

LWV



The *informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



<http://www.lwvappleton.org/>
P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912

April-May 2016
(920) 738-7766

Mark your calendars and make your reservations!

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! Annual Meeting is May 19th

Gayle Hardt, V-P Programs

The League of Women Voters of Appleton will hold their annual membership meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at Fox Banquets and Rivertyme Catering, 111 Kimball Street, Appleton. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with social networking and cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. with the annual meeting starting at 6:45 p.m.



Reservations may be made online at www.lwvappleton.org or by mailing the registration form included in this newsletter. **The deadline for registration is Friday, May 13th.** Members will receive materials requiring input and vote by April 19th. This is your League! Be involved! Join us on May 19th! Why wait until the last minute. Get this important event on your calendar, and register now!

League faces challenges as it celebrates successes

Sephanie Malaney, President

Congratulations to all our members who ran for election. As we end this year's work, a big thank you goes to league members who studied position statements, held a successful Women's Equality Day and candidate

forums, presented educational programs, and assisted with voter registration. All of your energy and enthusiasm are appreciated. The board and members also recognize that our work can strain our membership resources.

(Continued on page 2)

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Changes needed to carry out our mission

This strain was felt as the nominating committee was searching for new board members last year. So starting with that challenge, the current board began the process of creating a strategic plan to identify our goals and resources to effectively carry out for our mission.

The strategic plan will be shared at the annual meeting. Our plan should give better job descriptions for board portfolios. It is expected that there will be some Bylaws changes to reflect this work. Although challenging, I believe that this work shows we are a responsive league that will continue to carry out our mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

League of Women Voters of Appleton

2016

Gayle Hardt, V-P Programs

Thursday, May 5, 2016

7:00 p.m.

**Appleton Public Library
Room C**

GETTING SMART ON JUSTICE: “Building a System-Wide Framework Using Evidence-Based Decision Making in the Justice System”

Judge John Des Jardins & Bernie Vetrone, Director, Criminal Justice Treatment Services This presentation will provide information about a broad-based group of citizens in Outagamie County working on a plan to change the way persons are processed, evaluated, treated and incarcerated in Outagamie County. Outagamie County is one of 18 counties nationwide selected by the National Institute of Corrections for this project. Background story in Post-Crescent: <http://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/local/2015/03/23/outagamie-county-chosen-national-justice-project/70341264/>

Thursday, May 19, 2016

**Fox Banquets &
Rivertyme Catering**

111 East Kimball St.

League of Women Voters of Appleton Annual Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Social with Cash Bar

6:00 p.m. – Dinner (Entrée: Chicken Florentine. Special diet needs honored if noted with registration.)

6:45 p.m. – Annual Meeting

Cost including gratuity: \$22.00

Registration deadline: Friday, May 13th

June 3-5, 2016

**Landmark Resort
Egg Harbor, WI**

LWVWI Annual Meeting

“A Matter of Perspective: New Viewpoints, New Voters, New Election Environment”. Info and registration at: www.lwvwi.org

June 16-19, 2016

Washington D.C.

LWVUS Convention

7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 5th

League sponsors GETTING SMART ON JUSTICE

Gayle Hardt, V-P Programs

The League is sponsoring a presentation, *Building a System-Wide Framework Using Evidence-Based Decision Making in the Justice System*, by Judge John Des Jardins of Outagamie County Circuit Court Branch VII and Bernie Vetrone, Director of Criminal Justice Treatment Services . It is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Appleton Public Library, Room C. Members and friends of the League are encouraged to attend.

Social science research suggests the justice system in the past has endangered community safety and increased criminal

recidivism by not focusing on proper criminogenic needs and risks when detaining and sentencing defendants.

With the help of the National Institute of Corrections, a broad-based group of citizens in Outagamie County is working on a plan to change the way persons are processed, evaluated, treated and incarcerated in Outagamie County. Judge Des Jardins and Mr. Vetrone will share the group's findings and next steps to improve the justice system. Outagamie County is one of 18 counties nationwide selected by the National Institute of Corrections for this project.

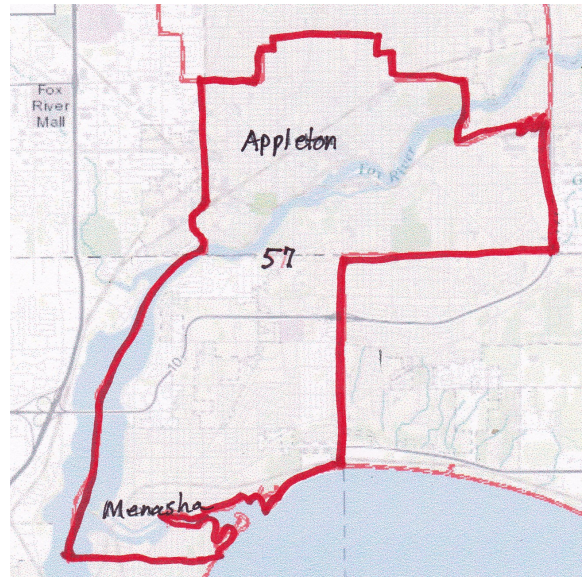
League speakers' bureau needs opportunities to speak

Sara Companik

LWV Appleton needs the names of organizations to contact for presentations on redistricting. We have the speakers but need opportunities to explain redistricting. Please contact the League if you have a group which would like to hear the State League's Power Point on the redistricting process: (920) 738-7766 or <http://www.lwvappleton.org/contact-us/>

The Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections held an informational hearing on Legislative Redistricting on April 1, 2016. Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI executive director, spoke on the League's position at this invitation-only hearing.

League members are eager to educate others on this topic. Speakers' Bureau presenters include Jacqueline Klimaszewski, Richard Schoenbohm, and Irene Strohbeen.



For other maps of state and congressional districts, go to:
<http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>



***League of Women Voters of Appleton
Annual Meeting & Dinner***

Thursday, May 19, 2016

5:30 p.m. Social with Cash Bar

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Entrée - Chicken Florentine

Special Dietary Needs Honored With Advance Notice

6:45 p.m. Annual Meeting

Fox Banquets and Rivertyme Catering
111 East Kimball Street, Appleton, WI

Cost including gratuity: \$22.00 per person

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 13, 2016

Registration and payment available online at www.lwvappleton.org

Or mail reservation form with check payable to League of Women Voters of Appleton
to:

Gayle Hardt, 4707 Dogwood Court, Appleton, WI 54914
gayle.hardt@gmail.com, 920-731-9547 or 920-470-9773

RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____

GUEST(S) NAME(S): _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ SPECIAL DIETARY REQUEST: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Your voice is needed NOW!

Local study focuses on downtown Appleton

Shirley Strange

The local study committee has been meeting regularly since November 2015. The Committee has narrowed the focus of the study from Urban Policy and Land Use Planning to *Downtown Appleton*.

Coincidentally, and to our advantage, the city of Appleton began its process of updating the 2010-2030 Downtown Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2010). The intent of the update is “to create a shared vision for the City’s future”. We were fortunate to come in at the beginning of the updating process and have been actively engaged, attending meetings and consulting with city employees and stake holders.

The Mayor and the Steering Committee are inviting public input. This is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to have your voice heard. **The study committee strongly urges you to participate.** The consulting firm SEH is listening very carefully and tabulating all input.

WHERE CAN I ADD MY VOICE? Check out the website:

<http://www.envisionappleton.org/>

The **Get Involved** tab on the top bar will take you to an interactive issues map. Click on a specific spot on the map to make a

comment for that location. Click on the icons below to see other comments.

The last sentence of the paragraph also states that you can make a general comment. Navigate to this page to write a general comment. You can go directly there using the following link. http://www.communityremarks.com/seh/general_edit.php

Other opportunities for public participation:

Monday, May 16, 9am-10am-Guided Public Site Tour of Downtown & Riverfront, Meet at Houdini Plaza

Monday, May 16, 6pm-8pm, Community Meeting #1, Issues/Ideas/Guiding Principles, Atlas Mill Building, Gathering Room.

Tuesday, May 17, 9am-11am, Bike Tour of Appleton’s Trail System, Meeting place TBA.

Tuesday, May 17, 12:30pm-1:30pm, Community Meeting #2, Review Alternative Concepts with Downtown Subcommittee and City Staff, City Center Board Room,

Wednesday, May 18, 5pm-7:30pm, Community Meeting #3, Open House Review of Preliminary Master Plan. Two 30-minute presentations at 5:00 PM, City Center Board Room and Foyer.

ENVISION APPLETON

Add your voice to the *Envision Appleton* Interactive Map:

<http://www.communityremarks.com/seh/index.php>

Make a general comment:

http://www.communityremarks.com/seh/general_edit.php

Voter Services Update

Voter registration, candidate forums, & Juneteenth

J. Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

Voter registration assistance is on-going and we had a busy month in March. In the week of March 7-14, the team **helped 163 citizens send in their registration**, provided forms for eight others and information about registration and voting to 13 more.

We also held a candidate forum on March 15, with candidates for District 4 and District 8. There were 55 in attendance, and 109 attended the mayoral forum that followed. The *Voter Guides* from the questions generated at the forum were posted a week before the last election.

There is much more to do! We hope to have voter registration activities throughout the summer and into October. We should have a presence at Juneteenth, which is June 19, at City Park, from noon to 6:00. I will make arrangements with the organizers if I get five to six volunteers to work that date.

With sufficient volunteers, we could also do weekly or monthly registration assistance sessions in conjunction with *Unidos Por un Futuro Mejor-Fox Cities*. It is important to set up regular opportunities so that people can get them into their schedules—it would be great to set up a consistent night at the library. If you are interested in helping out with this, I will set up training sessions.

411 is a program for helping inform voters

about candidates in upcoming elections—part of informing voters on the stance of candidates on important issues. If anyone likes working with



computer programs, I could use some help with 411 acquisition and uploading of information—training provided!

Look for LWV **Bring It** signs on Valley Transit busses and in waiting areas! These were developed with the Appleton and Winnebago County Leagues to remind voters to bring their ID to the polls. 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 or call 920-830-2919.

Thanks!!

Volunteers are needed for Juneteenth (June 19) and our ongoing mission to help people register to vote. Contact Jacqui Klimaszewski at JKlim@new.rr.com or call 920-830-2919.

Don't miss out on the latest news!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: League of Women Voters of Appleton

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: 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

Five reasons I love working with League members

Penny Robinson—Legislative Director

1. I learn amazing things the League does.

Before joining the League of Women Voters I had no real understanding about what all the League does. Originally I joined because I heard LWV had done a study of a Regional Transit Authority, which was related to the work I was doing with ESTHER.

Gradually I became aware of the full gamut of League activities, including the complexities of registering to vote and the new Voter ID requirement. I learned that the League trains us to be *Election Observers*, which I consider a special privilege and responsibility. I have also found the educational presentations VERY interesting, but what I enjoy most is meeting these educated and informed women who care deeply about our democracy and our community.

I also had no idea about the Observer Corps but understand that we can't really have a transparent local government if someone isn't there to observe what the Common Council, the County Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Education are doing.

2. I meet amazing women who work locally and at the state level.

As legislative director, I needed to learn about legislation of interest to us, so I joined the LWVWI Legislative Committee, and then I began to see many of the ways the League is active locally and at the state level. I had no idea that the Executive Director and committee members followed the budget and dozens of bills, and made the League's positions known in a variety of ways: registering to support or oppose bills, writing letters and opinion

editorials, testifying at hearings, and calls to action. The League also collaborates with other groups and occasionally joins in a lawsuit.

3. I am learning about the power of the national network.

The League at the national level has even more power, considering the support of leagues from all over the country. Earlier this year, members of our Appleton League worked on consensus questions for the national study on *Money in Politics*. I am beginning to see how important my annual dues are, not only

to support our local league, but the whole network.

4. I am learning how relevant the League is locally.

I might not have known about the current *Mobility Study* (downtown Appleton) and the work to update the *Appleton Comprehensive Plan* if I weren't participating in the current study. The flow of downtown auto traffic as well as bike lanes and access to the Fox River are of interest to most of us.

I am very aware that we all struggle with balancing our active life in the community with personal and family needs. My number one struggle is prioritizing

and creating balance in my life, but I try to look for the greatest need.

5. You give me hope.

Sometimes it's easy to become discouraged, but getting to know other members who are well informed and care about our local community, good government and democracy, gives me a lot of hope. Being able to contribute my little bit energizes and inspires me.



As an election observer, I spoke with Kelli after she voted with her five children. Permission granted to publish.

LWVUS Convention 2016 to recommend program and updated position

Campaign for Making Democracy Work and Money in Politics

LWVUS Update, April 14, 2016 (Excerpts) Elizabeth McNamara, President

Coming out of our spring meeting, the national Board is announcing the program for the upcoming biennium – *Campaign for Making Democracy Work®* – that will be recommended at Convention 2016 and also announcing an updated position on *Money in Politics* that will replace our current Campaign Finance position. Over the coming weeks, we will post the report of the Bylaws committee and the full LWVUS Budget that will be presented at Convention. As part of that Budget, the Board is recommending no increase in the Per Member Payment (PMP) which will remain at \$32.00 for the biennium....

This has been a busy biennium. In addition to the important work that the League does in every election and the dedicated effort in every state and locality to influence policy through education and advocacy, League members have completed a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, an update of our position on Money in Politics and provided input to a task force on redistricting that has resulted in a recommended concurrence at Convention which will allow all fifty states to work for essential reform.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2016-2018

The LWVUS Board recommends a League-wide *Campaign for Making Democracy Work®*.

This comprehensive program would build on our accomplishments as part of the 2014-16, Key Structures of Democracy Program. It would engage Leagues nationwide in advancing core democracy issues.

- Voter protection and mobilization
- Election reform
- Money in politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting

including Concurrence on the Floor of Convention with the Redistricting position proposed by the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force:

LWVUS Position on Redistricting (Brief Summary)

Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. (More at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/lwvus-proposed-program-2016-2018>)