



# The *informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



[www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

August/September 2015

Last chance to RSVP for LWV Equality Day celebration

## You've come a long way, baby ... but

**Deadline to RSVP is Friday, August 21**

DATE: Wednesday, August 26, 2015

TIME: 4:30-6:00 pm

4:30-5:00 pm, Refreshments and Social

5:00-6:00 pm, Program

PLACE: Fox River Environmental Education Alliance, Inc. (FREEA)  
1000 N. Ballard Rd., Appleton, WI 54911  
(formerly Monte Alverno)

Keynote Speaker: Denise Valenti-Hein, PhD  
*You've Come a Long Way, Baby –  
(-but then why are you still calling me "baby"?)*

Dr. Valenti-Hein has worked 35 years in community mental health, the last 15 years at Outagamie County, where she consults. Her private practice focus is abuse among many populations: children, adults, elderly, and disabled. With a focus of Clinical Psychology and Women's Studies, Dr. Valenti-Hein's teaching career spans 30 years, the last 14 at UW.

### MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD

The League of Women Voters of Appleton will present the *Second Annual Making Democracy Work Award*. Please join us in saluting the recipient.

### R.S.V.P. by Friday, August 21

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Pay online at

[www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

Make checks payable to:

LWV Appleton

Send check to:

LWV Appleton

P.O. Box 1281

Appleton, WI 54912

Reservations are needed because of limited seating. Thank you.

# Voter Services Update: Help Needed

J. Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

We are already beginning an active year in providing assistance with registering to vote and providing information on how to acquire a government-issued ID for voting by February 16, the next election. Many thanks to Shirley Strange, Gayle Hardt, Sara Companik, Martha Swanson, Ann Muenster, Jeanne Roberts and Anne Ahrens.

Volunteers are needed to assist with voter registration as follows:

- **August 20** from 10:00-1:00 for East HS
- **August 27** from 5:30-7:30, B.A.B.E.S., Inc. Career, Job, College and Resource Fair
- **September 22 - National Voter Registration Day** (various times and locations),
- **September 25** -- UW-Fox Valley.

For the spring elections, it is also important to assist as many citizens as possible to have appropriate government-issued ID so they can vote. **If you are willing and able to drive individuals to the Department of Motor**

**Vehicles and help them with their documentation, it would, indeed, be a valuable service. If you can help with registration (training provided!) or rides to the DMV, please contact J. Klimaszewski at [JKlim@new.rr.com](mailto:JKlim@new.rr.com) or call 920-830-2919.**

As for the summer, in June we started off with a table at Juneteenth in City Park where we made a number of connections with community organizations as well as providing voter information and assisting with two voter registrations.

In August, we had voter registration assistance tables at Appleton, North, East and West. High Schools. As of August 12, we assisted with registering 50 new voters, provided 29 potential voters with forms and directions for completion and mailing, and assisted with two address changes. At press time, three high school sessions still remained in August.



## Your 2015-2016 board members

### New Board Members

#### Elected for two-year term

President	Stephanie Malaney
VP Program	Gayle Hardt
Secretary	Cindy Fallona
Director	Elizabeth Laux
Director	Cathy Thompson

### Nominating Committee

(Elected for one-year term)

Marti Hemwall  
Marge Koepke  
Shirley Strange

### Continuing Board Members

(Year two of two-year term)

VP Voter Services	Jacqueline Klimaszewski
Treasurer	Barbara Kelly
Director	Penny Robinson
Director	Irene Strohsen

Future issues of

*The Informed Voter* will profile new board members

# Planning ahead— upcoming dates



Gayle Hardt, VP— Programs

- September 22, 2015**    **National Voter Registration Day.** Voter registration events will be scheduled throughout our area. Volunteers are needed!
- September 23, 2015**    **League Education and Advocacy Campaign on Infrastructure and Economy.** LWV Milwaukee County will help selected local leagues convene civic leaders and groups in their communities to facilitate local educational programs related to public infrastructure and the economy. LWV of Appleton and LWV of Winnebago County will co-sponsor this event. (Time and location to be determined.)
- September 24-25**    **LWV Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting**
- October 10, 2015**    **LWVWI Issues Briefing, Madison**
- October 2015**    **An Update: Understanding Human Trafficking in the Fox Valley – the Crime, the Victims, and the Community.** Update by study committee. Local experts will share their knowledge as well as the advances made on the issue of sex trafficking in the area. (Date and location to be determined.)
- November 2015**    **Voter Photo ID and Registration.** Presented by LWV of Appleton and LWV of Winnebago County with assistance provided by the LWV of WI and the Government Accountability Board. (Date and location to be determined.)
- December 5, 2015**    **Annual Holiday Brunch.** Holiday Inn, 150 Nicolet Rd., Appleton. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- January 23, 2016**    **Lively Issues.** Appleton Public Library. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- May 19, 2016**    **LWV of Appleton - Annual Meeting.** 6 p.m. (Location to be determined.)

**More information coming with details for fall programming and future programs. Watch for email announcements and future newsletters!**

## Happy birthday 19th Amendment—95 years!



*If only all of us could look this good on our 95th birthday!*

*The 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, turns 95 — and it still*

*stands as a shining moment in America's ongoing journey to meet the ideals of our country's founding.*

*The League of Women Voters was born in the fight for the 19th Amendment's ratification. In celebration of its 95th birthday, we've hauled out some vintage pictures of ordinary women who led the fight for its ratification.*

*I hope you'll take a quick minute to enjoy this nostalgic look back at the last 95 years. Go to <http://goo.gl/zlp7T5> for slideshow.*

*And I hope you'll stand with us as we continue to defend the voting rights of all Americans from fresh attacks today.*

*In League,  
Elisabeth MacNamara, LWV US President*

## Decision offers hope

By: Stephanie Drahan (LWVUS)  
06/30/2015

Yesterday, [June 29, 2015] the U.S. Supreme Court issued a big victory for citizen-led democracy. In a 5-4 decision in *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, the Court found that voters can set up independent redistricting commissions. The state legislature in Arizona had challenged the constitutionality of the state's independent redistricting commission created by popular vote through a ballot initiative. More information is at <http://goo.gl/zlIHh>



## Redistricting Legislation to be introduced

Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI, August 19, 2015

Democrats will be introducing a redistricting reform bill in early September. We are told it will be legislation to adopt the "Iowa plan" for redistricting, which the League supports.

The authors of the legislation will be scheduling four press events around the state to announce the bill and drum up support. Likely locations will include Appleton. More information to come .



League of Women Voters  
WISCONSIN

Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director

## Tell Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). This landmark civil rights legislation has protected voters from discrimination for nearly half a century. But today, the VRA does not offer the same protections it did in 1965.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 gutted key provisions of the VRA in

its *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. Congress currently has before it various proposals, but there's been no legislation passed to repair the damage. Meanwhile, new restrictive voting laws have been enacted in several states including Wisconsin.

Each and every eligible American voter deserves to be treated fairly and to have free and equal access to the ballot. **Tell Congress it's time to restore the VRA at <http://goo.gl/EihGLm>**

The League of Women Voters has been fighting for voting rights protections for 95

years, and restoring the VRA is an important step to keep our elections fair, free and accessible.

In Wisconsin, the Government



Accountability Board has released a report finding almost 4,000 accessibility problems in some 800 polling places around the state. While this actually

represents an improvement since 2013, there is obviously still much work to be done to ensure that people with disabilities can vote privately and independently.

The League of Women Voters signed a coalition letter to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget supporting funding for Great Lakes restoration in the President's fiscal year 2017 budget. Learn more about this and other vital issues at the LWV Lake Michigan Region annual meeting September 25-26 in Glenview, Illinois.

Check out our new content on the LWV-Wisconsin website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)