

# LWV



# The *informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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

P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912

October/November 2015

(920) 738-7766

## Human trafficking forum set for October 26

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is pleased to announce an educational forum, "Human Trafficking in the Fox Valley - What's Being Done About It?" on Monday, October 26th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the D. J. Bordini Center, 5 North Systems Drive, Grand Chute. The forum will highlight the work of the Outagamie County Human Sex Trafficking Steering Committee, which is a collaborative partnership of law enforcement, governmental agencies and nonprofits within the county.

Members of the Steering Committee will share the strategic approach they are following to address sex trafficking in our community,

including specific plans for the upcoming one to three years. In addition, Christine Lidbury from the Wisconsin Women's Council will share information about Wisconsin's partnership with the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and hotline. The Wisconsin Women's Council, established in 1983, is the state government's statutory commission on the status of women and girls in Wisconsin.

This forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Appleton, the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, and the Wisconsin Women's Council

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## URGENT CALL TO ACTION

Call your legislators immediately if you have not done so already

The legislature is trying to ram through a number of controversial bills this week. Please contact your state Senator and Assembly Representative as soon as possible and urge them to vote no on these bills. It is possible that the Government Accountability Board and

campaign finance bills below will have a hearing early this week.

**For contact information for your legislators, go to:** <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

and enter your address

(Continued on page 2)

## Call your legislators immediately

near the map of Wisconsin under the heading **Find My Legislators**.

**GAB** – AB 388/ SB 294. These bills would undo everything League supported in the creation of the Government Accountability Board. The bill would make the structure of the GAB similar to that of the Federal Elections Commission, with three members appointed by each of the two major political parties. That is a recipe for deadlock and dysfunction. The bill would take Wisconsin back to the type of partisan appointee system that resulted in the Legislative Caucus Scandal of 2002 which sent legislative leaders of both parties to prison on felony counts. Background info on page 9.

**CALL TO ACTION: Contact your state senator and assembly representative and tell them to oppose the bill which would dismantle Wisconsin's nonpartisan Government Accountability Board.**

**Campaign Finance bill AB 387/SB 292** According to Common Cause in Wisconsin, the bill would open up Wisconsin elections to permit campaign coordination between candidates and outside special interest spending groups, something which was prohibited for decades in Wisconsin, until the State Supreme Court in July said such coordination was permissible. That court decision, which is likely to be successfully appealed, is an outlier in the nation. The bill would make contribution limits meaningless because supporters of candidates could contribute or spend unlimited money on a phony issue ad communication and even remain anonymous!

**CALL TO ACTION: Contact your state senator and assembly representative and tell them to oppose AB 387/SB 292, which would increase the influence of dark money in politics**

## Perhaps the unkindest cut of all— Is this a personal attack on the League?

**Special Registration Deputies - Online voter registration** : SB 295/AB 389 provide for Electronic Voter Registration, which offers many citizens a convenient way to register to vote. If you have a Wisconsin driver's license or ID, with your current address, you could easily register to vote online.

But it makes it harder for those who don't have a Wisconsin driver's license or ID, the elderly, those without computers or internet access, the disabled, or students who move frequently.

This bill eliminates *Special Registration Deputies* (SRDs), trained by local municipal clerks, who are able to go into the community—to schools, senior centers, neighborhood festivals, farmer's markets, supermarkets, libraries, community centers, homes—and assist voters in

completing a voter registration form. They can document proof of residence, sign the form, and send it to the clerk. SRDs help electors complete their voter registration legibly, completely, and accurately. ***This is what League members do.***

This change will have a disproportionate effect on populations already underrepresented in the voting booth: the elderly, the disabled, those in poverty, students, and minorities.

**CALL TO ACTION: Call your legislators to amend these bills (SB 295/AB 389) to retain the option for municipal clerks to train Special Registration Deputies to assist them in registering voters who are unlikely to use electronic voter registration.**

# Voter Services faces double duty: voter IDs and registration

J. Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

It is important for the spring elections to assist as many citizens as possible to have appropriate government-issued IDs 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) please contact J. Klimaszewski at [JKlim@new.rr.com](mailto:JKlim@new.rr.com) or call 920-830-2919. Thanks!!

February 17, 2016, is the primary election for the April 5<sup>th</sup> election. Spring elections are always important because the open positions are critical to governing our local communities. The deadline for filing paperwork for candidates is January 5. This spring some of the opening positions are:

alderpersons in even numbered districts for the City of Appleton, Appleton City Attorney, Appleton Mayor, Court of Appeals, Appleton School Board, Justice of the Supreme Court and Circuit Court.

On September 22, National Voter Registration Day, we had teams at the Community Health Center, the Community Dental Clinic, Fox Valley Technical College and UW Fox Valley. We provided information to eight individuals, provided forms to 15 and registered 11. A special thanks to Shirley Strange, Carol Lenz, Diane Ostrand, Jeanne Roberts, Martha Swanson, Anne Ahrens, Ellie Olson, Sara Companik, and Renee Gralewicz. There will be numerous opportunities to help with upcoming registrations.

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## Can you be the eyes and ears of the League?

Sarah Leet, Observer Corps

Can you observe one of these meetings?:

- October 31<sup>st</sup> – City of Appleton *Budget Saturday*, 8 am
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – Public hearing on the Appleton budget at 6 pm
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Appleton Common Council votes on budget at 6 pm

Outagamie County Board will review the 2016 budget throughout October and will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on October 26. Supervisors begin their budget session on Nov. 2.

I was pleased to be appointed last November and then elected in May to the League board to lead the Observer Corps. The Observer Corps serves as the eyes and ears of the League. Just as many hands make work lighter, many eyes and ears can share in observing our local government at work.

I have personally attended many local council and board meetings over the past year, but would like to share these experiences with others. There is a plethora of meetings that we

can observe: city council, town boards, county board, school boards, We need volunteers as well as ideas for recruiting members for this critical part of the League.

Some options don't require you to physically attend the meetings. We want to have a strong showing of the League as we move into 2016, a spring and fall election year.

We also need members who are interested in open meetings laws to monitor postings and to help coordinate a presentation to the community, similar to the one hosted by the Door County League in March. Please join me in this fun and hands-on opportunity to see our local government in action and be in the know.

Contact me anytime if you are interested at [sarah.e.leet@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.leet@gmail.com). I would like to start a committee mailing list to get organized this fall.

**Regular Meeting Days: City of Appleton  
Common Council – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7 PM  
Outagamie County Board of Supervisors – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 PM**

# November LWV Program

## The Voting Process – Behind the Scenes

Gayle Hardt, VP Program



The voting process is critical to the democratic process. The League of Women Voters has long been an advocate for integrity in the process. This program will provide insights into all the checks, balances and processes that are currently in place in the State of Wisconsin to ensure FAIR, impartial and unbiased elections.

### Presenters

Lori O’Bright, Outagamie County Clerk

Karen Weinschrott, Grand Chute Town Clerk

Wednesday, November 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Grand Chute Board Room,

1900 Grand Chute Boulevard, Grand Chute

The program will cover such topics as the Absentee Ballot process, new ID procedures at the polls, role of the Government Accountability Board, relationship between the County and the City/Town ballots and voting process—and answering questions you may have! Also, find out how you can become a poll worker.



***League of Women Voters of Appleton  
Holiday Brunch***

**Saturday, December 5, 2015**

**10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Holiday Inn, Menasha Room  
150 South Nicolet Road, Appleton, WI

**Keynote Speaker**

**Jay Heck, Executive Director  
Common Cause in Wisconsin**

Jay Heck became the executive director of Common Cause in Wisconsin in 1996, after being hired for this position by former Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl, a Democrat; former State Representative May Lou Munts, also a Democrat; and by Bill Kraus, a former Republican strategist and top policy advisor to Republican Governors Lee Sherman Dreyfus and Warren Knowles. Common Cause is the state's largest non-partisan political reform advocacy organization, with about 3,000 members and is affiliated with national Common Cause.

**Cost, including gratuity: \$18.50 per person**

Brunch Buffet: fresh seasonal fruit, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage links, breakfast potato, fresh kringle, orange and cranberry juice, coffee and hot tea

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, November 25, 2015**

Registration available online at [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

Or, send check payable to League of Women Voters of Appleton along with registration form below to: Gayle Hardt, 4707 Dogwood Court, Appleton, WI 54914

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST(S) NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**League of Women Voters**  
**2015-2016**

<b>MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015</b>	6:30-8:00 p.m.	D.J. Bordini Center, 5 North Systems Drive, Grand Chute	Forum highlighting the work of the Outagamie County Human Sex Trafficking Steering Committee. See page 1 for more information.
Monday, October 26, 2015  Social 5:00 p.m.; 6:00 Dinner with Presentation to Follow Holiday Inn Stadium 2785 Ramada Way Green Bay, WI 54304	<p>REDISTRICTING DINNER MEETING. Former State Senators Tim Cullen (D) and Dale Schultz (R) will be the keynote speakers at our LWVGGB fall dinner meeting. They will discuss the need for bipartisan, independent redistricting reform in Wisconsin.</p> <p>Dinner Choices: Boneless Pork filet with Wild Rice Pilaf &amp; Baby Carrots Portobello Mushroom with Wild Rice Pilaf &amp; Green Beans Salmon topped with Salsa with Twice Baked Potato &amp; Green Beans</p> <p>Deadline for reservations is October 21. Mail a \$25 check made out to LWVGGB and your dinner choice to Julie Arneth, 2279 Mt. Olive Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313 before October 21. Reserve today since reservations are limited.</p>		
<b>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015</b>  6:30-7:30 p.m.	Grand Chute Board Room 1900 Grand Chute Blvd Grand Chute	November LWV Program The Voting Process—Behind the Scenes Presented by Lori O’Bright, Outagamie County Clerk and Karen Weinschrott, Grand Chute Town Clerk See page 4 for more information.	
<b>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015</b>  5:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Oshkosh Country Club  11 W. Ripple Ave.  Oshkosh, WI	“Dollarocracy: How Money Has Harmed Wisconsin Democracy and What We Must Do to Reverse the Harm.” John Nichols, <i>The Nation</i> magazine and Associate Editor, <i>Madison Capital Times</i> . Fundraiser for the League of Women Voters Winnebago County. Cost \$50/person, \$90/two. Deadline: Friday, October 30 <sup>th</sup> . Check payable to LWV Winnebago County. Mail to 1202 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901. <a href="http://www.lwwinnebago.org">www.lwwinnebago.org</a>	
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015</b>	10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn 150 Nicolet Rd. Appleton	<b>Annual Holiday Brunch</b> Guest Speaker: Jay Heck, Executive Director Common Cause Wisconsin
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016</b>	10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Appleton Public Library, Room C	<b>“Lively Issues”</b>
<b>THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016</b>	6:00 p.m. - Dinner, 6:45 p.m. – Meeting	Location to be determined	<b>Annual Meeting LWV of Appleton</b>

## Meet your new board members

### **Cindy Fallona, LWV Appleton Secretary**



A native of Portland, Maine, Cindy moved to Appleton for her husband's job. After one year of teaching school, she worked for many years in human resources, mostly at Kaukauna Cheese. Today she

has a fun part-time position as a sales associate at Macy's.

She is a member of AAUW, Kaukauna Drug and Alcohol, President of Kaukauna Rotary Club, and past member of Kaukauna School and Library boards.

Cindy believes the mission of the LWV is more critical than ever, to assure that every citizen has the right to vote and that every vote counts. She's looking forward to helping people get IDs for voting purposes and assisting with voter registration. She's also interested in the work on redistricting.

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### **Sarah Leet, LWV Appleton Observer Corps**

A native of Waukesha, Sarah Leet studied economics and government affairs at Lawrence University, and, in fact is returning to school to pursue her MBA. Interested in politics since high school, she has worked on several elections and recently ran for Outagamie County Supervisor. She currently works fulltime at an insurance company in Green Bay.

One of her goals is to help people become more informed and to actually vote. She would also like to see more people involved in the Observer Corps – attending and observing meetings of the Common

Council, County Board of Supervisors, and perhaps the School Board. What better



way to discover what is actually going on with government at the local level! If you could observe at one of these meetings, see the story on the Observer Corps on page 3 and contact Sarah at

[sarah.e.leet@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.leet@gmail.com)

League of Women Voters—Appleton  
Board Members 2015-2016

<b>New Board members elected to two-year term</b>		
Stephanie Malaney	President	smalaney5@aol.com
Gayle Hardt	VP Program	gayle.hardt@gmail.com
Cindy Fallona	Secretary	cbfallona@hotmail.com
Sarah Leet	Observer Corps	sarah.e.leet@gmail.com
Elizabeth Laux	Director	Lauxie3@tds.net
Cathy Thompson	Director	wi_rcrc@yahoo.com
<b>Nominating Committee elected to one-year term</b>		
Marti Hemwall		mhemwall@gmail.com
Marge Koepke		ok319@aol.com
Shirley Strange		shirleywstrange@gmail.com
<b>Continuing Board Members</b>		
Barbara Kelly	Treasurer	bkelly48@gmail.com
Penny Robinson	Legislative	pennyrobinson1@gmail.com
Irene Strobeen	Director	ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com



# Don't replace nonpartisan GAB with a dysfunctional model

## Call your legislators immediately

Eight years ago an almost unanimous, bipartisan legislature responded to a real problem with an innovative solution – the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board. Today legislative leaders, led by Rep. Dean Knudson (R-Hudson) and Assembly Speaker Robin Egan (R-Rochester), are proposing to [disband the GAB and replace it with a system that is a known failure](#).

A [government ethics scandal in 2002](#) sent legislative leaders from both parties to prison on felony counts. It was clear that the state's ethics and elections boards at the time were not able to enforce the law. The boards were populated by officials appointed by the leaders of the two major political parties. It is no surprise that the board members were more concerned with representing the interests of the partisan leaders who appointed them than in working together for the good of the citizens of Wisconsin.

*It was so obvious the system was not working that every State Senator and 97 of 99 State Assembly Representatives voted to create the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board. Every current legislator – Republican or Democrat – who was in office at the time voted in favor.*

In the GAB, they combined the functions of the former ethics and elections boards and added “sum-sufficient” funding for enforcement. With sum-sufficient funding, the board does not have to go to the legislature seeking funds when it needs to investigate potential infractions of campaign finance or lobbying laws – possibly by the legislators themselves.

The best attribute of the GAB is [the way board members are selected](#). The board is made up of

six former judges, appointed through a process involving all three branches of government.

These checks and balances minimize opportunities for cronyism. Although most of the current members have held partisan positions in the past as Republican officials, they have more recently served as nonpartisan judges, who are experienced in making decisions based on the facts and the word of law.

*Two recent audits of the GAB have found it to be an effective agency which has been limited by an oversized workload and a barely sufficient level of staffing. It is hailed by national elections experts as the [top model in nonpartisan election administration](#). If anything, lawmakers should provide the funding necessary to accomplish the vision lawmakers had when they created the GAB in the first place.*

*Legislation is expected to be announced today to replace the GAB with a commission with separate ethics and elections boards populated by partisan appointees. Rep. Knudson has gone so far as to say the GAB should look more like the Federal Elections Commission, which has an equal number of commissioners appointed by the two major parties. The FEC is routinely deadlocked by 3-3 votes. The commissioners are barely doing their job.*

**We are headed into a major election year with new voting laws in effect. Now is not the time to scrap our model elections agency and replace it with a proven failure, which at best is fair and balanced, but dysfunctional.**

**Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI**

**Executive Director**

## Update on other legislative items

Penny Robinson, Legislative Director

**Locally:** Senator Roger Roth is pushing back the date he will submit his RTA bill until probably early 2016.

### **Statewide:**

**Licenses for undocumented immigrants to drive legally-** AB 343, would provide driving cards for immigrants. SB 258, the companion bill was introduced in the Senate and assigned to committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs. More information about these driver cards is at: <https://goo.gl/rUu2bR>

This legislation would create cards stamped “not valid for voting purposes” because the recipients will, in general, not be citizens. Meanwhile many Wisconsin citizens will be getting non-REAL ID compliant cards specifically for voting. More information about the position of LWVUS on immigration is at <https://goo.gl/NMMxL3>

**Redistricting** – LWVWI is supporting SB 58/ AB 328, which would create a redistricting system similar to the one in Iowa. The Legislative Reference Bureau would draw district maps for approval by the Legislature

The LWVWI Redistricting Committee has been very active. Castore has held a webinar and three conference calls. There will be **redistricting forums in Green Bay October 26**, Eau Claire October 28, and Milwaukee the end of October. Former Sens. Tim Cullen and Dale Schultz will speak at the Green Bay and Eau Claire events.

**Children & Families** - LRB 1792/3, would change what needs to be reported as

possible child abuse or neglect (expanding it to include human trafficking and other violations) and who would be required to report (to include some volunteers and contractors). The bill does not seem to require this of voucher schools or even charter schools that are not under school board. The committee discussed whether voucher schools would be considered contractors, and also why there should be any differentiation between private and public schools, when the goal is to protect children.

### **Health Issues /Safety Issues**

Wisconsin has repealed the 48-hr. waiting period for handgun purchases in the state. Detractors of the bill are concerned it may lead to more impulsive gun purchases and domestic violence incidents. The American Public Health Association supports framing gun violence as a public health issue. It is a leading cause of premature death in our country.

SB 238 and AB 310 bans family planning centers from specific drug pricing for family planning and STD clinic service. Passage will decrease critical public health funding by setting the Medicaid reimbursement below the costs of providing supplies and delivering services. It would eliminate a critical revenue source for local health departments to use for providing broad disease and prevention services to uninsured and underinsured populations. Wisconsin currently ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per capita public health funding.