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AUGUST 2022

Co-Presidents Message: Back in the Swing of Things!



Traditionally, July is the quiet month for our League. We don't hold a board meeting nor a formal program. But we manage to have fun in July and to continue to do our routine and very important work.



This July we held our first annual Summer Picnic and Potluck at 1000 Islands Nature Center. The event was the brainchild of Cindy Fallona, our membership director. The only agenda was to have some fun together, and we certainly succeeded! Members, young and old, enjoyed a rather remarkable array of delicious salads, desserts and treats brought by members, complimenting the hamburgers and hot dogs we provided. Everyone was so enthused we decided we will do this again!

As you know, in June we hosted the state annual meeting in Appleton. In addition to some excellent speakers and breakout sessions, we also managed to pick up additional members! The Flag Day Parade participation was an adventure. We were astonished at the number of attendees despite the weather, and many shouted support and enthusiastic cheers when they saw the League of Women Voters march by.

Swag, swag, swag! Under Sue Hopfensperger's leadership, the Swag Committee rolled out some fantastic t-shirts, mugs, key chains, buttons and other items. These sold like wildfire at the state annual meeting, and at our Summer Picnic. Soon we will have an online store — stay posted.

Look for an Open House for our office this fall. The office helps us organize office supplies, printed material, archives, signs and a myriad of other items. We received a couch, chair and file cabinets donated from Peterson, Berk and Cross. We even have a desk and two chairs. You will want to see this new working space!

We are in the process of reimagining Women's Equality Day. Sue Siltan is convening the committee from last year for input, and our new Events Committee will tackle how we might proceed based on that advice. If you have any ideas or would like to be involved, be sure to let us know.

Remember our program on Monday, August 29 addressing diversity, equity and inclusion. It will be at Long Cheng Market, and we hope to offer a hybrid option as well.

Looking forward to a good fall, and continuing to support voters as the midterms approach.

— Marti and Linda

VOICE of the LEAGUE: Setting the Record Straight

A recent article concerning candidate forums for the 19th State Senate district included a comment by Rachael Cabral-Guevara indicating why she did not participate in the League of Women Voters forum. "What I'm opposed to is the dishonest manner in which LWV presents itself to voters," Cabral-Guevara said. "In good faith, I can't support something that tries to pull the wool over the eyes of voters."

While Ms. Cabral-Guevara is certainly free to accept or reject any invitation to connect with voters, let's set the record straight concerning what the League of Women Voters means when we say we are nonpartisan.

Thus began a letter drafted jointly by LWV Appleton-Fox Cities and LWV of Winnebago County in response to an article that appeared in The Post-Crescent. The full response may be found on our [website](#); click on Op-Ed. LWVAF Co-President Linda Bjella, and LWV of Winnebago County Vice President Posy Thurow authored the letter.

Upon receipt of the League response, The Post-Crescent added an Editor's Note to the original digital article clarifying the League's nonpartisan status. The newspaper also agreed to run an edited version of the piece as a Letter to the Editor in the Sunday, August 7 edition. Appearing alongside the League letter were a number of other letters calling out extremist politics. The digital version of these letters may be viewed online [here](#).

Here is the edited text which appeared in Sunday's edition:

A recent article on 19th State Senate district candidate forums included Rachael Cabral-Guevara's comment about why she didn't participate in the League of Women Voters forum. "What I'm opposed to is the dishonest manner in which the LWV presents itself to voters," Cabral-Guevara said.

Let's set the record straight about what the League of Women Voters means when we say we're nonpartisan.

The League helps people exercise their right to vote by helping them register and providing nonpartisan, accurate candidate information. We never support or oppose any candidate or party. We stand on our founding principles to empower voters and defend democracy.

We study public-policy issues and arrive at positions that represent the consensus of our members, who come from all political parties or none.

Over our more-than-100-year history, our positions — which are on our websites — have occupied middle ground. In recent memory, we've been criticized for being too conservative. We haven't changed. Parties have become more polarized.

Our voter education tools are trusted by voters of all political stripes. [Vote411.org](#) is an award-winning source of unbiased candidate information. It provides a brief biography of candidates and their answers to questions, which we publish exactly as they submit. Unfortunately, some candidates don't submit responses — and voters lose.

In forums, we ask candidates the same questions. They get the same time to answer. When candidates refuse to participate in a forum, voters lose. We expect candidates to reach out to all voters in their districts, not just their base.

We encourage voters to use [Vote411.org](#) and our websites: [lwvappletonfoxcities.org](#) and [lwvwinnebago.org](#). We invite all candidates to work with us to strengthen the democratic process.

ACTION: LWV Praises City Position; Urges Outreach

By Jan Quinlan, Action Vice President

League Commends City on New Position Restructure

Some good news in Appleton following their Climate Resiliency Task Force recommendations. The City has named Steve Schrage their first Project and Resiliency Manager. We will be submitting the following Letter to the Editor to the Post-Crescent:

"The League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities commends the City of Appleton on their recent decision to retitle and expand Steve Schrage's position to Project and Resiliency Manager. This newly defined role in the City's Facilities Management department is definitely a step in the right direction following the City's 2021 Task Force on Climate Resiliency report.

Schrage has certifications in energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development. He will serve as an adviser to department directors as the city works toward reducing its carbon footprint. This new focus gives Schrage the opportunity to research the creation of a climate change commission, another recommendation of the City's Climate Task Force which our League applauds.

Our local League studied climate issues in 2020 and 2021. We defined resilience as the ability to anticipate, prepare, and recover more quickly from climate events. Appleton's preparation for climate crises will benefit all of our citizens. Funding climate change preparedness is more fiscally responsible than repairing the increasingly frequent damage of severe weather.

Thank you to Mayor Jake Woodford, Director Dean Gazza, Director Jay Ratchman, and members of Appleton's Common Council for seeing the importance of focusing staff efforts and coordination on these critical issues."

We invite members to contact Appleton officials involved in this action and thank them. Contact information appears on our [website](#).

League Urges Legislator Contacts Prior to Vote

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is one of the most sweeping bills to address the climate crisis in our history. In advance of an expected Senate vote around August 7, we urged members to contact Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, and Representative Mike Gallagher with support for the Act.

Background: Among other important things in that bill, are proposed consumer incentives to relieve the high cost of energy and reduce their utility bills, as well as a fee on methane pollution. It's estimated that we'd achieve a 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. That is getting close to President Biden's 50% goal and our Paris Agreement Commitment. While this proposed bill doesn't include a price on carbon dioxide, the methane fee that would be included in this new law sets a new precedent for beginning to price emissions in the U.S., something the LWV advocates.

The LWVUS support position on market-based mechanisms to put a price on carbon pollution, was adopted 2018: "The League position is that each state or region will have different issues, different constituencies, and different challenges, so the path to reach a solution for pricing carbon can be very different for each. The position on carbon pricing of the League of Women Voters was approved at the 2018 national convention: The League of Women Voters stands united with and in support of efforts to price carbon emissions, whether cap and trade, carbon tax/fee, or another viable pricing mechanism. The LWV does not have a position on how the revenue generated is to be used. We do not espouse any single method of pricing carbon over another. We will evaluate all proposed methods based on their effectiveness to abate emissions and whether the method can be successfully implemented."

DEI/PROGRAM: Uncover Discrimination

SLIGHTS, SNUBS & INSULTS

Be a SLEUTH! Join us as we uncover evidence of discrimination in the Fox Cities and explore how to be more welcoming to all.

WHERE: Long Cheng Market, 1804 S. Lawe St., Appleton

WHEN: Monday, August 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

REGISTER: online [here](#).



In advance of the event, you are asked to view three videos that relate real incidents of discrimination in our community. Then at our event, our conversation will be introduced by guests who are familiar with issues of equity and inclusion. In small groups, participants will discuss the video-based incidents and share their personal experiences with bias and discrimination.

Please preview these videos by using the links or snap a photo of the QR codes with your smart phone:

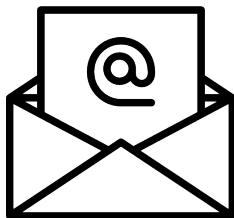
Rooted: a story about Hmong youth in Appleton, WI, 2014, 9:35, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USI6PXZ_QXk&t=2s.

Breaking the Silence: underground racism in the small American city, 2016, 11:08 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPedsKerY1E>.

Microaggressions in the Classroom, 2017, 18:03 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZahtlxW2CIQ>.



Making Contact: Here's How to Get in Touch



Have a question about the League? Need help setting up your Member Profile in the new Club Express website? Want to help with an upcoming event, or register new voters?

Getting in touch with the right person is easy. On our website — lvappletonfoxcities.org — click on About Us and then [Contact Us](#) from the drop down menu. Each area of our League has a specific email to connect you with someone ready to assist. Or simply email info@lvappletonfoxcities.org

If you think the League has been pretty quiet, you may be missing emails and important information if you haven't set up your Member Profile. Our Co-Presidents and our Membership Director are happy to walk you through the simple steps that will finalize your profile and ensure that you receive all the information you need to stay abreast of League business and opportunities — and some pretty fun ways to connect to other members! We're always happy to hear from you.

VOTER SERVICES: We're Back to Helping at Upcoming Events

By Jacqui Klimaszewski, Voter Services Director

Voter Services is back to in-person voter registration assistance/information events. We were at Juneteeth in June and the Appleton Farm Market on July 23.

Consider volunteering for one or more of these upcoming events:

- Celebrate Diversity — August 13, 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m., Jefferson Park, Menasha (Winnebago League and LWVAFRC will have adjacent tables)
- Appleton Downtown Farm Market — August 27, 7:30-a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- LatinoFest — September 10, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- National Voter Registration Day — September 20, many possible sites
- Week of August 22 — Week of Convening: Imagine Fox Cities; details to come soon

These will be posted in the Events section on the front page of the website (<https://lwwappletonfoxcities.org/>). You can sign up through the event link and more information will be sent to you.

If there are any other locations you think would like a League table, or if you would like to be trained so you'll feel more comfortable providing voter registration assistance/information, please contact me at voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org



Jacqui invites you to join her at a Voter Registration assistance table.

Coming Up

SEPTEMBER 19 What's new about voting in 2022? Appleton City Clerk Kami Lynch and Grand Chute Town Clerk Kayla Filen will explain changes for the November election voting process.

OCTOBER 17 Local housing issues will be discussed by Outagamie County based on their findings in the Fox Cities Housing Report.

November 21 "Why Should I Care About Wisconsin Courts?" We'll begin our exploration into Fair Courts.

Warm Welcome



These might be the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, but new members joining our dynamic League have not taken a vacation.

Please welcome:

JUNE
Vaya Lauren Jones, Appleton
Kayleen Trinkner, Little Chute
Theresa Iacullo, Neenah
Maggie McGinnis, Appleton
Debora Otteson, Appleton

AUGUST
Melissa Miotke, Appleton



2022 Spring/ Summer Snapshots

