

# 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

February—March 2016

(920) 738-7766

From LWV Appleton President—Stephanie Malaney

## Stimulating, inspiring studies and plans

The league has been busy in a number of ways this year, starting with the Equality Day in August. The league needs the help of all its members to get the work done. Here are some of the highlights we have been working on and what to look for yet this year.

We have been involved in studies at all levels of the League. In January we had consensus meetings on *Money in Politics*, and February is consensus on the state's *Urban Planning* position. Our local study on *Urban Planning* and related *Land Use* has been complex, so will continue into 2016–17. January's *Lively Issues* highlighted exploring education.

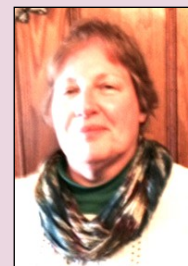
Thanks to some dedicated

members, our past studies are now archived on our website: <http://www.lwvappleton.org/lwvpdf/LocalPositions2015.pdf>

Elections are on the horizon already. Look for events on candidate forums and voter ID education.

Jan Quinlan facilitated an initial 3-hour strategic planning meeting of past and present board members. Look for more information as the work progresses.

The nominating committee will be busy looking for new officers for 2016-17. There are also a couple of director opportunities. Please consider saying yes if asked. This is stimulating and inspiring work.



Stephanie Malaney shares a few words about herself.

Prior to starting my teaching career, I didn't have much interest in politics. When I started teaching in 1970, I soon realized you have to be informed and active on issues that impact you. I spent the next 40 years serving in a variety of ways in education associations. As my children got older and I wasn't needed to be as involved in their activities, I had more time to join and be active in organizations that have been of interest to me, such as AAUW and the LWV.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

League of Women Voters of Appleton  
2016  
Gayle Hardt, V-P Programs



- |                               |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 16, 2016</b>      | <b>Spring Primary Election</b>                                                           |
| <b>February - March 2016</b>  | <b>Local Candidate Forums</b>                                                            |
| <b>April 5, 2016</b>          | <b>Spring Election</b>                                                                   |
| <b>May 19, 2016</b><br>6 p.m. | <b>League of Women Voters of Appleton Annual Meeting</b><br>(Location to be determined.) |
| <b>June 3-4, 2016</b>         | <b>LWVWI Annual Meeting</b><br>Sturgeon Bay, WI                                          |
| <b>June 16-19, 2016</b>       | <b>LWVUS Convention</b>                                                                  |

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

## Voter Services Update

J. Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

Numerous opportunities to help with registration are coming up. We will be at B.A.B.E.S and community health facilities—as well as a number of others.

Tuesday, February 16, is the primary election for the April 5<sup>th</sup> election. Spring elections are always important because the open positions are critical to the running of our local communities. There are two contested alderperson seats for the City of Appleton and a mayoral race. Forums will be set up for March for these. More information will be coming once details are confirmed. Also on the ballot are Appleton City Attorney, Appleton Mayor, Outagamie County Board



positions, Court of Appeals, Appleton School Board, Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Circuit Court.

It is important for the spring elections to assist as many citizens as possible to have appropriate government-issued ID so they can vote. Look for LWV “Bring It” signs on Valley Transit busses and in waiting areas!

These were developed with the Appleton and Winnebago County Leagues. 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 [JJKlim@new.rr.com](mailto:JJKlim@new.rr.com) or call 920-830-2919.

# League considers many lively issues

Gayle Hardt VP—Programs

Each January the League of Women Voters of Appleton convenes its members for the purpose of program planning for the upcoming year. This meeting, called *Lively Issues*, provides opportunity for our

reached consensus of opinion that the focus of the current study concentrate on the City of Appleton's downtown and area neighborhoods.

The suggestions offered for local study,



membership to suggest and discuss issues that our local league may want to study. The league has a tradition of issue study that leads to advocacy for that issue. We undertake each study in an unbiased manner, come to consensus on the issue, and adopt it as one of our program positions.

On Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 21 members attended the Lively Issues meeting to offer suggestions for study and action in 2016 –

2017. The agenda included Irene Strohbeen who provided an update on the LWVUS program entitled

*Money in Politics* and an update on the LWVWI's work to update its Urban Policy position. Shirley Strange gave an overview of the current local study on Land Use Planning and Urban Development. The local study group's work will continue into 2017 due to the scope of the study. Following discussion of the overwhelming breadth of topics and issues that could be examined, members

action, and programming were many. Ideas for programming included the following topics: encouraging and educating citizens to run for political office, examining immigration and the system of services for refugees, learning about the county alternative court system and mental health delivery system. Discussion included recommendations for action on state legislation related to storm water runoff and ground water linked to surface water as well as potential changes at

the state that could impact the Fox River corridor. An update of our local league's position on education was

recommended for study as the current position is ten years old. Recommended for non-study was an update to our position on PCB's which was a regional study undertaken with neighboring leagues. The recommendations from Lively Issues will be presented to the board for review and forwarded to the membership for adoption at the annual meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.



# Your League planning for the future

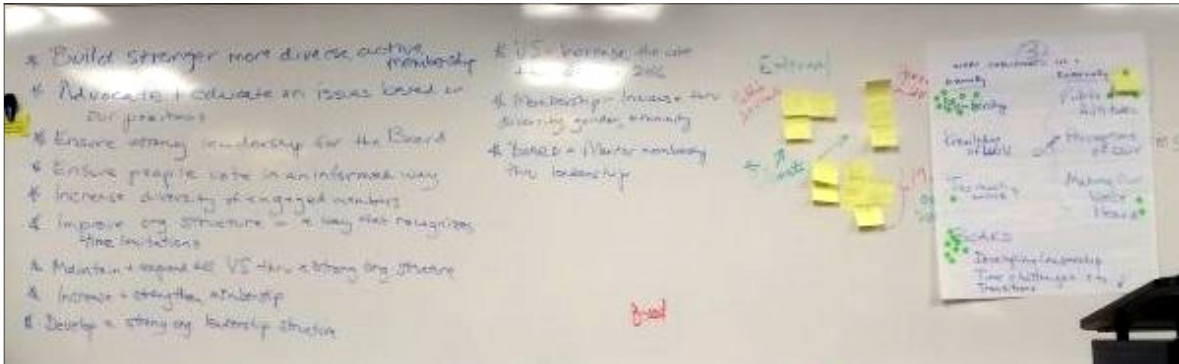
Cindy Fallona

On January 28<sup>th</sup> a group of Appleton League past and present board members gathered to begin the process of creating a strategic plan.

The group included Miriam Douglas, Cathy Thompson, Jackie Klimaszewski, Shirley

the session, with members generating several goals and final thoughts.

The board will follow up to turn the goals into a formal strategic plan and a final report to all League members.



Lots of post-it notes and poster paper lead to goals and final thoughts

Strange, Stephanie Malaney, Cindy Fallona, Marti Hemwall, Penny Robinson, Barbara Kelly, Sara Companik, Irene Stroben, Beth English, Gayle Hardt, and Cindy Fallona.

Jan Quinlan did an outstanding job of facilitating the process and keeping everyone on task. The ideas flew fast and furious during



# National MIP Study involves local leagues

Irene Strobeen, Director – LWV Board

Every two years at the national convention, delegates have a chance to identify a topic for study in order for LWVUS to formulate a new or revised position. In 2014, the topic of campaign finance reform (*Money in Politics, MIP*) was selected, because the existing

position did not sufficiently address Supreme Court decisions that have affected campaign finance law, such as Citizens United as well as other cases.

The key issue being addressed deals with how

the First Amendment applies to political campaigns: should the rights of individuals and organizations to express their freedom of speech through campaign financing be protected? Under what circumstances?

The LWVUS MIP study committee conducted a thorough study and created numerous reports on topics such as *Hard, Soft and Dark Money, The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Options for Reforming Money in Politics*, among many others. The full set of reports can be found at:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review> .

After studying the topic, the next step in the LWV study process is to collect consensus answers from each local League to questions

posed by the LWVUS committee. In order to answer the questions, some understanding of the topic is necessary, so study of the reports written by the committee is critical. An ad hoc committee



of the Appleton League composed of Penny Bernard-Schaber, Miriam Douglass, and Irene Strobeen, presented portions of the national study to members over three Wednesday evenings in January, resulting in consensus answers to almost all of the questions posed by the LWVUS committee. Thanks to all who attended the consensus meetings—over a dozen of our members attended all three meetings!

To see the combined PowerPoint slides used to present the information, see the LWV-Appleton website: [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

**Don't miss out on the latest news!**

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: League of Women Voters of Appleton**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)**

**League of Women Voters—Appleton  
Board Members 2015-2016**

**Board members serving two-year term**

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

**Nominating Committee serving one-year term**

Marti Hemwall		mhemwall@gmail.com
Marge Koepke		ok319@aol.com
Shirley Strange		shirleywstrange@gmail.com

**Continuing Board Members**

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

# LWVUS announces two new positions

Elizabeth McNamara, President LWVUS



February 4, 2016

Last week, the national Board met in Washington and among many other things, approved two new positions. The position on

Constitutional Conventions is particularly relevant at this time because the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) is close to achieving the number of states needed to require Congress to call a constitutional convention. **Our new**

**position calls for safeguards on any constitutional convention, so if your state legislature is**

**working on this issue, we strongly urge you to join the debate.**

LWVUS has just issued a press release explaining our new position and we encourage Leagues to tailor and use it with their state and regional media. Please let us know if you use it, or take other action on this issue.

We simply cannot afford to have a chaotic or unrepresentative process for amending the Constitution. Before we head into uncharted territory that could affect our basic principles of government and our individual rights, we need to make sure some basic rules are in

place. **Any calls for a constitutional convention must have built-in protections to ensure it is not hijacked by a small minority.**

The two new issue positions were part of Key Structures of Democracy. The positions are based on consensus reached by the 246 local and state Leagues and ILOs who participated in [the Constitutional Amendment Process study](#).

**We now have a position outlining considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals and a position calling for safeguards that must be in place to**

**govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.**

Thank you to the Leagues from 46 states that

participated in the study and a special thanks to the [Constitutional Amendment Process study committee](#) headed by Pat Donath of the LWVUS Board. Because of all of your work, the League is tooled to help shape the course of important public policy decisions now and well into the future.

More information at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)



**To find the legislator representing you in Madison, go to [legis.wisconsin.gov/](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/) and enter your address in the box on the right.**