

LWV *The informed* Voter

League of Women Voters® of Appleton, Wisconsin



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

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September-October 2018

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Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6

Volunteer observers needed at polling places around the area

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor the Nov. 6 election. **We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state.** We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home.

For the Nov. 6 election we are focusing the Election Observation Program in three areas:

1. to be sure there is no disenfranchisement
2. to monitor the voter experience - including registration and showing ID
3. to track any problems that can be fixed for future elections

You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this — although we'd love to have you join us!

Contact LWV WI Voter Education Coordinator, Eileen Newcomer, at electionobservation@lwvwi.org or (608) 256-0827 with questions.

Learn more!

To register to volunteer or for more information: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>

League President Jeanne Roberts looks to next 100 years

The League of Women Voters National Convention was held earlier this summer in Chicago – 98 years after the first National Convention was held at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, about one block away from this year’s convention! Wisconsin was well represented by 42 members including five members from LWV Appleton. Much of the focus was on what LWV-US is describing as a “transformational journey” which was intended to review the successes of our first 100 years and plan for the next 100 (or more) years of our nonpartisan adventure. For those of you who were unable to attend the summer program regarding the convention, slides which describe the convention including the speakers, resolutions and amendments to the national program in more detail are available on our website – lwvappleton.org.

What does this mean for our local League? It does not change our emphasis on voter registration, voter education and voter advocacy. What it may change is an emphasis on engaging people from outside of our League family – people from diverse backgrounds who may have had different experiences than we have and might bring a different perspective to the work we are doing. We have a couple of new committees that have started meeting in order to help with our own personal transformational journey – our diversity and inclusion committee and our fiscal/fundraising committee. Our diversity committee plans to focus on how our League can work with different communities in the Fox Valley to help achieve our mission of making a better Democracy. In order to do that, we have to be willing to listen to people and meet them where

they are at and not expect them to come to us. We have to acknowledge barriers to involvement in our League and find ways to overcome them. One of the barriers that has been identified is the current membership fee structure for League, which is an area that the Fiscal/Fundraising and Membership committees is looking at.

So what can we as individuals do to help with this transformation to improve our local League? We have an incredible wealth of talent, experience and wisdom in our League. Let’s find ways to use that and to mine the talent that is in our community that our League is missing out on. We can each find ways to volunteer whether that means by attending programs, helping with voter registration, contacting our elected officials, sending a letter to the editor or through financial support. We can talk with people about the important work that the League does and how essential it is to have a truly nonpartisan voice in these especially hyper partisan times. We can reflect on the good work that we have done over the past century and welcome the changes that are coming for the next century.

As president, I plan to continue working to represent the best in the League of Women Voters – nonpartisan advocacy and welcoming any person who shares our values of empowering voters and defending democracy. Anyone interested in becoming more involved in our local League or finding out more about what our plans are can contact me, Jeanne Roberts, at jsbob@new.rr.com. I look forward to taking this transformation journey with all of you as we head into our next century!



Join us for holiday brunch

This year's Holiday Brunch will be an interesting and educational experience. Our speaker, Melissa Ludin, is the president of the EXPO Board of Directors. She will share her experiences as a troubled youth and eventual incarceration, which led to her becoming involved with EXPO after she was reintegrated



into the community. Melissa will be joined by one of her colleagues and they will talk about their experiences including the way that women of color are often treated differently than Caucasian women. Holiday Brunch will be held Dec. 8 at the Grand Meridian. Details will be forthcoming.

Save the date for Lively Issues at Appleton Library

This is an early reminder that Lively Issues for next year will be on Saturday, Jan, 19 at the Appleton Public Library. For those of you who attended in the past, we look forward to your participation in another lively discussion. For those of you who are new to League, this meeting will be an excellent opportunity to

find out more about some of the League's major work – grassroots research and study regarding issues that need our advocacy.

Whether you are a long term League member or a brand new League member, we look forward to seeing you for some lively discussion at January's Lively Issues meeting.

Getting out the vote at UW-Fox Valley



From left: Becky O'Connor, Sara Companik, Linda Bjella, Sharon Bowen help students register to vote at UW-Fox Valley. Nine registered, and information was provided to six others. Right photo: Students Leah and Brookly register to vote.

Help plan for 100th anniversary!

Two important milestones mark the year 2020 — the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters (Feb. 14, 1920), and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (Aug. 18, 1920).

Don't forget that 2020 is also a presidential election year! What. A. Year.

The League is planning to celebrate 2020 in a way that appropriately recognizes the importance of this year and the milestones. If

you like to both brainstorm and plan, come help make 2020 a great year for the League and to help further our mission. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on this committee. I hope to have our first meeting in October. Contact me via email:

mhemwall@gmail.com. Thank you!

Marti Hemwall, chair
100th Anniversary Committee

Another successful Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day was well-attended again this year. The event began with a social gathering including displays of memorabilia of the Women's Suffrage movement as well as the second-wave feminist movement of the 1960's and 1970's.

This was followed by a panel discussion of the Equal Rights Amendment – Past, Present and Future. Our panelists included Mary Ann Rossi, a retired professor who was instrumental

in the movement in the 1960s and 1970s, Druscilla Scribner, a professor at UW-Oshkosh who has done significant research on the effects internationally on countries that have adopted an Equal Rights measure in their constitutions, Rachel Raasch, the newest common council member for the City of Appleton who focused on how the young adults view the need for an ERA, and Lisa King-Gehrke of the Legislative Committee for the Midday Women's Alliance who focused on advocacy for the ERA.

Fiscal spending committee plans for future, looks to fundraise

The Fiscal Spending committee is off and running and looking toward the future! In just two years, 2020, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and the formation of League of Women Voters! Marti Hemwall is chairing our 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee, and the Fiscal Spending Committee is developing a plan to fund this gala event.

Financial concerns should not be a

hindrance as we look for ways to diversify and increase membership and encourage members to attend state conventions. The Fiscal Spending Committee is crafting fun ways to support these goals, such as 50/50 raffles and basket raffles!

If you would like to join the Fiscal and Fundraising Committee or want to know more about what we are doing, please contact Sue Hopfensperger at suehop57@gmail.com.

Upcoming programs



DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Nov 19	Civility + Civil Discourse, Panel Discussion	Professor/Judge/ Religious Leader/ Elected Official
Dec 8	Holiday Brunch at Grand Meridian — Speaker Topic:	Melissa Ludin, president of EXPO
Jan. 19	Lively Issues at the Appleton Public Library	LWV
Feb. 18	Abolishing the Electoral College	LWV Speakers: Irene Strohbeen, San- di Rhode, Barb Dorzweiler
March 18	LWV Social: Diversity & Inclusion	LWV
April 15	Carbon tax credits and Metrics with Citizens Climate Lobby	
May 16	Annual Meeting	LWV

save the date

Issues Briefing 2018!: Issues Briefing will be held Saturday, Nov. 10 in Middleton at the Holy Wisdom Monastery. Register: <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/issues-briefing-2018>