

# LWV The *informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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

P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912

December 2016

(920) 738-7766

## Kathy Groat to be honored at holiday brunch

The Making Democracy Work Award will be presented to Kathy Groat at the LWV Holiday Brunch on Sat, Dec 10. Details about the December 2nd deadline to register are on page 3. Following are excerpts from the nominations by Debra Dillenberg, Nadine Miller, and Helen Nagler.

Because of her dynamic inspiration and involvement in shaping local government, Kathy has been a great influence to all citizens of our community. Kathy has significantly made an impact through her unparalleled contributions in working above and beyond, helping to empower people and mentor individuals to become community advocates by way of involvement at the local and state government level.

Kathy Groat understands what is needed for democracy to flourish: *Basic human needs must be met so that individuals can be empowered to improve their lives and build strong community.* Until basic needs are met,

government participation is not a priority.

As a city council member and county supervisor, her goal was to encourage and mentor others, particularly women, to run for elected office. When workshops designed to get people to run for public office didn't produce many viable candidates, Kathy organized key community members to recruit qualified persons to run for local offices because that has proven the most effective method.

Since that time, Outagamie County has not had an election in which there is no one on the ballot, in contrast with surrounding counties. In fact, nearly a dozen individuals have served in public office, thanks to Kathy's efforts.

Kathy's commitment to bipartisanship in local government helped her build strong working relationships in the community, which led to many successful efforts.

### LWV Holiday Brunch

Date: Sat, Dec, 10

Time: 10:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Place: Fox Banquets & Rivertyme Catering, 111 E Kimball St  
Appleton

Details on pg. 3

# Making Democracy Work award to be given at holiday brunch

Deb Dillenberg, Appleton Housing Authority Executive Director, says, “Kathy got me interested in government. She made sure elected officials knew the value of our program.”

Helen Nagler, who served on the Appleton Common Council and the Outagamie County Board with Kathy, says, “... I used her as a sounding board for ideas to help keep me out of trouble. She had been a long-time advocate for people to have resources for good citizenship.”



Kathy’s commitment to community service began early. As a junior and senior in high school, she was an emergency substitute teacher. Her government experience also began in high school, when she processed tax bills for the city of Stoughton treasurer.

After moving to Appleton, Kathy was at the forefront of many civic improvements as a volunteer, social service professional or elected official. Her recruitment efforts for local offices have created an exponential multiplier effect in our community. Much of Kathy’s work goes unheralded, but she had made a significant impact improving the quality of life and civic involvement in the Fox Cities.

The following was listed to describe how she has impacted the Fox Cities community and mobilized others in this effort:

- Co-founded adoption agency, Focus on Families, to provide flexible services to children abandoned in Nicaragua. Later became a general adoption agency.

- Along with others, organized the first Planned Parenthood in the Fox Valley in the

1970s. She volunteered as interim director during a transition period.

- Worked part time for the Appleton Area School District placing and supporting low-income and disabled youth in jobs to foster skills and long-term employability.

- Protected rights of families, persons of color and those with disabilities under fair housing laws as director of the Northeast Wisconsin Fair Housing Authority, subsequently Appleton Housing Authority.

- Served on the Appleton Common Council for a decade, including as council president.

*An unknown mentor to her peers.*

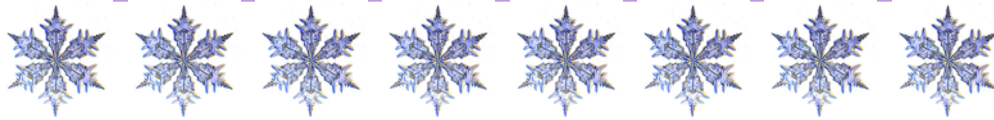
Accomplishments include economic redevelopment (blight reductions)

program that was successful on south and north sides of the city. Supported the Performing Arts Center, helped stop the Zwicker site from being developed into a fast food and car wash location, and instead supported mixed-use apartments and retail. Promoted neighborhood revitalization in the urban center.

- County Board Supervisor for many years; committees included Finance and Health and Human Services. Helped forge compromise to pass overdue Space and Security Needs building project. Pushed for domestic partnership benefits for county employees,

- Appointed by both Democratic and Republican governors to the Serve Wisconsin Board, including terms as board president. Serve Wisconsin encouraged citizens to engage in community service, and administered AmeriCorps programs placing youth in community service jobs. Wrote application form herself, including

“I believe every citizen should give some manner of service to her community.”



*You Are Cordially Invited to Attend...*

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

**10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Saturday, December 10, 2016,**

Fox Banquets & Rivertype Catering

111 East Kimball Street, Appleton, WI

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE...**

**Presentation of Making Democracy Work Award  
and**

**Keynote Speaker - Matthew Rothschild, Executive Director**

**Wisconsin Democracy Campaign**

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is a nonprofit watchdog group working for over thirty years for clean, open and honest government. Prior to joining the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign at the start of 2015, Matt worked at *The Progressive* magazine for 32 years. His opinion pieces have run in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *LA Times*, the *Miami Herald* and a host of other newspapers. He has appeared on *Nightline*, *NPR*, *C-SPAN*, and the *O'Reilly Factor*. Living in Wisconsin, you may have heard him on The Mic 92.1 or on WPR.

**Cost including gratuity: \$17.50 per person**

Plated Brunch: vegetarian quiche, fresh seasonal fruit, homemade scone, beverage

Special dietary needs honored with advance notice.

**Registration Deadline: Friday, December 2nd, 2016**

Registration available online at <http://www.lwvappleton.org/onlineRegistration/>

Or send check payable to League of Women Voters of Appleton with registration form below to: Gayle Hardt, 4707 Dogwood Court, Appleton, WI 54914  
gayle.hardt@gmail.com, 920-731-9547 (h) or 920-470-9773 (c)

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NAME:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_ SPECIAL DIETARY REQUEST:

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

# Matt Rothschild to speak at annual holiday brunch

Gayle Hardt—VP Program

The League of Women Voters of Appleton Annual Holiday Brunch is scheduled for Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. at Fox Banquets & Rivertyme Catering, 111 East Kimball Street, Appleton



Matt Rothschild

Kathy Groat with the *Making Democracy Work Award*, the program includes Keynote Speaker, Matthew Rothschild, Executive Director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

**Registrations are due by Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.** You'll find more information on the registration form on page 3.

Please plan to attend, and invite friends to join you.

In addition to presenting

From Stephanie Malaney

## President speaks at public hearing

Our very busy fall has witnessed some outstanding programs. Voter Services has been very busy as well. I would say it is like the story of starfish being thrown back into the sea one at a time; we can't do it all, but many individuals have been helped.

During the quarterly president's meeting, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin President Deb Cronmiller acknowledged voter

registration obstacles. Some of the obstacles

have been reported in the news, and others

are more obscure, but we know at this election more than ever they would happen. A big thank you to all who did their part at the polls on Nov 8, as well as before the election.



President spoke at Appleton public hearing on several budget issues, including support for Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator position.

By the numbers, the *Gear Up the Vote* van traveled 63,000 miles, met and worked with 5,000 people, and registered 500 people. At press time, it had one

more stop at Wisconsin Dells.

## Mark your calendar for *Lively Issues*

Gayle Hardt—VP Program

Every January the League of Women Voters of Appleton convenes its membership for the purpose of program planning for the upcoming year. This meeting, called *Lively Issues*, provides opportunity for members to suggest and discuss issues that are important to our community and have potential for a

league study. *Lively Issues* is always informative and energetic. You won't want to miss this important gathering.

### ***Lively Issues***

Saturday, January 21  
10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
Appleton Library, Rm C

# A huge thank you to Voter Services

J. Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

Editor's note: *A great big shout-out thank you to all those who volunteered with Voter Services. It has taken many volunteers to stage several candidate forums and a multitude of voter information/registration assistance opportunities. A special thank you goes to Jacqui Klimaszewski for organizing all of this.*

## VOTER REGISTRATION TOTALS

### October to Nov. 2:

Completed Registrations mailed in: 25  
Provided forms, partially completed: 23  
Information: 14

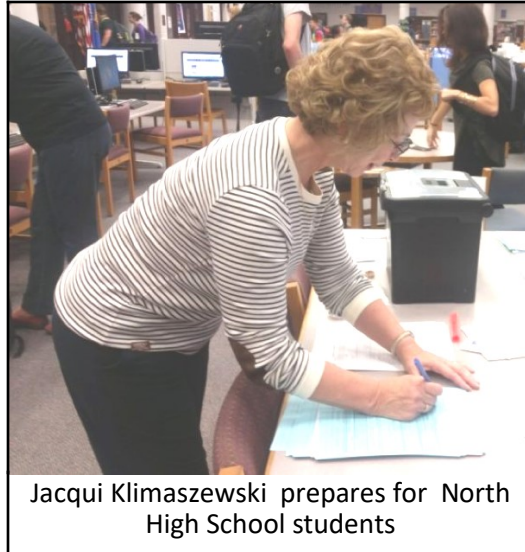
### Year to Date (June to 11/2):

Completed Registrations mailed in: 164  
Provided forms, partially completed: 121  
Information: 31  
Provided Absentee forms: 5

### newVoices:

The newVoices October 22 concert was entitled *Voice Your Vote – The Power of One* and the message is participatory government.

We presented a pre-conference presentation (including history of the right to vote, the struggle involved and the importance of the down-ballot) and there was an on-stage



Jacqui Klimaszewski prepares for North High School students

opportunity to promote voting as well. **Information Sessions Held:**

- Oct. 12 – SOAR Fox Cities – 6:30- Spoke with 10 people regarding the voting process.

- Oct. 20 – AAUW Book Fair—information table from 2:00-7:00.
- Oct. 28—AAUW Book Fair-Information table from 2:30-7:00.
- Nov. 1 – COTS-4:30-6:00—open table with voter Information.

The following notice appeared in the North High School student newsletter!

## *LWV registering students to vote during IE time today*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, will be helping students register to vote before school and will stay until 10:15.

“We will still help them, as long as we have people coming in,” noted Jacqueline Klimaszewski, a volunteer with The League of Women Voters. “We work with each of the high schools and come back for each election,” said Ms. Klimaszewski.

Those who are eligible to vote should take advantage of this opportunity and register

before Oct. 19, which is the day mail in registrations are no longer accepted. If students register to vote after Oct. 19, they will have to go into the city clerk’s office or take their form with them on voting day.

“Our whole government is based on participation, that’s what democracy is about. If you have a participatory government and people aren’t participating, that’s not going to work out very well,” said Ms. Klimaszewski.

For more information, students can visit <http://myvote.wi.gov>

# The November 8<sup>th</sup> Election – from the poll worker’s perspective

J. Klimaszewski

What a busy day! It was great to see so-o-o many citizens taking advantage of their right to vote! Yes, it is a very long day (from being at City Hall at 6:00 am to pick up absentee ballots to returning there at 10:30 pm with all the counted ballots and forms, forms, forms.

What made the day worthwhile was seeing participatory government in action and working with the other dedicated poll workers.

How did I get started as a poll worker? The League has long been supportive of the actual work at the polls through training observers, accumulating the information state-wide and both making suggestions for improving the process and celebrating the procedures that work. The ultimate goal is to protect the integrity of the process and reinforce the faith of voters in the system.

As an observer, I first became amazed at the amount of organization and knowledge

necessary for the system to run smoothly.

After observing for hours, it became apparent that what was really needed was somebody to pitch in and help—which I couldn’t do as an observer.

This is how many League members get involved—five Appleton League members were observers this year and there was a Winnebago County League member observing at the poll at which I was Chief Inspector. It’s always good to see another League member watching the process.



The training provides insights into the important checks and balances that make our voting process in Wisconsin so strong. While all the forms and paperwork can get tedious, it’s so important to the integrity of the process.

The other gratifying part is when you see someone coming in to vote that you had actually helped register earlier in the year! All those voter registration drives do help out—but based on the number of citizens utilizing same-day voter registration, we still have a lot of work to do!

## An election observer

Shirley Strange

Across Wisconsin, I was one of 200 election observers covering over 500 polling locations. I had two assignments in the city of Appleton. Our role as election observers was to look at the polling place and the voting process for compatibility with election laws and ease of voting. I saw hard working poll workers, informed and organized election inspectors, and a pretty steady line of voters at my assignments. I was very proud to be representing the League of Women Voters in my role as an Election Observer.

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## Observers do make a difference!

Penny Robinson

As an election observer, I informed at least three voters that they could ask for a provisional ballot. As a result, the chief inspector called the city clerk’s office at least three times to learn about provisional ballots, and three people completed provisional ballots.

## 22 attended membership kick-off

Elizabeth Laux, Director—Membership

Thursday, November 3, was the Membership Kickoff. First, I'd like to thank Shirley and Dave Strange for opening and sharing their beautiful home with everyone who attended. The venue was perfect. Second, a resounding **thank you** to everyone who attended. I feel confident in calling the event a success for the 22 individuals who attended. It is my hope that this is the beginning of a revitalization of the social involvement of the League that seems to have faded a little over the years.

While we did briefly take care of some business with announcements, the general theme of the get-together was to socialize, re-connect and, as well, meet new people. There was a delightful spread of food, beverages, wonderful conversation and mingling that lasted beyond the two-hour window originally scheduled. The ambiance was marvelous.

The Membership Committee will be meeting to discuss future events. And, in the future, don't



Jam Quinlan & Shirley Strange explain library "stories"

worry if you can't make one of these events right at the start or if you can only stop by for a minutes. An open window to what your schedule allows is the beauty of these gatherings. The Membership Committee looks forward to seeing everyone at future events. Anyone is welcome to these events: invite a friend!

## Six members attended state issues briefing, Nov 19th



From left to right: Sara Companik, Jeanne Roberts, Irene Strobeen, Shirley Strange, Penny Robinson, Stephanie Malaney



**6361 Miles by Gear Up to Vote Van**

**201 Volunteers**

**5035 Interactions**

**507 Voters Registered**

**31 Stops Across Wisconsin**

