffering in a trap, have my pet caught in a trap or worry about being shot myself. We need places we know we will be safe and can enjoy nature in peace.

If people are walking around in the woods with guns, it only makes sense to have them wear back tags so that they can be easily identified in case they stray off of public land (intentionally or not) or if do something that is illegal (intentionally or not).

Although it is not supposed to be about money (public lands belong to EVERYONE), it always seems to come down to that - how much revenue the hunters bring into the state. Most people don't know or realize that **much greater tax revenues are brought in by wildlife watchers**. Please contact your senator and representative. Let them know how you feel about these bills and urge them to vote NO. If you want to read a brief summary of each bill, go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and submit the bill type and number. At the beginning of each bill text, there is an *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*. It summarizes what each bills will do. Let's start a discussion on these bills. There has been very little media coverage and they have gone under the radar of most people.

Opportunity for Wisconsin Citizens to Vote for Conservation Congress Delegates and on Natural Resource Issues

Barb Eisenberg, Natural Resources Committee and Milwaukee County Delegate, Wisconsin Conservation Congress (2005-2008)

Don't miss this chance! Every spring Wisconsin citizens have the opportunity to vote for delegates for each county to represent them on wildlife and natural resource issues, but most people are not aware of this election.

The DNR Spring Hearings and Conservation Congress Election are held in every county in Wisconsin, every year on the second Monday in April. Wisconsin is the ONLY state in the country that provides citizens with the opportunity to:

- Elect delegates to the Conservation Congress (the Congress), a citizen committee that advises the State Natural Resources Board and DNR on resource management policy and environmental regulation concerning land, water, wildlife and fisheries stewardship
- Draft resolutions that affect the use of state parks, forests, lakes and trails (the first step toward new legislation or rule changes)
- Vote on issues such as whether or not to expand the use of dogs for hunting
- In even number years, participate in a town hall forum discussion on conservation issues

Each county has a total of 5 delegates in the Congress that represent its citizens, with two being elected every year for terms of 2 or 3 years. Participate in democracy! Consider running for a delegate position yourself – most incumbent candidates are unopposed.

Unfortunately, most Wisconsinites are unaware that this vote takes place. Therefore, the Natural Resources Board is receiving input from only a fraction of citizens who are concerned or affected by DNR policy. For as long as these meetings have been held, they have been dominated by hunters and trappers even though the majority of us in Wisconsin do not hunt or trap. Outdoor enthusiasts, animal advocates, hikers, bikers, birdwatchers, canoeists and many other recreationists, especially women, have little or no representation in the Conservation Congress.

This is your chance to speak out! What are YOU passionate about?

- Keeping wolves protected in Wisconsin?
- Stopping a sandhill crane hunt in Wisconsin?

So, what can you do? Pick an issue that you feel strongly about and draft a resolution. Then **attend your county meeting on Monday April 9th at 7 pm, vote for your choice of delegates, and submit your resolution.** The delegate vote is always first on the agenda, so get there early to make sure you don't miss it. If a resolution you submit passes in your county and is approved by the appropriate Conservation Congress committee, the resolution may go for a statewide vote the following year.

The public notice, list of meeting locations, and list of questions up for a vote are usually posted online in mid February. Then you can read the questions online [here](#) or you can contact the local DNR office (414-263-8500) for a hard copy (2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53212).

For more information go to <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/>

Members in the News

Anne Creamer, Editor and Webmaster

As we prepare for the upcoming elections, our members have been active in the community helping to educate the public about the changes in Wisconsin's voter ID requirements. Recently our president, Mary Kae Nelson, was interviewed by Ann-Elise Henzl of WUWM, Milwaukee Public Radio, about the new law. You can read or listen to the interview by following this [link](#).

In January, Joann Kreimendahl, one of our board members, met with members of ACAP (Adaptive Community Approach Program), which serves people with disabilities in Waukesha County, to discuss how the new law might impact them. This meeting was covered by Laurel Walker in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and can be read [here](#).

Dorothy Sherman's interview in *The Capital Times* (p. 8) can be read [here](#).

P.S. For those members going out into the community for future presentations, I would really appreciate your sending me pictures that I can use in the bulletin or on our website. Thanks!

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Please complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County
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