

The *informed* Voter

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JULY/AUGUST 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeanne Roberts



The 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment has been quite a year. What should have been a year of celebration and restoration has become a year of reminders of the inequity that continues in our country. Many of the League's positions advocate for change in these areas – racial biases, lack of an adequate healthcare system, voter suppression, the need for fair maps redistricting.

The League will continue doing its work to change these inequitable systems, but the League is only as strong as you, its members. The League needs you to continue contacting your elected officials to let them know that we need change. The League needs you to help with voter registration. The League needs you to help with our studies to add to and modernize our positions. The League needs you to examine your own implicit biases and become more aware of personal changes that you need to make.

Your help will make a difference.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WINS WEBBY AWARD

Vote411.org, the League of Women Voters' one-stop-shop for election information, has been named Best Government & Civil Innovation Website in the 24th Annual Webby People's Voice Awards. "We work to make critical election information more accessible to millions of voters every step of the way to the ballot box," said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters Education Fund. "To win the Webby People's Voice Award means so much because it is recognition from the public who value our site. This honor helps bring more visibility to VOTE411, a resource every voter can trust for accurate and unbiased information this and every election cycle."

The LWV of Appleton understands that providing accurate voter information as well as voter registration and information online during the current pandemic will be more important than ever. Congratulations, League of Women Voters!

LWVUS LAUNCHES SPANISH LANGUAGE VOTE411.ORG

The League of Women Voters is pleased to announce the launch of a Spanish language version of their Webby Award-winning website, Vote411.org. Megan Brown, manager of Vote411.org for the LWVUS, states that this new version of the nonpartisan candidate information website is available in Wisconsin for the August partisan primary and will be available for the November general election.

The website is available at <https://www.vote411.org/es/wisconsin>.

THROUGH THE LENS: SNAPSHOTS OF LWV APPLETON ACTIVITIES

Our members were extremely active this year, with special events, voter registrations, educational programs, centennial celebrations, and informative speakers. Here are a few snapshots of our members in action. Thanks to all who planned, volunteered, braved the weather, and participated in League events and activities.



Jan Henderson - Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
&
Dr. Renee Gratevitz - Brothertown Peacemaker and
Associate Professor of UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities Campus



LWV OF APPLETON RECEIVES PASSTHROUGH GRANT FOR DEI WORK

The League of Women Voters of Appleton recently received a passthrough grant to continue our work in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. The grant will help fund voter registration, absentee ballot and nonpartisan candidate information to diverse and hard to reach communities in the Appleton area. League President Jeanne Roberts states, "Diversity, equity and inclusion make us stronger and bring more voices to the table, which is clearly needed in our country and the Fox Valley right now."

DEI SURVEY RESPONSES DESCRIBE MEMBERSHIP

By Linda Bjella

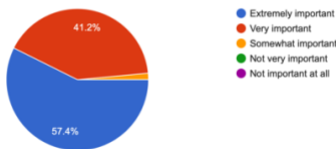
As you might expect, we are an older, middle class group of mostly white women. But we are also a group that favors greater DEI by an overwhelming margin: 99% of the survey respondents felt that this was either an "extremely important" or "very important" priority. The results reflect input from nearly 54% of our membership—also great news! And we are also increasingly an Appleton AREA membership. A good number (almost 40%) of us live outside of the city limits of Appleton.

There were some great suggestions to make our LWV more inclusive, such as providing child care, better audio systems, easier parking, and more frequent meetings. One hundred percent of us like email, and over 91% have figured out Zoom. Texting and Facebook were also popular, but, as you might expect from an older demographic, Instagram and Snapchat were pretty far down on the list of preferred technology options.

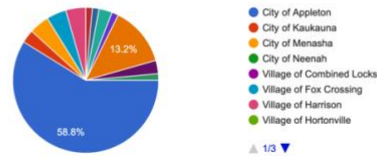
There were some great ideas offered to increase DEI such as offering more programs specific to that topic, holding events in a variety of places around the community, strengthening relations with high schools and colleges, and offering voter assistance to under-served communities. Another idea put forth was having small group “diversity circles” to share insights and learn more about white privilege. We should keep our membership fees affordable, reach out to more men, and partner with other organizations, especially youth.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey. Making the LWV more diverse, equitable, and inclusive is the way forward, and we will go in that direction!

1. To what extent is increasing the diversity, equity and inclusion of our League important to you?
68 responses



19. In which municipality do you vote?
68 responses



CENTENNIAL COALITION PLANS 19TH AMENDMENT VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Just as women suffragists had to struggle through the 1918 flu pandemic yet still managed to persevere and get the 19th amendment passed, the 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition will also persevere in our efforts to celebrate 100 years of women voting. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Coalition has been working hard to develop a virtual celebration including local voices sharing suffragist history, vibrant music, and valuable information on how and why to vote.

Join us for a Facebook live event on Women’s Equality Day, Wednesday, August 26 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. for our celebration of women’s rights: “Nevertheless We Progress”! More details on how to join will be forthcoming.

Nevertheless, We Progress!

Celebrating 100 Years of Women’s Rights

In so many ways, we have changed and yet have not. Join us in celebrating together our challenges and triumphs. Women suffragists had to struggle through the 1918 flu pandemic yet still managed to persevere and get the 19th amendment passed. Our celebration of the 19th Amendment Centennial also will go on, but adapted to protect our safety during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Nevertheless, We Progress!” will be a high-energy virtual celebration including local voices sharing suffragist history, vibrant music by well-known local musicians, and valuable information on how and why to vote.

Join us for this exciting virtual event launching on Women’s Equality Day, Wednesday, August 26, the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to celebrate women’s rights.

Nevertheless, We Progress!

LWVWI HONORS JACQUELINE KLIMASZEWSKI

By Sara Companik



Appleton League Voter Services Vice President **Jacqui Klimaszewski** is being honored by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin as recipient of its 2020 Meg McLane Award for Advocacy for her depth of work as a talented, hardworking advocate. The Meg McLane Award for Advocacy was established by the LWV Wisconsin State Board 13 years ago to recognize outstanding individuals advocating for positive change in their communities and throughout Wisconsin. It also honors the dedicated work of Meg McLane, a longtime member of the Fond du Lac League and chair of the state Legislative Committee for several years.

Jacqui has focused on building relationships with diverse communities and reaching disenfranchised voters in the Fox Valley. Through collaborations with high schools, local colleges, the technical college and a student marketing program, Jacqui has developed voter assistance that is school-based and student driven.

Jacqui, a retired educator who has been involved in educational advocacy her entire career, has collaborated with the Hmong Partnership, the Latinx community, Juneteenth, Pillars, B.A.B.E.S, the Salvation Army, the Appleton Public Library, the History Museum at the Castle, and community health organizations to provide voter assistance at their facilities.

With her recruiting and organizational skills, Jacqui has developed a Voter Services Team of League members and non-members who work on voter assistance throughout the Fox Valley. Jacqui is an outstanding facilitator at conducting candidate forums for which she has received positive feedback from both sides of the aisle.

Jacqui is admired and respected as a tireless advocate. She lives out the League mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Congratulations, Jacqui, for the well-deserved state recognition for dedicated and conscientious service.

LWV WISCONSIN RE-ELECTS SARA COMPANIK TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LWV Appleton member Sara Companik was re-elected to the LWV Wisconsin Board of Directors at its annual meeting held in June. Like many other formal events, the state organization's annual meeting was held via Zoom.

An Appleton League member since 2008, Sara says she first connected with the League because it aligned with her values and zeal for guarding our democracy. She was mentored by local League veterans before going on to serve as Vice President of Programing and then President. She also has served on a number of local League committees.

After attending conventions and events of the state and national Leagues, Sara first joined the state board in 2017. She currently serves on the Personnel/Administration Committee, and has service on two other committees to her credit.

HELP RALLY SUPPORT FOR FAIR MAPS

Thursday, July 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. will be the time to lift your signs and honk your horns in Appleton. The Fox Valley contingent of the 8th CD Fair Maps Team, along with the League of Women Voters, is sponsoring the “**Stand Up and Honk for Fair Maps**” event to raise awareness for the need to end partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

Participants are encouraged to create signs and write messages to Senator Roger Roth expressing that 72% of the people in Wisconsin want fair maps! Participants wearing masks will socially distance themselves along both sides of College Avenue between Superior and Walnut Streets in downtown Appleton or add their vehicle, emblazoned with signs, to the caravan led by the Building Unity Bus. Participants are urged to stop by Houdini Plaza, 100 W. College Ave, to drop off messages for Sen. Roth and learn more about nonpartisan redistricting at the 8th CD Fair Maps table.

Look for more information on the 8th CD Fair Maps Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Fair-Maps-WI-8th-CD-Collective-107309907689288/>) or contact Penny at pennybernardschaber@athenet.net.

JOIN SUMMER SOCIAL CONVERSATIONS ON RACISM, SOCIAL UNREST

The League of Women Voters of Appleton Diversity Committee invites you to summer conversations while observing social distancing. So far, 2020 has been like no other year we have ever experienced. We are offering you an opportunity to join virtually with your League friends to learn more about the social unrest in our country. Why are Black Lives Matter, systemic racism, re-imagining policing, social justice and the role of women important to you and our country? We are offering this “Summer Social (Distancing) Series to air these important issues.

For Session 1, “Why This Time is Different,” join us on either Wednesday, July 8 at 10:30 a.m. or when it is repeated Thursday, July 16, at 7 p.m. To prepare for the dialog, members are encouraged to view the following videos:

[“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man,”](#) by Emmanuel Acho

[“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man - Episode 2 with Matthew McConaughey,”](#)
by Emmanuel Acho

[“Where Do We Go From Here?”](#) by Oprah Winfrey

- **Disclaimer:** The videos contain ads beyond our control. Please remember that the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government.

Click on this [Register](#) link to receive a Zoom invitation to participate in the meeting. Reading material and a video link will be included to assist you in preparing for the conversation. Members who bring a guest into the conversation will receive a gift.

The second offerings in the Summer Social Distancing Gathering Series will focus on the violence against women and how this is often missing from the national conversation. The Black Lives Matter movement has taken the headlines this summer. Unfortunately, it’s often focused on police interactions with black males. This gathering will focus on the women missing from the conversation. The African American Policy Forum began the #SayHerName movement in 2014. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement has been active for much longer.

Join us as we explore why violence against women is absent from our national conversation. There will be two sessions for this series: Tuesday, August 4 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m. Additional details will be posted in late July.

LWV OF APPLETON BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Officers:

President, Jeanne Roberts
Vice President Program, Renee Gralewicz
Vice President Acton, Linda Bjella
Secretary, Julie Evers
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Voter Registration, Brian Post
Voter Education/Turnout, Jacqui Klimaszewski
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Membership, Cindy Fallona

Nominating Committee 2020

Stephanie Malaney, Chair
Nancy Pourciau
Dottie LeClair
Cindy Fallona

LWV WISCONSIN'S AUGUST PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE AVAILABLE ON VOTE411

To provide Wisconsin voters with essential information about the upcoming Partisan Primary on August 11, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has published its Fall Primary Voter Guide on [VOTE411](#). Those visiting the site can type in their address and see information about the candidates on their ballot and compare their answers to the League's questions. **Feel free to tell others about this resource and share the link.**

The August Primary will narrow the field of candidates running for:

- U.S. House of Representatives
- State Senate
- State Assembly
- Other local races requiring a primary

With limited opportunities to learn about the candidates in person, online voter guides like LWVWI's are especially important for voters making their plans to vote during the pandemic. The Wisconsin LWV encourages all voters to make their plan to vote and consider voting absentee in the August 11 and November 3 elections.

NOTABLE VIEWING

PBS LAUNCHES SERIES CELEBRATING WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS

This summer PBS has launched a multiplatform series of programs celebrating Women Trailblazers. Tune in to view these special programs:

- July 14th – We'll Meet Again: The Fight for Women's Rights – 7pm
- July 20th – POV: We Are the Radical Monarchs – 8pm
- July 23rd – American Masters: Unladylike 2020 – 10pm
- July 27th – POV Advocate – 9pm

COLLEGE OUTREACH EFFORTS

“ASK YOUR COLLEGE” URGES CAMPUSES TO DRIVE STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

“Ask Your College” is a nonpartisan volunteer campaign to urge colleges and universities to empower eligible students to vote and, in fact, try to reach a goal of full student participation. Volunteers reach out to the leadership of a campus they care about to challenge the campus to work toward this goal. Foundation for Civic Leadership hosts this campaign, and offers an Action Kit for volunteers.

Here's what YOU can do:

- **Send a letter.** The most direct approach is to edit the appropriate sample president’s letter and email it directly to the college president. We recommend copying the Vice President of Student Affairs. When you send a letter via email, please bcc askyourcollegecampaign@gmail.com.
- **Recruit others to join your ask.** If you have contacts with other college community members – such as faculty, alumni, and others – you might choose to recruit them to co-sign the letter to the president.

Sample letters:

- [College President Letter to Colleges that ARE NOT ALL IN Members](#)
- [College President Letter to Colleges that ARE ALL IN Members](#)

You can learn if your college is a member of ALL IN and about their existing campus vote efforts [here](#). Knowing about your campus’s current efforts will help you choose and tailor the right letter.

Full details can be requested at info@fclleadership.org

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