

THE INFORMED VOTER

<http://www.lwvappleton.org>

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November – December 2019

President's Message – Jeanne Roberts

What an exciting year we have ahead of us. We have so many volunteer opportunities for our members. We are trying to expand our voter registration assistance outreach and will be in need of many volunteers to accomplish this. Our voter services director will be happy to provide any training needed for anyone interested in helping with this. We are continuing with our monthly programs including our November 18th program on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. On December 14, we will be kicking off our 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration on the date that would typically be our holiday brunch. In addition to our speaker, Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, we will be announcing our Making Democracy Work Youth Awards and a very special Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Mary Ann Rossi. We have reached a milestone of over 100 people in our membership and know that you all value the League's mission to "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy". We look forward to working with all of you over the next year in whatever area you feel your talents are best used.

People Powered Fair Maps

The League of Women Voters – US has begun a national drive to develop a state by state fair map initiative looking at what the needs and possibilities are for each state to work on fair redistricting maps in their states. They will have individualized goals and methods in each state and the District of Columbia to work towards fair maps that will allow every vote to count.

Census

The League of Women Voters of Appleton will be helping with the 2020 census beginning next year. There have been talks with the CCC committee at the city about ways that the LWV of Appleton can participate. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information in the future and if you are interested in helping with this initiative, contact membership director, Cindy Fallona.



Pictured are Cindy Fallona and Jacqui Klimaszewski as they visit with Captain Census at the recent State League's Issue Briefing.

Issues Briefing

The League of Women Voters of Appleton was well-represented at the state Issues Briefing in Madison with nine League members attending the event. Speakers provided information on African Americans in the beginnings of Wisconsin, Immigration and the Southern Border, and how Nevada passed the ERA. National CEO, Virginia Kase talked about "People Powered Fair Maps". Irene Strohbeen held a breakout session on the National Popular Vote. Other breakouts included Rank Order Voting and the 2020 Census.



Members of the Appleton League of Women Voters with National CEO, Virginia Kase. If you are interested in more information, check out <https://my.lww.org/wisconsin/2019-issues-briefing>. This includes presentations, slides, handouts, and other resources. Posted there you will also find two video recordings, one of Virginia Kase's afternoon keynote and the other of the League Environmental Advocacy panel from the afternoon breakout.

Girls Run 2019

Jacqueline E. Klimaszewski, Director of Voter Services



On Saturday, November 9, 2019, from 8:00-9:00, Gayle Hardt and I had the opportunity to attend the Girls Run event. We interacted with about 30 girls/parents. We had pictures of buttons and banners that the Suffragists used and had a picture book with pictures of marches, etc. We talked about the 19th amendment and had sheets for them to color in a "Vote" button or to create their own.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mary Ann Rossi

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is privileged to honor Mary Ann Rossi with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her professional accomplishments in the cause of women's equality.



The terms research scholar, teacher, and activist all describe Mary Ann Rossi.

From her days as co-founder of the Fox Cities Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), she has worked to bring women into equal partnership with men. As Legislative Coordinator of the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, and as a member of the Board of the National Association of Commissions for Women, she worked for new laws to effect this change by transforming our perception of women's gifts and potential.

What drove Mary Ann Rossi to become so passionate about rooting out the inequities inherent in our society and devoting the rest of her professional career to the cause of women's equality? She was fired without cause.

In Mary Ann's own words: Nothing sensitizes us more to the injustice done to others than injustice against ourselves. After teaching Classics, Italian, and Freshman Studies at Lawrence for eleven years, I was fired without cause. Five other women professors were also fired without cause. We did not need the jobs, we were told, since our husbands were on the faculty. For the first time, I felt the pangs of discrimination because I was a woman. It hit me like a rock. I became aware of every subtle and blatant comment, criticism, and insult to women. From that moment, I was driven to discover why I had been so ignorant of the status of women in our society, and how we had allowed our history to go unnoticed and our great women unrecorded. My work was cut out for me, and it is still unfinished.

See full bio here: https://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org/legacy/Mary_Ann_Rossi.htm

Making Democracy Work Youth Award 2019

Madeleine McDermott



Meet Madeleine McDermott, recipient of the Making Democracy Work Youth award for 2019. The League received three nominations for Madeleine highlighting her passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to make this a better world. She has not only made a mark at her school, Xavier High School, but in the community as well. Praising her leadership and organizational skills, her teacher says that Madeleine not only has an outstanding academic record, but she works to educate herself on the democratic process to be an effective advocate. Madeleine helped create Fox Valley Climate Activists and is the organizer for the statewide Youth Climate Action team. She helped organize a Climate Change rally on September 20th at Houdini Plaza that drew a large crowd and earned valuable news coverage. You might want to join Madeleine on Fridays from 5-7pm at Houdini Plaza as the vigil continues for climate preparedness. Madeleine mobilized residents in the area

through social media and emails to petition the city of Appleton to declare a Climate Emergency and to make a plan to go carbon-neutral by 2030. This prompted the city to create a Climate Change Task Force to study the ways that Appleton can work toward this goal. Madeleine also created a petition and gathered signatures to present to Wisconsin representatives. On weekends, you might also find Madeleine organizing trash pick-ups or convincing Appleton residents of the value of community gardens. Thank you Madeleine and Congratulations!

Honorable Mention

Amanda Schmidt



Amanda Schmidt, Kimberly High School student, is recognized for her good works. Amanda's teachers and student council advisors speak highly of Amanda's leadership, mentorship, and ability to inspire other students. Amanda has volunteered at Pillars, our local warming shelter, making early morning breakfasts. She organized a tailgate event for local children to have fun and feel a part of the festivities before a Homecoming football game. Amanda's interest in the democratic process is evident in her participation in the local chapter of the YMCA program, *Youth in Government*. Thank you, Amanda. Keep up the good work!

Fall Fundraiser

October 22nd we kicked-off for our fall fundraiser. As we continue to grow and reach out to our community the money raised supports our mission to advocate for active and informed participation in government, through voter registration and education, informational programming, and issues studies. Also, we are fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe there should be no barriers to full participation and will be offering our tiered membership program in 2020! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fall fundraiser. And, if you haven't already, please consider doing so!

Thank you goes out to the fundraising letter writing team! Karen Bachhuber, Sara Companik, Cindy Fallona, Sue Hopfensperger, Dottie LeClair, and Shirley Strange!

From October's Meeting.....

It was a full house at our October meeting to hear about ALICE (an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level but not enough to afford a bare-bones household budget. Tony Gonzalez and Mary Rhode from United Way Fox Cities discussed the ALICE study for our area. ALICE is a nation-wide study by the United Way on the working poor with the data by county and municipality.



Not Forgotten: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Indigenous women and girls have been recipients of violence at astounding rates for a very long time. This is related to a long road of past government policies such as Boarding Schools and the informal but government supported policy of placing indigenous children in non-indigenous homes. US history is replete with trying to “help” Native peoples become more like the dominant society. However, our governments have been neglectful with regards to the judicial system. The General Crimes Act of 1817 and the Major Crimes Act of 1885 limited tribal jurisdiction over their own land and peoples: a serious blow to tribal sovereignty. These federal policies require the federal government to investigate and adjudicate a variety of crimes committed on reservation lands. However, the vast majority of Native Americans do not live on reservations. Today the missing and murdered indigenous peoples span our geography. This talk will focus on the judicial gaps that lead to unsolved crimes against indigenous peoples.

Learn about these crimes against Native women from Dr. Renee Gralewicz, Brothertown Peacemaker and Associate Professor of UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities Campus.

WHEN: Monday November 18, 5:00-6:30 pm

**WHERE: Copper Rock coffee shop
210 College Ave. in downtown Appleton**

Copper Rock is providing the venue at no charge, so please buy food and beverages to enjoy throughout the meeting! Come early if you want to order food--the program will begin promptly with [LWV announcements at 5:25.](#)

19th Amendment Centennial Kick-Off Brunch

Join us for the 19th Amendment Centennial Kick-Off Brunch presented by the Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition and the [Fox Cities Performing Arts Center](#) on Saturday, December 14th starting at 10:00 a.m.

Women have long been written out of history, from the early influence of the Haudenosaunee (Iriquois) women to the work of the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Japanese journalist Madame Kimura Komako, to the LGBTQ suffragists such as Vera “Jack” Holme and many more. The Centennial Coalition has chosen to highlight the stories of those women both written into and written out of history throughout our Centennial Celebration.

We will kick-off our journey with Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, lecturer, author and story-teller of women’s rights history, examining the influence of the Haudenosaunee women on early American suffragists. Following her presentation, Dr. Wagner will be available for a book-signing, including her books *Sisters in Spirit – Haudenosaunee Influence on Early American Suffragists* and *The Women’s Suffrage Movement – An intersectional anthology of works by the known and unknown women that shaped and established the suffrage movement.*

Join us for inspirational keynote speaker, good food, friends, and silent auction baskets.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.; Program begins at 10:30 a.m. Please enter at the Valet entrance on Division St.

Brunch Buffet: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, American Fries, Mini-muffins, Scones, Fresh Cut Fruit, Coffee & Juice Cost: \$5.00 per person. Registration Deadline: Thursday, December 5th, 2019.

See the following page for more information and registration details.



19th Amendment Centennial Kick-Off Brunch

(taking the place of Holiday Brunch)

Join us for the 19th Amendment Centennial Kick-Off Brunch presented by the Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition

Saturday December 14, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Kimberly-Clark Theater @ Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

400 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI

Registration opens at 9:30; Program begins at 10:30

Please enter at the Valet entrance on Division St.

Program Highlights

Presentation of Making Democracy Work Awards

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award to Mary Ann Rossi

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, Ph.D.

“The Influence of Indigenous Women on Early Women Suffragists”

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Brunch Buffet: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, American Fries, Mini-muffins, Scones, Fresh Cut Fruit, Coffee & Juice

Registration Deadline: Thursday, December 5th, 2019

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 NAME(S): _____

TOTAL ATTENDING: _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL COALITION EFFORTS: \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AT A GLANCE



Founded in 1920, the League has a unique grassroots network of passionate volunteers and activists in

ALL 50 STATES (AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA)
AND MORE THAN
700 COMMUNITIES
NATIONWIDE.



VOTING REGISTRATION

The League is the largest on-the-ground partner on National Voter Registration Day **REGISTERING THOUSANDS OF NEW VOTERS.**

The League has **100'S OF VOTING RIGHTS VICTORIES.**

The League has over **300K MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.**

The League has set a goal of registering **1 MILLION NEW VOTERS BY 2020,**

focusing on increasing the representation of the "Rising American Electorate"—unmarried women, communities of color and millennials—at the polls.



VOTE411.ORG provides essential, nonpartisan information about candidates • voting and election issues • the election process, polling place hours and locations • early or absentee voting rules • voter registration deadlines • ID requirements • and more.

2017: SERVING ONE MILLION VOTERS with info on nearly **13,000 CANDIDATES** in over **7,000 RACES.**

In 2018, VOTE411.org is on track to serve 4 million voters, providing localized candidate information for every voter in America, down to at least the statewide level, for both the primary and general elections.

FIGHTING FOR VOTERS

The League combats voter suppression through advocacy, grassroots organizing, legal action, and public education. Our efforts have protected voting rights and increased access to the ballot box for millions of people.

The League:

- Struck down a draconian voter photo ID law in Texas
- Secured a major legal victory in North Carolina, against a racially-biased gerrymandering system
- Convinced the Federal Election Commission to update/strengthen regulations about online campaign ad funding.
- Has been leading the fight for redistricting reform for over 50 years.



WWW.LWV.ORG