

# 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

December 2015—January 2016

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From the president—Stephanie Malaney

## Looking back and looking ahead—League is always working

Here is wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable holiday season.

The league has been involved in a variety of ways already into our 2015-16 year. We started our year with *Equality Day* and awarded our *Democracy at Work Award* to Ann Muenster. We have been to City Council and Outagamie County Board meetings. We partnered with other organizations to present programs on human trafficking, the voting process, and panels on what it takes to run and hold an office. This past Saturday at our brunch we heard about important

legislation passed this fall in Madison.

The beginning of 2016 will start with *Lively Issues* on Saturday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Appleton Library. We have voting, elections, and our local study to fill out the rest of our year. The league looks forward to seeing everyone participate in the upcoming events as we work to be informed voters.

Please remember to pay your dues of \$75 to LWV Appleton in December. You can go online to [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org) or mail it to LWV Appleton, PO Box 1281, Appleton, WI

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Mark your calendar

## Begin 2016 with renewed energy at LIVELY ISSUES

January 23, 2016

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Appleton Public Library

League of Women Voters of Appleton –*Lively Issues*

Join other League members for an update on our local study and a lively discussion on local government and the issues impacting our local community.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### League of Women Voters of Appleton 2016

Gayle Hardt—VP Program

**February 16, 2016**

**Spring Primary Election**

**February - March 2016**

**Local Candidate Forums**

**April 5, 2016**

**Spring Election**

**May 19, 2016, 6 p.m.**

**LWV Appleton Annual Meeting**

**June 3-4, 2016**

**LWVWI Annual Meeting**

**June 16-19, 2016**

**LWVUS Convention**



When we learn which candidates will be running, then candidate forums will be scheduled. Other events on local issues may also be scheduled, so look for League emails and newsletters.

## What you need to know if you missed the banquet Jay Heck calls fall legislative session abusive and disrespectful

Penny Robinson—Legislative Director

A total of 46 individuals, including 18 guests, attended the LWV Appleton Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 6. Guest speaker Jay Heck, Executive Director of *Common Cause in Wisconsin*, shared details of three pieces of legislation recently rammed through the Wisconsin legislature.

According to Heck, the fall session was unique, both in content and self-serving process:

- It focused on the one goal of consolidating political power and ignored everyone else;
- It was abusive and disrespectful of the democratic process.

The three pieces of legislation include the following:

1. Changing the John Doe law to exempt

ONLY political crimes. This law had been in place in this area even before statehood. It is less expensive than a grand jury and very good at ferreting out corruption. This “retroactive decriminalization” law now exempts politicians and must request funding from the legislature.

2. “The destruction of the nine-year-old, non-partisan Government Accountability Board was based on completely discredited charges, false premises, character assassination and outright falsehoods.” Created as a result of a bipartisan scandal, the Government Accountability Board will be replaced by two partisan commissions modeled after the

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# Heck: League needed more than ever

federal elections commission, which is almost always deadlocked, totally “dysfunctional” and has no teeth. The “sum sufficient” element of the GAB has been eliminated.



without requiring disclosure of donors’ names or employers. The only other state allowing coordination is Florida.

- 3. Going beyond even what other states have done, changes in campaign finance law are “particularly disturbing”. The legislature has now legalized coordination between candidates and outside groups

According to Heck, the entire fall session was dedicated solely to political power consolidation and no other state needs. According to records searches, for some offices of representatives, not a single person weighed in to support this campaign finance law, whereas “hundreds” were against it.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

Jay Heck offered suggestions



♦ **Voting is absolutely essential.** The Wisconsin Supreme

Court primaries are coming up in February. (Common Cause has learned that Eric O’Keefe donated millions to Club for Growth and to four conservatives now on our Supreme Court.) The League needs more than ever to help citizens get proper Voter IDs, register, and vote.



NOT double the limits an individual may donate directly to candidates. When this bill is introduced, the League needs to urge support from legislators across the state.

♦ **The GAB needs to be reestablished.**

For more information on *Common Cause*, go to [www.commoncausewisconsin.org](http://www.commoncausewisconsin.org)

♦ **Alternative Legislation:** several Common Cause board members and others have written an alternative campaign finance bill. It prohibits coordination; it requires disclosure of donors’ names and employers and does



# VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

Voter services needs YOU in 2016:

## Voter IDs, registration, and candidate forums

Jacqueline Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

We will again be offering voter registration assistance to the Appleton high school students who turn 18 before the February and April elections. We are also working with *Our Town Hall* to reach out to minority voters at their events. We have regularly scheduled voter registration assistance sessions at B.A.B.E.S.



board, county board, mayor or city council, depending on the contested seats. These forums will be scheduled for February through March. Watch for them!

In January we will know which races are contested. Once we have that information, look for a variety of forums with local candidates for open positions on the school

The Wisconsin State League of Women Voters has provided us with a quantity of flyers that explain Wisconsin Voter ID rules and procedures. We will have a general flyer, one for college students and one for seniors. They are also printing a version in Spanish. We will be disseminating these at upcoming events.

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## Local study on land use/urban policy

Shirley Strange—Committee Member

The League of Women Voters study committee has embarked on the local study of land use planning and urban planning. The seven-member team has set its scope. The committee agreed that the geographic scope of the study would be narrowed to the city of Appleton but recognizes that there is a regional impact as well. Along the way, the committee will offer research materials to the membership and host educational forums which will be open to

the public.

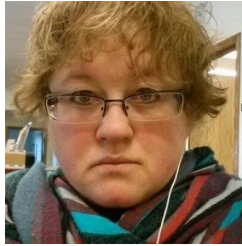
The study group's goals will be to develop recommendations that are insightful, actionable, and future oriented and focused on preserving and improving Appleton's downtown and neighborhoods.

Committee members include Amy Oberg, Chair; Nadine Miller, Jan Quinlan, Jeanne Roberts, Penny Robinson, Shirley Strange, and Irene Strohbeen.

# Welcome new LWV Appleton board members

## Elizabeth Laux

I was born in Appleton and have lived here



most of my life, although I lived in Wausau for about four years and attended school there. I had a brief relocation to Milwaukee for employment purposes.

Graduating from Appleton H.S. West, I also earned a degree in medical transcription and a degree in sign language. In addition to certificates in psychology and leadership development, I occasionally take classes in creative writing for enjoyment .

I work for United Steelworkers International Union (USW) out of their District 2 office in Menasha. I have been with the USW for nine years and once I began working there, I became very politically active .

I also sit on a few other boards, including the National Executive Board for the Coalition of Local Union Women (CLUW), a national organization for the advancement of women and human rights. I am on the Executive Board for my Union, Local 3657 out of Pennsylvania; and I am on the Executive Board for Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

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## Cathy Thompson

I came to Wisconsin in 1967 as a freshman at Lawrence University. I joined the Appleton League my junior year and was on the Board before I graduated. Seven years as Action VP gave me lots of experience writing and delivering League statements before area governmental bodies. In 1977, I was president.

Pursuits as a gardener, potter, knitter, and photographer help balance my life with the politics of justice for women through the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Wisconsin and at the national level; and the



Women & Men United for Women's Justice Action Team at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. I recently joined the LWVWI Legislative Committee with the Women's Reproductive Justice Portfolio.

In addition to a mom and a "gramma", I'm currently an artisan at *Atlas Coffee Mill and Boutique and the Creative Juices Artisan Shoppe* in Kimberly.

I may have to put aside my board membership if I can get on the ballot for Outagamie County Board Supervisor for District 1. Government of the people, by the people, for the people depends not only on an informed electorate, but elected officials who care about the wellbeing of the people.

## 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
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
J. Klimaszewski	VP Voter Services	jjklim@new.rr.com
Penny Robinson	Director—Legislative	pennyrobinson1@gmail.com
Irene Strobeen	Director	ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com

Note: Sarah Leet resigned from the board to continue her education.

### Test Your Knowledge: Presidential Nominating Process

11/10/2015 by Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS

Bet you can't get all of these answers right! For the short quiz, use this link: <http://lwv.org/blog/test-your-knowledge-presidential-nominating-process>

If you read this entire newsletter, please call 920-450-1519 or email pennyrobinson1@gmail.com for a special surprise.

# LWVUS in action—money in politics: help needed

Irene Strohbeen, VP

One of the core values of the League is the process to study an issue, form a consensus among members, and craft a position statement that reflects the members' consensus. Based on research, analysis and consensus, the position statement then provides a strong foundation for advocacy.

**See below if you are interested in getting involved with this all-important League process concerning money in politics.**

At the National Convention in 2014, delegates approved a study to update the League's position on *Money in Politics* (MIP). The current League position takes a collective approach to financing political campaigns. It focuses on achieving political equality in areas of combating corruption and undue influence, ensuring equitable competition, and protecting the rights of citizens to fully participate. This position has enabled the League to advocate strongly for transparency in campaign finance and against big money and its influence on elections and government.

But there are still questions to consider and this is why we are studying the issue: What about the First Amendment interests of candidates and donors, particularly as compared with equitable competition; preventing corruption and undue influence; enhancing voter participation? These are questions that the position update is considering.

The campaign finance position will be

updated through a study and consensus process to consider:

- (1) the rights of individuals and organizations under the First Amendment to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities;
- (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

The LWVUS *Money in Politics* study committee has been hard at work pulling together background information on campaign financing so that each local League can study and understand the available relevant information in order to reach an informed consensus on provided questions.

LWV-Appleton is seeking volunteers to study and present information provided by the LWVUS MIP study committee to our members. Together, we will learn about campaign financing issues and seek consensus answers to study questions to submit to LWVUS. **Please contact Irene Strohbeen, [ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com](mailto:ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com) or 920-915-1209 to volunteer for this ad hoc committee.** Consensus answers are due February 1, so we will have a short but intense timeframe to complete this work.

(Portions of this article were taken from the LWVUS website: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review/>.)

# Celebrate our victories

Andrea Kaminsky, Executive Director, LWVWI

2015 LWVWI and LWV Appleton ADVOCACY VICTORIES		
Victory	Bill/Process	LWVWI's Advocacy
Microbeads banned	SB 15 à 2015 Act 43	Supported bill on GAB Lobbying website; Action Alerts; article in Forward
4% cut to transit restored in state budget & transit kept in Transportation Fund	State budget	Action Alerts; state budget statement and testimony at multiple budget hearings. <b><i>Appleton especially advocated for this.</i></b>
Open records law maintained despite sneaky amendment to state budget	State budget – Motion 999	This happened over a holiday weekend. LWVWI responded vigorously on social networking – Twitter and Facebook. Press release on July 6.
Campaign contribution limits doubled, not tripled	AB 387	LWVWI advocated vigorously against the campaign finance bill through press releases and statements, <i>op eds</i> and social networking. At least campaign contribution limits were not tripled.
Legislative Audit Bureau not disbanded	LRB-2497/1	<i>Op ed</i> , social networking
High capacity wells deregulation bill not introduced	LRB-1446	LWVWI just watched this one
Natural Resources Board authority maintained	State Budget	Included in LWVWI state budget statement and in <i>op eds</i> about the budget
Waukesha diversion of Lake Michigan water still not approved	Approval process	Statement to DNR; got LWVUS to sign onto a coalition letter to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget
Land and soil conservation grants program survived the state budget process	State budget	Included in LWVWI state budget statement
SS Badger will <b>not</b> be dumping nearly 1,000,000 pounds of toxic coal ash into Lake Michigan		
Fed Appeals Court upheld injunction on law requiring that physicians who provide abortions must have admitting privileges	Court case	Not LWVWI's court case, but we advocated against passage of this measure when it was in the legislature.



## Decade of Mystery: What happened between 1929 and 1939?

Barbara Kelly

In the May 2003 LWV bulletin, an article appeared, calling for League members to clean out their basements, closets, attics, etc., and donate any old League materials that they might have stored away to a permanent archival collection that would be established at the Appleton Public Library "in the next six months."

When Marlys Fritzell received a call from the husband of a former League president, saying that he had several boxes of League material in his basement, and he wondered where they should go, she realized that there was a need for a central place where League documents could be stored and be made available to anyone who was interested in using them. And that was the start of the project.

The Appleton Public Library very generously provided the League with space to store the donated materials and space to work on the project. The library also expressed an interest in being the repository for the League material when the archive was finished. A committee was formed, and the members received some basic training in archival procedure. The response from League members was, literally, overwhelming. Everyone saw it as a wonderful opportunity to finally get rid of all those old boxes and files. The shelving space that the library had designated for us was jammed with big cartons from floor to ceiling.

The committee members began sorting and organizing the material - a process that took much longer than the original optimistic estimate of six months. But eventually all of the items were digitized and incorporated into the Fox Valley Memory Project of the Appleton Public Library. The Fox Valley Memory Project began in 1999, initiated by the [Appleton Public Library](#) (APL) and the [Outagamie County](#)

[Historical Society](#)(OCHS). The Project's mission was to increase local history resources and awareness through collaboration, communication and web publishing.

The League Archive on that site has recently been updated to bring it through 2014. You can see it and access the materials at <http://www.foxvalleymemory.org/league/>

Most fascinating of all: there is a mystery surrounding the founding of the Appleton LWV. As you all know from the League trivia quiz that Karen deYoung and Corinne Goldgar put together in the April bulletin, our local League was founded in 1939. The minutes started with the first meeting on May 15, 1939, and continuing on regularly thereafter.

However, we also discovered a clipping from the Post-Crescent from October 26, 1929 saying that, "The decision to form an Appleton League of Women Voters was made at a meeting of about 30 women at the home of Miss Elizabeth Wilson." Six women are named as members of a provisional committee to organize the League. Later that month there is a reference in the P-C to Mrs. Wilson Naylor being a delegate of the newly organized Appleton League to the state LWV convention. After that there are no further records until 1939. What happened to this tentative start? There is no mention of any earlier League in the records that begin in 1939. Only one of the six women named in the 1929 article appears in the 1939 records.

Did the rest of them just get discouraged? Or move away from Appleton? Or die? Maybe when our League held its big *50th* birthday celebration in 1989, we should actually have been celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup>, and our 75th anniversary in 2014 was possibly our 85th! This is still a mystery.