



League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area

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President's message:

This year we are trying a new schedule with two summer meetings and two fewer winter meetings. On Thurs, July 14 we will hear Stephanie Prellwitz speak at 6:30 at the 1st Congregational Church about the Green Lake Association's exciting new work on the Green Lake Watershed which fits right in with our surface and groundwater project. It is called "Roadmap to Cleaner Water"

On Thursday, August 11 we will meet to continue our poverty study. This will be especially on housing and its relationship to poverty. We will have another meeting in Oct. and summarize our findings in November. Four other state leagues have studied this and we hope to compare their findings to ours.

The state annual meeting decided to really work on voting issues this year and will be having presentations all over the state called "Gear up to Vote". We plan to register Ripon College students and combine with them at that time and in other areas around town. We hope to get special registration deputies trained. If anyone is interested please contact Art Baseler.

The state hopes to have a program we can use on coastal waterways also.

Great minds must think similarly. At the state annual meeting all the different leagues discussed their important activities. Besides the poverty studies mentioned above there were a number of studies on water. There will be an exhibit at the Caestecker library in Green Lake during July on Wisconsin water and its deep connection to the economy, the environment, and the health of Wisconsin residents. There were many educational programs for voters from information on photo ID and registration issues and registration drives. Education about money in politics also occurred. It is always rewarding to meet women league members from across the state.

Jean Johnson

Poverty Study Focuses on Housing Issues at August 11th Meeting

This summer, we launch the third and final year of our **Poverty Study**. Please mark your calendar for the August 11th (6:30pm) meeting to be held at the Prairie Lakes Unitarian Church, 315 Eureka Street in Ripon.

A small panel discussion of representatives of Green Lake and Fond du Lac area agencies which are focused on a multitude of housing issues will present and answer questions. Additional details will be shared soon.

We're headed for a November consensus of this Study which will include actions to be taken by our group.

A full-time job (or two) might not be enough for a family to afford a decent place to live. Virtually nowhere in the U.S. can a full-time minimum-wage employee afford a one-bedroom apartment. Habitat for Humanity

Cindy Diemer
Poverty Study Chair

Book Corner – Poverty Study

Suggestions from Evelyn Kain & Cindy Diemer
for your consideration-

1. \$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn J. Eden & H. Luke Schaefer (2015)
A revelatory account of poverty in America so deep that we, as a country, don't think it exists. After two decades of brilliant research on American poverty, Eden noticed something she hadn't seen since the mid-1990s--- households surviving on virtually no income. Eden teamed with Schaefer, an expert on calculating incomes of the poor, to discover that the number of families living on \$2.00 per person, per day, has skyrocketed to 1.5 million American households, including about 3 million children.
2. Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Barbara Ehrenreich (2016)
Summary: In this brilliant, heartbreaking book, the author takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of 8 families on the edge. All are spending almost everything they have on rent, and all have fallen behind. The fates of these families are in the hands of two landlords. Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions

used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary.

This masterful book transforms our understanding of extreme poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving a devastating, uniquely American problem.

3. *A Fighting Chance* by Senator Elizabeth Warren (2014)

The autobiography covers great financial family difficulties while growing up, and attaining an education which led to becoming a lawyer, a professor and eventually a watchdog for ordinary Americans, too many of whom were victims of predatory banking practices. Her role as the brains behind the creation of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau led to her improbable election to the Senate from MA in 2012. Former New York Times editorial writer Maura Casey states Ultimately, the book's message is that one person can make a difference, but change is painfully slow, uneven and the work of a lifetime. After reading this book, it is comforting to know that Elizabeth Warren, with her passion, anger and bluntness, will not be silenced.

4. *Nickel and Dimed - On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich (2001)

This earlier book was written from the author's perspective as an undercover journalist with a purpose to investigate the impact of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act on the working poor in the United States. She investigated many difficulties low wage workers faced, including the hidden costs in finding affordable shelter and obtaining and preserving healthy food.

Remembering Former Ripon League Member Neola Hannaford

Neola Cope Hannaford, age 90, of Ripon, died on April 13, 2016. Among the many educational and professional achievements listed in her obituary, her membership in the League of Women Voters of Ripon was mentioned.

I'm sure that early Ripon League of Women Voters members such as Liz Ringstad and Nedra Martz have wonderful memories of her contributions and presence in the community. I plan to talk with Liz to see what she can share with us now. I do remember that a friend lived in Neola's neighborhood and found her to be a creative gardener who generously shared plants for her to try.

If you're contemplating a LWV donation, I hope you'll consider making a donation to our League in Neola's memory or to the Robert and Neola Scholarship Fund at Ripon College.

Cindy Diemer