

The *informed* Voter

lwvappleton.org

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February/March 2020



League of Women Voters Program Date Change

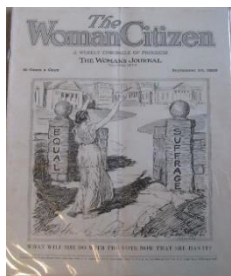
New Date – February 13, 2020

Refugee Resettlement in the Fox Cities, Thursday, February 13, 2020

Copper Rock, Appleton downtown, Program: 5:30 pm. / Doors open at 5:00 pm

This League program has moved from Monday, February 17 to Thursday, February 13 due to another refugee program scheduled at the Performing Arts Center on February 17.

The LWV program will feature staff from World Relief, Sgt. Carrie Peters of the Appleton Police Department and Innocent Irengé, Newcomer & Refugee Support Specialist for the Menasha School District. Sgt. Carrie Peters has created training for police in how to deal with new refugees and training for refugees in how to deal with law enforcement.



President's Message – Jeanne Roberts 100 years ago, the LWV was founded as a “mighty political experiment” intended to assist newly enfranchised women in learning how to register to vote and how to be educated voters. Many things have changed since then, but we are still facing many of the same struggles. Voter suppression is on the rise, racism has again reared its ugly head and civility is no longer a part of our governing bodies. The LWV continues with its mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy which is as important now as it has been in some time. This year the LWV US has started its People Powered Fair Maps program and the LWV of Wisconsin is working hard to make sure that registered voters stay registered. The LWV of Appleton will support both of those efforts while continuing to advocate for local issues such as the need to support and increase diversity, equity and inclusion in our League, our community and in our government. We plan to work with other nonpartisan organizations to increase voter registration and turnout and to provide nonpartisan candidate information so that our voters can be educated voters. Thank you for joining us to continue with our mighty political experiment to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.

Looking for State Annual Meeting Volunteers

Appleton is honored to be asked to host the Wisconsin League of Women Voters Annual Meeting on June 12th and 13th, the weekend of Flag Day. We hope to also be able to march in the Flag Day Parade along with other local Leagues around the state.

The state has asked for volunteers in specific areas for this event. We will need four volunteers to help with set-up in the morning, two at the registration table to check in attendees and hand out name tags and two nearby to hand out program packets and other giveaways. We will need two volunteers to help line up Leagues for the Parade of Leagues and to stand on opposite sides of the stage platform to assist Leaguers as they step on and off the stage. We will need two volunteers on “standby” during the Plenary Session to count votes if necessary (although it is rarely necessary). We will need two volunteers on standby to walk handheld microphones in the audience during the Plenary and Q & A sessions for speakers. Along with those, we also need someone to be a Parliamentarian for the Plenary Session. Finally, we need someone to take photographs of the event. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Jeanne Roberts at jsbob@new.rr.com.



Do you like parades, have a vehicle and trailer (or know someone who does), and would like to transport League members in the Flag Day Parade on June 13, 2020? If so, we need your help!

This year we have the privilege of hosting the LWV-Wisconsin Annual Meeting on June 12th – 13th which coincides with the Appleton Flag Day Parade on June 13th. We anticipate League members from across Wisconsin will march with us, and to accommodate members who may not be able to walk the 2-mile route we are looking for someone with a vehicle and trailer with railing to transport them!

If you can help or know someone who may be able to help, please contact Sue Hopfensperger at suehop57@gmail.com as soon as possible.

JOIN US FOR A GRASSROOTS DAY OF ACTION!

Friday, February 14 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Appleton Public Library- Room A (lower level)

On February 14, 2020, the League of Women Voters will celebrate its 100th birthday!

Our Mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Our Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Our Value: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

At the National American Woman Suffrage Association Convention in Chicago, 6 months before the final ratification of 19th Amendment, the League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt as a “powerful political experiment”. Today, the League has grown to over 700 chapters and 500,000 members of women and men.

We will gather to write to our elected representatives about important action items identified by the League. You will be provided with information on pending legislation at both the national and state level, postcards, and postage. We will help you with talking points and contact information for your representatives, all while enjoying a piece of a celebratory “Happy Birthday LWV” cake!

WOMEN’S RIGHTS ARE EQUAL RIGHTS

Join us on **Tuesday, February 18th** or **Wednesday February 19th** to hear Jessica Neuwirth, co-president of the ERA Coalition, talk about the Equal Rights Amendment.

On **Tuesday, February 18th** come hear Jessica Neuwirth, co-president of the ERA Coalition, speak about the Equal Rights Amendment: why it's still needed, what impact it will have on women's issues such as equal pay, and recent progress on ratification. We'll have a cash bar plus popcorn, so stop by after work! Jessica will start speaking at 5:00. Even though this event is free for everyone, space is limited to 250 attendees, so reserve your seat now! For more information, or to reserve a spot, go to our Centennial Website:

<https://heroicehervoteourvictory.com/upcoming-events>.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 19** from 11:30 – 1:00 at Pullmans at Trolley Square for the monthly Mid-Day Women’s Alliance luncheon meeting for a more intimate discussion with ERA Coalition co-president, Jessica Neuwirth. With recent progress towards ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, the program will be an exciting opportunity to learn more about what’s going on. Unlike the companion program on February 18, this event will have a “fireside chat” format, with co-chairs of Legislation Irene Strohbeen and Amanda Prellwitz leading an informal discussion with Jessica. Questions and comments from the audience will be encouraged.

**Cost is \$15 for Mid-Day Women's Alliance members and \$20 for guests through February 13. The cost increases \$5 for both members and guests after February 14 through February 18 online. Walk-ins on February 19 are welcome and can pay by cash or check.*
[Click to Register](#)

About Ms. Neuwirth..... Jessica is an international women's rights lawyer and activist. She is one of the founders of the ERA Coalition, mobilizing a renewed effort to get the Equal Rights Amendment into the United States Constitution. To aid this effort, she has also written the book Equal Means Equal, Why the Time for the ERA is Now which has been turned into a documentary film by the same title. Jessica is also one of the founders of Equality Now, an international women's rights organization established in 1992, and the Founder and Director of Donor Direct Action, an effort to support women's rights organizations around the world. In September 2018 she was appointed by Hunter College as Distinguished Lecturer and Rita E. Hauser Director of the Human Rights Program at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute.

Jessica holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in History from Yale University. She has a rich history working for human rights organizations ranging from Amnesty International to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Jessica has also taught international women's rights at Harvard Law School as a guest lecturer.

Jessica Neuwirth's visit is presented by The Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition and hosted by the Legislative Committee of Mid-Day Women's Alliance.

MICHELLE DUSTER TO SPEAK



The great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, a journalist and civil rights activist, will be the presenter at a very special event on Saturday, March 7, 2020, 2:00 pm. – 4:00 pm at the Red Lion Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. Her presentation is entitled "Black Women's History: African American Suffragists and The Struggle for Inclusion".

Ms. Duster, award-winning speaker and educator, has also authored or co-authored nine books including Michelle Obama's "Impact on African American Women and Girls," Duster has spent more than 20 years promoting the contributions of women and African Americans, including the impact made by her great-grandmother Ida B. Wells. A graduate from Dartmouth College, where she has earned numerous honors, most recently the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award, Duster also works tirelessly to preserve the legacy of her great grandmother. In 1989, she coproduced a PBS film, "Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice." She is currently the president of Ida B. Wells Memorial Foundation. In addition, she helps support the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Museum in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Please join us for this extraordinary event. This can be done online at the LWV website [here](#) or by sending your check along with the names of the attendees and the event on the memo line to: League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912 no later than February 26, 2020

The League is a member of the 19th Amendment Coalition along with AAUW, Midday Women's Alliance, the Women's Fund and the Northeast Wisconsin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. The Northeast Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta is the lead partner for this event, along with African Heritage, Inc.

APPLETON LEAGUE ROCKS MEMBERSHIP



Our Appleton League of Women Voters is a vibrant and exciting organization that had an outstanding 2019 for new members. Twenty six (26) women and men joined us to **EMPOWER VOTERS & DEFEND DEMOCRACY.**

At our next meeting look for the following new members and introduce yourself.

Kathy Bold	Carol Lenz	Kathy Voigt
Pat Lund-Moe	April Savage	Babs Smith
Madeleine McDermott	Sarah Fabry	Connie Rather
John Peterson	Denise Fenton	Deb Sewall
Karen Pfefferle	Jill Hill	Holly Prast
Mary Ann Rossi	Laurie Cesar	Amanda Schmidt
Kristy DeChamps	Ann Gierl	Dale Schaber
	Victoria Scott	

If you know of a potential new member, please send me (Cindy Fallona) their name and email. Let's keep this membership growth on track. 2020 is a great year for new and all members to get involved to ensure our citizens are informed and exercise their right to vote.

To renew or join the League of Women Voters go to lwvappleton.org and click *Renew or Join* on the left sidebar.

Cindy Fallona, Membership Director: cbfallona@hotmail.com

A Lively Day

About 40 members and guests crowded into Room C at the Appleton Public Library (APL) for our annual Lively Issues meeting on Saturday January 11. Our president Jeanne Roberts welcomed everyone with a long list of our League's upcoming events and efforts, plus informed us of state and national actions. We are busy!

Jill Mitchler, study committee co-chair, gave us a brief overview of the current study on Climate Change Preparedness. Her committee has been meeting almost weekly since July, and they have divided the study into two phases—see her article elsewhere in this newsletter. They will hold their Consensus meeting on the first phase of work on Saturday February 8 from 10-12 in Room C of the APL.

Then after providing a short description of the LWV process from Lively Issues to Position & Advocacy, Irene Strohbeen invited everyone in attendance to offer one topic for a study, an educational program, or for League action. A total of 30 topics were generated, and the members prioritized the following issues to be addressed in the upcoming year:

1. Advancing Racial Equity:
 - a. Racism as a public health crisis
 - b. What's being taught in our schools as US History
2. Non-Partisan Redistricting
3. Climate Crisis
4. Availability of low/moderate priced housing in Appleton
 - a. Housing for people with disabilities
 - b. Zoning, permitting and other legal ways to address gentrification
5. Reproductive health care
6. Social isolation & belonging; Strengthening our Community

Irene will take these items and prepare a recommendation to the board on what we can do with each of these topics. The proposal will then be discussed at our Annual Meeting on May 14 (5:30-9:00 at Pullman's).

League of Women Voters Appleton's Climate Change Preparedness Study

Jill Mitchler, Study Committee co-chair

Most League members know that the LWV US has already approved a position statement on climate change for protection of public health and the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The national LWV has also approved a resolution recognizing the importance of policies that align with current climate science, as well as resolutions in support of carbon pricing to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.

In addition to advocating nationally for policy solutions that will slow climate change and thereby reduce the worst impacts of global warming, we are already witnessing some of the effects of climate change. The League of Women Voters – Appleton has chosen to begin an in-depth study on local levels of climate change preparedness. The study committee consists of about eleven league members who've been working together almost weekly since our Annual Meeting last May. The team has conducted over a dozen interviews with local experts and elected officials to learn about the roles that local government and other organizations play in preparing for, and responding to, chronic stresses and acute emergencies from extreme and unpredictable weather patterns.

LWV Studies typically continue for two full years, with the final position statement presented for Board approval at the end of that period. However, this study committee decided to break their work down into two phases: the outcome for the first year is a general position statement, and the year two outcome will be a more detailed statement with specific recommendations. The team is looking forward to sharing the information they've gathered thus far at their first consensus meeting on February 8 in Meeting Room C at the Appleton Public Library. Next year at this time, the team will conclude their study with a proposed position statement that recommends more specific guidance to assist in local advocacy for climate change preparedness.

19th Amendment Centennial Kickoff Celebration

On a dreary Saturday morning, a packed crowd at the Fox Valley Performing Arts Center enjoyed good food, great comradery, and fantastic speeches at the 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition's kickoff celebration. The words of our key note speaker, Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, Founder and Executive Director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Center and suffrage historian, invigorated all those who heard her. Many thanks go out to all who were involved in making this event so memorable.



Marti Hemwall



Jeanne Roberts & guest



Dick & Shirley Strange

Lifetime Achievement Award and Making Democracy Work Youth Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award and Making Democracy Work Award were presented at the 19th Amendment Centennial Kickoff Celebration Brunch held at the Performing Arts Center on December 14. And what an event it was! Two young women, Madeleine McDermott recipient of the Making Democracy Work Youth Award and Amanda Schmitt, Honorable Mention, brought their youth, enthusiasm, and passion to the event where the audience showed their appreciation with spirited applause. For the first time in the Appleton League's history (80 years) a **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented. The League was honored to present Mary Ann Rossi, PhD, with this award for her outstanding scholarship and leadership as well as her passion in the cause of women's equality. Mary Ann delighted and awed the audience with her spirited, rapid fire history of sixty years of work and scholarship in the cause of women's equality. Mary Ann shared with the audience that she turns 89 years old, January 25, 2020. Mary Ann is a role model who has a place in history and continues to support efforts for women's equality, specifically for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. In her words, "Let's Do It!"



Madeleine McDermott



Amanda Schmitt

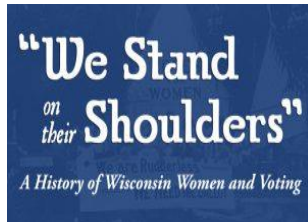


Dr. Mary Ann Rossi

**The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.”
— Ida B. Wells-Barnett**

OUTREACH

Traveling Exhibit



A **Traveling Exhibit**, developed by the [Wisconsin Historical Society](#), is available for limited display at locations throughout the Fox Valley. The eight-panel display, ["We Stand on Their Shoulders": A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting](#), explores moments when women in Wisconsin gained political rights and highlights a few key leaders.

Covering the ratification of the 19th Amendment, 1921 Wisconsin Equal Rights Act, 1924 Indian Citizenship Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act, the display shares the important story of women's quest for political rights and recognition through quotes, photographs and a timeline of events. Organizations may schedule this exhibit at no cost for a two week period. The exhibit is being managed by the History Museum at the Castle. Please contact Chief Curator Dustin Mack at dustin@myhistorymuseum.org for more information.

EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT

Educational Toolkits are available to schools at both the elementary and secondary levels. The age-appropriate toolkits provide information about the Women's Suffrage Movement and emphasize the importance of the right to vote.

Teachers can use the resources to develop their own curriculum on this topic or utilize ready-to-go activities. Toolkit content can be downloaded on the [Resources](#) page. [Contact us](#) for more information.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Community groups and organizations are welcome to take advantage of a **Speaker's Bureau**.

Volunteers from the key partner organizations are available to speak to your group about some of the more important, and sometimes unknown, history of the women's suffrage movement. They will also provide voting information, if appropriate.

The Speaker's Bureau is available to local groups of any size or age. The length of the presentation is flexible and can be adjusted to meet your group's needs.

If your organization is interested in securing a speaker for an upcoming meeting, please contact Gayle Hardt via email at gayle.hardt@gmail.com with any questions.



"Voting for a Change – The Impact of the 19th Amendment on Our Community" is an interactive exhibit now open at the [Neenah Historical Society](#) through November 2020, located at 343 Smith Street in Neenah.

The exhibit highlights the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote in the United States and how local women championed this cause. It also features “modern” gadgets that women used in the early 1900s, the clothing they wore and how it was changing, and the struggles women underwent to help Wisconsin and the country achieve voting rights for women. Visitors will be able to cast their ballot in the 1920 election in an early voting booth, discover political cartoons of the time, and learn about leaders who influenced participation by women in all spheres of our community.

The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment by calling [920-729-0244](tel:920-729-0244). Visit neenahhistoricalsociety.com for more details.

Voter Services.....



League President Jeanne Roberts and Voter Services Committee Chair Jacqueline Klimaszewski pose with Hmong New Year Queen at the Hmong New Year celebration in Appleton.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS.....

***Thursday, February 13, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm /Doors open at 5:00 pm
Copper Rock Café, downtown Appleton**

Refugee Resettlement in the Fox Cities

The LWV program will feature staff from World Relief, Sgt. Carrie Peters of the Appleton Police Department and Innocent Irengé, Newcomer & Refugee Support Specialist for the Menasha School District. Sgt. Carrie Peters has created training for police in how to deal with new refugees and training for refugees in how to deal with law enforcement.

League of Women Voters Appleton Mayoral Forum

***Thursday, March 12, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm / Doors open at 6:00pm
Appleton Public Library, 225 North Oneida Street, Appleton
Hosted by [Moms Demand Action - WI](#) and [African Heritage, Inc.](#)**

***Monday, March 16, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm /Doors open at 5:00 pm**
Copper Rock Café, downtown Appleton *Women's History – Interactive Fun!*

***Monday, April 20, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm /Doors open at 5:00 pm**
Copper Rock Café, downtown Appleton *Climate Change Preparedness*

***Thursday, May 14 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm LWV Appleton Annual Meeting**
Pullman's at Trolley Square, 619 South Olde Oneida Street, Appleton
More info to follow

Volunteer to Be an Election Observer

Help the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin monitor Wisconsin's elections. We are seeking volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in polling places in specific areas around the state. We provide training, assign volunteers their polling place(s) to observe, and provide volunteers with a reporting form to record their observations. We will do our best to assign you to a location near your home. You don't need to be a League member to volunteer for this -- although we'd love to have you join us!

For the 2020 elections 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

Requirements: You'll need to be available to volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours on Election Day. Election observers will also need a cell phone to use while volunteering and have their own transportation to and from their assigned polling location. There are also opportunities to be a "roving" observer and observe at multiple polling sites. Rovers need to be available to volunteer for at least 4 hours on Election Day. **Training Information:** We conduct our election observer training via online webinar.

Learn more about our Election Observation Program [here](#). If you have questions about this volunteer opportunity contact our Voter Education Manager, Eileen Newcomer, at enewcomer@lwvwi.org or (608)256-0827.

Upcoming elections we're observing:

- April 7, 2020
- November 3, 2020

EVENT OF INTEREST.....

Vigil to Honor Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



**February 14
Houdini Plaza
Appleton
5:00-8:00 pm**



**MEGAN KELLEY
FOUNDATION**

**Youth Climate Activists
– Fox Valley**

Questions? Call or text (920) 570-8589

Vigil in honor and memory of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. In support of legislation now moving through the Wisconsin legislature to create a task force on this issue.

5,126 known incidents of missing and murdered Native women in 2016. 84% of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. Murder is the third leading cause of death in Native women

Co-sponsored by ESTHER, Menikānaekhem, Youth Climate Activists-Fox Valley, Megan Kelley Foundation

Questions: Call or text (920) 570-8589