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NOVEMBER 2022

Co-Presidents' Message: We Are Stronger Together



The fall has been warm and the election season certainly heated things up even more. As we write this, we have no sense of what the outcomes might be on November 8. But, reflecting on the year's end and a rapidly approaching new year, we realized that our League motto has become "Stronger Together." It is this philosophy that will keep us going forward defending democracy and empowering voters.



Over the years, we have learned that our impact is much greater when working with others across the community. Here are just a few of the recent examples as we move forward:

1. Women's groups: Recently our collaborative work, which we have always done, was greatly enhanced through our partnerships with other women's groups involved with the 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Coalition. Our partners included American Association of University Women (AAUW), The NE Wisconsin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Midday Women's Alliance, and the Women's Fund. This coalition has strengthened our ties to a diversity of women throughout the community. After a wildly successful 19th Amendment project despite Covid, these groups are in discussion about how to continue our alliance into the future and increase the power of all our missions by working together. A new approach to Women's Equality Day is one possible outcome!

2. Fair Maps: We have League members who are leaders in this statewide coalition focused on increasing awareness of how determining fair voting districts is critical to democracy. Accurately reflecting the population, rather than gerrymandering districts according to party lines, makes every vote count. This coordinated statewide effort gives each of us a voice. 56 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, representing over 80% of the people, have passed a resolution or referendum in support of a nonpartisan redistricting process. fairmapswi.com

3. Regional Leagues: We work with our neighboring Leagues on a regular basis. The League of Winnebago County is an especially important ally as we overlap membership boundaries. Both affiliates try to coordinate. The most recent example is the upcoming two-part program on Fair Courts, proposed by Winnebago County and planned by both affiliates. The outcome is an outstanding program to help us all understand the Wisconsin court system better. Our collaboration means we can reach many more people throughout our community. Learn more and register [here](#).

4. Higher Education: We have established an important connection with Lawrence University's Community Engagement Office which allows LU students to engage with local community organizations.

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PRESIDENTS: Stronger Together, continued

5. Other partnerships: We would be remiss not to mention our collaborative programming with others including, to name just a few regulars, Appleton Public Library, ESTHER, Citizens Climate Lobby, and The Equity Network.

While we are excited about our future as we work further out into the Fox Cities, we understand that we stand on the shoulders of incredible women and leaders in our League's past. To better document our impact, the board voted to begin an oral history project. Did you know, for example, that our efforts laid the groundwork for garbage collection, the housing coalition, and the smoking ban - just to name a few? Please let us know if you would like to help us with our history project. We would love to hear from you!

We are so happy you are part of this amazing League with its important legacy and vibrant future.

Marti and Linda
president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

ACTION: League Exercises Its Voice

By Jan Quinlan, Action Vice President
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Your League Takes Action in October

In addition to the flurry of October Voter Services activity, our League has been extremely busy this month. Read on for all the details.

Earth Day Election Edition — October 22

Congratulations to Jill Mitchler who conceived of this idea, which was picked up nationwide thanks to the Citizens Climate Lobby. In Appleton, Jill and a group of about a dozen activists planned the event which started in Pierce Park and ended with a rally to the Memorial Drive bridge and back to the park. Over 100 people attended and the organizing group was delighted with the event's success. Special thanks to that committee led by Jill, to Sara Companik who served as our League's liaison, and to Ligia Rivera who was the keynote speaker, using our League's study research in the content of her speech.

Here's a short video from CCL that prominently features the Appleton event: <https://youtu.be/OKUskM1wJa0>

Appleton's New Project Resiliency Manager Steve Schrage

Seven members of our Climate Resiliency Committee met with Steve Schrage, Appleton's newly-named Project Resiliency Manager on October 6. We were impressed with Steve's commitment to resiliency issues and his background as WI DNR staff in the energy efficiency department. Ligia Rivera shared the results of our local League study. The City of Appleton is seeking 5-7 community representatives for a Sustainability Advisory Committee which will advise Steve and the city as issues arise. Let us know if you'd be interested, or contact Steve directly at the city.

Housing

Linda Bjella, Nancy Jones, Connie Raether and Jan Quinlan attended Outagamie County's Housing Strategy Forum on September 26. At that meeting, Jan met Kari Kuiper, Executive Director of Outagamie County Housing Authority. On October 18, Post-Crescent reporter Jelissa Burns, Outagamie County Housing Authority Executive Director Kari Kuiper, and Appleton's Director of Community Development Karen Harkness, discussed current housing issues with our League. Each panelist

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ACTION: Read League Statements, continued

brought a different perspective to the housing challenges in our Fox Cities region. We had over 30 participants who attended either in person or by Zoom that evening with the session recorded and available on our website. This meeting was in response to an issue suggested at our January Lively Issues meeting.

Budget Time

October is budget time for local governments. Thanks to Linda Bjella, Nancy Jones, Penny Robinson, and Jan Quinlan for observing seven Outagamie County Finance Committee meetings in October. Linda Bjella delivered our statement at the County’s budget hearing on October 25, the only speaker at that public hearing. We were also the only members of the public at the committee meetings which are no longer available virtually.

For the City of Appleton, observers included April Savage, Nancy Jones, Marti Hemwall and Jan Quinlan. Jan and Nancy participated in the Mayor’s Listening Session on October 18 by Zoom. There were only 2 other community members on that call, but five alders, in addition to the mayor. Marti and Jan attended the City of Appleton’s Budget Saturday on October 29 where their Finance Committee and other alders heard budget proposals from all City directors and the mayor. Marti delivered our statement at the City’s public budget hearing on November 2.

Other public statements:

- City of Appleton in support of Election Officials resolution: Jan delivered our statement to Safety and Licensing on September 28 and April delivered our statement to the full Common Council on October 5.
 - Outagamie County support of the Clean Water Referendum: We submitted a Letter to the Editor supporting a YES vote which was published on October 30 after Linda Bjella shared our support in a statement to all OC supervisors on October 11.
 - Appleton Area School District support of two referendum questions: We submitted a Letter to the Editor recommending YES votes on both questions, published on October 9.
- Special thanks to Carol Lenz, Joy Perry, Linda Bjella, Marti Hemwall, and Jan Quinlan for their help on composing these statements this year.

All of these statements can be reviewed in their entirety on our website under Voice of the League. Read them [HERE](#).

MEMBERSHIP: Renewal Time Approaches

By Cindy Fallona, Membership Director
membership@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

Welcome new member Mary Sullivan!



The time is approaching for us to renew our memberships in LWV Appleton-Fox Cities. Each member will receive a letter that will detail the benefits of belonging to the League, and instructions to renew on our website. Please note it will still be possible to pay by check. If you have not yet set up your member account on the website, lwvappletonfoxcities.org, please do so at the time you renew your membership.

When you renew, please consider raising your membership to the next level to help support the League and to make membership within reach for those who cannot afford to join. Your continued participation in and support of our League is very much appreciated. Thank you!

DEI: Committee Researching Local Resources

By April Savage, DEI Director
dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee met virtually on Tuesday November 1st. We enter the winter season with the goal of researching local resources and connecting individually to learn more of the DEI issues in our area. Over the coming months, we will additionally be engaged in our webpage redesign. As part of this, we will build knowledge and connections with locally focused DEI organizations. We will also be planning for hosting book studies and community discussions in the spring.

If you would like to get involved, please join us! We currently meet the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. virtually, but are flexible and open to accommodating anyone interested in getting involved in our work. There will be subcommittee opportunities with flexible scheduling on webpage redesign, book discussions, and researching local DEI resources. Questions? Interested in learning more? Have feedback? Reach out to dei@lwwappletonfoxcities.org.

Please note other upcoming events:

November 10, Community Conversations (hosted by Common Ground): Building Bridges Across Generations, 6-8 p.m. at the Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University <https://www.commongroundfoxcities.org/community-conversations>

November 17, Implicit Bias Training: Empathy on Purpose (LWV WI statewide virtual training), 6:30-7:30 p.m. <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/event/implicit-bias-training-empathy-purpose>

November 30, No More Stolen Children: A History of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Fight to Save It (with our very own league member Dr. Renee Gralewicz) Virtual or in person, UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities Campus, 6 p.m. https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-IAJt7pSi-D3-zNsoSSFA

FAIR COURTS: Supreme Court Choices Critical

By Linda Bjella, Co-President
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Wisconsin Supreme Court justices are elected for 10-year terms. The current justices serving on the court are Chief Justice Annette Ziegler, Justices Ann Walsh Bradley, Patience D. Roggensack, Rebecca Grassi Bradley, Rebecca Frank Dallet, Brian Hagedorn, and Jill J. Karofsky. Ziegler, Roggensack, Rebecca Bradley, and Hagedorn comprise the conservative majority, with Hagedorn proving to be a swing vote on several major rulings.

Decisions handed down during the Covid-19 pandemic supported the stay-at-home order, but struck down the mask mandate and gathering limits. More recently, the 4-3 conservative-leaning court abolished the use of drop boxes in voting, instructed election clerks that only voters themselves can return their ballots, and ruled that clerks cannot make minor corrections to addresses on absentee voting envelopes.

And of course, there were the see-saw rulings on redistricting when the court first chose the maps created by Governor Evers, only to reverse itself following an appeal to the US Supreme Court. This leaves us with redistricting maps that are now even more extreme than those created in 2011.

Next spring, there will be an election for retiring Justice Patience Roggensack. Typically, these spring elections have a very low turn-out. A recent exception was in the spring of 2020, when Justice Jill Karofsky defeated Daniel Kelly during a presidential primary election with a 45.8% turnout. Consider that in the context of the turnout in other recent supreme court elections, as noted in the accompanying chart.

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FAIR COURTS: Supreme Court Choices, continued

The spring 2023 election for Roggensack’s open seat promises to be the most expensive supreme court election in our state’s history. Will the turnout match the spending?

The Wisconsin Supreme Court makes decisions that affect our everyday lives. Before you vote in the 2023 election for a new Wisconsin Supreme Court justice who will hold office for 10 years, make sure you have a good understanding of the views of the candidates vying for this all-important seat and how our court system works. Join us for two informational meetings on November 21 and December 5!

**Sources: Wisconsin Elections Commission, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign*

Recent Supreme Court Election Comparisons		
It is telling to track the amount of campaign funds and sources spent in these low-turnout elections.*		
<u>Election</u>	<u>Total Spending</u>	<u>Major Contributing Funds</u>
2019: Hagedorn v. Neubauer		
2015: Ann Walsh Bradley v. Daley		
2011: Kloppenberg v. Prosser		
	Turnout	
	27%	
	18.3%	
	34% (This was in the wake of Act 10.)	
2003: Roggensack v. Bruner	\$657,387	Madison Teachers, WEAC PAC, Volunteers for Agriculture
2007: Ziegler v. Clifford	\$2,656,267	Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Greater Wisconsin Committee, Club for Growth
2008: Gableman v. Butler	\$1,181,016	Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Greater Wisconsin Committee, Club for Growth, Coalition for America’s Families
2009: Abrahamson v. Koshcnick	\$1,654,731	Greater Wisconsin Committee, Advancing Wisconsin
2011: Prosser v. Kloppenberg	\$1,252,193	Greater Wisconsin Committee, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Citizens for a Strong America, Club for Growth
2013: Roggensack v. Fallone	\$1,046,901	Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Club for Growth, Wisconsin Realtors Association
2015: Ann Walsh Bradley v. Daley	\$1,171,359	Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Club for Growth, Wisconsin Realtors Association
2016: Rebecca Bradley v. Kloppenberg	\$1,925,097	Wisconsin Alliance for Reform, Greater Wisconsin Committee, Republican State Leadership Committee

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Supreme Court Elections, continued

2018: Dallet v. Srenock	\$2,340,635	Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Greater Wisconsin Committee, National Redistricting Committee, For Our Future
2019: Hagedorn v. Neubauer	\$3,694,969	Greater Wisconsin Committee, Republican State Leadership Committee, Judicial Fairness Initiative, Americans for Prosperity
2020: Karofsky v. Kelly	\$4,834,090	A Better Wisconsin Together, Political Fairness Fund, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, Republican State Leadership Committee, Americans for Prosperity, Service Employees International Union

**Sources: Wisconsin Elections Commission, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign*

Did You Know — Court Stats & Facts

Without the courts, we would not have achieved the following:

- racial desegregation
- interracial marriage and same-sex marriage
- removal of barriers for women in many areas of life
- the ADA
- expansion of rights for LGBTQ+ persons
- the principle of “one person/one vote” in redistricting

Federal courts make 5% and state courts make 95% of the rulings.

Wisconsin has the highest percentage of black incarceration in the US. One in every 36th Black person in Wisconsin is in prison. Wisconsin has one of the whitest judiciaries. It ranks 44th in the U.S.

Why We Should Care About Wisconsin Courts



Part I
Understanding the Structure of Our Wisconsin Court System

Monday, November 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm
UW-O Fox Cities, 1478 Midway Road, Menasha, Room 1338
Presenters: retired Outagamie County Judge Nancy Krueger and Attorney Lakeisha Haase, former Winnebago County Judge
Sponsored by LWV Appleton-Fox Cities

Part II
Outside Influences on Our Courts

Monday, December 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh
Presenter: Attorney Joseph Troy, former Outagamie County Judge
Sponsored by LWV Winnebago County



League FUNdraising Auction Now Through December 8!

Needlework, treasures, confections, jewelry, pottery and more can

be found as you scroll the auction offerings [HERE](#) or snap this QR code with your phone. The auction will be **live**

through December 8. It's easy to post your bids,

and we've included easy payment options for your convenience. Keep an eye on the action as exciting new

items will continue to be added. Winning bidders will be

able to pick up their items at the League's **Holiday**

Brunch December 10 at Bubolz Nature Preserve.

Please plan to attend this special event. Other

arrangements also can be made for pickup.



PROGRAMS: Housing Study Provides Resources

By Renee Gralewicz, Program Vice President
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Our beautiful deciduous trees provide shelter from the sun for us throughout the summer and then a blanket for the earth in the autumn. Like many, I get to spend a lot of time and energy raking leaves. It prepares my arms and back for the upcoming snow removal processes. I never complain about the chores of tending to the leaves and snow because I am very fortunate to have this problem; to live in a home.

Many in our area are not as fortunate, as housing costs have increased and availability has decreased, as our October 17 program highlighted. The program began with Jelissa Burns, Post-Crescent Personal Finance reporter, who shared stories that highlighted and personalized the crisis. Then Kari Kuiper, Executive Director at Outagamie County Housing Authority, and Karen Harkness, Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Appleton detailed some of the local data and intended responses to our housing crisis. Here are some resources:

- [Envision Appleton](#) – Scroll down the page for the College North Neighborhood Plan
- [Outagamie County Housing Strategy](#) For Fox Cities and Greater Outagamie County report
- Housing Issues in the Fox Valley - October 17, 2022 ([Program recording](#))

Since we do not publish a December newsletter, here is some information about our January Lively Issues gathering. So far, we intend to meet in person at Long Cheng Marketplace, 1804 S. Lawe St., Appleton (9:00 a.m.- noon). We do NOT intend to provide a virtual connection. Lively Issues is how we decide which aspect of our local community needs and deserves our attention. It is only through research and study that we can generate positions about the issue, which then allows for advocacy.

We are currently conducting a study of the local healthcare system and its response and access to marginalized and disadvantaged neighbors. Please join the conversation and share your thoughts as well as hear what others have to say. I ask you to ponder our communities and areas you think need our civic attention. Also, please review our current policies and positions [HERE](#).

Upcoming confirmed programs:

- **November 21** (Monday): Why Should I Care About Wisconsin Courts? Part 1 (Hybrid) (Co-sponsored with the LWV of Winnebago County) UWO-Fox Cities Campus (1478 Midway Road, Menasha) 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **December 5** (Monday): Why Should I Care About Wisconsin Courts? Part 2 (Hybrid) (Co-sponsored with the LWV of Winnebago County) Coughlin Center (625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh) (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)
- **December 10** (Saturday): Holiday Brunch; Bubolz Nature Preserve (4815 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton) (Time TBD)
- **January 14, 2023** (Saturday): Lively Issues; Long Cheng Market (1804 S. Lawe St., Appleton) (9:00 a.m.- noon)

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Healthcare's Current Status

Julia Garvey, health insurance Navigator at Partnership Community Health Center, provided an overview of the health insurance landscape in Wisconsin at a special virtual program on Tuesday, November 15. Julia shared the current status of Medicaid enrollment and policies that have maintained coverage for more than 1.6 million Wisconsin residents since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also highlighted were outreach strategies for East Central Wisconsin and examples of health insurance plans and prices on [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

The program was recorded for later viewing. Check the League website, lwwappletonfoxcities.org, for the link as well as other programs and news.

The Informed Voter



Holiday Brunch — Save the Date



Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 10 at
Bubolz Nature Preserve,
Appleton; 10 a.m.



We'll welcome guests who've made the immigration journey,
and those who have welcomed them, to share their
perspectives as part of our conversation

View the place we call home through their eyes,
and how they navigate the challenges and resources



Making Democracy Work Awards

We will recognize several
recipients for their
exceptional contributions

Celebrate our work

We understand that we
are better together



Claim your FUNdrising auction winnings

Browse our League swag



 LWVAPPLETONFOXCITIES.ORG

 program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

ELECTION: League Members Rock the Polls!

Thank You!

The League thanks all of our members who served as poll workers, volunteers and observers for the mid-term election. With such an overwhelming number of voters, the task of conducting a safe, accurate and secure election took exceptional dedication and work on everyone's part. Added to that was the job of opening and processing the large number of absentee and early ballots, which by law could only be processed on election day. By all measures, that, too, was handled efficiently and securely.

Thanks, too, goes to all who helped with our many voter registration and education efforts leading up to the election. Your knowledge of the registration and voting processes helped many learn about the issues and where the candidates stand on those issues.

Thank you for your work to empower voters and defend democracy. You represent our League well!