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**Watch your email:**

*The 2017-2018 budget will be sent to all members for questions and comments.*

**Contact Us**

League of Women Voters of the  
Stevens Point Area  
PO Box 661  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Visit our web page at  
<http://bit.ly/LWFStevensPointArea>

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**October 5, 2017 – Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee Meeting will meet at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Methodist Church (600 Wilshire Avenue). Please note the time change; we will be trying this later time to accommodate more members. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

**October 28, 2017 – Issues Briefing at Madison College**

This is a great opportunity to hear about current issues and hear what other chapters are doing! Register at <http://bit.ly/LWVWIssuesBriefing2017>

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Be the LWVSPA National State Coordinator!**

Act as a liaison between LWVSPA and LWVUS and LWVWI, including activities related to National and State Program Committees. For more details, please contact a member of the Steering Committee (*see page 7*).

**Observer Corps – Sign up**

Calling on any available league members! Be a part of the Observer Corps. It is approximately a two-hour commitment with a brief summation of the meeting to be included in a bulletin. Contact Betty Trainer to confirm a date and for more details at 715-341-2715.

City Council – Third Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

- September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18

County Supervisor – Third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

- November 21

**October 12-15, 2017 - Geometry of Redistricting Conference and Workshops**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is hosting this conference on the geometry of redistricting. Thursday and Friday will be lectures and panels open to the public; Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to smaller hands-on workshops in specialized tracks. More details are available at <http://bit.ly/GRCW2017>.

Here is a recent article about a portion of the redistricting project from the *Wisconsin State Journal* <http://bit.ly/RedistrictingWSJ>.

***Pay your membership dues at any time. See page 5 for details.***

## **INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION UPDATE**

*Jeri McGinley*

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In 2016, our League became a member of UMRR (pronounced “ummer”), joining 2 other nearby Leagues – Wisconsin Rapids and Northwoods (Rhineland) – and 53 others from MN, IA, IL and WI. I became UMRR’s treasurer in May. UMRR’s board meets every other month, and it can be a trek! The board will meet in Itasca, MN at the Mississippi River’s headwaters on October 2. UMRR’s mission is to reduce nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River watershed.

In May, UMRR held its annual meeting titled “Navigation Tools for Uncertain Waters.” I attended as our League’s delegate. The speakers focused on Wisconsin because the La Crosse League hosted. While Wisconsin was known as a leader in implementing regulations after the Clean Water Act was passed, speakers highlighted recent failures in Wisconsin, including Green Bay’s dead zone and groundwater contamination in Kewaunee County from CAFOs (Combined Animal Feeding Operations). Speakers also shared hope and outlined actions we can take to improve our water quality. Videos of all of the talks can be found on UMRR’s website, [www.lwvumrr.org](http://www.lwvumrr.org).

In last month’s bulletin, Susan Zach reported on a small group discussion about UMRR she attended at LWVWI’s annual meeting. The discussion included information on “The Watershed Game” (<http://northlandnemo.org/watershedgame.html>). UMRR members are being trained on how to use the game to educate people about the connection between land use and water quality. A Dane County League member is willing to travel to Stevens Point to show us this tool if we are interested.

More UMRR activities/positions will be described in upcoming bulletins. In the meantime, please let us know if:

1. You are interested in being our League’s representative to UMRR – UMRR has a Wisconsin Representative (Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, LWV La Crosse) who is waiting to connect with someone from Stevens Point to help keep us informed on issues and activities of interest to all of us in the watershed, and to hear from Stevens Point about our specific concerns.
2. You are interested in a demonstration of “The Watershed Game”. Ellen Rosborough, LWV Dane County, has offered to travel here and discuss how local Leagues elsewhere are using it.
3. You are interested in receiving the monthly UMRR newsletter by email. The newsletter provides timely information and action alerts you can use. (Like UMRR’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVUMRRILO/>.)

Please contact Deb Knippel ([deb.knippel@gmail.com](mailto:deb.knippel@gmail.com)) or Jan Seiler ([jseiler@uwsp.edu](mailto:jseiler@uwsp.edu)) if you are interested in any of these!

## **School Issues Committee Report**

*Christine Neidlein*

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Eight local League members met at Sally Overholt’s on August 31, 2017 to organize our efforts for the academic year. Sally has been involved in this committee since 1965 but is retiring from coordinating this committee. Jeri McGinley assists with organizing. The two main committee goals are:

1. To have League observers at all full School Board meetings and the four Committee meetings.
2. To formulate questions for Voter Services, if there are School Board elections and resulting forums.

We also discuss how to get more information out to the public regarding school issues. If any members are interested in being involved in the school issues committee of our League, please contact Jeri McGinley at 715- 344-9525 or [mcginley0720@gmail.com](mailto:mcginley0720@gmail.com).

**Sept. 5, 2017: Business Services Committee:** a Resolution to establish a School Forest of 5.2 acres at McDill School will be forwarded to the full School Board. The upside is that the district / school then has access to services from the County Forester. (This Resolution was approved by full Board on September 11, 2017)

**Policy and Legislation Committee:** They are waiting to see what the Legislature does in terms of school funding in the biennial budget. This committee continues to labor over the details [Dan Kontos words] involved in updating all policies. The 2000 Series of policies were discussed.

**Private School Vouchers Forum:** “All Cards on the Table“ hosted by the new Central Wisconsin Public Education Network. It was a very controlled program with questions asked of Terry Brown, School Choice Wisconsin; Brian Betts, Principal of Immanuel Lutheran School; Janet Bewley, State Senator, 25th Senate District; Larry Davis, Wis. Rapids School Board; and Tom McCarthy Communications Director for the WI DPI.

Topics covered included:

- should there be transparency on our tax bills regarding how much of our tax dollars go to voucher schools;
- should school district budgets be public information;
- should schools teach all including those with special needs?

The most important statements I heard were from the state senator – Pay attention to all legislation to decide if our tax dollars are going where we do not want them to go and from the DPI representative: Elections have consequences!

**Sept. 11, 2017 Full School Board Meeting:** Craig Gerlach opened the meeting by saying that lots of hiring has gone on and the school year is off to a good start. A grant is being looked at to continue a program named *Born Learning*, which is now being done with United Way. Curriculum and strategies are being looked at to align Social – Emotional Learning with the state standards. A District team might be created to pursue this. Judy Rannow shared that lots of hiring has gone on but there are still openings in Special Education, a Benefits Specialist and an Auxiliary Information Technology Support person. MUCH discussion ensued about public comments at full School Board meetings and whether they should be limited to only items on the Agenda. It was clarified that School Board meetings are open to the public but not public meetings. IF public comments are made about items not on the agenda, then the School Board cannot respond to them and often it is not a matter that they can act on. Often items brought before the School Board could better be addressed at the classroom, school or administrative level.

What I came away with is that there needs to be better communication to the public about what is going on in the school district and multiple venues need to be explored to accomplish this. This was also brought up at the August School Issues Committee meeting. Parents should be educated as to the best avenue to express their concerns.

This policy would result in League members not being able to announce information about forums for School Board elections or programs (ex. The school voucher issue in the State) as they would not be on the agenda.

# League of Women Voters of the Stevens Point Area Membership Form

Please complete this form and mail with your check to:

LWVSPA, PO Box 661, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name(s) ("Sustaining Household membership") \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_ Eve phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (to receive bulletin and League-related information) \_\_\_\_\_

Our tiered dues level provides members the opportunity to select a rate best suited for them.

I support the League's mission and goals. Enclosed is my check for:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 one Sustaining Membership (covers the payment for each member that local leagues must pay to the state and national Leagues)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 one Sponsor Membership (covers state/national payments and contributes to our local League's general budget)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$90.00 Sustaining Household (two members in the same household)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 one Student Membership (enrolled in university or technical college; or high school student over 18 years of age)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to support LWVSPA activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Before I send in my membership I am interested in finding out more about the League. Please contact me.

Things about the League that interest me include:

\_\_\_\_\_

*The LWV of the Stevens Point Area is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. Memberships and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

## MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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### 2017 – 2018 Steering Committee Members

Local Co-Coordinators	<b>Deb Knippel &amp; Jan Seiler</b>
State/National Coordinator	<b>Vacant</b>
Treasurer	<b>Jeri McGinley</b>
Secretary	<b>Rosan Zahn</b>
Voter Services Co-Coordinators	<b>Mary Ann Krems &amp; Jo Seiser</b>
Membership Coordinator	<b>Andrea Musch</b>
Communications	<b>Christine Neidlein,</b> <b>Lynn Kirby (Web)</b> <b>Deb Knippel (Facebook)</b> <b>Barb Gifford (Publicity)</b> <b>Stacey Bannach (Bulletin)</b>