



AUGUST 2021



## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By Linda Bjella and Marti Hemwall



Our League takes a hiatus from monthly meetings in July and August so our League members can take advantage of all that the short Wisconsin summer has to offer, but there is always much good work going on behind the scenes.

We will launch a redesigned website this fall that will give us more dynamic and engaging content. Dave Strange has been hard at work with several board members to develop this new platform.

Outagamie County will receive \$36 million over the next two years from the American Rescue Plan Act passed in March. The county held a series of "stakeholder workshops" this summer to hear directly from citizens on how to allocate these funds. League members have been involved and are closely following the decision-making process. In early September, we will make a statement based on our positions on how to prioritize this spending.

Voter Services never takes a break even during an off-year for elections. Voter registration events are scheduled at many community events. This is a great way for newer members to get involved as volunteers are always needed and excellent training is provided. Let Jacqui Klimaszewski ([jjklim@new.rr.com](mailto:jjklim@new.rr.com)) or Brian Post ([6615@sbcglobal.net](mailto:6615@sbcglobal.net)) know if you're interested in joining the Voter Service Team. Read more details on page 3.

Our Program Vice-President Renée Gralewicz has been busy arranging exciting monthly programs all built around the themes of civil discourse and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mark your calendars for our first program on civil discourse set for Monday, September 13. At this time, we're planning on an in-person event at Copper Rock in downtown Appleton, but we are closely following public health guidelines issued by the Wisconsin and Appleton Departments of Health.

The DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) committee has been meeting to help launch our study on DEI issues in the Appleton area. The study committee will begin meeting in September. Being part of a League study is one of the best ways to get involved in an issue at the grassroots level. Please contact Jeanne Roberts ([jsbob@new.rr.com](mailto:jsbob@new.rr.com)) if you're interested in the study committee or the DEI Committee's work this year.

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## Presidents' Message, continued

Our membership continues to grow under Membership Director Cindy Fallona's leadership. Cindy hosted a reception for new members at her home in July. Her committee is working on contacting all members to find out interests and how to help everyone become engaged in our League's important work.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer. We will look forward to getting together soon as we progress through another exciting year for our League!

## Check Out Opportunities to Protect the Vote

**By Jacqueline Klimaszewski, Director  
Voter Education & Turnout**

One way LWV members can help protect our right to vote from this unprecedented attack on our democracy is encouraging people to register and/or check their registration status. Our Voter Services team is partnering with local event coordinators to have our presence at these events and need volunteers to help make our mission successful.

Our volunteer roles typically include:

- Pick up/ Set up (for outdoor venues – Canopy, weights, sandwich board, etc.). 1-2 people; about an hour
- Event Volunteers (help with registration, status checks, answer questions) 2 people, typically in 2-hour shifts
- Take down/Return (for outdoor venues: canopy, weights, sandwich board, etc.). 1-2 people, about an hour

You can sign up for one or all. You get to meet other LWV'ers (most of them are pretty nice)! You get to meet people interested in voting! You get to do your part to protect our democracy!

What about Covid? The LWV Appleton will continue to follow the latest City of Appleton COVID-19 Guidance in accordance with CDC recommendations at all of our events.

Concerned that you don't know all the ins and outs about registration in Wisconsin? We can help with that! We offer training (see below) and we provide you with a step-by-step job aid so you can just follow the directions.

Ask to get on our volunteer list today! Contact J. Klimaszewski by email to [jjklim@new.rr.com](mailto:jjklim@new.rr.com).

### Voter Registration Training Offering

LWV Appleton is offering Voter Registration Training on August 17 and again on September 21. Sessions will be from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and will be conducted via Zoom. Please contact Brian Post, [6615@sbcglobal.net](mailto:6615@sbcglobal.net), to attend either session. The Zoom link will then be provided.

## ‘Woman’s Hour’ Author Keynotes Women’s Equality Day

Elaine Weiss, journalist and award-winning author of the riveting account of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, will be the featured speaker at our Women's Equality Day event Thursday, August 26 at Perry Hall on the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh-Fox Cities Campus.



This event is presented by the Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition.

In her book, “The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote”, Weiss provides a gripping account of the ratification of the constitutional right of all US women to vote. Steven Spielberg’s Amblin TV is currently developing “The Woman’s Hour” for television with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton serving as executive producer.



Elaine Weiss

Weiss’ work has appeared in The Atlantic, Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and other national publications, as well as in reports and documentaries for National Public Radio. She is a frequent media commentator on the themes of women’s political organization and voting rights, with recent interviews on NPR’s All Things Considered, CBS Sunday Morning, and PBS American Experience.

A wine and hors d'œuvres reception at 4:30 p.m. will precede the program, which will begin at 5:45 p.m. Weiss will sign copies of her book following the program.

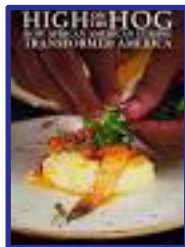
Tickets are \$5 and are required in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. The registration deadline is August 15, 2021. Seating is limited due to social distancing requirements, so save your seat early! LWV Appleton will continue to follow the latest City of Appleton COVID-19 Guidance in accordance with CDC recommendations at all of our events.

[Register Here](#)

## DEI: Netflix Series Portrays Life ‘High on the Hog’

**By Sandie Miller, DEI Committee Member**

“High On the Hog” is a four-part series of one-hour episodes on Netflix. It tells the influence of Black culture on our present day dining experience. For example, Thomas Jefferson's enslaved chef studied in Paris, and it was there he learned to make mac and cheese and brought the recipe to the States.



The first hour takes place in Africa and in the port where a majority of the captives were shipped out. It talks about the food they had there--okra, rice, yams. It also discusses the human trafficking.

The second hour takes place in South Carolina where the enslaved people introduced their native foods, made do with all the leftover parts the white men wouldn't eat, creating soups and stews. It also tells how important the black people were in growing rice, and how rice made South Carolina rich.

Philadelphia is the site of the third episode and talks about Thomas Jefferson's and George Washington's enslaved chefs and how highly they were prized. It also talks about the Blacks being the first caterers to whites and blacks, and what a fine living they made from it.

Finally, the last episode takes place in Texas, where the first cowboys were black men. "Boy, go get the wood." "Boy, go get the cows." And of course it talks about BBQ!

Very, very informative. There was so much information I never knew about. Really worth watching.

## League Welcomes New, Ongoing Members on the Patio

**By Cindy Fallona, Membership Director**

The League's summer social was indeed a success with 25 new and veteran members in attendance. While we enjoyed each other's camaraderie, the LWV cookies were also a hit!

The weather was perfect for an outdoor gathering as we enjoyed popcorn, cookies and beverages. Members listened to Jeanne Roberts and Shirley Strange explain the League's new study, DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) issues in the Appleton area. This newly approved study has received a great deal of positive response from our membership. The initial planning stages are already happening.



It is not too late to join the study committee. Contact Jeanne Roberts or Shirley Strange if you are interested in joining the study or would like additional information.

### ***Welcome! Welcome!***

June and July have brought us more than warm weather. Four new members joined the LWV Appleton. Let's all please welcome:

**Sarah Hess, Appleton; Kathie Kinnaman, Neenah; Jackie Nider, Appleton, and Zola Nimmer of Larson!**

In-person League meetings have resumed. The LWV Appleton will continue to follow the latest City of Appleton COVID-19 Guidance in accordance with CDC recommendations at all of our events.

Please be sure to introduce yourself to the new members at all events. Your next opportunity to do so will be on Thursday, August 26 at our Women's Equality Day celebration. The celebration also is an excellent opportunity to bring potential new members to the program, so please consider inviting a friend.

## Member Spotlight: Rohde Hails as Accountant, Activist, Biker

Meet Sandi Rohde: accountant, pollworker, activist, biker.

### **What would you like Appleton League members to know about you?**

I was born in Chicago, but moved to Wisconsin by the time I was one year old. I grew up in Madison until we moved to the Fox Valley in my middle school years, and I graduated from Appleton East High School. I've lived here ever since except for 2 years when I was transferred to Lexington, North Carolina for work.

I've been married to my husband, Gary, for 27 years. I have a stepson, Kristoffer, who is married (Kate) and made us grandparents to Liliana last November. Our son, Cameron, graduated from UW-Whitewater and is working in the Appleton area for an insurance brokerage company. We have our 13-year-old golden doodle, Libby – whose full name is Liberty Belle because she was born on the Fourth of July. I'm thankful my immediate family are all in the area.



Gary, Sandi and Cameron Rohde

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## Member Sandi Rohde, continued

It's been just over five years that I retired after 32 years working for Kimberly-Clark, where I finished my career in project management in the Information Technologies area. My formal education is in accounting, banking and finance, and business, with my last two B.S. degrees from Lakeland College in Sheboygan.

I spent the first 1-1/4 years of retirement doing informational interviews with people in the area that were part of the non-profit world. I needed to narrow my passions down to something I could focus my energy on. I ended up settling into all things related to women's empowerment and voting, of course because when that happens all the rest of my interest areas will be addressed. I worked part-time for the Girl Scouts until last year. I've volunteered with the Women's Fund for their luncheon. I've been involved with Mid-Day Women's Alliance since retiring in roles for Foundations, Welcome, three years as VP of Membership, and recently as Legislative chair.

I'm one of the original leaders for the local Fox Valley group of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I also support the Moms Green Bay group and data at the state level. Until recently I was involved with a women's motorcycle riding group that empowered women through riding their own bikes called Stiletto's on Steel.

I joined the Appleton League of Women voters for a couple of years now and participate on the Voter Services team. Other things that might help make connections: PAC shows, live (original) music, local fine dining and wine with friends, volleyball, golf, exercise, boating and water skiing, DIY home projects and motorcycle riding. I'm not an expert networker but I like to meet people and learn about them so that I can help connect people to others as needed. Thank you for the opportunity to share.

**Tell us one or two important things that League has given you.**

The ability to help others register to vote and confidence to be a poll worker.

**In which election did you first vote?**

I've voted ever since I was 18 years old – which would make it spring of 1979.

**What is the last book you have read?**

"Fight Like a Mother" by Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

## With August Comes Slate of Fall Programs

**By Renee Gralewicz, VP Programs**

August is here!!!! I sure wish I could slow down the summer months. My gardens are flourishing, and the four-legged and winged ones are getting fatter too. I hope that you're enjoying the summer. Our weather spirits seem to be enjoying each other's company as we have summer and autumn weather within the same week. At least winter spirits are not yet joining the fun.

Our June 24<sup>th</sup> gathering in Jaycee Park was wonderful! Thank you to those who braved the cloudy weather and joined us in the park. It was exhilarating to be together. For those who joined us via Facebook live streaming, I am working on acquiring a microphone to connect to my cell phone. That should alleviate some of the audio problems. For those who missed the conversation of Irene Strohbeen and Monica Rico, click [here](#) to connect to the video, which was recorded by Jeanne Roberts. (Thanks Jeanne.) You need to scroll to the bottom.

Please save the following dates. Due to Covid pandemic, please continue to check for program updates as each date comes close. Our Monday gatherings usually begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m.. I am still working on locations for our Holiday Brunch and Lively Issues. We anticipate live streaming to Facebook as well as recording them again.

- September 13, 2021 (Monday, Copper Rock Coffee) – Civil Discourse
- October 4, 2021 (Monday) – Legislative Town Hall (virtual)

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## Slate of Fall Programs, continued

- November 15, 2021 (Monday, Copper Rock Coffee) – Local Engagement
- December 11, 2021 (Saturday) – Annual Holiday Brunch with performances by Voices of Hope
- January 15, 2022 (Saturday) – Lively Issues
- February 7, 2024 (Monday) – Legislative Town Hall (virtual)
- February 21, 2022 (Monday) – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Study Update
- March 21, 2022 (Monday, Copper Rock Coffee) – (Multicultural) Local Women Business Leaders
- April 18, 2022 (Monday, Copper Rock Coffee) – AAPI Heritage Celebrations
- May 21, 2022 (Saturday) – Annual Meeting

## Census Data Shifts Focus to Fair Maps Creation

**By Linda Bjella, Co-President**

The task of creating fair legislative maps that will be in place until 2031 begins this month when the 2020 census data is released. The statewide campaign to end the extreme partisan gerrymandering has shifted into high gear, and it's all hands-on-deck to bring an end to a decade of minority control of state government. Here are some ways you can get involved:

### August 17 Webinar Sponsored by Common Cause

Senator Jeff Smith and Representative Deb Andraca will be featured speakers at a webinar hosted by Common Cause of Wisconsin. Other panelists include Melody Barnes, an attorney and legal expert with Law Forward, and former state representative Penny Bernard Schaber who is also a member of our League. Webinar participants will have an opportunity to pose questions to the panelists during the 90-minute session. You can [register here](#) to attend this virtual event, which will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17.

### August 28: Pack the Park for Fair Maps

This event is set for 11:00 a.m. at Bay Beach Park in Green Bay. The featured speakers include LWV-WI Executive Director Debra Cronmiller; Sachin Chheda, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Fair Elections Project; Representative Deb Andraca, co-author of the redistricting reform legislation (AB 389 & SB 395), and former State Senators Dave Hansen and Dan Theno. The host of the event will be comedian Kristin Brey, creator of the entertaining website and YouTube videos "As Goes Wisconsin".

In Appleton, the Fair Maps Bus will be parked downtown to bring attention to the issue of fair maps during the Farmer's Market that morning. Mid-morning, the bus will lead a car caravan up to the rally in Green Bay. Participants are asked to assemble with their cars decorated in the park-and-ride lot on Ballard Road between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. to meet the Fair Maps bus there, then proceed to Green Bay. If you need further details, please contact Ann Muenster, [muensterann19@gmail.com](mailto:muensterann19@gmail.com)

### Take Action for Fair Maps

The nonpartisan redistricting bills introduced by Sen. Smith and Rep. Deb Andraca have yet to have a public hearing. Write to the members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations: Senators Stroebe (chair), Felzkowski (vice-chair), Bradley, Roys, and Smith to demand a public hearing for SB 395. Also write to the members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs: Representatives Swearingen (chair), Vorpapel (vice-chair), Kuglitsch, Tauchen, Summerfield, Spiros, Knodl, Brooks, Schraa, Sinicki, Pope, Ohnstad, and McGuire. Urge them to hold a public hearing on AB 389. In addition, you should write or call your own senator and representative and ask them to co-sponsor this legislation that will establish a nonpartisan procedure for redistricting once and for all. You can also sign your name on-line to the Fair Maps petition [here](#).

### Listen to "The Gerrymandered State" podcast series

Lawrence University junior Benjamin DePasquale produced three excellent podcasts for this mini-series. Learn how extensive and far-reaching the harm gerrymandering has been statewide and locally, and how you can make a difference to help end it.

- **Episode 1: The History of Gerrymandering in Wisconsin** features Matt Rothschild, Executive Director at the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.
- **Episode 2: The Ramifications of Gerrymandering in Wisconsin** - Ben talks with Outagamie County Board Supervisor Jerry Iverson, and Board Chair Jeff Nooyan.
- **Episode 3: What Citizens Can Do** features Penny Bernard Schaber, 8th CD Fair Maps Team Leader and retired State Legislator, and Carlene Bechen, Organizing Director for the Fair Maps Coalition.