

LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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

Email

January-February 2017

P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912

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Plan to attend *LIVELY ISSUES* membership meeting

Mark your calendar

Gayle Hardt—VP Program

Each 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.

**January 28, 2017
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Appleton Public Library, Room C**

During the meeting this year, the committee charged with reviewing our current position statement on education will provide a report on their findings and recommendations. “Lively Issues” is always informative and energetic. Don’t miss it!
Other LWV Appleton events are on page 3.

From LWV Appleton President Stephanie Malaney

Online voter registration set to go live in January

As we move in 2017, LWV will continue to focus on registration drives. Our mission of assisting citizens with voter’s registration takes on a new twist. LWV WI now has more information on the OVR or Online Voter’s Registration that was discussed at the November Issues Briefing. Here is what is now known as of the end of December 2016.

Electronic registration will use the www.myvote.wi.gov platform

Testing began on December 15 - but LWV WI has not seen any of the testing. The Electronic Voter Registration was scheduled to go LIVE on January 9. Voters will be matched on four variables

(Continued on next page)

League will continue to assist with voter registration

linked to the DMV database:

1. The voter's driver license or ID number
2. Name
3. Date of Birth
4. Zip code

The other methods of either submitting a paper registration form or starting the registration on www.myvote.wi.gov and then printing out the form will continue as we've

been doing it this year. In both cases, a hard-copy Proof of Registration will be required to be sent along or delivered with the registration form to the clerk.

SRD's (Special Registration Deputies) will no longer be used when this system goes LIVE. SRDs will no longer officially sign a voter's registration form., but LWV will continue to assist people to register.

LWV membership makes us strong locally, state-wide & nationally—deadline to join is NOW

Elizabeth Laux—Membership Director

Greetings! Please help us welcome New Members Sandy Hubert and Georgia Bretl – more about them in the next newsletter.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season spent with family and friends! I know this is a very busy time of the year and sometimes things we plan to do slip our minds. If you haven't sent your membership payment in for the Appleton League there's still time! You can join and pay on-line at www.lwvappleton.org and click on the JOIN button. Or you can print a membership form from the website www.lwvappleton.org Make your check payable to "LWV Appleton" and mail to PO Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912. Remember, up to \$75 of your dues is tax deductible.

In addition to voter registration, your membership helps the Appleton League achieve our goals of outreach, education,

advocacy, and helps us make a positive impact in our community. Our strength also comes from the network of leagues across and state and nation. Look for the articles in this newsletter on what your dues accomplish across the state and at the national level.



The Appleton League offers many opportunities for members to make a difference. Voting rights, education, and registration are our signature priorities. We also advocate on issues based on our positions. Local, state and national

positions can be found at <http://www.lwvappleton.org/positions/>

In addition, we always need help in strengthening the organization through the following: Women's Equality Day, nominations, *Making Democracy Work Award*, membership, Budget Committee, programs, Observer Corps, natural resources, communications, and our studies.

For information on any of these opportunities, email league.appleton@yahoo.com or call us at 920-738-7766.

2017 CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS—LWV APPLETON

SAT JAN 28	10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.	Appleton Library Room C	League of Women Voters of Appleton “Lively Issues” Meeting
WED FEB 15	6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.	Appleton Public Library Room C	Educational Forum on Area Refugees Tami McGlaughlin World Relief
TUES FEB 21			Spring Primary Election
WED MAR 8	6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.	Appleton Public Library Room C	Update: Human Trafficking in the Fox Valley – What’s Being Done About It Jonathan Cloud Outagamie County Human Sex Trafficking Steering Committee
MARCH Date TBD		TBD	Aldermanic Candidate Forum
TUE APR 4			Spring Election
WED APR 5	6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.	Appleton Public Library Room A	ROC Wisconsin Restoring our Communities in Wisconsin Presentation on Prison Reform Sister Mary Barbieur Sister Mary Jo Selinsky Sandy Putman
THURS MAY 18	5:30 p.m. – Social, 6:00 - Dinner, 6:45 – Meeting	TBD	LWV of Appleton Annual Meeting
JUNE 9-10			State League of Women Voters Annual Meeting Green Bay, WI



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 25, 2017

NE Wisconsin Budget Action Workshop

Join your Fox Valley friends for a fun, social and informative day as we together learn to:

- Expand our understanding of the Wisconsin Budgeting Process
- Learn how you and/or your organization can effectively present your budgetary concerns to our state representatives

Place: Plumbers and Steamfitters UA Local 400
2700 Northridge Drive, Kaukauna

Time: 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Cost: \$15 per person (Lunch is Included)

More details will be coming in the near future regarding the agenda, speakers and the registration process.

STRONGER VOICES BUILD POWER!

Presented by the Wisconsin Leadership Development Project (WiLD).
Contact Carol Lenz for more information at clenz@aol.com or 920-585-0583.

From the desk of Debra Cronmiller, LWVWI Board President

Your dues at work across the state of Wisconsin

Editor's Note: From the \$75 each LWV Appleton member pays for dues, the per member assessment (PMA) for the state is \$30 (\$15 for students or "household members") and PMP to LWV-US is \$32/\$16. Much of this newsletter tries to help you understand how our dues make us strong locally, state-wide, and nationally. This particular article is from the state newsletter, the December 2016 FORWARD

Experts will be parsing the meaning of this extraordinary election year for a long time. One thing for certain is that the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin did not and will not let up on its mission to educate, assist and motivate voters.

With yet more restrictive voting laws in place this year, the state League boosted our voter service and advocacy to a new level. Our top activities included:

- The LWV Gear Up to Vote minivan drove 6,500 miles, visited 33 community events, engaged 209 local League volunteers, spoke with 5,000 people and registered more than 500 voters – which is just a fraction of the ongoing work of our local Leagues, which registered roughly 13,000 voters and provided information to 12,000 more.
- The League placed trained, volunteer election observers in hundreds of polling places around the state in the Presidential Primary and again on November 8. They gathered valuable information about how the new voting laws affected voters. They helped people who had been wrongly turned away for lack of documentation get a chance to vote.
- The League's election observation reports became key evidence in defense of voting rights in two federal court cases. In one



case, our executive director testified for 90 minutes about the findings of our observers. The League has filed friend-of-the-court briefs with the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in both cases.

- When we learned that hundreds of absentee ballots were at risk because of a new procedure that clerks had not been trained on, the League wrote to the Wisconsin Elections Commission calling for swift action to prevent the disenfranchisement of absentee voters and threatening legal action. The Commission promptly changed its policy, saving potentially thousands of absentee ballots from being tossed. ...

It is the unique combination of voter service and advocacy, carried out primarily by knowledgeable and committed volunteers, that sets the League apart from other organizations. Add to that a 96-year tradition of activism and a fierce commitment to nonpartisanship, and you have a grassroots organization which rises above the partisan swings of the day and gets things done.

We can expect that in the 2017-18 state legislature, the League's advocacy will be needed more than ever to stand up for voting rights, a responsible state budget and protection of our natural resources. ...

More about your dues at work across the state

LWVWI in the news - informing, assisting, protecting voters

Andrea Kaminsky, LWVWI Executive Director

The League filed a brief January 4 in the Wisconsin partisan gerrymandering case, offering possible remedies for the voting district maps that have been ruled unconstitutional. The League's brief suggests a few ways to redraw the maps while avoiding the extreme partisanship that led to the ruling.

The League's *Gear Up to Vote* minivan tour was featured by a pair of young French journalists in their own 23-state tour of the United States. For a documentary marking the end of the Obama Presidency, they interviewed League volunteers and staff at our fair booth in Wisconsin Rapids, along with some people who stopped to register or ask questions about voting. This video opens with the Wisconsin Rapids tour stop. The full documentary, in English and French, has an innovative format including quiz questions!



In January Wisconsin's new Online Voter Registration system will go into effect, and that marks an end to the Special Registration Deputies program under which the League has registered Wisconsin voters for decades.

The League has noted that while the new system will make registration much easier for many voters, the law unfortunately was written to make it more difficult for others to register.

We are developing new methods to assist voters, and you can be sure the League will not falter in our mission to help citizens become informed and prepared to vote.

The League released our election observation report from the November 2016 election, along with recommendations.

Read more about all these issues on the state website: www.lwvwi.org

State priorities for LWVWI Legislative Committee for 2017-2018

In light of the outcome of the Nov. elections, the committee set its priorities for the 2017-2018 legislative session as follows:

- ◆ Work with Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) on election administration to the extent possible and hold it accountable
- ◆ Promote free, fair and accessible elections in Wisconsin
- ◆ Promote nonpartisan redistricting reform
- ◆ Support and promote strong and equitable public education at all levels

- ◆ Promote protection of water and other natural resources
- ◆ Promote responsible transportation policies for the sake of public health
- ◆ Respond promptly to any discriminatory legislation or procedures

When the legislature is in session, the LWVWI Legislative Committee meets once a month to monitor budget and legislative activity and advise the executive director and support her in advocacy efforts.

Our dues hard at work at the national level

Grassroots action and public outcry work! Office of Congressional Ethics saved

Chris Carson, LWVUS President

If we've learned anything recently, it is that our campaign for *Making Democracy Work™ for All* will continue to be a long, hard fight on many fronts. The League is up for the challenge.

In the waning hours of the holiday weekend, Congressional leaders launched a late-night move to eviscerate the Office of Congressional Ethics. Following a massive public outcry, including the League's strongly

worded message, appearing in 300+ news articles: and letters to House leaders, Congressional Republicans backed down, at

least for now. Just a day later, tens of thousands of League activists took interest in our national call-in day to address President-elect Trump's unprecedented and

unconstitutional conflicts of interest. **The moral of the story is clear: grassroots action and public outcry work.** From voting rights to clean air, health care to money in politics, the League's core issues will be at the forefront of battles

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some alerts require an immediate or timely response. It saves time for you to receive alerts directly, rather than depending on state or local volunteers to forward these to you. We may occasionally forward ones we're really keen on, but it's much better for you to choose the issues you want to follow. **Sign up below for the latest news/alerts:**

<http://lww.org/get-involved> for national news/alerts
<http://www.lwwwi.org> for state news/alerts

in state houses and in Washington.

Watch out for our emails as other pressing issues come up.

Proud of how much we accomplished in 2016—STAYING CONNECTED

Chris Carson, President

Wylecia Wiggs Harris, CEO

[Closing the book on 2016], we find ourselves reflecting on all of the hard work we've done and are astonished at how much we have accomplished:

- ⇒ **Over 4 million voters used VOTE411**
- ⇒ **More than 35,000 media mentions**
- ⇒ **Winning critical court cases to protect voting rights**

Click below to see specifically what your dues are accomplishing at the national level.

http://forum.lww.org/sites/default/files/2016_end_of_the_year_message.pdf

STAY CONNECTED - ACTION ALERTS ON LWV ISSUES

To keep up with the important issues and receive action alerts from LWV US, go to <http://lww.org/get-involved>

You can choose the issues you want to follow, such as

MONEY IN POLITICS

HEALTH CARE

ENVIRONMENT

VOTING ISSUES

GUN SAFETY

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Union Edge

The League (national) is excited to partner with The Union Edge, the only nationally-syndicated labor talk radio program in the country. Starting in January 2017, League leaders will participate in regular radio segments to discuss voting rights, public

policy issues and advocacy, every first and third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm ET.



Notes from 2016 Issues Briefing

What DOES and does NOT improve voter turnout

Lessons of 2016 for Future Voter Advocacy

Presented by Michael Wagner, Associated Professor of School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Department of Political Science at UW-Madison

In Wisconsin some numbers

- 8% lower turnout, highest turnout in rural areas
- 66% turnout which was the lowest since 1966, population of African Americans down 11 %
- Major turnout decline- Milwaukee (-55,000), Racine, Kenosha
- Voters under 30 who make up 17% of voters were down 4%
- Record early voting up 21% -roughly 800,000 with the highest in Milwaukee, Dane, and Waukesha
- Highest primary turnout 47.5% since 1972
- Odd numbers: 2,929,009 votes for President, 2,947,049 votes for US senate, 2,495,471 votes for US representative

What DOES Improve Voter Turnout

- ⇒ Same day registration 9-14%
- ⇒ Canvassing
- ⇒ Social Pressure-early voting and same day registration
- ⇒ Partisanship
- ⇒ Knowledge- political and civic engagement

- ⇒ Interest in Politics- social structures hinder if not interested
- ⇒ Getting people interested in voting
- ⇒ Enthusiasm can increase turnout
- ⇒ Advertising
- ⇒ Negative emotions spur action, reactions causes voters to defend candidate

What Does NOT Improve Voter Turnout

- * Ease of voter registration except same day registration
- * Phone calls
- * Direct mailing

What Influences Voters

- ◇ Highly educated hardest to change, trained to argue
- ◇ Visual evidence is best way to get people to change their minds
- ◇ Voters don't always vote to their best economic interest
- ◇ Registered voters more likely to vote, habit forming
- ◇ It is estimated that 300,000 voters didn't have proper ID to vote
- ◇ It is unclear if that affected turnout, turnout down in states without voter ID as well
- ◇ Study to be done to examine Dane and Milwaukee Counties on who votes in 2008 and 2016

(Continued on next page)

ISSUES BRIEFING LWVWI—some final thoughts

Final Lessons from 2016

- ◆ Canvassing works
- ◆ Turning a person into a voter requires interest and knowledge
- ◆ People want to hear from candidates
- ◆ Institutional impediments are real, but their effects are unknown-special registration and Voter ID

Case for Driver Cards for Immigrants

Presented by Deb Fallon- LWV Beloit, Ruth Kalpak- President of Justice Overcoming Borders, Cecilia Ramirez-Coordinator of Latino Service Providers Coalition

Protecting our Natural Resources Through

Our Inter-League Organizations

Presented by Marge Palleon- LWV Ozaukee County and LWV Lake Michigan Region
Julie Arneith- LWV Greater Green Bay and LWV Lake Michigan Region
Ellen Rosborough- LWV Dane County and LWV Upper Mississippi Valley Region

Planning for Impact: Discussion Led by State Board Members and Staff

Serving voters after Special Registration
Deputies have been eliminated and Online Voter Registration is established.
Advocating for a responsible State Budget based on LWV positions.

STAY CONNECTED and get the latest news and alerts

<http://lww.org/get-involved> for national news/alerts

<http://www.lwwwi.org> for state news/alerts

www.lwwappleton.org for Appleton website

Who is my legislator?

To find the legislator representing you in Madison, go to legis.wisconsin.gov/ and enter your address in the box on the right.



Matt Rothschild of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign speaks at LWV Holiday Brunch.



Kathy Groat accepts LWV Making Democracy Work Award at Holiday Brunch.