

LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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

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Email

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Nov-Dec 2017

(920) 738-7766

Why most of what you think you know about health care is wrong: *Health care myths and realities in America and the Fox Cities*

Irene Stroben, VP—Program

“It *ain’t* what you know that will get you in trouble, it’s what you know for

When 5-6:30 pm, Nov 20,
Where Copper Rock coffee shop
210 W College Ave, Appleton

sure that just *ain’t* so”— Apparently Mark Twain was familiar with “false science” and “fake news” well before our current day social media was taken over by Russian trolls and paid-for advertisements.

The League of Women Voters of Appleton will host Dr. Marty Finkler and Bill McLaughlin to discuss the “dysfunctional character” of health care delivery systems both nationally and here in the Fox Valley. They posit that fundamental reforms that better serve the health needs of our community won’t arise from a political arena that serves particular special interests rather than

Continued on page 4

Holiday Brunch to honor Raether with *Making Democracy Work Award* Boulanger to speak on poverty in our area

We are pleased that Becky Boulanger, Director of the Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region, will speak to us about *Poverty in Our Area: Through the Lens of the Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin 2017*. The LWV-WI state program this year focuses on poverty, and Becky will enlighten us on the faces of poverty here at home.

In addition, we will present the *Making Democracy Work Award* to Connie Raether.

Mark your calendar and REGISTER

This year’s holiday brunch will be held on Sat, **December 9 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Grand Meridian**. Cost of \$17 includes a brunch buffet.

Registration is required; please register online at www.lwvappleton.org or complete the registration form/flyer on page 3 and mail it in.

More information on Connie Raether and registration is on the following pages.

The Making Democracy Work Award 2017

is presented to **Connie Raether**



The League of Women Voters will present the award to Connie at the Annual Holiday Brunch, Saturday, December 9, Grand Meridian, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



*Congratulations Connie!
Thank you for your
contributions to the Fox
Cities community.*

Connie richly deserves the award as noted in her work and volunteerism.

- Vice President of WISDOM, the state organization guiding ten Wisconsin affiliates in their work for social justice
- Active Organizer for ESTHER, (the local affiliate of WISDOM) an interfaith social-justice organization, focusing their work in the Fox Valley region
- Co-Chair, Tri-County HealthWatch Coalition
- Co-Chair of Citizen Review Panel Serving Outagamie County
- Volunteer Coordinator at the Fox Valley Warming Shelter
- Core Team Leader, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

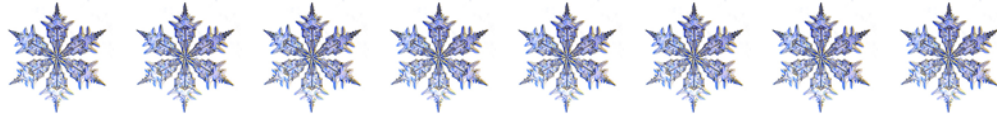
Connie has this message on her Facebook page:

Years from now, after I'm long gone, our children and grandchildren will say, "Where were you? How did you not know that you were destroying this planet?" At least I know I can say, I knew, and I did everything I could to change this disastrous trajectory.

The Making Democracy Work Award celebrates community members who have, in the League tradition, helped to make our community strong, vibrant, and fair. Previous recipients of the award are Kathy Flores (2014), Ann Muenster (2015), and Kathy Groat (2016).

Join us at the Annual Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 9, Grand Meridian, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.



Make Your Plans to Attend...

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

Saturday, December 9, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Grand Meridian

2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...

**Presentation of *Making Democracy Work* Award
To Connie Raether**

**Keynote Speaker – Becky Boulanger, Executive Director
Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region**

“Poverty in Our Area:

Through the Lens of the Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin 2017”

Cost including gratuity: \$17.00 per person

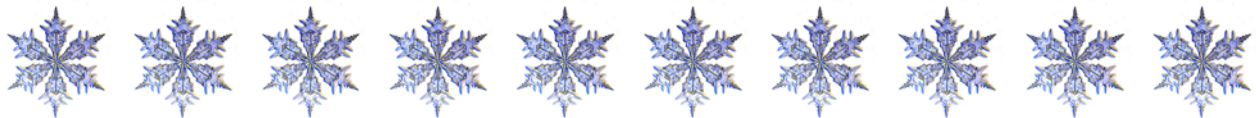
Brunch Buffet: Scrambled Eggs, Cheesy Hash Browns, Cinnamon Rolls, Bacon & Sausage,
Fresh Cut Fruit, Coffee & Juice

Registration Deadline: Monday, December 4th, 2017

Registration available online at www.lwvappleton.org

Or send check payable to League of Women Voters of Appleton with registration form below
to: Irene Strohbeen, W6400 Firelane 8, Menasha, WI 54952

Questions: ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com 920-915-1209



NAME: _____

GUEST(S) NAME(S): _____

TOTAL ATTENDING: _____ X \$17.00 = AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Dysfunctional character of health care delivery subject of Nov meeting

engages in problem solving based on a fundamental set of shared values.

Dr. Finkler is a retired Professor of Economics at Lawrence University and co-founder and principal of Innovative Health Associates, a health care consulting firm. McLaughlin is the retired founder,

president and CEO of www.netwerkes.com (an Internet-based health care transaction company).

Our November program will be held on Monday November 20 from 5:00-6:30 pm at the Copper Rock coffee shop at 210 W. College Avenue. Food will be available for purchase, n

Welcome new members to the league

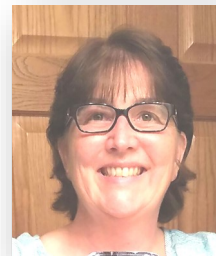
Recently the following new members joined the league: Linda Crowley, Jennifer Edmondson, Sue Hopfensperger, Dottie LeClair, and Jessica Thiel.



Linda Crowley



Jennifer Edmondson



Sue Hopfensperger



Dottie LeClair



Jessica Thiel

From President Jeanne Roberts' desk

Appleton League steps up local advocacy

The LWV of Appleton presented statements at both the City of Appleton budget hearing and the Outagamie County budget meeting. For the county, issues presented include the need to be aware of our environmental imprint and to remain sustainable, continued need for prevention programs and the use of alternatives to incarceration or placement for both adults and juveniles, support for the UW-System, and an emphasis on working with regional partners.

Issues presented to the city include the need to use the comprehensive plan as a guide for the city, continued funding of the neighborhood program, the need to continue focusing on green initiatives, and continued support for the following:

- The library proposal,
- A Regional Transit Authority,
- Downtown development including walkability, city-wide bike lanes, and
- The diversity and inclusion position

Advocacy continued from previous page

Sanctuary resolution tabled

Testimony at Common Council related to sanctuary proposal

According to President Jeanne Roberts, the LWV-US has a clear position on deportation of immigrants.

- * *The LWV is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.*
- * *The LWV supports cities, town, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants.*
- * *The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration.*
- * *Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires among other things, the clear assignment of responsibilities among all levels of government.*

The proposal by Council person Meltzer appears to match the positions of the LWV-US, specifically regarding the delineation of responsibilities between local and federal governments, opposition of deportation of non-criminal immigrants and the support of local government to decide at what level to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions of non-criminal immigrants.

The proposed resolution from Alderperson Meltzer details that:

- *City resources and police cannot do any law enforcement work "for the purpose of detecting the presence of undocumented persons" or "devote any public resources to the enforcement of federal immigration law."*
- *it would not "affect or limit the enforcement of federal immigration law by federal authorities" inside the city, like authorities being notified if an undocumented person is arrested or detained.*
- *it does not in "any way condone, encourage or assist the violation" of federal immigration laws.*

The Parks and Recreation Committee has tabled the resolution until January 2018.



facebook

Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com

lwwappleton

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. LWV is a vibrant, visible, respected advocate for sustaining our democratic society.

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

EDUCATES AND INFORMS CITIZENS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

MONITORS GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AT ALL LEVELS

PROTECTS CITIZENS' RIGHTS

CALLS OUT FOR

- **Transparency in government**
- **Campaign finance reform**
- **Redistricting reform**
- **Responsible environmental legislation**
- **Healthcare for all citizens**

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers. The League is nonpartisan. It neither supports nor opposes political candidates or parties

More information is at
www.lwwappleton.org

Contributions are gratefully accepted online at
<http://www.lwwappleton.org/donate/>

Hint: copy and paste

Members encouraged to attend city and county meetings— either in person or *online*

Anyone is welcome to attend both city council and county board meetings. Contact Cindy Fallona if you are interested in attending by yourself or with another League member. For anyone who cannot attend the meetings, all city council meetings are now on-line.

Viewing City Council meetings on-line is easy
Just go to the city of Appleton website

(www.appleton.org) and click on the gray box labeled “Agendas and Meeting Videos”. On the next page, there is a tab labeled “List View”. There is then a dropdown which allows you to pick the approximate time of the meeting. For example, if you drop down to “last week”, you will then have a list of all meetings that were held last week. Then click on *meeting details* and you can watch whichever you are interested in!

Roberts also reports on League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Issues Briefing focuses on poverty & transformation

The League of Women Voters of Appleton was well represented at this year’s *Issues Briefing* in Madison. The keynote speaker, an immigration attorney, focused on current issues in immigration. She spoke about the uncertainties, especially for the DACA or “Dreamer” young people. She also talked about private prisons that primarily hold immigrants awaiting deportation, with a cost of \$115 per person per day.



Issues Briefing attendees: Left—right: Sara Companik, Irene Strobeen, Jeanne Roberts, Shirley Strange; not pictured: Penny Robinson

The director for the Institute for Research on Poverty spoke during lunch about poverty and public policy in Wisconsin and shared numerous

statistics. He also emphasized that statistics can be misleading depending on what measures are used and what are omitted.

League needs to transform to be sustainable

At the State Issues Briefing, I attended a breakout session entitled *League Transformation, Preparing the League for Its Second Century*. As many of you know, the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920, and the LWV of Appleton was likely

founded in 1939. The purpose of the League was to help potential women voters to register, understand the voting process and become informed voters. Obviously, many things have changed since then, but the need to continue

League transformation continued

registering new voters and educating both ourselves and other voters about important issues remains the same.

In order to do this, we need to continue with what we do well, but also reach beyond our own League community. We need to embrace the expanding diversity of Appleton. We need to reach out to young people. The average age of a League member is 72 years old! Unless we can expand our outreach, we do not have a sustainable organization. The League is too valuable of a resource not to be sustainable.



So what do we do? We need to make it clear to the community that we are an organization that not only verbalizes support for young people and diverse populations, but that we are actively working to engage these populations. We need to expand and collaborate with other organizations that have a similar vision so that we can more

completely fulfill the goals of the League. We need to meet people where they are, instead of expecting people to come to us.

The League of Women Voters is THE organization to promote democracy in a nonpartisan manner, especially in these difficult times. Let's make sure to

keep what has worked, while at the same time, expanding into what can make us even better.

LWV can form alliances to become more diverse

Penny Robinson, Director—Legislative

At the breakout on ***Enhancing League Diversity Through Community Alliances***, the LWV of Milwaukee County shared examples of their outreach to Latinos, including training for their outreach team, voter registration at Latino events and organizations serving them. They created or identified culturally appropriate and bi-lingual voter registration resources and information. Other areas of possible focus include a Latino social media presence on the league website and using a Spanish speaking spokesperson to optimize Latino media such as building relationships with various media i.e. print, radio, TV.

Ideas I jotted down for the Appleton league as part of this workshop include the following:

- ⇒ Encourage a board member and committee to serve as a diversity liaison.
- ⇒ Encourage members to attend meetings of other groups, such as Unidos, ACLU, FIT Oshkosh, and African Heritage.
- ⇒ Suggest the league hold focus groups on how the league is perceived.
- ⇒ Hold forums (with a translator) on how city, county, and state governments work and how to advocate with all our representatives.
- ⇒ Encourage the league toward a Latino social media presence on our website and Facebook, have translators at public forums; and build relationships with Latino media, such as radio.

Citizens Climate Lobby recommends carbon fee & dividend legislation

Barb Dorzweiler, Director—Natural Resources

Editor's note: this was inadvertently omitted from the last newsletter.

There's so much to do. Whether your concern is wildlife, deforestation, water quality, air quality, or excessive mining and fracking, there's so much to do. Your LWV-Appleton Board has selected global climate change as a great area of focus for the coming year. How can we make a difference in this massive issue facing the earth we share?

I have joined the Appleton Chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL).

Who is the Citizen's Climate Lobby? It is:

- International. United States, Canada, Australia, India, Germany, Sweden, Panama, etc. 18 chapters in Wisconsin.
- Nonpartisan. We build relationships with everyone, even those who oppose us.
- Nonprofit. Volunteer driven organization with 501c(3) and 501c(4) status.
- Solution focused. We are for a solution: Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation.
- Respect, appreciation and gratitude. We treat everyone, even those who oppose us, with respect, appreciation and gratitude.

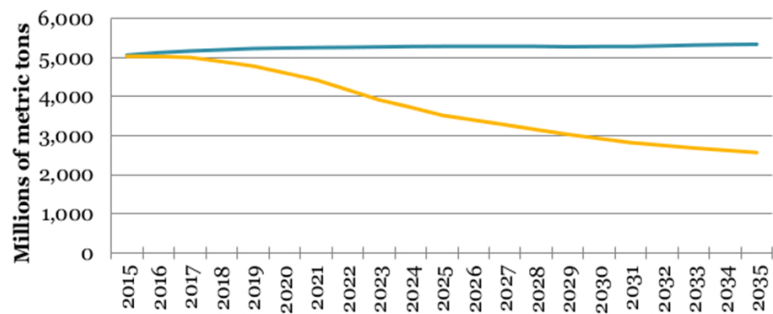
What is Carbon Fee and Dividend?

- ⇒ Place a fee on fossil fuels at the source (mine, well or port).
- ⇒ Return all of the revenue to households equally. (not for financing some other government programs or for expanding the government sector.
- ⇒ A border adjustment on goods imported from or exported to countries without an equivalent price on carbon.

If this information grabs your attention or if you feel a tug in your gut as you read this, please go to

https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/WI_Appleton/ to find out more. The website is well organized and has lots of information, resources, and events. You can learn the essential details of their preferred solution on climate change, CF&D (Carbon Fee Dividend). Consider

Carbon Dioxide Emissions (annual forecast, national level)



<https://citizensclimatelobby.org> On the website, click on graph for video explanation.

joining the Appleton chapter of Citizen's Climate Lobby. No fees are charged to join or to sit in on a meeting.

Editor's note: Unfortunately, their meetings conflict with the league monthly meetings.

Another local association with environmental concerns which takes local action: The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance. Go to <http://fwwa.org> for information on their group and events calendar.

State legislation to watch:

SB76 (and companion bill AB105) allows currently existing High-Capacity Wells to be repaired, reconstructed, replaced or transferred without further permit review for cumulative effects on the aquifer. In certain parts of the state there are already lowered stream and lake levels from withdrawals. This bill is a license to withdraw large amounts of water, and this license never expires!

Dorzweiler reviews documentary, *Racing Extinction*

Barb Dorzweiler, Director—Natural Resources

Recently I viewed the movie, *Racing Extinction*, at the Menasha Public Library. It was a very moving documentary with beautiful photography of wildlife in their natural habitats and still photos. This movie first premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast on the Discovery Channel in December of 2015.

It included brief coverage of a “sting” on a restaurant in the U.S. serving whale sushi. It showed elaborate elephant tusk carvings for sale in Hong Kong. It

explained the massive harvesting of mantas in Indonesia for gills for medicinal purposes. More manta rays are being harvested in Lamakera, Indonesia, than anyplace in the world. It is their only way of economic support. The beautiful manta rays were also filmed in their natural habitat so it wasn't all grisly footage. The filmmakers worked along with other agencies to convince the village to convert from a hunting culture to tourism. They also worked hard in 2013 to get the manta ray on the protected species list with CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

But it's not just about the big things in the oceans and forests that we care about. Phytoplankton produce 50% of the oxygen we breathe. And marine biologists estimate that the oceans contain 40% less phytoplankton than they contained 50 years ago. This is due to the overproduction of CO₂. The oceans absorb one third to half of the CO₂ in the atmosphere and it changes to carbonic acid in the water. The acidification of the oceans is slowly destroying marine life of all kinds, including ocean farming operations. The conclusion is that food chains, even our own, will be – or is—being affected in our lifetimes.



Amazing filming technology displayed CO₂ discharges in urban areas. CO₂ is otherwise invisible to the eye. It would have a big impact if CO₂ and methane color camera filters were used in every city council meeting across the nation!

The message is clear: humans are leaving their impact on the earth in not so great ways and not only in the oceans and in foreign countries. The Florida grasshopper sparrow is threatened by extinction. 23% of today's mammals and 12% of today's birds are threatened with extinction. One in a million species expire or become extinct annually in natural circumstances. Now, scientists estimate this extinction rate is happening 1,000 times faster! Have you noticed the loss of a familiar bird, animal or insect in your life? Habitat destruction from spewing sewage into the waters, massive logging in forests, and carbon dioxide production (CO₂) is a threat to all life on earth; and we can do something about it. The film offered hope for all, through the efforts of inspired, impassioned people and a groundswell of activism. The owner of the Empire State Building converted the entire building to green energy, which saves millions per year. Elon Musk is passionate about electric cars and minimizing fossil fuel usage. Vegan Nascar driver Leilani Munter is an outspoken environmentalist.

Find one small way you and your neighbors can do to preserve the planet and all its life forms. Watch this movie. Eat less meat; install solar panels. Encourage your community to invest in renewable energy; vote for green candidates. Even if it's one small thing, “better to light one candle than curse the darkness.” As Jane Goodall said in the movie, “There's still a lot left that's worth fighting for.”

Short video of manta: https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_380679&feature=iv&src_vid=QOthel4LTmQ&v=dpC5UrSWgcU

Fallona shares thrilling Supreme Court experience, hears voices of three strong women leaders

Cindy Fallona, Director—Observer Corps

October 3rd of this year I had the thrilling experience of attending the United States Supreme Court hearing in the Gill v Whitford case regarding partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin. This opportunity resulted from lucky timing while visiting a friend in Alexandria, VA.

We knew this was a high profile case, so our chances of getting into the courtroom were slim. Dauntless, we arose at 4:00 a.m. in order to be in line at 5:00 a.m. We arrived at the Supreme Court building in the dark, but what spectacular sights awaited us!

In front of us was the U.S. Capitol building lit up, and beside us the Court building was all aglow in light. I have to admit it was very moving, and patriotic feelings bubbled to the surface.

Now came the hard part that required the patience of a FIVE-hour wait. Amazingly it went by fairly quickly. At the beginning of the line, people had slept on the sidewalk to be first.

We met such interesting people in line. A young Washington attorney who specializes in voting laws was a wealth of information for us. He is a “friend of the court”. Attorneys pay a fee for this status. They are rewarded by getting into the court hearings ahead of the average folk like me. After three hours of waiting, all attorneys in line were called to form a separate line.

At 9:00 a.m. we still had a glimmer of hope that we would get in. By 9:45 we knew we would not be able to attend the hour-long session. The good news was we were then eligible for the “three-minute line”. After all that time in line, we were happy just to get in.

To get into the courtroom you go through two security checks, put all your possessions in a locker, and then stand in one last line. Twelve individuals at a time are ushered into the back of the courtroom. You are basically told you can breathe and nothing else. No talking or sudden movements.

It was absolutely worth the wait. As we sat down, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was questioning the Wisconsin solicitor representing the state.

Then Justice Kennedy

spoke. Just as we had to leave, Justice Sonia Sotomayor was beginning to speak.

I am thrilled to say it was the longest three minutes (actually seemed like five or more) of my life. Not only did I briefly attend a Supreme Court session, but I saw and heard three strong women playing an important role in the course of our country.



Cindy Fallona in front of U.S. Supreme Court

LWV –Appleton joins the ERA Coalition!

Irene Strobeen, VP —Program

Did you know that the Equal Rights Amendment is still not part of the U.S. Constitution? In a recent



poll, 80% of the respondents incorrectly thought that equal rights for women is a constitutional right; and, in that same poll, 94% were in favor of having women’s equal rights be included in the Constitution. The ERA Coalition is a group of organizations supporting the passage of the ERA, and LWV-Appleton is now a Member Organization in the Coalition. See www.ERACoalition.org for more information and reports.

Nevada’s state legislature ratified the ERA in March of 2017, so only TWO more states need to ratify in order to fulfill the minimum number of states. It is not clear what would happen next, since the deadline for ratification passed in 1982,

but having sufficient states ratify will press the question. Joining the ERA Coalition adds our voice to many other women and men looking for equal rights for women!

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The Telegraph

The uncomfortable truth about racism and the suffragettes

By [Radhika Sanghani](#)

5:13PM BST 06 Oct 2015

As Suffragette actresses come under fire for sporting t-shirts with the slogan 'I'd rather be a rebel than a slave', Radhika Sanghani reports on the women's rights movement's complex relationship with race.

The movie *Suffragette*, Hollywood's take on the historical fight for women's votes, has been widely praised for its factual accuracy and honest portrayal of violence, class differences and loss in the fight for women's votes.

But some of the main actresses have faced a backlash this week.

The issue is not their acting in the film, rather some of the publicity around it. **Carey Mulligan, Meryl Streep, Anne-Marie Duff and**

Romulan Gardaí have all been photographed in T-shirts with an infamous quote from Emmeline Pankhurst: "I'd rather be a rebel than a slave." The idea was to promote their film for a *Time Out* article but it has provoked an adverse reaction.

On Twitter, the images of the stars in the T-shirts has prompted a digital storm with people pointing out that it is inappropriate for four 'privileged white women' to compare sexism to racism in any way.

The slogan on this T-shirt is not okay. I'm saying it again because lots of white film women tweeting this in my TL. pic.twitter.com/48om1FobTS

— Lexi Alexander (@Lexialex) October 5, 2015

"I'd rather be a rebel than a slave" shirt is suggesting that black people had the choice of enslavement, when we didn't. So disrespectful.

3:14 PM - Oct 5, 2015

Others have also made the point that it raises the more troublesome side of the suffrage movement

– particularly its uncomfortable relationship with race.

Time Out has since defended the photoshoot saying: "The original quote was intended to rouse

women to stand up against oppression - it is a rallying cry, and absolutely not intended to criticize those who have no choice but to submit to oppression, or to reference the Confederacy, as some people who saw the quote and photo out of context have surmised." None of

the four actresses involved have said anything about the shoot.

But Jad Adams, historian and author of **Women and the Vote: A World History**, says: "It's certainly an inappropriate thing to have four white women wearing slavery t-shirts. Like a lot of things Emmeline Pankhurst said, [that quote] was excessive."

He explains that it was common for the suffragettes to use the language and emotion of slavery: "People talked about the emancipation of women. Their condition is nothing like slavery but in order to make the challenge more exiting and ramp up the feelings of disenfranchisement, women liked to compare their situation to that of slaves."

Even at the time, he says some people who did sympathize with the cause still found it unnecessary and disliked the 'excessive' language of Mrs. Pankhurst.

