

*Mistakes happen: The monthly letter from the president never made it to the editors of The Voter and they didn't want to nag me because I had the Christmas bug....truth is that I didn't push "send" when I wrote it. Here is how I wanted to start the year. DM*



Years ago, I was doing yard work when I heard a louder than expected rushing sound. I looked up and saw thousands of starlings soaring in mesmerizing patterns across the sky. If you've seen the sight, I'm sure that you remember it. Last month I learned that this event is called [murmuration](#). (Thousands of wings make a murmuring sound.)

Although scientists don't entirely understand the phenomenon, it often starts with the sighting of a bird of prey like a falcon or a hawk. The birds appear to connect with 7 other birds expanding to a thousand or more that behave as one. Together they create a giant organism that protects them from danger. Literally, when they connect they become something more than an individual bird. The murmuration is a temporary species created by a common need for protection. And, man, is it [beautiful](#).

Today there is a frightening threat to democracy, and no one of us can protect it. But if we connect with each other our voice will become a choir. Together in League, we can help register voters and help them access the ballot. Together in League, we can partner with other people who know that democracy is a privilege that must be protected. Together in League, we can share information about issues that are misunderstood. We can ensure that everyone is knowledgeable about risks to the environment, reproductive rights, safety, and freedom. We can do it in League, nonpartisan and entirely based on facts.

I know that many are filled with a kind of dread, and wondering how long we need to continue this struggle. (As long as it takes.) When we do it together in League, the load is not quite as heavy and there are moments that you know that you are more than you thought you were and you will fully understand what it means to be a murmuration.

Let's make it a good year, and let's do it

Together,

Donna

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Hint: Be sure to click on the link embedded in the letter.  
There are some spectacular videos of mummurations.

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