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SEPTEMBER 2022

Co-Presidents' Message: Housing, Voting Highlight Fall



After a summer hiatus that included a fun summer potluck picnic at 1000 Islands, we had a successful gathering in which many community members took a hard look at discrimination in the Fox Cities. We are beginning a flurry of activity as we approach another crucial election. League volunteers will be out and about doing what we do best: empowering voters by helping people register and providing trusted nonpartisan information on candidates.



We also begin an exciting series of fall programs. We will kick off our informational program series on September 19 with a virtual meeting to provide you with what you need to know about voting on November 8. We will hear from three of our local municipal clerks about the upcoming election and ballot rules changes, particularly returning absentee ballots.

In response to concerns about affordable housing raised at our last Lively Issues meeting, we will devote our October meeting to the new Outagamie County Housing Strategy. Look for more information about this program, which will be held at the Grand Chute Town Center Park Community Building on Monday, October 17.

We are excited to announce that we are teaming up with the Winnebago County League to provide a two-meeting series on the Wisconsin judicial system.

- On November 21, our League will offer an overview of Wisconsin's courts with an eye on the all-important Wisconsin Supreme Court election next spring.
- On December 5, the Winnebago League will offer the second part of our collaborative program with a look at what might be undermining and over-politicizing our courts.

More details on the time and place of these meetings will be announced soon, but please put these dates on your calendars.

To better reach as many people as possible, we hope that most of our programs this year can be in-person, and also potentially in a hybrid format, facilitated by our new technology, a new OWL device. We plan to use a variety of locations throughout Fox Cities. Finally, we are searching for accessible venues that provide good acoustics so all can hear and be heard, good accessibility and easy parking.

We hope you will plan on attending our annual Holiday Brunch (thwarted last year first by a snowstorm, then by rising Covid numbers). This year we are sure the weather will cooperate!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 10 at the Bubolz Nature Preserve and enjoy a great brunch and a program focusing on recent arrivals of immigrants and refugees in the Fox Valley.

We look forward to seeing you, and hearing from you: president@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

— Linda and Marti

NONPARTISAN: Foundational to the League

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2021, the League's nonpartisan status was called into question by a local radio host who claimed that the League's participation in a John Lewis For the People Act rally was evidence of the League's Democratic, liberal leanings.

Then-President Jeanne Roberts responded in support of the League's fundamental nonpartisan status, citing facts based on League positions which historically have drawn criticism from both sides of the political divide.

In light of today's political environment, particularly the temperature of mis- and disinformation, the Board felt that this response would be of interest to members, and further clarify the League's nonpartisan foundation.



The LWV has for over 100 years been an advocate of increased access to voting and voter rights. The National League worked with members of Congress to shape key pieces of the For the People Act, including expanding automatic voter registration, same day voter registration, and online voter registration. This includes increased access to voting for any eligible voter, not just voters of one party. This event was named in honor of civil rights icon John Lewis who worked his entire life on voting rights. The For the People Act is quite extensive. Some of the primary provisions include:

- Same-day voter registration for federal elections;
- Automatic voter registration for eligible citizens unless they choose to opt out;
- Expanded opportunities to vote by mail;
- Making Election Day a national holiday;
- Require states to allow on-line voter registration including updating information electronically (this is already allowed in Wisconsin);
- Establish criminal penalties for persons who "corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from registering to vote" and for voter deception or intimidation;
- Allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote in advance of their becoming 18. (17-year-olds are already able to do this in Wisconsin if they turn 18 before the next election);
- Prohibit the practice of voter-roll purges;
- Promote voting access for people with disabilities;
- Providing additional protections for military and overseas voters;
- Increased election security;

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NONPARTISAN: The League's Foundation, continued

- Impose stricter limitations on foreign lobbying, require super PACs and other "dark money" organizations to disclose their donors;
- Restructure the Federal Election Commission to reduce partisan gridlock;
- Overturn Citizens United, in which the Supreme Court held that limits on independent political expenditures by corporations, labor unions, and other associations are unconstitutional;
- Require states to use independent commissions to draw congressional district lines;
- Require the president and vice president, as well as presidential and vice-presidential candidates, to publicly disclose their previous ten years of income tax returns.

It is definitely unfortunate that some would consider ensuring one of our most fundamental constitutional rights by increasing voter rights and increased access to voting to be a partisan issue. The League takes voter suppression very seriously and sees the enacting of the For the People Act and restoring the Voting Rights Act as essential steps towards prevention of voter suppression. The League will continue to support all of these positions regardless of which party is putting them forward.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Roberts, President
League of Women Voters of Appleton

LWVWI: How to ID Mis/Dis-Information

The Communications and Technology Committee of LWV Wisconsin has coordinated a special program, "Disinformation In Democracy: Identifying & Fighting It" which will be offered virtually on October 3 at 6 p.m.

Dee Hall, co-founder of [Wisconsin Watch](#), will be the featured speaker. Hall will discuss disinformation in the media, how to combat mis/disinformation, how to talk with family and friends about it, and how to verify it in your newsfeeds.

Learn more and register [here](#).

DEI: League Work Part of Larger Movement

By April Savage, DEI Director
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The big news for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is a well-attended event at Long Cheng Market on Monday August 29th. *Slights, Snubs and Insults: Uncover Evidence of Discrimination in the Fox Cities* was attended by about 45 people. The guest speakers were poignant and moving. Discussions were fruitful. To me, it felt like an important step had been taken in an ongoing journey.

It's important to recognize those who showed up. They were honest and brave, shared experiences, and talked about things we don't usually discuss. They included familiar (League) faces and new (but similar) faces: including community leaders, especially from Appleton Area School District (AASD). For many, it was their first time to the market and their first time hearing of its importance and aspirations for the Hmong community.

There are always ways to be better. My view is the more voices and perspectives at the table, the better the outcome. We relied on videos and invited speakers to set context. Looking ahead, collaborating with those with lived experiences (individual and organizations) will be essential from Day 1 for objectives and logistics, both of which are made easier with familiarity, as well as many hands and minds.

The key point from the event (for me) is recognizing the League's DEI work is part of a much bigger movement. There are many organizations and individuals in our community working in this space. What's important is what's next. The DEI committee needs to think big, strategically and concretely in how we move forward. My hope is that we get more voices at the table and prioritize organizational relationship building.

What do you think? Join our next DEI committee meeting and let us know.

PARTNERS: AAUW Tracks Equal Pay Days

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has tenaciously been advocating for women and girls since 1881. They are one of the few organizations tracking pay equity. The following is from their website, <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/equal-pay-day-calendar/>.

March 15 is Equal Pay Day

This symbolic day denotes how far into the year women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. This date is based on the latest U.S. Census figures showing that the average woman who works full time is paid on average just 83 percent of the typical man's pay. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal of Equal Pay Day is to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. But because the pay gap varies significantly among different communities, other Equal Pay Days have been added to the calendar to reflect that fact that many women must work far longer into the year to catch up to men.

2022 Equal Pay Days

This year, these dates have been designated using a new methodology: The COVID-19 pandemic pushed many women, especially women of color, into part-time or seasonal work, or out of the workforce all together. Because of this, past methods of calculating the wage gap fell short of accurately capturing the full picture. (Historically, Equal Pay Day has been calculated using data on full-time, year-round workers.) For 2022, the Equal Pay Day coalition has adopted a new, more inclusive methodology. This encompasses a broader cross-section of women, including those who work part time or seasonally, to represent a more accurate picture of how the gender pay gap impacts diverse communities

- **Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day** is May 3. Asian American and Pacific Islander women are paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day** is June 15. Without enough data to make calculations, this day raises awareness about the wage gap experienced by LGBTQIA+ folks.
- **Moms' Equal Pay Day** is September 8. Moms are paid 58 cents for every dollar paid to dads.
- **Black Women's Equal Pay Day** is September 21. Black women are paid 58 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **Native Women's Equal Pay Day** is November 30. Native women are paid 50 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **Latina's Equal Pay Day** is December 8. Latinas are paid 49 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

PROGRAMS: New Voting Rules Open Fall Lineup

By Renee Gralewicz, Program Vice President
program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

First up on our fall lineup of powerful programs is **Voting: What's New in '22** to help us all be informed of new rules for voting in the November election. This virtual program will be held on **September 19** from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., and registration is required. Do so [here](#).

Please add the following programs to your fall calendar.

- **October 17, Outagamie Housing Issues (Hybrid)**, Grand Chute Town Center Park, Room A (Time TBD)
- **Why Should I Care About Wisconsin Courts? (Hybrid)** (Co-sponsored with the LWV of Winnebago County)
 - ✓ **Monday, November 17, Part 1:** UWO – Fox Cities Campus, (1478 Midway Rd, Menasha) (Time TBD)
 - ✓ **Monday, December 5, Part 2:** (Time & Location TBD)
- **Saturday, December 10, Holiday Gathering**, Bubolz Nature Preserve (4815 N Lynndale Dr, Appleton) (Time TBD)

Check these and other important event and volunteer opportunities on our website calendar, viewable at lwvappletonfoxcities.org

ACTION: Nominations Open for MDW Award

The strength and quality of the Appleton-Fox Cities community is buoyed by the dedicated work of many individuals and organizations who call this place home.

Our League's Making Democracy Work Award honors individuals and organizations whose civic work (volunteer or professional) has created a better Fox Cities community.

We are currently encouraging nominations for this significant award. Please submit your confidential nominations with a brief explanation of why you consider them worthy of our award to action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

“ Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. ”

These are the 24 words which SHOULD be the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Rights Amendment was first proposed in 1923. In 1972, it finally passed in Congress and was sent to the states for ratification. In 2020, the 38th and final state ratified. So why is it STILL not part of the Constitution?

There are several legal challenges, but there are some concrete steps you can take to help finish the process of ratification.

The ERA Coalition has outlined [6 actions](#) that you can take right now to help get the ERA published. Put them on your list of things to do!

VOTER SERVICES: National Voter Registration Sept. 20

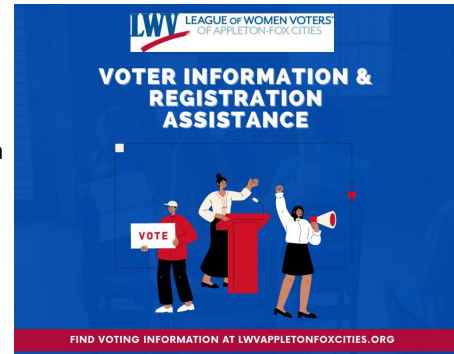
By Jacqui Klimazewski
Voter Services Vice President
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Voter Services has been back out there with in-person Voter Registration Assistance and providing voter information with recent events at Juneteenth, LatinoFest, Celebrate Diversity, and Appleton Farm Markets in July and August.

The League also will have a table at the Appleton Public Library on Kensington every Wednesday from September 7 through November 2 to aid in voter registration and respond to questions about voting.

National Voter Registration Day is September 20 this year. The League will have a table at Community Health and Community Dental, and plans are in the works for Fox Valley Technical College and UWO Fox Cities.

Other locations and events are being planned--right up until the end of October! If you'd like to help people register to vote and learn the latest voting rules, contact voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org. We'll train you, and pair you with an experienced volunteer.



MEMBERSHIP: Picnic Brought Fresh Air, Fun to Our Year

By Cindy Fallona, Membership Director
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WOW! What a great time in July for the first annual LWV Appleton-Fox Cities picnic. The weather was picture perfect, the setting at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna was perfect, the food contributed by members was perfect, and of course the camaraderie among members and non-members was perfect!



The enjoyable evening allowed for participants to explore both the grounds and the environmental center, of 1000 Islands, and to enjoy the picnic meal and friendly conversation. Thank you to all who attended and contributed in any way!

And now, welcome **New Members Melissa Miotke, Greta Lax, and Sharon Miller**, all of Appleton!



Congratulations, Sara!

ESTHER-Fox Valley is honoring a valued volunteer who's very familiar to many of us in the League. ESTHER is presenting its 2022 Individual Award to Sara Comanik! In ESTHER's words, " We have been so fortunate to have her involvement since the organization's inception 18 years ago. She has a tireless passion for justice, and wherever she experiences injustice, she believes in action. She is literally unable to accept injustice without speaking or acting out with some means of power. Our whole community has benefited from her service and study... She represents our best efforts."

The League echoes those sentiments. Congratulations and thank you, Sara!