



JANUARY 2022

Co-Presidents' Message: Working to be a Community Resource



By Linda Bjella and Marti Hemwall

December was an interesting end of our League year. A major ice and snow storm managed to delay our Holiday Brunch until January 29, 2022. And now, due to the current alarming spike in Covid-19 cases, the board made the unfortunate decision to cancel the New Year's Brunch. We regret that this event won't take place this year, but we look forward to our annual Holiday gathering next December. Plan to join us for our annual meeting in May when we will present our Making Democracy Work Award.



We are working hard on all the issues important to the League — voter information and registration, action efforts, Observer Corps, monthly issue programs, town hall planning, and the diversity, equity and inclusion study. We also continue our work on the new website, under the guidance of Dave Strange and Barb Kelly with Kathy Voigt helping to coordinate the efforts. The board participated in a day-long "Boot Camp" to learn how to manage this exciting new website which will make it easier to get voting information, receive action alerts, keep up on events, and find a good volunteer opportunity. The website will be an even better resource for the wider community as well. We can hardly wait to introduce you all to the look and functionality.

Our efforts to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) throughout our positions, website and outreach are progressing. The League of Women Voters of the US has made DEI work a national priority, and Jeanne Roberts and Renee Gralwicz have been instrumental in helping to develop state-wide DEI initiatives.

It's a New Year. As we all make resolutions, perhaps it is time for each of us to consider how we can make even more of a difference. Important elections are coming in 2022 and we want to help everyone be well-informed and to vote.

We have so many interesting and important projects and are **seeking more volunteers** from our membership so we can further our outreach. Please consider! Some opportunities are **one-time or short-term projects**, ranging from a couple of hours, to a committee that will **only meet a few times**. Others are **longer term**. Some can be **done from home**; others involve **virtual or Zoom meetings or events**. We also need **observers of public meetings** (even if you can only do it occasionally), and people to **help with voter registration, legislative town halls and candidate forums**.

Please let either of us know what you might be interested in doing, and **we will** make sure to **connect you**. 2022 is going to be a momentous year – be part of the action.

Happy New Year!

Appleton Taskforce to Present Strong Recommendations

By Jan Quinlan

Action Vice President

The City of Appleton's Taskforce on Resiliency, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation has been meeting since February 2020. Their goals were to convene area leaders for the purpose of making practical recommendations so our community may move toward achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner. The Task Force included alderpersons Denise Fenton, Kristin Alfheim, and a number of our LWV Appleton members, many who served on the League's Climate Resiliency Study Committee.

The Taskforce has now completed their work and submitted their final report, including a list of strong recommendations. You can read the full report here:

[climate change taskforce recommendations DRAFT.pdf](#)

On **Wednesday, January 19**, the Climate Task Force will make their public report presentation in City Council chambers at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to attend in person, the LWV invites you to arrive around 5:45 p.m. to learn more. Your participation will also demonstrate our support for the months of diligent research and work done by the Taskforce to enhance our community's resiliency. The presentation also will be offered on a virtual platform. Click on this link to view the presentation virtually: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bujrl2sIRiCYJHZflw_rKQ

What happens next? Members of Appleton's Common Council and Mayor Jake Woodford will make decisions about how to implement recommendations in this report. Climate resiliency issues should also be "top of mind" as we elect alderpersons in April. LWV Appleton's support positions will undoubtedly guide our action and advocacy in the months ahead. Stay tuned and stay involved. Our future depends on it.

FAIR COURTS End Gerrymandering
RALLY

INVITED ORGANIZATIONS

- Fair Maps Coalition
- League of Women Voters
- AAUW
- We All Rise
- Wisconsin Farmers Union
- Joshua
- League of Conservation Voters
- WI Citizen Action
- Clean Water Action Council
- Common Cause
- And more...

Houdini Plaza
Corner of College Ave. and N. Appleton St. in Downtown Appleton
Friday, January 21, 2022 at Noon

The poster features a photograph of Houdini Plaza, a modern multi-story building with a prominent sign that reads "HOUDINI PLAZA". The sign is a tall, narrow structure with a colorful graphic at the top. The building is surrounded by other urban structures and a clear blue sky.

Rally to Support Fair Maps Ahead of Supreme Court Hearings

By Linda Bjella, Co-President

During the week of January 17-21, the Wisconsin Supreme Court is expected to hold hearings on redistricting maps, so on **Friday, January 21**, rallies will be held in 17 different cities all over Wisconsin to call attention to the overwhelming public opposition to gerrymandering.

In Appleton, the rally will be held from **noon to 1:00 p.m.** at Houdini Plaza, downtown Appleton. Our League is a co-sponsor of this nonpartisan event along with the Outagamie County Fair Maps group. Further details will be announced soon through a Mailchimp email to our members.

Study Seeks Research Help; Important Events Coming

By Renee Gralewicz, Programs Vice President

DEI Healthcare Study Seeks Research Assistance

Our DEI healthcare study is moving forward, slowly but with sure and sound steps. We still need a few more people who have a few hours a month to **help with the research**. If you have interest and want to join us in this exploration, please let me know (reenegralewicz@gmail.com).

New Beginnings with a Look Backward Toward the Future

Well, 2022 made it here without much new fuss and unfortunately, not many of the 2021 issues resolved. I have promised myself to not let the noise of the world distract me from making positive changes in our communities. I hope that I can filter out the noise from sincere questions and ideas that differ from mine, from the noise of those whose primary purpose is to destroy and divide. That will be a challenge for me this year.

Our League studies are grounded in research, and research necessarily means looking backward. We need to assess what has been done in the recent past, as well as why some of those programs changed in the recent past. Our legislative work also requires us to look at our histories, all of our histories. However, looking back does not lend itself to a new future unless we have visionaries with us; people who can point out areas of weaknesses or areas under duress. By combining our imaginations with our histories, we can envision a new beginning.

Affect Positive Change Through Lively Issues

One of the things I love about our League is that we continue to seek ways to make our area welcoming and safe for all peoples. This is where we need your help. We only know our own small areas of life though we might bump elbows with others throughout the week. If you know where our League can affect positive change, to defend democracy for all our neighbors, please **join us at our Lively Issues** meeting on **January 22** from 10:30 til noon. Lively issues 2021 led to our current health care assessment focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Let's again chat and explore issues that we might want to address through our monthly programs or a study. Let's be visionaries together!!

Postponed Brunch Has Been Canceled

Our much anticipated and then postponed Holiday Brunch has been **canceled**. COVID-19 is one of those unresolved issues from 2021. We all must continue to be vigilant in order to stay safe and healthy, hence the cancellation. However, our **Annual Meeting** is still scheduled for **Thursday, May 19**. If you are willing to help plan the event, please contact me (reenegralewicz@gmail.com). Guidance is most welcome.

Mark Your Calendar for Activities You Won't Want to Miss

- January 22 (Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - noon) – Lively Issues (virtual)
- **January 29 (Saturday) New Year Brunch: Canceled**
- February 7 (Monday, time TBD) – Legislative Town Hall (virtual)
- February 21 (Monday, time TBD) – Consensus/DEI Study Update (virtual)
- March 21 (Monday, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.) – (Multicultural) Local Women Business Leaders; Copper Rock Coffee, 210 W. College Ave., Appleton
- April 18 (Monday, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.) – AAPI Heritage Celebrations; Copper Rock Coffee, 210 W. College Ave., Appleton
- May 19 (Thursday, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.) – Annual Meeting; Pullmans at Trolley Square, 619 S. Olde Oneida St., Appleton

Elections: Virtual Forums Easier for Candidates, Voters

By Jacqui Klimaszewski and Brian Post, Voter Services

The goal of Voter Services is to provide voters with nonpartisan information regarding the candidates on their ballot, so they can determine who they are going to vote for. In the February 15 Primary and the April 5 Nonpartisan Election, we will offer a variety of opportunities in different formats for candidates to share their views.

Appleton Area School Board

There are 9 candidates running; therefore, there will be a primary on February 15. We are extending an invitation to candidates to a new virtual version of a forum—in an interview format—which will be recorded and placed on the website by February 1. The candidates will each be asked the same set of questions and be given the same amount of time to respond. There will be a variety of moderators in order to record all 9 candidates. We believe this new approach will be easier for candidates and voters and will increase the number of voters who access the candidate responses.

Appleton Council, Grand Chute Board

Information on forums for Appleton City Council (Districts 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14); Grand Chute Town Board Supervisor (Seats #2 and #4), and Outagamie County (Districts 18, 19, 21 and 22) will be shared in February. This expansion is only possible through virtual recordings with a variety of moderators. If you want to **be trained to be a LWV moderator**, please contact us.

Interviews and forums will be set up for Appleton City Council and Grand Chute Town Board for positions that are contested; however, all candidates will be asked to contribute information to VOTE411. We will also be asking all Outagamie County Supervisor candidates to contribute information to VOTE411; these were added because of the change in district lines that may impact who can run in a particular district.

If you have questions for any of these candidates that you would like the League to consider, please identify the specific race for the question and **send them to:** league.appleton@yahoo.com

Legislators Invited to Converse at Town Hall

Our League will again sponsor a virtual Legislative Town Hall on **Monday, February 7** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. This will be our third virtual listening session with Fox Valley state legislators. It provides our elected representatives the opportunity to share their views and priorities for the current legislative session and to hear and respond to our questions.

An invitation was sent to all Fox Valley legislators which include Senators Andre Jacque, Robert Cowles, and Roger Roth along with Representatives Ron Tusler, Jim Steineke, Gary Tauchen, Rachel Cabral-Guevara, and Lee Snodgrass. Action Vice-President Jan Quinlan will serve as moderator.

Watch for a Mailchimp in the coming weeks which will include a link to register for this webinar.

Happy New Year! While Spring 2022 Elections might seem a ways away, the Spring Primary is February 15 and the Spring Election is April 5. Consider making a New Year's Resolution to vote in *every election* in 2022! You have the freedom to vote. This means you have the freedom to choose how to do so whether that is by mail or in-person. Absentee ballots are safe and secure. You can request your absentee ballots for the entirety of 2022 in just a few minutes. Take 2 minutes today to get a head start on this goal by requesting all of your absentee ballots for the year. Visit myvote.wi.gov today to make sure you are registered and to request all of your ballots.

SPOTLIGHT: Collection Pins Down Memorabilia

By Jeanne Roberts, DEI Director and Past President

I love history. Not the boring stuff like dates or times, but the stories of the people. I have a large collection of political memorabilia from first ladies to civil rights to united farm workers to voting rights to women's rights and votes for women. Each of these tells a story.



I got started collecting from my dad who had some buttons from the 1916 presidential election, including not only the Republican and Democratic candidates, but also the socialist candidate and the progressive candidate who happened to be Fighting Bob LaFollette. I remember feeling an automatic connection to the people associated with these items.

As I grew older and could afford my own collection, I began adding more items of memorabilia. While I have items dated to William Henry Harrison and two anti-slavery tokens from the 1830's, my favorite items will always be those related to the strong, independent women who came before me and blazed the trail for all the women of my and succeeding generations to continue fighting for our rights to equality for all races, genders, ethnicities, etc.

My Shirley Chisholm collection reminds me that even though a person doesn't win, that person is still setting the stage for others, or as Shirley would say, "The next time a woman of whatever color, or a dark-skinned person of whatever sex aspires to be president, the way should be a little smoother because I helped pave it".

My Woman Suffrage/Votes for Women and ERA collections remind me that no matter how long it takes and no matter what we encounter, we must continue the fight. It also reminds me that we are stronger when we can listen to each other, invite everybody into the same space and work together, understanding that we may not agree on how to reach our goal even if we agree on what the goal is.

My United Farm Workers collection reminds me that historically women have not gotten, and continue to not get, the credit that they deserve. There are many vintage pins with Cesar Chavez quotes, but few if any with Dolores Huerta, even though she was a co-founder of the Farm Workers Union and fought and sacrificed as much as her colleagues.

My Civil Rights and Voting Rights collections remind me of the awesome privilege and responsibility that each of us has and how easily those privileges can be taken away unless we continually raise our voices and as John Lewis would say, make good trouble.

These collections are my connection to the past and my reminder of my own responsibility to the present and future generations to keep up the good fight. Anybody interested in seeing and learning the history of the collections can just let me know.



DEI Study Seeks Help with Discussion Topics, Books

By Jeanne Roberts, DEI Director

DEI Committee Looking for Volunteers to Organize Resources, Groups

The DEI committee is looking to organize a book/video /podcast discussion group for both members and non-members.

In the past when we could still meet in person, we had book discussion groups for the book Waking Up White. When we had to go virtual we had two discussion groups based on on-line videos, Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man followed by Say Her Name and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

To create similar activities going forward, the committee would choose the discussion topic and resource, decide on discussion questions, decide on a venue (or Zoom if necessary) and choose a date and time for the discussion(s).

If you have a resource that you think would be good for something like this and are interested in **helping to organize** or want more information, please contact Jeanne Roberts at jsbob@new.rr.com. To receive information as these activities take shape you may also email Jeanne.

Demographic Survey Coming in Early February

The LWV WI will be sending out their updated annual survey in early February. The survey is based on US census questions and helps us locally and at the state understand the demographics of our local Leagues and what areas we need to continue to work on. Please **complete the survey** as completely as possible to be of the most help.

Welcome First New Member of New Year

Instead of announcing the first baby of the New Year, the LWV Appleton is delighted to announce our first new member of 2022! Please welcome **Gordon Lind, Appleton!**

Membership renewal for 2022 is speeding along at a great pace. To date, 87% of our membership of 141 people has renewed. It is not too late. Go online to LWVappleton.org or send your check and renewal form to LWV Appleton, PO Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912. The deadline is January 31st. Direct questions to Cindy Fallona, Membership Director, at cbfallona@hotmail.com.



Related News from Partnering Organizations

LWV WI Annual Report Summarizes Goals

A portion of our membership dues to the League of Appleton-Fox Cities entitles us to membership in the LWV US and LWV Wisconsin. As such, you likely have received a copy of the LWV WI Annual Report, which contained articles on things important to League members across the state. It also summarizes progress made on achieving the state League's four Strategic Goals. If you would like to learn more about the LWV WI activities or obtain a copy of the annual report, go to the state League website, www.lwvwi.org

AAUW-Appleton Branch Slates Educational Activities, Essay Contest, Scholarships

Branch members have been reading How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith, and will host two virtual discussions: January 26 at 1 p.m., and January 27 at 6:30 p.m. Details can be found [here](#). To learn about AAUW's STEM program for sixth-ninth grade girls, the Branch's Women's History Month essay contest, and scholarship applications, check out the Branch website, <https://appleton-wi.aauw.net/>