

LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Girl Scout Headquarters

Presiding: President Linda Bjella
Parliamentarian:
Recording Secretary: Deb Otteson

Welcome: Linda Bjella
Land Acknowledgment: Gordon Lind

Agenda

- I. Call to order
 - A. Introduction and remarks from parliamentarian
 - B. Adoption of the agenda
 - C. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting minutes
 - D. Appointment of readers of 2025 Annual Meeting minutes

- II. Action items
 - A. Bylaw changes presentation and adoption
 - 1. Articles I-III
 - 2. Article IX
 - B. Budget presentation and adoption
 - C. Adoption: Consensus: Local Positions Review
 - D. Nominating Committee report and election of new officers and board members
 - E. Recognition of retiring Board Members

- III. Board and Committee Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Action / Advocacy
 - C. Communications & Technology
 - D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - E. Finance Drive
 - F. Programs
 - G. Membership
 - H. Voter Services
 - I. Treasurer's Report/Financial Year to 3/28/25

- IV. Advice to the board

- V. Announcements

Table of Contents

2024 Annual Meeting minutes	page 3
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Action Items:

Proposed bylaws changes	page 5
Proposed budget	page 6-8
Proposed Positions Review Consensus	page 9
Proposed Nominating Committee slate	page 10

Board & Committee Reports:

Presidents' report: Growing in membership and influence	page 10
Action	page 11
Communications & Technology	page 13
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	page 14
Events	page 16
Finance Drive	page 17
Programs	page 18
Public Safety Study	page 19
Voter Services	page 20
Treasurer and Financial Report FY ending 3/28/2025	page 23

LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2024 — The Hillside at Plamann Park

Presiding: President Linda Bjella
Parliamentarian: Nadine Miller **Updated to Beth English**
Recording Secretary: Karin Alvarez

Welcome: Linda Bjella
Land Acknowledgment: Cindy Carter

1. Call to order 6:45 pm. Quorum Present

A. Introduction and remarks from parliamentarian

B. Adoption of the agenda **Moved by Dottie LeClaire, Seconded by Cindy Carter, All in Favor, none opposed, no abstentions**

C. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting minutes, **Moved by Renee Gralewicz, seconded by Marti Hemwell. Cindy Carter asked to change language from 'no opposed' to 'none opposed'. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.**

D. Appointment of readers of 2024 Annual Meeting minute: **Three readers appointed: Miriam Douglass, Cindy Carter, Denise Fenton**

2. Action items

A. Bylaw changes presentation and adoption **Discussed LWVUS changes to dues structure which is the reason for these bylaws amendments. Currently many donations are made using the "join" button on our website with an addition to dues payments. Starting January 2025 only 20% of those donations would come to our local league, the rest will go to LWVUS and LWVWI. At that time members will need to click "Donate" to ensure the local league retains 100% of the donation. Dues will be structured differently also, using a sliding scale with no options for a household discount or open door. Motion to Accept Bylaw changes by Cindy Carter, seconded by Denise Fenton. All in Favor, None Opposed, No Abstentions.**

B. Budget presentation and adoption **Diane Putzer presented an overview of the Budget Committee's proposal. Our budget year is July 1 2024-June 30 2025 and next year's budget is very similar to last year. We currently have \$20,000 in reserve. Half of the \$5000 donation received from The Mark Scheffler Fund for a Sustainable Society was put into a CD that matures in the next fiscal year. Since there is no national convention in 2025, those expenses are not in next year's budget (will need to be put back in next year). Line 68 has been increased to reflect Club Express increases and Coalesce expenses. Our liability insurance budgeted at \$1500 provides comprehensive coverage for Board members and volunteers. No increase in rent for office space. In January 2025 the new LWVUS dues structure starts with all dues collected by LWVUS and distributed using a percentage formula to state and local leagues. Motion to accept budget by Barb Kelly, second by Cheryl Reissman, All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.**

C. Adoption: Consensus: Preamble **Renee Gralewicz presented an explanation of why we propose adding a Preamble to our Local Support Positions. Motion to accept preamble was made by Ronna Swift. Second by Denise Fenton and Cindy Carter. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.**

D. Adoption: Consensus Positions Review **Jan Quinlan presented an overview of the recommendations for changes in our Local Support Positions following this year's study. The study committee was charged with identifying existing positions that don't reflect the new DEI policy and/or do not apply to the greater Fox Cities region. The committee also identified those sections that will likely need a new study in the near future. A task force will be appointed next year to continue the work of rewriting, cross-referencing and archiving this document. These recommendations are the results of the March 18 Consensus Meeting and subsequent Board approval. Motion to adopt by Cindy Carter, second by Kathy Voigt. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.**

E. Adoption: Proposed New Study Renee presented. The number one issue at Lively Issues was a new public safety study. Combines juvenile justice, law enforcement, fire department. If there are parts of this study that interest you, please indicate interest/ expertise. Motion to adopt proposed new study, Moved by Dottie LeClaire, second by Cindy Carter.

Ronna Swift asked if there will be subcommittees. Linda Bjella stated that the Public Safety study committee will determine the scope of study using some of the suggestions from Lively Issues. All in favor, none opposed., no abstentions.

F. Nominating Committee report and election of new board members and officers.

Sara Companik presented the slate of officers from this years Nominating Committee:

- VP of Voter Service: Jacqui Klimaszewski for a two-year term (2024-2026)
- Program Director Jan Smith for a two-year term (2024-2026)
- Treasurer Miriam Douglass for a two-year terms (2024-2026)
- Director of Communication and Technology Kathy Voigt for a one-year term (2024-2025)
- 2024-2025 Budget Committee: Sue Siltan and Sue Kinde (will join Treasurer and President)
- 2024-2025 Nominating: Stephanie Malaney, Ligia Rivera, and Cindy Carter (will join two Board appointees.)

Unanimously approved. (No record of who moved and seconded)

G. Recognition of retiring Board Members April Savage presented Renee Gralewicz and Diane Putzer with a gift on behalf of the Board.

3. Reports Board members made displays which they during social hour on each of these topics: Action /Advocacy; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Events; Membership; Communications; Voters Service

4. Advice to the board Marti Hemwell advised that there should be good communication about the planned changes to the new LWVUS dues structure. Jeanne Roberts noted the importance of our organization staying nonpartisan and encouraged us to be cognizant of appearances.

5. Announcements: Upcoming events and Voters Service volunteer opportunities Jacqui Klimaszewski discussed voter registration activities at the DMV, Juneteenth, Appleton Farmers Market, and Celebrate Diversity Picnic. (Winnebago League is tabling for Pride Fest in Neenah). Penny Bernard Schafer discussed the next steps to continue to work for a nonpartisan Fair Maps process. She announced an upcoming meeting on July 11 at the Neenah Public Library jointly sponsored by our League, the Winnebago County and Wisconsin Leagues which will educate voters in the new Wisconsin Senate District 18.

6.Adjournment. Adjournment was moved by Cindy Carter, seconded by Barb Kelly. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

2025 Proposed Bylaws changes.

Articles I, II, III are mandated changes from the LWVUS.

Article IX is changed to reflect changes to how we are now collecting dues.

ARTICLE I

Name The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV Appleton-Fox Cities or as the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. **Purposes.** The purposes of the LWV Appleton-Fox Cities are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Policies. The policies of LWV Appleton-Fox Cities are

1. **Political Policy.** The LWV Appleton-Fox Cities shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The LWV Appleton-Fox Cities is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1. **Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

1. **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWV Appleton-Fox Cities shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members, excused from the payment of dues. Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled as full or part time with an accredited institution. ***Note: This eliminates our Household Dues category.***
2. **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IX

Financial Administration

Section 1. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of LWV Appleton-Fox Cities shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

~~Section 2. Dues. Annual dues approved by the membership as part of the budget shall be payable the first day of October. Any member who fails to pay the dues by January 15 may be dropped from the membership rolls.~~
Dues. Annual dues are determined by the LWVUS and are due on the date an individual joins or renews their membership. Any member who fails to pay their dues within 30 days may be dropped from membership.

Section 3. **Budget.** The budget shall include support for all financial obligations approved by the Board of Directors and assumed by the local League for the ensuing fiscal year.

Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Budget Committee: Treasurer Patti Clark-Stoyke, Linda Bjella, Diane Putzer, Sue Kinde,

Budget Comments:

- This is the first budget that reflects net membership dues under the new LWVUS transformation process. We still have an outstanding assessment accrued from 7/1/24 to 2/1/25 to the LWVWI (State PMA) and the LWVUS league (National PMP) which total should be under \$8000.
- Effective February 1, 2025, the LWVUS began collecting member dues and then transmits a portion of the total dues to LWV-WI and our local chapter. Now, members who have been renewing at the sponsoring level need to initiate two transactions – JOIN for \$75, this directs to LWVUS, and DONATE \$75 so these additional funds stay 100% within our chapter.
- Membership dues entered through the new LWVUS portal are divided into 33% for the national organization, 47% for our state organization, and 20% for our local organization. Credit card payments incur a 9.3% processing fee per transaction, which is deducted from our local portion of the membership dues. Fees are also applied to donations whether they go through the new portal or if a member donates through our website. Fees when using our website consist of 3.3% for credit card transactions, 2% for PayPal transactions.
- Budgeted member donations are estimated to be \$10,400 and include the sponsoring level donations as well as the Spring Fund Drive. We received a generous \$5,000 donation last year. The fundraising team determined that it would be fiscally responsible to save half of the donation to apply towards this year's expenses.
- We continue to allocate \$300 for summer picnic expenses.
- To assist members with travel and other conference expenses to attend the biennial LWVUS convention scheduled for June 2026, we have budgeted \$4,000.
- We allocate \$1600 for liability insurance which covers officers, members, and volunteers.
- The rent on our office space is \$4,200 annually (\$350/month).
- Technology expenses include \$6,000 (\$500/month) for Coalesce Marketing & Design to manage our website; \$1,000 for assistance with hybrid meetings; \$600 annually for a hot spot to support Voter Services, and \$200 for unanticipated technical needs.
- The line item "spending from checking" is the amount expected to be needed from the cash reserves to support the budget. We have rarely used transfers in the past.
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2025-2026 Annual Budget — Income

[illegible]

2025-2026 Annual Budget — Expenses

	A	AO	BB	BE	BR	BT	BV	BW
1	League of Women Voters Appleton					Actual Budget	Actual	Proposed
2		2022-2023	2022-23	2023-2024	2023-24	2024-25	YTD 7-1-2024 to 03-28-2025	7/1/2025-6/30/2026
3		Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD Final	Budget		
34	League of Women Voters Appleton			Proposed		Proposed		Proposed
35		2022-2023	2022-23	2023-2024	2023-24	2024-25	Actual YTD 7-1-2024 to 03-28-2025	2025-26
36		Budget	YTD	Budget	YTD	Budget		Budget
37	EXPENSES							
38	Board and Committees							
39	1. Fund Raising	\$ 500.00	\$ 332.39	\$ 500.00	\$ 163.76	\$ 500.00		\$500.00
40	2. Membership	\$ 500.00	\$ 410.31	\$ 600.00	\$ 500.05	\$ 600.00	\$123.12	\$600.00
41	3. President	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 147.11	\$ 250.00		\$250.00
42	4. Board	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00		\$100.00
43	5. Merchandise		\$ 933.32		\$ -			
44	Communication							
45	1. Newsletter/Publicity	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$63.42	\$200.00
46	2. Website (moved to Technology)		\$ -		\$ -			
47	Delegates, Travel & Workshop							
48	1. State Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 473.32	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00		\$1,000.00
49	2. National Convention	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -		\$4,000.00
50	3. Workshops	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00		
51	4. Committee Travel	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00		
52	Educational Activity							
53	1. Programs	\$ 500.00	\$ 48.82	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 114.60	\$ 1,000.00	\$533.77	\$250.00
54	2a. Voter's Service (Registration)	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 60.87	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 633.66	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,267.95	\$3,000.00
55	2b. Voter's Service (Voter Education)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 125.00		\$ -		\$0.00	
56	3. Legislative Action Committee (Includes advocacy)	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
57	4. Archive	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00		\$200.00
59	5. Study Activities	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00		\$200.00
61	Technology Expenses							
62	1. Club Express - ongoing	\$ 325.00	\$ 349.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 400.00	\$270.00	\$500.00
63	2. Club Express - new LWV website - set up & maintenance	\$ -	\$ 79.50		\$ -		\$0.00	
64	3. Websites (weboitz + domain names)	\$ 150.00	\$ 238.55	\$ 175.00	\$ 161.57	\$ 200.00	\$117.48	\$250.00
65	4. Zoom	\$ 300.00	\$ 309.70	\$ 300.00	\$ 335.95	\$ 300.00	\$184.80	\$350.00
66	5. Event Management (website security)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
67	6. WiFi-Boost Mobile	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 540.00	\$ 600.00	\$360.00	\$600.00
68	7. Club Express webmaster/Coalesce	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$4,125.00	\$6,000.00
69	8. Misc technology	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,060.26	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00		\$200.00
70	Event Expenses							
71	1. Holiday Brunch	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,860.61	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,400.27	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,875.38	\$2,500.00
72	2. Annual Meeting	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,065.60	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 2,994.01	\$ 1,400.00		\$1,500.00
74	3. Making Democracy Work Award	\$ 250.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 489.00	\$ 500.00	\$210.00	\$500.00
75	4. Summer Picnic					\$ 300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
76	Financial Support for League							
77	1. Lake Michigan Interleague	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00		
78	2. State PMA	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,225.00	\$ 3,400.00		
79	3. National PMP	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,664.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,680.00	\$ 3,700.00		
80	100th Anniversary Donation/Women's Action Coalition		\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
81	100th Anniversary Expenses/Women's Action Coalition		\$ 1,500.00		\$ -			
82	Operating Costs							
83	1. Corporate Filing Fee (fed + state)	\$ 10.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		\$25.00
84	2. General Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 324.36	\$ 500.00	\$ 384.29	\$ 500.00	\$138.35	\$500.00
85	3. Insurance	\$ 275.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,401.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$1,461.00	\$1,600.00
86	4. PayPal/Square/Stripe Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 365.98	\$ 400.00	\$ 385.42	\$ 400.00	\$382.00	\$500.00
87	5. Post Office Box	\$ 210.00	\$ 232.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 248.00	\$ 275.00	\$256.00	\$300.00
88	6. Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 366.00	\$ 500.00	\$87.60	\$500.00
89	7. Bank and Service Fees	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$0.63	\$50.00
90	8. Fundraising Envelopes/Name change expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,280.63	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00		\$500.00
91	9. Merchandise Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 21.97	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 339.31	\$ 300.00	\$240.00	\$400.00
92	10. Youth Marketing (Willems)	\$ 200.00	\$ -		\$ -			\$0.00
93	11. Rent	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$3,150.00	\$4,200.00
94	12. DEI Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 447.15	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
95	13. Donation - World Relief & Fox Valley Literacy		\$ 200.00		\$ -			
96	** In Kind		\$ -		\$ -			
97	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 35,955.00	\$ 27,873.34	\$ 39,320.00	\$ 30,374.00	\$ 36,410.00	\$14,846.50	\$33,125.00
98								
99			(5,345.59)				\$4,487.49	\$0.00
100								
101	2. State PMA	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,075.00				\$3,495.00	\$3,400.00
102	3. National PMP	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,664.00				\$3,952.00	\$3,700.00
103	TOTAL PMA+PMP Dues owed to state and national						\$7,447.00	\$7,100.00
104								

Proposed Consensus: Updating Local Support Positions

by Janice Quinlan, chair

Our local support positions are contained in a cumulative document which was started in the 1960s. It includes consensus results of many studies done by the League of Women Voters of Appleton, before we had Fox Cities in our name.

Phase One: In 2023-24, a large committee examined these support positions with a Fox Cities perspective and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens. At that time we created a preamble which articulated our history and our commitment to DEI principles in our community. We also flagged other recommended updates to the document. These were approved at our May 2024 Annual Meeting.

Phase Two: In 2024-25, a task force consisting of Jan Quinlan, Nancy Jones, April Savage, and Linda Bjella worked on position narratives which more closely matched LWVWI and LWVUS support positions. We changed the outline format and made the voice consistent throughout the document. We dropped most references to specific cities and counties to allow the positions to be used more widely in our region. We eliminated any positions that merely restated LWVWI positions. We did NOT change language in most cases. We then created side-by-side comparisons comparing our old positions with the new narrative style.

Consensus Process: For our March 10 Consensus Meeting, we shared all of this work with members to review before the meeting. At the meeting we opened the discussion to hear any additional changes submitted by members. The March 10 meeting participants were impressed with the improved readability and organization afforded by the new format. At that meeting our Consensus was to accept the proposed changes. Our April Board of Directors meeting voted to accept this newly formatted document as recommended by the Consensus Meeting.

During our May 22 Annual Meeting, all members will vote on this newly formatted document of Local Support Positions. Since it is over 30 pages long, you can click here to connect with the new version on which we will vote:

[Local Support Positions to be adopted at Annual Meeting](#)

Nominating Committee Report

Submitted by Sara Companik, Chair, Cindy Fallona, Janice Quinlan

The Nominating Committee submits the following recommended slate of officers, directors and committees:

- President: Janice Quinlan (2025-2027)
- First VP Action: Nancy Jones (2025-2027)
- Secretary: Deb Otteson (2025-2027)
- Communication and Technology Director: Kathy Voigt (2025-2026)
- Membership Director: Linda Bjella (2025-2027)
- DEI Director: Kathie Kinnaman (2025-2027)

2026 Budget Committee: Karen Bachhuber, Barbara Kelly, Diane Putzer

2026 Nominating Committee: Cindy Fallona, chair, Jim Bowman, Terry Dawson

Continuing Board members:

2nd Vice-President Voters Service: Jacqui Klimaszewski (2024-2026)

Treasurer: Patti Clark-Stojke (2024-2026)

Program Director: Jan Mirenda Smith (2024-2026)

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report, by Linda Bjella

Growing in Membership and Influence

The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities has grown in both membership and outreach over the past year.

Our voter services assisted over 500 people to register to vote at the county DMV office, tabling at numerous community events, and at high schools, colleges, and senior living facilities. This spring, we sponsored in-person candidate forums for city, town, and school district contests which were recorded and posted on our website along with Vote411 information.

We presented monthly educational forums on wide-ranging topics based on issues raised by our members at our annual Lively Issues meeting: local green initiatives, reproductive health care, the crisis for the unhoused and for childcare in our community, and financing of public and private education.

Together with the Winnebago County League, we also jointly sponsored our 6th virtual Fox Cities Legislative Town Hall. All Fox Valley legislators were invited, and we were pleased to once again have bi-partisan participation, providing an opportunity for local citizens to exchange views with their elected representatives.

We adopted a preamble which clearly states that our DEI policy applies to all of our local positions developed over the past 60 years. A small team has worked to re-format those positions, developed over the past 60 years, to make them more consistent with national and state League positions. A strong study team has now begun a new two-year local study of public safety examining the issue from the perspective of crime prevention and corrections. A Book Share group enjoys deepening their understanding of DEI-related issues together. The group alternates monthly meetings for either late afternoon coffee or early evening wine.

Many of our community activists meet bi-monthly on Zoom as part of our Executive Action Team. This keeps our League connected to other local nonpartisan groups and provides more opportunities for advocacy. We also have an active Observer Corps which monitors local government meetings. This enables our League leaders to offer timely public comment on several occasions.

We have a robust website which is a community resource for reliable, non-partisan information. Our communications director keeps our social media updated, produces an outstanding monthly newsletter, and provides frequent press releases on our League's activities to keep us connected to local media.

While all these activities have been important for our League, it was a news conference we organized in March that was by far the most significant endeavor we have undertaken in recent memory. Again, partnering with the Winnebago League, we issued a call to action following the guidelines of the US League's February letter to Congress. This event was covered by all three local TV networks and drew an overflow crowd at our library. Our two Leagues jointly sent letters to Senators Baldwin and Johnson and Congressmen Tony Wied and Glenn Grothman, calling on them to uphold their oaths to the Constitution and stand up to the disturbing overreach through Executive Actions. We also provided postcards with the League's "Oath to Democracy" so attendees could send them to their elected representatives as well. It felt good to take a stand for democracy!

Action Vice President's Report by Janice Quinlan

Executive Action Committee

The Executive Action Committee includes 13 League members who have their ears to the ground; many are connected with other local advocacy groups like ESTHER and Fox Cities Advocates 4 Public Education. Our bimonthly Zoom meetings are held September through May with the various committee members participating. At these meetings we share updates on advocacy opportunities, events, brainstorm on questions for candidates and elected legislators, and program ideas. Thank you to Linda Bjella, Nancy Jones, Sharon Bowen, Cindy Fallona, Carol Lenz, April Savage, Karen Pfefferle, Denise Fenton, Ligia Rivera, Sara Companik, Cathy Thompson, and Connie Raether who served on this year's committee.

Legislative Town Hall — February 3

We held our 6th virtual Legislative Town Halls in February; it was also our 5th Town Hall with bipartisan elected officials. Bravo for those legislators who accept our invitation to respond to

issues-oriented questions from their constituents. With new legislative districts and legislators, we decided to partner only with the Winnebago County LWV and focus on the Fox Valley from Kaukauna to Oshkosh. Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim, Representatives Lori Palmeri, Dean Kaufert, and Ron Tusler participated this year. Our next virtual Town Hall will be in early October 2025. Special thanks to Barbara Kelly, Mike Goodnight, Kathy Voigt, Jan Smith, Jan Quinlan, and Linda Bjella for their hard work in making this Town Hall a success.

Budget Meetings, Hearings, and Statements

We observed and made public statements at Outagamie County, City of Appleton, and Town of Grand Chute budget deliberations this year. Outagamie County's seven budget meetings are in person-only presentations to their Finance Committee and span several weeks. For the last several years, our County Budget Statement encourages efforts to make these meetings more accessible to the public by streaming and/or recording them. The City of Appleton now hosts a Mayor's Listening Session along with "Budget Saturday" a full day of budget presentations and committee meetings. This year Jan Quinlan attended the Appleton Area School District budget presentation and adoption meeting but we did not have a statement. Special thanks to Nancy Jones, Jann Dreier, Linda Bjella and Jan Quinlan for observing these meetings this year.

March 25 News Conference & Pledge to Democracy Postcards

Following the LWVUS letter to Congress, our League partnered with the Winnebago County League to hold a news conference on March 25 at the Menasha Public Library. We had a standing room only crowd and three television news stations there. Linda Bjella, Margy Davey (Winnebago County League President), Jan Quinlan, and Jacqui Klimaszewski spoke during the conference. We urged the public to contact their US Senators and Congress Representatives in a pledge for Democracy in light of the Executive Branch overreach on five bedrock democratic issues in the Constitution. We distributed postcards with the LWVUS Pledge to Democracy at this news conference and also at the April 5 *Hands Off* Rally in downtown Appleton.

Action in Your Name, Action Alerts, and "Issues to Follow" website

- Ask President Biden to Support the ERA (US)
- Vote No on the Voter ID Amendment (WI)
- Study materials LWVUS Federal Judiciary Consensus Questions (US)
- Study materials Local Support Position Consensus
- Invitation to Light 4 Democracy virtual rally (US)
- City of Appleton surveys: Plan Appleton Survey, Parks & Recreation Survey
- Action Alert: Menasha Board of Education: Need for Childcare facilities at UW Oshkosh Fox Valley campus
- Invitation to Governor Evers Budget Listening Session (WI)
- East Central Planning Survey: Connect Fox Cities
- LWVWI Action Alerts: Every month WI Legislature is in session(WI)
- LWVWI PFAS Seminars recordings are online (WI)

Communications/Technology Director's Report by Kathy Voigt

Preamble

Strategic communications and coordination played a key role in the League taking its boldest action in recent experience, resulting in a new level of respect, acknowledgment, support and defense of the League from members and beyond.

As Action, Voter Services, DEI, Membership and Program efforts intensified leading up to the presidential election and going forward, Communications saw to it that these efforts were reported to League members, collaborators, and the community through The Informed Voter newsletter, the website, outreach and media engagement.

Creative conceptualizing, media know-how, writing, design, production and technology oversight went into the overall communications contributions to the League's work during an especially challenging year.

Team Support

- Played key role in developing themes, creative elements and promotions support for the Annual Meeting, Holiday Brunch and its charitable collection, Summer Picnic, and Libations with the League. A "tip jar" at Libations partially offset the expense of this first-time fee-free event led by Linda Bjella.
- Encouraged board members to contribute newsletter articles as these inform members of the extent of work by the committees and other volunteers. Enhanced short reports and created Canva graphics whenever applicable.
- Assisted with event planning, decor, and staging. Photographed participants in action.

Messaging

- Urged a calm, reassuring message to members and other newsletter recipients following the November election that had left many feeling exhausted, dismayed, and wanting to find a way to "do something". Jan Quinlan wrote the piece that set a perfect tone.
- In response to board discussion over unconstitutional executive and other actions in Washington, D.C., led a media campaign around a letter to our elected congressional representatives to exercise their oath to protect our democracy. This included:
 - ✓ Meeting on Zoom with Linda, Jan Q, and Jacqui. The Winnebago County League accepted our invitation to collaborate, so Margy Davey was added to the planning team.
 - ✓ Developed the media strategy, including a Media Alert, email pitch, reminder email, and post-conference news release to regional media that did not cover the event.
 - ✓ Printed 200 Oath to Democracy postcards to be available to attendees at the event to write to their elected representatives. Fewer than a half dozen cards remained.
 - ✓ Drafted the script and coached the team on how to respond to potential media questions and stay on message. Staged the event to focus on the actual signing of the letters to the 4 Congressional representatives by the 2 League presidents, which drew in the tv cameras during the signing and stills of the actual signed letters.
 - ✓ Generated follow-up social media messaging, and media tracking. (*Links attached*)
- Produced the 2024 Spring Fund Appeal letter written by Linda Bjella, and generated a series of testimonials that helped the campaign exceed its goal.
- Drafted the 2025 Spring Fund Appeal letter with a strong, urgent tone calling for financial support not just from members, but also from "people who understand what is at stake." This campaign also exceeded its development goal.

- Coordinated web content that highlighted the Oath to Democracy and the League's Letter to Congress.
- Printed an additional 500 Oath postcards in time to distribute during the "Hands Off!" rally in downtown Appleton.
- Created social media posts to promote voting; a "no" voted on a proposed state constitutional amendment that (surprisingly!) failed in 2024; poll worker recruitment; Book Share gatherings, and programs. Supported efforts by other Leagues that helped inform our local audiences.
- Served as a sounding board for work plans and messaging by the president and other board members. Coordinated proofreaders.
- Reviewed reports, articles, surveys, etc. as requested.
- Wrote news "pitches" to media to call out the importance of information in news releases, building relationships with editors, reporters and new media outlets.

Design/Production

- Responsible for generating printed materials, vendor relationships, and invoice payments.
- As newsletter editor, reviewed articles, coordinated with proofreaders, photographed events and included photos in publications; designed, produced and electronically distributed the newsletter.
- Conceptualized and designed invitations, annual Valentine, Making Democracy Work Award certificates, Save the Date postcards, Oath to Democracy postcard, etc.

Dashboard

- Better coordinated website updates and troubleshooting resulted in a slightly more than 30% savings in website management expenses.
- Website visits June 2024 - April 2025: 5,100; member logins June 2024 - April 2025: 827
- Website traffic increasing. March 15 - April 17: 5,870 views; 1,691 reach; 207 interactions; 13 follows. Tallies 1,422 followers.
- FB Post re: Letter to Congress news conference drew 1,310 views; 604 reach; 77 interactions.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director's Report, by April Savage

Defining ourselves, so others don't.

The mission of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is to connect those least likely to engage in civic and public policy with their local government. We work to make local government more representative, responsive, and anti-racist by dismantling systems of injustice.

This is not separate, siloed or secondary to the work of our league. It is fundamentally what we do. There is no roadmap for what actions are right, but there are solid guides and records of accomplishments (including hugely successful community dialogue on discrimination at Long

Cheng Market). These successes and frameworks for continued good work are thanks to Jeanne Roberts. She created a gold-standard example of how to infuse DEI in all we do.

The shiniest achievement of the group since she stepped away certainly is the DEI Book Share. All credit- for imagining, executing and innovating- belongs to Kathie Kinnaman. She will be a marvelous leader of the DEI committee. I am certain she possesses the smarts and charisma to navigate these exceptionally difficult times.

At the state level, we are incredibly fortunate to have a new leader for DEI- Kole Torres. She is smart, strategic and engaged. Her revamped DEI survey, listening sessions and a new webinar will help leagues connect to each other across the state, and provide data-driven insights into what works. Our league's work on creating a DEI Preamble and reviewing our positions with a DEI lens will be an example that is shared.

The Community Alliance Committee (CAC) at the state level has been focused on Bilingual Ballots. There are six municipalities currently in WI that meet the threshold for spanish (based on census data). Each municipality approaches differently, Fox Cities will likely meet the threshold. Additionally they have led the work around the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

As I pass the baton, the following is a reflection or accounting of what we've accomplished, what inspires us, and what we need to do. It's a quick summary (not comprehensive- apologies for omissions) of our ongoing work and dialogue. Join us in any way you can.

THEMES:

- Social Justice, JEDI, Civil Rights, civic engagement
- Homelessness
- Immigration
- Book Bans
- Christian Nationalism
- Authoritarianism
- Election observations (especially inconsistencies, ways to improve)
- Reaffirmed continuing on in our work and not changing our name

EVENTS:

- Appleton Juneteenth with Alpha Phi Alpha
- LatinoFest sponsored by Casa Hispana
- Celebrate Diversity Picnic
- Lawrence Events

ACTIVITIES:

- Created get out the vote poster with QR code with voter services team
- Book Share meetings- including alternating meeting times & locations
- Movie and discussions: e.g. When We Walk By on homelessness with ESTHER

OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

COLLABORATED WITH	AMPLIFIED
ESTHER	WI Disability Vote Coalition
AAUW	Hope & Help Together
Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education	Pillars
Equity Network	Building Bridges
Women's Fund/ Delta Sigma Theta	Multicultural Coalition
Appleton Area NOW	People of Progression
Planned Parenthood	Diverse & Resilient
African Heritage	Celebrate Diversity
Casa Hispana	INDUS Fox
World Relief	NEW Chinese Association
Fox Valley Literacy	NEW Hmong Professional Association

Events Committee Report, by Linda Bjella

The Events Committee members this year were Dottie LeClair, chair, Connie Radtke, Sue Siltan, Denise Fenton, Cindy Fallona, Kathy Voigt, and Linda Bjella.

This committee oversees three major events: the Annual Meeting, the Summer Picnic and the Holiday Brunch.

Annual Meeting: The 2024 Annual Meeting was held on May 23 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hillside at Plamann Park. While it is a beautiful facility, there were several problems: the microphones didn't work, there was a lot of noise from the caterers during the business meeting due to the proximity of the kitchen to the main room, and the setting sun made it impossible to read the display screen. It was also rather costly to rent- around \$500. Because of these reasons, we decided to hold the 2025 Annual Meeting at the Girl Scouts headquarters near Bubolz. The cost is \$120. There is ample space, accessible parking, a good kitchen separated from the meeting, and pleasant surroundings. The drawbacks are that only long banquet tables are available rather than round ones and that no alcohol is allowed, so we decided to have an "afterglow" event at The Holiday Pub & Grill on Richmond Street following the meeting. Otherwise, the event will be the same as last year: Cost is \$30 social, gathering time from 5:00-5:45 p.m. Soft drinks will be donated by board members and Rick Bjella will again play the keyboard. Committee chairs will have display boards to illustrate their committee's work and

help recruit new volunteers. The buffet dinner will be provided by Michiel's catering, beginning at 5:45 p.m. The business meeting will begin around 6:30.

Summer picnic: The date of the picnic will be Thursday, June 12 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Thousand Islands Nature Center in Kaukauna. The cost to rent the facility is \$200. We decided to move the date to June rather than July in hopes of better attendance than last year. The League will provide burgers and brats as well as soft drinks. Attendees will bring a dish to pass. Family members are welcome as well as prospective members. There will be informal presentations by committee chairs.

Holiday Brunch: The Holiday Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 13 again at Bubolz Nature Preserve in the upper room. The cost remains the same at \$512.50. We will present the Making Democracy Work Awards, but that committee requested that nominations be open beginning in September to allow for more time to purchase a gift for the recipient. The attendance at the 2024 Holiday Brunch was about half the previous year, and we didn't have a Silent Auction, so we lost money on the event. For 2025, we will again have a Silent Auction which should help us to break even. The cost will be \$30 again, with Michiel's Catering supplying the buffet brunch.

Finance Drive Report by Linda Bjella

The Finance Drive Committee consisted of Gayle Hardt, Barb Kelly, Sue Siltan, Jan Quinlan, Cindy Fallona, and Kathy Voigt. We held our first meeting on February 21.

We set a goal of \$10,000 which was the same as in 2024. We divided a \$5000 donation from Mark Scheffler that we received in 2024 in half, so we began our drive this year with \$2500.

Kathy Voigt and Linda Bjella agreed to draft an appeal letter and send by email to the group for approval. We already have donation envelopes left from last year. It was suggested that we have those envelopes available at all our events. Once the appeal letter is finalized and approved by the committee, Kathy Voigt will get them printed and Cindy Fallona will pick them up and bring them along with envelopes, stamps, and our membership mailing list to the office.

On March 24, a small group met at the office to address the envelopes and hand-write "Dear..." at the beginning and a small personal note at the end of the letter. We also hand-addressed the envelopes. Letters were also sent to a list of other non-members who we thought would be supportive of the League. Phone calls could be made to certain targeted individuals if needed to reach our goal.

Our treasurer, Patti Clark-Stojke, set up a tracker on our website for donations that shows the progress. She kept track of and entered donations we received through the mail by check. Linda Bjella wrote thank you notes to all donors.

The Finance Drive will officially conclude at the Annual Meeting on May 22 when the total will be announced.

Program Director Report, by Jan Smith

Our year began in September with the opportunity to host a broad variety of important and highly informative programs based on member interests expressed during the previous Lively Issues. As a new member of the League and new board member, I relied heavily on the expertise within the board and other members to assist in offering ideas for presenters and locations suitable for our needs. This resulted in an excellent selection of in-person, virtual and hybrid meetings with technology made possible by the expertise of League members, Barbara Kelly and Mike Goodnight.

Our first program on **Monday, September 16, Sustainability and Resilience: Fox Cities Green Initiatives**, fittingly took place at a new location, the offices of the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Region. Our guest speakers Steve Schrage, Appleton's Sustainability Project Coordinator and Ron Jones, Appleton Sustainability Advisory Board and the regional Sustainable Community Network shared good news about Appleton's several "green" initiatives that include: thermo-electric buildings, hydro-electric vehicles, cleaner emissions from the wastewater treatment plant, and more. Meleesa Johnson, Executive Director of Wisconsin Green Fire offered a wealth of other Wisconsin success stories while discussing how we can build capacity across jurisdictional borders. Hopefully, everyone left with a feeling of how individuals can make a difference in their own communities.

Monday, October 7, 2024 Reproductive Healthcare in Wisconsin

The current state of reproductive healthcare has left many constituents concerned with many unanswered questions. This virtual evening offered a panel of experts:

- Dr. Kathy King, Chief Medical Officer for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI)
- Michelle Valasquez, Chief Strategist for PPWI
- Dr. Anna Igler, a local OB-GYN physician

moderated by LWV of Wisconsin President Dorothy Skye, a retired OB-GYN physician. The panelists provided an informed, unscripted and compelling discussion of this important issue.

When We Walk By: People Experiencing Homelessness in the Fox Cities was presented on **Monday, November 11** as a hybrid meeting where LWVAFCA partnered with ESTHER and Pillars, to focus on those experiencing homelessness in our own community. examining those experiencing homelessness in our own community and the agencies that assist them.

Often referred to as the "invisible class," those individuals and families who are without any housing, undoubtedly have the most urgent needs. Yet as a society we often "walk by" without acknowledging them. If we don't see past stereotypes, those experiencing homelessness can become a forgotten part of our community. If we provide shelter but don't address the systemic causes, the crisis will only grow.

Staff members from Pillars offered important data about their work in this area along with guest speaker **Miracle Wheeler**, an ESTHER Community Organizer who shared her story of compelling story of homelessness. Before this November program, ESTHER provided access to view ***"The Invisible Class"*** a 90-minute documentary which challenges stereotypes and examines the systemic causes of homelessness.

The December 14th holiday brunch at Bubolz Nature Preserve, brought its annual mix of education and socialization with the timely topic of the crisis of childcare. **Barb Tengesdal, Ph.D., Executive Director of First 5 Fox Valley and Julie Stoffel, Director of Engagement and Community Outreach for the Wisconsin Early Childcare Association and owner of Cradle to Crayons Childcare**, along with parent champion **Jennifer Buelow** offered a variety of scenarios and perspectives on this critical issue from the current state of childcare and its critical impact on families, to economic challenges to access and quality of care, as well as how to effect change. Instead of the usual silent auction, members were asked to serve childcare needs and provide backpacks filled with much needed supplies for childcare and the outpouring from everyone was extraordinary as usual.

Lively Issues on January 13, 2025, at Kaukauna Public Library rang in the new year with a splendid array of new ideas from members. Issues that took priority to help plan the program year were cited under the three main priorities of the League: Local Government- Concerns on the spread of misinformation and disinformation; Social Policy- Childcare; and Natural Resources-Biodiversity. This session usually determines a topic to be pursued for a study. However, the study decided upon in 2024 will be pursued as a two-year study. Therefore, the ideas generated during Lively Issues provide perfect platforms for the 2025-26 program calendar.

February 3, 2025 offered a diverse **Legislative Town Hall** as a virtual discussion led by President Linda Bjella and moderated by Vice President Jan Quinlan presenting preset questions to local legislators: Sen. Kristin Dassler-Alpheim; Rep. Dean Kaufert; Rep. Lori Palmeri; and Rep. Ron Tusler. This town hall was cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County.

Consensus on March 11, 2025 took place at VanZeeland's Nursery, organized and led by Vice President Jan Quinlan.

The Time is Now: Public and Private Education Funding took place at Einstein Middle School Auditorium on Monday, April 14, 2025. The program was presented by James Bowman and Patti Clark-Stojke. It described the educational opportunities available to children in the Fox Cities, how public schools help them achieve success, and how schools in the Fox Cities are undermined by inadequate funding in operations, special education and mental health.

On May 22, 2025 the year comes to a close at the Annual Meeting taking place at the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Region offices from 5:00 to 8:00.

Links and recordings of most meetings are available on our website.

Members interested in assisting with developing and publicizing programs for the coming year are always welcome.

Public Safety Study Update by April Savage

The 2024-2025 Public Safety Study Committee of the League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities will update local positions written in 1973 and 1994, adding positions relevant to current trends and challenges confronting agencies responsible for providing public safety to the community.

We will develop a general but specific position statement to address gaps in existing Public Safety Positions, particularly in Geographic Area / DEI Lens, in order to address shortcomings and advocate for improvement in Public Safety in the Fox Cities.

Our main Focus will be on Law Enforcement, we will narrow our scope and align on specific issues within Law Enforcement based on our committee's interest and the guiding idea of "protection of the individual and the individual's property from harm"

PROCESS:

- 1). Identify Public Safety Institutions, Organizations, and Issues
- 2). Review League existing positions and greatest issues/ needs for our local community
- 3). Identify where we can have an impact today and look critically at future needs
- 4). Research and Write- interviews, resources and data from multiple perspectives

TIMELINE:

- PHASE 1: Research Jan-Sept 2025 (including interviews)
- PHASE 2: Continue interviews / Write consensus questions October- December 2025
- PHASE 3: Consensus and Presentation
 - January 2026 Lively Issues
 - March 2026 Consensus Meeting
 - April 2026 Present to Board/ Approval Needed
 - May 2026 Annual Meeting Vote

We would like to thank the following members for stepping up to take on this important work. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more, please reach out to April Savage (aprilsavage@gmail.com).

Leadership Team: Karen Pfefferle, April Savage, Jan Quinlan, Linda Bjella, Jan Smith

Corrections/ Restorative Justice: Karen Pfefferle, chair, Cindy Fallona, Deb Otteson

Crime Prevention: April Savage, chair, Ada Hall, Mary Klasen, Renee Gralewicz, Hélène Pohl, Jessalyn Nash, Jan Quinlan, Linda Bjella, Jan Smith

Vice President Voter Services Reports by Jacqueline Klimaszewski

Voter Services is comprised of assisting with voter registration/information and promoting informed voting. During the past year, Voter Services continued to expand its reach to cover more of the "Fox Cities." Moving forward, we will need more members to get involved and take a lead role in organizing specific events or participating in background set-up and planning. What are YOU most interested in helping with? Read through the activities below and let us know!

Voter Registration/Information

Appleton Area School District distributed “birthday” post cards that included election dates and QR code for Myvote.wi.gov. These were handed out to all seniors in home room as they turned 18. This provided information for students to register on their own.

Training: Brian Post – Trained 4 AAUW members from Lake Geneva (DMV project), 4 trained in Hortonville, and a student-led group at Appleton East.

School Registration/Information Events:

Appleton East HS Site coordinator Brian Kurtz; Brian Post, LWV Lead—40 registered through April

Appleton North HS - Site coordinator – Nancy Vanderloop; 14 registered

Appleton West HS – *Site coordinator needed*

Central HS - Site coordinator – Sarah Reis

Hortonville HS – Pat Lund-Moe – Lead Volunteer; 13 registered

Xavier HS - Site coordinator – Monica Jones; Brian Post LWV Lead—18 registered

UWO Fox Cities

Lawrence Wellness & Engagement Fair

Summary Data: .Volunteers: 12 Plus numerous students; volunteer hours-102

29 registrations; 86 information; 7 bumper stickers; 12 membership information; 88 Civics game

o Fox Valley Lutheran - *Need an ongoing contact*

o Kimberly – *Need an ongoing contact*

Community Voter Registration Events:

Juneteenth

Celebrate Diversity

Partnership Waupaca

Appleton Farm Market (2)

New London Public Library

Franklin Park Apts. New London

LatinoFest

John Fischer Manor-Appleton

Kimberly Library

Oneida Heights

Kaukauna Fall Fest

Summary data--Volunteers: 29 plus 8 Alpha Phi Alpha members, 108.5 volunteer hours

Registrations: 29, Information-154, membership information 14, Civics game 246

Hands-off Rally: Additionally, 7 of us (15.5 volunteer hours) participated in the “Hands-Off” Rally in Appleton by distributing post cards with the oath to the constitution on one side. People at the rally were eager and excited about getting these and sending them to their legislators. Approximately 350 cards were distributed as well as 7 membership handouts. Patti Clark-Stojke (special thank you!) designed aprons for us to use for this type of event—it made it easier to walk through the crowd and give out information than trying to “table”.

DMV totals and detailed information: LWV Lead- Brian Post

Totals – 506 Volunteer Hours, 591 registrations, 1058 provided information

July 9-24 DMV Results

- 136 voter registrations over 11 days – 12.4 registrations per day
- 186 volunteer hours filled (out of 202 possible) 92% of volunteer hours filled (note: we lost Friday July 19, but we did have it staffed)

- 34 different volunteers
- .8 registrations per volunteer hour (136 registrations/170 volunteer hours)
- No shifts with zero voter registrations
- 312 information handouts
- 5 people interested in joining LWV Appleton/Fox Cities

Sept/Oct 2024 DMV Results

- 430 voter registrations over the 19 days/59 shifts we were able staff – 22.6 registrations per day
- 465 literature handouts
- 240 total volunteer hours, 1.79 registrations per volunteer hour
- Only one shift with no registrations
- We staffed 19 days/59 shifts out of our scheduled 24 days/70 shifts (we didn't fill 2 Saturdays and 9 other shifts)
- 100 out of a possible 140 slots were filled (11 empty shifts, 22 single person shifts) – 71.4% fill rate
- 37 different volunteers

Jan 22-29, 2025 DMV Results

- 10 voter registrations over the 7 days/12 shifts we were able staff
- 140 literature handouts, 35 total volunteer hours, .3 registrations per volunteer hour
- 7 shifts with no registrations
- We staffed 7 days/12 shifts out of our scheduled 7 days/19 shifts (we didn't staff 7 shifts)
- 15 out of a possible 38 slots were filled (7 empty shifts, 9 single-person shifts)
- 11 different volunteers

March 3-12, 2025 DMV Results

- 15 voter registrations
- 141 literature handouts
- 45 total volunteer hours, .3 registrations per volunteer hour
- 6 shifts had at least one registration
- 17 out of 25 shifts were filled
- 19 out of a possible 50 slots were filled
- 15 different volunteers

We definitely did NOT get the reception we experienced last year; the numbers are way down—need to rejuvenate volunteers before next spring election.

Informed Voters — Forums & Candidate Interviews

Fall, 2024 Interviews

- Assembly District #3 (Tusler and Schmitz) - 32 views
- Assembly District #52- Interview with Lee Snodgrass (Chad Cooked declined to participate)-30 views
- Assembly District #56-Interview with Emily Tseffos (Dave Murphy declined to participate) - 21 views

- State Senate District #18-Interview with Kris Alfheim (Phillips declined to participate) - 54 views

Spring 2025 - Forums

- Appleton Common Council District #11 – all three attended. Uploaded to the website and VOTE411. 21 attendees. 109 views on YouTube.
- Grand Chute Town Board Candidate Forum. All candidates for Town Board and Town Board Chair were invited. One Town Board Chair Candidate and 1 each Town Supervisor Seat #1 and Seat #3. Uploaded to the website and VOTE411. 20 attendees. 112 views on YouTube.
- Appleton Area School District Candidate Forum, Appleton Public Library, 35 attendees. 152 views on YouTube

Vote 411

Spring, 2025: With the help of Julie Evers, 74 invites were sent out; 21 responses. This included 30 municipal races and 8 school boards. 5 candidates received one-on-one assistance with accessing the program. Many of those who didn't respond were running unopposed.

Moving Forward: We need key people to take a co-leadership role in certain projects and empower them to do so without losing communication with the entire team. Please consider being a co-leader in one of the facets of Voter Services below. It's a great way to learn the ropes and you will have guidance and a co-leader to work with!

- DMV Project (with Brian Post)
- VOTE411--at least 2 people to manage this (Julie Evers)
- Working with the schools--this could be more year-round
- Other VRA Events as they arise--distinguish between Voter Registration Assistance and "tabling" at events for communication purposes.
- Candidate Forums/Interviews with J. Klimaszewski
- Coordination of voting information/resources to community organizations/businesses
- Senior Living apartments (The Heritage, Touchmark, John Fisher Manor, Linwood Community, Eagle Point...) (with Linda Bjella)

Treasurer's Report by Patti Clark-Stojke

The 2024-2025 financial report through March 28, 2025, and the proposed budget for 2025-2026 are included in this annual meeting packet. Thank you to Sue Kinde, Diane Putzer, and Linda Bjella for serving on the budget committee with me. I have served as your local Treasurer as of November 7th when I was appointed by the LWV of Appleton – Fox Cities Executive Board. I consider my transition to treasury duties an honor and I cannot thank Diane Putzer enough for her willingness to support me with her expertise and generosity every step of the way. I reviewed the past year's transactions from July thru November 2024 to verify the financial documentation tied back to our bank statements during the time that Diane served as Treasurer. I found no irregularities in the documentation that Diane submitted prior to my term. Diane, in turn, reviewed the past year's transactions from December 1, 2024 to current, the term for which I have served as Treasurer, to verify the financial documentation tied back to our bank statements. Diane found no irregularities in my documentation.

Financial Statement Comments:

- For fiscal YTD through March 28, 2025, we spent \$1798.64 more than our income for the

same period. This is primarily due to the timing of our annual fundraising campaign. The Spring 2025 fundraising letter was mailed March 27th, so the results of the campaign are not reflected in the financial report. After March 28th we have received \$8625.00 for the campaign.

- The League is the fiscal sponsor for the Women's Action Coalition (WAC). Along with our League, members include American Association of University Women - Fox Valley (AAUW), Delta Sigma Theta (NE Alumnae Chapter), the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley and the Mid Day Women's Alliance. The WAC will be organizing the Women's Equality Day event.
- We continue to contract with Coalesce for ongoing maintenance of our Club Express website. We anticipate using their services about five hours per month to keep the website up to date. Our league has been fortunate with the efforts by Kathy Voigt who has dedicated attention to improved efficiency, streamlining, and consolidating changes that has resulted in our current year website expenses being reduced by 31%.
- Our office expense is \$350 per month (\$4,200 annually). Having a one-room office in a co-working space allows us to have a central location for our supplies and equipment, access to a conference room for meetings and a presence in downtown Appleton.

If you have any questions regarding the financial reports or budget, please contact me at treasurer@lwvappletonfoxcities.org. As I look forward to working closely with our executive board in the months to come and assisting with the financials, it is my pleasure to serve as treasurer. I truly enjoy the experience and continue to learn about the League, how it operates, and the passion our members have for the League's mission. A heartfelt thank you to Diane Putzer given her knowledge and kindness that she has shared with me during the transition is beyond amazing.

League of Women Voters - Appleton-Fox Cities Financial Report 7/1/2024-3/31/25
(see next page)

	Checking	CD#2	Total
Ending balances 6/30/2024	19,434.37	12,500.00	31,934.37
Income			
Membership dues - regular	8,863.00		
Membership dues - open door	179.00		
Membership dues - sponsoring (-membership)	2,323.00		
Membership dues - 2nd in household	383.00		
Membership dues - student	20.00		
Member Donations	3,462.94		
Non-Member Donations	1,000.00		
Holiday Brunch	1,330.00		
Annual meeting	30.00		
Silent Auction			
Merchandise sales	317.00		
Interest Income			
Transfer CD balance to checking	2,300.00	(2500.00)	
Transfer Interest from CD account	408.05		
Total Income 7/1/2024 to 3/31/25	21,021.99	10,000.00	31,021.99
Expenses			
Board and Committees			
1. Fund Raising			
2. Membership	(123.12)		
3. President			
4. Board			
5. Merchandise			
Communication			
1. Newsletter/Publicity	(63.42)		
Delegates, Travel & Workshop			
1. State Annual Meeting			
2. National Convention			
3. Workshops			
4. Committee Travel			
Educational Activity			
1. Programs	(333.77)		
2. Voter's Service (Registration)	(1,267.95)		
3. Legislative Action Committee (includes advocacy)			
4. Archive			
5. Voter video grant			
6. Study Activities			
7. Youth Voter Registration grant			
Technology Expenses			
1. Club Express - ongoing	(270.00)		
2. Websites (ePlus.net/webcitz: domain names)	(117.48)		
3. Zoom	(184.80)		
4. Event Management (website security)			
5. WiFi/Hotspot/Boost	(360.00)		
6. Coalesce(website design)	(4,125.00)		
Event Expenses			
1. Holiday Brunch	(1,875.38)		
2. Annual Meeting			
3. Women's Equality day			
3. Making Democracy Work Award	(210.00)		
4. Summer Picnic			
Financial Support for League			
1. Lake Michigan Interleague			
2. State PMA	(3,495.00)		
3. National PMP	(3,952.00)		
Operating Costs			
1. Corporate Filing Fee (fed + state)			
2. General Supplies	(138.35)		
3. Liability Insurance/Farmers Ins	(1,461.00)		
4. PayPal/Square/Stripe Fees	(382.00)		
5. Post Office Box	(256.00)		
6. Postage	(87.60)		
7. Bank and Service Fees/VISA Fee	(0.63)		
8. Fundraising Envelopes/Name change expenses			
9. Merchandise Expenses	(240.00)		
10. Youth Marketing (Willems)			
11. Rent/Appleton Co-Working	(3,150.00)		
12. DEI Outreach			
13. Donation - World Relief & Fox Valley Literacy			
** in Kind			
Total Expenses 7/1/2024 to 3/31/25	(22,293.50)		
7/1/2024 to 3/31/2025 net cash flow -LWV A/FC	(1,271.51)		
=			
Women's Action Coalition (Beg Bal = 2327.50)			
Grant from Community Foundation/Cash Donations	47.00		
Polaroid camera & film	(229.03)		
WAC Cash Flow			
Women's Action Coalition (WAC) YTD net cash flow	(182.03)		
YTD combined net cash flow	(1,453.54)		
Ending balances 3/31/25	18,046.30	10,000.00	28,046.30
	Checking	CDs	Total
LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities	15,900.83	10,000.00	25,900.83
Women's Action Coalition (WAC)	2,145.47		2,145.47
	18,046.30	10,000.00	28,046.30