



August 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**By Jeanne Roberts, President
League of Women Voters-Appleton**

There is so much going on for our country and our League currently that we decided to do a monthly newsletter for the next several months.

As we near the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, we can see parallels between some of the struggles of 100 years ago and the struggles now. In 2020 we are still fighting for voting rights, for civil rights and for gender rights. The League of Women Voters was at the time and continues to be in the midst of all of those struggles.

We have had to adapt to a new Covid-19 world in which we have had to rethink how we do our advocacy. Our celebration of the centennial of the 19th amendment will be virtual this year – a livestream intersectional celebration of women’s voting rights entitled “Nevertheless We Progress”. Our voter registration efforts will be primarily through virtual and social media events. Our study committee and all of our programs will be on Zoom.

This has been a learning process for us but will make us stronger as a League. Thank you to all members and supporters for everything that you are doing to fulfill the League’s mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy!

City clerk to outline absentee ballots, voting

With the August Partisan Primary election over, focus is shifting to the November election and absentee voting.

League of Women Voters of Appleton will host a virtual informational program on Absentee Ballots and Voting on Monday, September 14 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.

Appleton City Clerk Kami Lynch will outline the process voters need to follow to vote absentee, and the procedures established by the Wisconsin Election Commission. The League will hold this

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The Informed Voter

Absentee Ballots Continued

program as a virtual meeting on the Zoom platform. Registration is required for security purposes and information can be found on Facebook or the League's website www.lwvappleton.org

Follow LWV Appleton on Facebook and on the League website at www.lwvappleton.org

It's Time to Celebrate!

Nevertheless, We Progress!

Celebrating One Hundred 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 Spanish 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.

To join the celebration, go online to lwvappleton.org and click on the box at left "Centennial Celebration Events, then "Virtual: Nevertheless" and View Details for registration information.

Women's Equality Day
Wednesday, August 26 • 4:30-5:30 p.m.
'Nevertheless. We Progress!'

Women's Equality Proclamation



"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Jacob A. Woodford, Mayor of the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 26, 2020 as Women's Equality & 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Day in Appleton and encourage all citizens to join in the commemoration of this historic day to honor all women who have fought for and won the right to vote in all national elections."

Signed & sealed this 5th day of August 2020.
Jacob A. Woodford
Mayor of Appleton

Karen Nelson and Jeanne Roberts accepted the Mayor's proclamation on behalf of the League of Women Voters.

Voter Services expands

By Jacqui Klimaszewski & Brian Post

Take our message to your rally/events! Signs are now available for demonstrations and events. These are lightweight and durable for carrying, and contain QRC codes that participants can scan with their smart phones to access websites. There are five signs for Vote411 and five for MyVote. We also have some for car windows: five for Vote411 and five for MyVote, as well as a 12" x 16" magnet for car doors with each message. There is also an A-frame standing form (sandwich board) with one of the messages on each side. [Contact Brian Post](#) for use at a properly physically distanced event!

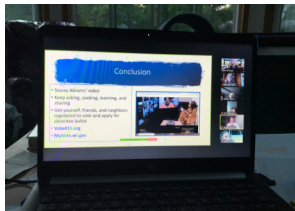
As a continuation of the great work Jacqui Klimaszewski has been doing, the Voter Services team has been expanded to include two Co-Directors: Jacqui Klimaszewski, Director of Voter Education & Turnout and Brian Post, Director of Voter Registration. The team has been developing strategies to deal with pandemic limitations on in-person events. Some themes we've heard:

- LWV has a valuable brand that should be used to pre-bunk/de-bunk voting legitimacy attacks, promote Vote By Mail
- Everyone deserves to vote safely and securely – key message tested well across the political spectrum
- Consider partnering with a broad array of community partners to demonstrate that voting is nonpartisan
- Plans in place to shift the duties of coordinating and conducting voter registration events at schools to the students, with LWV becoming a primary support and training resource. This includes developing student leaders for this undertaking.
- Broaden Social Media and Online presence

We are looking for upcoming Volunteer Opportunities to replace our in-person events:

- Recruit a cadre of witnesses for witnessing absentee ballots
- Display lawn signs for MyVote and Vote411
- Amplify social media messages to our networks

Summer series draws audiences



By Shirley Strange

The League of Women Voters hosted a **Summer Social (Distancing) Series** in July and August. The first series entitled "Why This Time Is Different" covered topics of Systemic Racism and the intersection of policing and race. The second series, "Say Her Name" and "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two Spirits" covered topics of Black women dying in police custody and the disappearances of Indigenous women, girls and two spirits.

There were 38 registrants for the first series and 48 registrants for the second series. Attendees were asked to prepare for the discussions with suggested readings and videos. At the sessions, following introductory remarks, breakout sessions provided time and space for more intimate discussions followed by reporting out to the large group. We learned, we shared, we were emotionally moved. We recognize that there is much work ahead for each of us to ensure equity and justice for all.

Planners for the events were Jeanne Roberts, League President; Renee Gralewicz, Program Vice President; Cindy Fallona, Membership Director; Shirley Strange, Chair of the Diversity Committee, and Dave Strange, Zoom Administrator.

Much appreciation to Renee Gralewicz who prepared for and moderated the discussions. Renee is a newly retired Professor of Anthropology at UW Oshkosh - Fox Cities campus (warm congratulations, Renee!). Renee worked with numerous people and agencies to establish the UW Colleges American Indian Studies Program, and continues to work with Indigenous peoples and agencies for Native American justice.

The Informed Voter

Welcome New Members

July was a great month for League membership as four new women joined to add their voices in [Empowering Voters](#), [Defending Democracy](#). They all live in Appleton so please welcome: Mary Gerlach, Audrey Renier, Amanda Skorr and Amy Van Stratten.

With these additions, our membership is strong at 140! Refer potential new members to Cindy Fallona, Membership Director, cbfallona@hotmail.com or lwvappleton.org.

Members: Our League is in the process of planning Candidate Forums this fall. These critical opportunities to hear from local candidates will necessarily be held virtually. We will need a number of volunteers to help with these events. If you're looking for a way to be active with our League, please consider these opportunities. Email cbfallona@hotmail.com and we'll contact you.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

2020-21 PROGRAMS • Virtual Gatherings

Mondays 5:15-6:30 p.m.

(Unless noted otherwise)

Come meet the League and learn about various topics of local importance!

Monday, Sep 14 – Absentee Ballots and Voting

Monday, Oct 19 – Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Monday, Nov 16 – Social Injustice in Housing

Saturday, Dec 12 – Holiday Gathering – Gerrymandering

Saturday, Jan 23 – Lively Issues (Day 1) – Understanding the Process and Bringing Issues to the Table *(Time TBD)*

Saturday, Jan 30 – Lively Issues (Day 2) – Discussion and Prioritizing the Issues *(Time TBD)*

Saturday, Feb 13 – Consensus *(Time TBD)*

Monday, Feb 15 – What's Being Taught About US History in High School?

Monday, Mar 15 – Reproductive Health Care

Monday, Apr 19 – Climate Concerns

May – Annual Meeting *(Date and Time TBD)*

National association includes Appleton events

The National Women's History Alliance included the Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition logo and events in its list of celebrations across the nation. Go online to nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/, click Centennial 2020, Update, and Update Gazette.

Member honors suffragists

EDITOR'S NOTE: League member Denise Fenton wrote the following invocation for the August 19 meeting of the Appleton Common Council, of which she is an alderperson. She has given permission for it to be printed here for our members.

Yesterday was the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote in the United States. Wisconsin was the first state to ratify, voting on June 10, 1919. The Secretary of State certified the amendment on August 26, which is the day we will observe as Women's Equality Day as proclaimed by Mayor Woodford at our last meeting.

The 19th was sometimes called the Susan B. Anthony amendment in honor of one of the suffrage movement's pioneers. She gave a speech after being arrested for voting illegally in 1872 where she quoted the preamble to the constitution and went on to clarify:

"It was we, the people, not we, the white male citizens, nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed this Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings or liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people—women as well as men. And it is downright mockery to talk to women of their enjoyment of the blessings of liberty while they are denied the use of the only means of securing them provided by this democratic-republican government—the ballot."

We know now that the suffrage movement was tainted by racism, having moved away from its founding by abolitionists. The history of the movement has until recently also largely ignored the contributions of indigenous women.

Knowing this, we can still respect and be grateful for the work done by these early leaders, while understanding that the work to ensure that all citizens have the ability to exercise their right to vote is ongoing.

I want to acknowledge two groups that are carrying on this vital work.

The League of Women Voters, which is also celebrating its centennial, having been founded just before women won the vote, works in a non-partisan way (and non-gendered since 1974) to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. The League provides voter information (from the paper voter guides of my youth to vote411.org now) and advocates to expand voting rights and fight

voter suppression. The League is the largest and longest standing grassroots voter registration organization, registering hundreds of thousands of voters every year.

In the state of Wisconsin, the 1,850 municipal clerks, 90% of whom are women, are responsible for every aspect of our voting process, from registering voters to transmitting election returns to the county clerks. They process absentee ballot requests, recruit and train poll workers, certify the equipment, operate the polling places, secure the ballots and oversee the counting of the votes. Now they have the added responsibility of ensuring that we can vote safely during a pandemic. I wish our own City Clerk, her staff and her colleagues around the state strength and patience as they do their work for the upcoming election.

Tonight, I honor the people who fought for women's rights as citizens and those who continue to work to ensure that all citizens can exercise those rights.

— Denise Fenton, Appleton Common Council,
District 6; LWV Appleton Member

Put her stamp on it!



"This year marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote." Thus begins the description on the United States Postal Service website as it introduces its 19th

Amendment: Women Vote "Forever Stamp." The commemorative stamp will be issued first on August 22. A sheet of 20 Women Vote stamps costs \$11.00, with each stamp equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce price of 55 cents each.