



October 2020

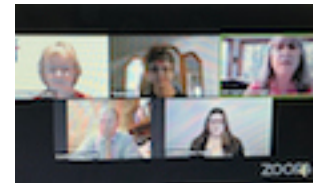


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**By Jeanne Roberts, President**

What a month! We have learned much as a League, including how much more help we really could use from our members.

Special thanks to Dave Strange for the incredible amount of work that he has done and Barbara Kelly for being his backup tech person for the candidate forums. We were able to reach almost 3,000 people by utilizing Zoom for the forums!



Tusler-Voight Candidate Forum

Given the current situation with Covid-19 our League will need to continue doing our work to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy using a virtual format. That means we will need people to volunteer to learn about the technical assistance that is needed including how they can help with candidate forums, social media, monthly programs and all of the other work that we are doing. If we can get enough volunteers, it will not require nearly as much time for any of us.

We have been doing an incredible amount of work at the local, state and national levels, especially with our focus on voting safely. The WEC reports that 1,286,494 have already requested an absentee ballot in Wisconsin! The LWV US has been filing lawsuits to eliminate efforts at voter and census suppression and they have had some success. The LWV Appleton has been focused on voter registration education and assistance focused on voting safely, including providing assistance for those who want to complete an absentee ballot but need a witness.

The media has noticed our good work and has turned to the League to provide the nonpartisan, fact-based information that they have been known for since February of 1920. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey!

## Monday, October 19: Hispanic Heritage Program

By Renee Gralewicz

I am astonished at the number of programs and activities available these days!! One positive aspect of Covid-19 isolation requirements is that most of the programs have become digital and FREE!! I used to try to squeeze in at least one a month because of travel and parking constraints. Now those are not barriers. The primary barrier becomes, "How much time do I want to spend at the computer?"

Another positive aspect is that most of the programs are recorded so that you can view them in your leisure, which I hope you have.

On Monday, **October 19 at 5:15 p.m.** we celebrate **Hispanic Heritage** with a fabulous program co-sponsored with Kimberly-Clark's LAND (Latin American Network for Diversity) division. We'll explore the great variety of what Hispanic and Latino encompass.

We have a few more programs coming up. We are still seeking a speaker to educate us on the process if there is a contested result in the general election. You'll get an email if we connect with a speaker.

Our **November 16** program at **5:30 p.m.** will focus on the **Social Injustice in Housing** and how structural racism has played a part.

We'll end the year with a conversation about **Gerrymandering Saturday, December 12**. This is an essential conversation as the 2020 Census comes to a close and legislatures will work on district maps again.

I am asking for people with technology skills who would be interested in exploring viable ways to host the **January Lively Issues** virtual meetings. Lively Issues needs to be very interactive with a lot of people participating. If you have an interest in helping organize this virtual event, please contact Renee at [reneegralewicz@gmail.com](mailto:reneegralewicz@gmail.com)

## Join Nonpartisan 'Pack the Polls' Parade Oct.24

Appleton will join a growing list of other Wisconsin cities on Saturday, October 24, National Vote Early Day, to demonstrate our support for the most basic exercise of democracy: voting. The League of Women Voters of Appleton is coordinating our local event which will be strictly non-partisan in keeping with the League's core mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Participants will be asked to decorate their cars with signs that encourage voting and promote issues but NOT candidates or political parties. We want to promote unity in our community by bringing together a broad spectrum of local civic organizations. We also want to ensure the safety of all participants by designing this a contactless event. Everyone will be encouraged to stay safely inside a vehicle, but should also have a mask and observe social distancing guidelines.

The car parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Appleton East High School, 2121 E. Emmers Dr., Appleton, WI 54915. Please enter via E. John St. Cars should be ready for the parade when they arrive with signs and balloons, etc. Each participant will receive five copies of a leaflet with voting information and a parade route map. Participants are encouraged to share the extra copies of the leaflet with friends and family members to expand our voter outreach.



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## ‘Pack the Polls’, continued

Once cars are assembled in the East High School parking lot, the parade route will proceed as follows: north on E. John St. west on College Ave. north on Mason St. east on Glendale Ave. south on Meade St. west on Wisconsin Ave. south on Drew St. east on College Ave. south on E. John St. back to East High School. Drivers should be cautious and proceed through the route regardless of separations due to traffic signals. The parade should finish by around 3:30 p.m.

Plans for the local parade are being led by Linda Bjella and Penny Bernard Schaber. To learn more, watch the League website, [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org) or contact Linda via email at [lindabjella@gmail.com](mailto:lindabjella@gmail.com)

## Podcasts, Programs Feature LWV Appleton

Our League was fortunate to work together with Red Shoes Inc. and the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to produce some social media ads and an interview to spread word of our work, especially in this critical election year.

Thanks to Red Shoes Inc. for inviting the League of Women Voters of Appleton to their live podcast, Sole Source, to talk about their nonpartisan advocacy and get out the vote efforts. In addition to the podcast, Red Shoes Inc. also will be promoting LWV efforts through ads they produced and placed during some of their upcoming episodes. The first, featuring Vicki Updike, owner of New Sage Strategies and founder of the Women’s Leadership Conference, aired October 15. In addition, an ad was placed in another episode including UW-Green Bay Communication Chair Phil Clampitt, who recently published a book on critical thinking in the age of hype and nonsense. He speaks about how to weed through tons of noise and make a clear decision – including voting decisions.

The League also was thrilled to participate in “The Show Must Go On”, the weekly program of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. League Program Vice President Renee Gralewicz and President Jeanne Roberts were interviewed by PAC Executive Director Maria Van Laanen. We talked about the work of the League as well as collaborations that the League has done with the Performing Arts Center and how the arts and nonpartisan advocacy work together.

## Changing Operations Result in New Services

The League has had to change how it does its work to ensure the safety of members as well as people in the community that it serves. One of the new services provided is volunteer witnesses for absentee ballots.

The LWV has so far been able to provide this to several people in the Appleton area and even got a call from someone in the Green Bay area asking for help. The witnesses are sent out in pairs for their own safety as well as to ensure that the ballot and witnessing is being done correctly. In addition, all witnesses are identified as LWV members and are required to wear protective gear such as masks. If you are interested in being a volunteer or know of anyone who needs this service, contact either Jacqui Klimaszewski or Brian Post.



## The Informed Voter

### Voter Services Tackles Videos, Forums, Outreach

The League of Women Voters Appleton has produced four videos to promote voting and voter education. These videos were funded by a grant from LWV US to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. These short videos are intended to help educate the public on how to register to vote, vote an absentee ballot, and to access Vote411 to find nonpartisan candidate information.

We encourage all of our members to share these videos via social media to help spread the message of voter encouragement from diverse members of our community.

We'd like to say thank you to Coalesce Marketing for their efforts on this. We are grateful to Victoria, Vered, Monique and Karen for being our stars!

Here are the links to the videos:

[Register to Vote - Victoria](#)      [Register to Vote – Vered](#)

[Vote 411 - Karen](#)      [Absentee Ballot - Monique](#)



Snodgrass-Beach Forum

A link to all our LWV Appleton videos: [LWV Appleton YouTube Channel](#)

### Candidate Forums Go Virtual

As with most things in our lives, candidate forums needed to go from live/in person to online/virtual in an accelerated timeline. LWV Appleton, led by Dave Strange, our technical and online expert, we researched and developed an online approach. Along with Jacqui Klimaszewski, they assembled a team, assigned primary and back-up roles, and conducted multiple practice sessions.

Our team produced three candidate forums via Zoom and Facebook live. These forums reached 2,998 participants (at least momentarily saw that they were occurring) and engaged 680 (saw some portion), and we experienced no technical issues. These forums were a great showcase for LWV Appleton!

Click on these links to view the forums:

- [📄 Assembly District #3 – Tusler & Voight-Appleton](#)
- [📄 Assembly District 56 – Murphy & Lawrence-Appleton](#)
- [📄 Assembly District 57 – Beach & Snodgrass-Appleton](#)

Additionally, Jacqui coordinated with the Greater Green Bay and Door County leagues to produce a Congressional District #8 forum highlighting Mike Gallagher and Amanda Stuck. This forum was not live, but recorded on October 6 and then distributed to the participating leagues. A link to this forum also is available on our website and social media accounts.

Please share these links on your own social media.

### LWV Appleton Mentors Local High School Marketing Students

LWV Appleton in conjunction with Willems Marketing in Appleton is working with two local high school seniors from the Willems Student Marketing Team. This program engages marketing students with local efforts to produce and execute a marketing campaign during the school year.

These students aim to reach high school seniors eligible to vote and will include messages about why it is important to vote, how to register and vote, and how voters can access nonpartisan candidate information. They have plans for:

- Social media platform and campaign
- Collaborating with other school clubs/organizations/senior homeroom activities

We find it highly inspirational to be working with such passionate and talented young people!

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS**  
**2020-21 PROGRAMS • Virtual Gatherings**

Mondays 5:15-6:30 p.m.  
*(Unless noted otherwise)*

**Log on with other League members and learn about topics of local importance!**

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)*



**Issues Briefing Introduces Leagues Statewide to Work Ahead**

LWVWI will host a virtual Issues Briefing this year the week after the November 3 election. For new members, Issues Briefing is usually a great way to meet League members from around the state and find out about the work going on in Wisconsin. As with everything else this year, Issues Briefing is now virtual although it is still a great way to find out about the League work in Wisconsin. This year, League members and friends will gather virtually over three evening meetings and one morning meeting to share advocacy updates on issues related to the League’s three central policy areas: Natural Resources, Social, and Government Policy. Members will learn how to take action on state policy positions at the local level.

Over the course of three evenings, LWVWI will present three separate one-hour webinars, each devoted to updates and information on active issues related to our core positions:

- Monday, November 9, 6:30PM - 7:30PM: Advocacy for Natural Resources Policy - Focus on Water Quality and Health-related Issues
- Tuesday, November 10, 6:30PM - 7:30PM: Advocacy for Social Policy - A Conversation on Systemic Racism
- Thursday, November 12, 6:30PM - 7:30PM: Advocacy for Government Policy - Focus on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, Redistricting and an Election Debrief

**Concluding Session**

- Saturday, November 14th, 10:00AM - 11:30AM: Issues Briefing will conclude with a virtual meeting featuring a panel discussion on the unequal impacts of COVID-19.

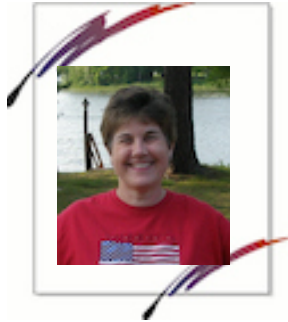
Registration information will be forthcoming.

**NOTE:** LWV Appleton is aligned with LWVUS and LWV Wisconsin through a portion of our membership dues, and through collaborative initiatives and programs. To learn more, go online to our website at [lwvappleton.org](http://lwvappleton.org)

## New Feature: Nice to Meet You!

**NOTE: Since restrictions due to Covid-19 prevent us from socializing at League meetings and events, the Membership Committee devised a way for us to get better acquainted with each other. They created a list of fun and informative questions, tapped a variety of League members, and asked them to select a few of the questions to give us a glimpse into their reasons for participating in League, their background, interests and personalities. Say hello to our first Member Autobiographer!**

### Beth English – Jump right in!



I joined League when I first moved to Appleton 40 years ago. I was drawn to it because of the way it satisfied my curiosity. I wanted to know how things worked in my new town.

Once I joined I met the very brightest women who knew how to get things done. Many of those women became mentors to me. I am still astounded by issues that are still being affected by studies we started and debated years ago--the public library, riverfront development and intergovernmental sharing of services, to name a few.

One of my favorite books is “Timefulness” by Lawrence University professor, Marcia Bjornerud. Bjornerud tells us “If widely adopted, an attitude of timefulness could transform our relationships with nature, our fellow humans, and ourselves. “ When we take a look backward, we recognize that change takes hard work. Meaningful change takes time. We can learn a lot about societal change from geologic change, can’t we?”

One of my favorite trips was to Austria to ski the Alps. Definitely a novice skier, I was terrified to leap from a gondola at the very top of a glacier. The icy bowl looked like it ended at the edge of oblivion. But, I made it. I really enjoyed the excitement and the incredible view. That memory is an inspiration to me to just do it! Jump right in. I am typically glad I did.

## Diversity Committee Makes Recommendations

**By Shirley Strange, Chair  
Diversity Committee**

The Diversity Committee of the League of Women Voters has put forward a Mission Statement. Goals and action items are forthcoming and will be shared in an upcoming newsletter. The Mission Statement reads as follows:

### **Mission Statement**

**The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a nonpartisan organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and is striving to overcome historical injustices and stereotype-based bias. The LWV of Appleton is committed to fostering an environment of belonging as we work together to carry out the League’s mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.**

We draw your attention to films and book titles recommended by the Diversity Committee. These are found on our website here: [lwwappleton.org](http://lwwappleton.org)

Two of the latest books recommended by committee members are:

**The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present**, David Treuer (2019)

**Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents**, Isabel Wilkerson (2020)

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## Climate Change Study Team Produces Videos

By Jill Mitchler, Co-Chair  
Climate Change Preparedness and  
Resilience Study Committee

The League of Women Voters of Appleton's Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Study committee members have been working on a series of short educational modules, each related to the challenges and possible solutions to the various issues that they've been researching over the past 18 months.



CLIMATE CHANGE  
PREPAREDNESS AND  
RESILIENCE STUDY



In these times of physical distancing, we are unable to offer our traditional educational forums to share the committee's learnings with League members and the public. Therefore, committee members decided to create short videos (each around 10 minutes long) to help explain the complexity of the many issues we must address as a community to become more aware and prepared for the impacts of climate change. These videos also share some important recommendations that will become part of the committee's final draft position statements.

The first five videos in our series have just been released and can be found at the top of the Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience tab on the LWV-Appleton's webpage. They are:

- [Overview: Envisioning a Resilient Community](#)
- [Water Team: Water Quality](#)
- [Fox-Wolf Watershed: A Managed System Vulnerable to Climate Change](#)
- [Agriculture, Climate Change and Water Quality](#)
- [Pollution of the Winnebago Water System by Blue Green Algae](#)

Over the next three months, additional videos in this series will be released on the following topics: Vulnerable Populations, Resilient Infrastructure, Economics of Resilience, Long-standing Resilience Programs, and Regional Coordination.

The LWV Appleton's Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Study committee members hope you enjoy these videos and find them interesting, informative and inspiring!

## Diversity Recommendations, continued

Committee members and Dave Strange, the League's Technology Director, are working toward increasing the League's ability to offer League programming in Spanish and Hmong.

Ligia Rivera, committee member, has made good progress with Voter Registration in the Hispanic Community. Ligia also created summaries of the political candidates in Spanish for New London and Beaver Creek area, and Voces de la Frontera will print flyers and do a personal outreach to farming Hispanic families in that area.

October is Hispanic Heritage Month. For PBS Wisconsin Passport members, we invite you to come to know Dolores Huertas, an important figure in securing basic rights and health benefits for all farmworkers, and a fighter for racial and labor justice.

[DOLORES PBS Independent Lens Documentary Independent Lens | Dolores | Season 19 | Episode 12](#)

Check out the League's Facebook page (League of Women Voters of Appleton) to see and hear Renee Gralawicz recognizing Indigenous People's Day (October 12) as she offers a Land Acknowledgement.

Read Karen Nelson's article in Appleton Monthly Magazine, (October) *Racism is a Crisis* <http://appletonmonthlymag.com/better-together/>

## Managing Voter Expectations — Make the Message Compelling

This election is going to be like no other in our lifetime. It is an election happening during a worldwide pandemic with incredible amounts of disinformation from both national and international sources, both inside and outside the government. There are record numbers of people voting by mail this year and while those ballots are arriving early to many municipal clerk's offices, they cannot be counted until the day of the election.

This is a recipe for fear and mistrust. What is important is that we all remain patient for the outcomes of the election and not spread any of the disinformation that is already rampant. Make sure that we only view legitimate news sources and that we do not become a part of the disinformation campaign.

Research is showing that most voters (52%) expect to have an officially certified winner of the presidential election within three days of the election. A longer-than-expected wait for results breeds distrust in the election: half of voters believe a 7- to 10-day ballot counting period would make it hard for them to trust the final results. However, with explanations and messaging, we can effectively move 39% of voters' expectations for an official winner later than it was before, which also shores up confidence.

Critically, our explanations are more compelling and more successful if they are presented before Trump's counter messaging, highlighting the importance of getting this message out now.

The League of Women Voters is working with other nonpartisan voting rights organizations to make sure that we get messages out now. When you see anything from League with statements such as "When we take the time to count and verify every ballot, it's a sign that our democracy is working," share it with your friends and family on your social media. With all of us working together, we can make this election safe and fair!

"When we take the time to count and verify every ballot, it's a sign that our democracy is working,"