



FEBRUARY 2023

Co-Presidents' Message: Democracy Is Uphill Battle



Throughout our newsletter you will see how active our League is as we approach an important spring election season with a primary race for Outagamie County Executive, and an extremely consequential primary for a new Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice. The more active members we have, the more voters we can help to register, the more candidates we can interview, the more voter information we can distribute. Thank you for all your help to keep our communities engaged and informed!



As our work demonstrates, we are better together. In this spirit, our League began meeting with our partners from the 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition. We all continue to share a vision for women and for the communities in which we live and decided we should continue our power. The result: a renewed partnership — **the Women's Action Coalition**.

Our partners in the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) are: American Association of University Women (AAUW), Delta Sigma Theta - NE Wisconsin Alumnae chapter, the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities (LWV-AFC), and the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley.

The Coalition, which will have rotating leadership among the partners, will continue the mission of our previous coalition: a collaborative effort of women from women-run associations, organizations, and clubs, all aligned in our desire to celebrate, educate and advocate for women's rights. We will celebrate August 26, the day we traditionally highlight as Women's Equality Day, through an annual media campaign, and offer a program during the year focused on a theme consistent with the mission. We also will cross-promote the programs offered by each organization.

Better together. Stronger together. Rippel's Vital Conditions for Health and Wellbeing call efforts such as ours "strengthening ...civic muscle". Women together certainly have civic muscle. Together we can do anything.

— **Linda and Marti**
president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

ACTION: Four Legislators Participate in Town Hall

By Jan Quinlan, Action Vice President
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On Monday February 6, our 4th virtual Legislative Town Hall hosted 4 regional state legislators, the most in our history. This is a sign that this bipartisan group of elected officials trust our LWVAF town halls to be fair, focused on policy issues, and free from divisiveness. More participating legislators also means we constituents hear directly from our representatives in Madison about a variety of state concerns — especially important as this 2-year Wisconsin budget begins making its way through the Capitol.

Our thanks to Senator Rachel Cabral-Guevara, Senator Andre Jacque, Representative Lee Snodgrass, and Representative Ron Tusler for joining us this year.

It takes a League village to prepare for, stage, and record a virtual town hall. Our thanks to Linda Bjella for her partnership and leadership from the earliest stages, to Marti Hemwall for her assistance with screening and reading audience questions, to former Representative Penny Bernard-Schaber for her advice on calendar dates and other matters important to legislators, to Michael Goodnight and Barbara Kelly for their invaluable technical assistance with the Zoom event and recording, to Renee Gralewicz for assisting with online registrations, to Kathy Voigt for providing public and media outreach, and to all of you who provided possible questions for our legislators.

As always, the virtual town hall provides insights into our elected officials' legislative priorities — and we hope we continue to attract a strong bipartisan group to future town halls.

If you missed the live Legislative Town Hall, you can watch the full-length recording which is posted on our LWV Appleton-Fox Cities website's front page.

Gratefully, Jan Quinlan, VP Action



THE EXCHANGE IN WHITE AMERICA
Kaukauna & King 50 Years Later

Laurels include: Milwaukee International Diversity Film Festival, MKE FILM FESTIVAL 2022, HOLLYWOOD NEW DIRECTORS PROMISING DEBUTS 2022, OFFICIAL SELECTION, and St. Louis.

'Exchange in White America: Kaukauna & King 50 Years Later' Screening
In 1966 black students from King High School in Milwaukee and white students from Kaukauna High School in the Fox Valley switched places. They lived in each other's homes, attended classes and performed the controversial play "In White America" in both places. Awarded Journalist and Woman of Influence Joanne Williams has written and produced a film that tells their story — then and now. The "Exchange in White America: Kaukauna & King 50 Years Later" film will be screened in several locations around the Fox Valley and will include a Q&A with writer and producer Joanne Williams.

This film and screenings aim to generate conversations to improve race relations through theater, education, empathy, and optimism. Click here for screening dates and more info:
<https://www.theexchange50.com/>

LIVELY ISSUES = Lively People + Lively Discussion

By Renee Gralewicz, Program Vice President
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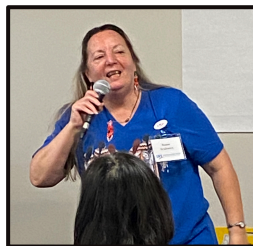
The only thing more exhilarating than a large group of concerned and engaged people getting together to talk about our community and its challenges, is to solve those challenges! Well, we can't solve all the challenges, but at least we identified a number of areas where our communities can use some positive energy.

On January 14, we held our annual Lively Issues gathering at Kaukauna Public Library. (Thank you Kaukauna Public Library for the wonderful space and gracious people!) There were more than 30 people listening, talking, discussing, and sharing information. After a few hours, we were able to see the fruits of our efforts.

It's essential for the Board to know what is important to our membership, and throughout the year, they will continue to look at the list generated. This helps us formulate program studies and educational programs, and helps the Action Committee and Observation Corps focus their attentions.

Ultimately, the Program Vice President presents the list along with a study proposal to the Board, which then considers the recommendations and decides what to present to the membership. At the Annual Meeting (May 20, 2023), we members vote on whether to undertake the proposed study. If you're interested in seeing the entire document, please contact [Renee](#) for a copy.

Issues were organized under three categories: Local Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. Here are the topics most frequently raised in these categories.



Local Government

1. **Position reviews** [through a DEI lens] There were at least six specific position statement areas identified throughout the day: law enforcement, local police protection, juvenile justice, parks and recreation, mental health, and local government organization. When grouped together, the review of current local positions had the most support for a study.

2. **Transportation/ Regional Transportation Authority** This issue included a variety of topics including Amtrak services to Appleton, extending area bus routes, and assessing community services for "walkability." [LWV WI

"Smart growth" positions cover these issues should we find a need to advocate.]

3. **Opioid crisis** – While we have mental/behavioral health positions and new health positions being proposed this May, none of them specifically address this crisis.
4. **Park land usage** between public and private should be assessed. This issue stems from the current proposal to relocate the Trout Museum of Art in the Ellen Kort Peace Park.
5. **Welcoming communities** (immigrants/migrants/refugees) Of special interest were policies or resolutions to county and state governments to allow undocumented to obtain driver licenses. [Please note that we can only advocate for local policies and local actions.]

Natural Resources

1. **Water quantity** is a growing concern even though we have many



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LIVELY ISSUES = Lively People + Lively Discussion, cont.

strong positions regarding water quality. [LWV WI has a position on water quantity. It falls into the “Sufficient funding for state and federal agencies to monitor water quality and quantity through regular testing and have a legally defined mandate to act in upholding water standards” (page 57). “In 1985 the legislature adopted the Water Resources Conservation Act, supported by League, as a part of the Great Lakes states’ strategy to conserve water and resist major water transfers out of the Great Lakes basin. League was involved in developing administrative rules and a state water quantity plan.”]

2. **Solid Waste, including food waste** These issues also received a lot of consideration and votes. After discussion, it became clear that there are new technologies and policies regarding waste management that have come into play. This topic will probably lead to an education program in the coming year.

Social Policy

Social policies tended to have the most varied topics of discussion. Below are just a few issues.

1. **Affordable housing** Programs/incentives, and neighborhood revitalization once again led with the most votes. [We have numerous strong housing positions covering geography, affordability, and emergency management. Every year for the past three years we have had an education program regarding various aspects of our housing crisis and we probably will again in 2023. What will happen is that the Action Committee will continue to keep watch for and alert us on any policies or actions our local governments are taking regarding this topic.]
2. **Cost of dependent care** concern was voiced over child and senior care and the role that over regulation might play into this. (2 votes) [Education 2019 under the early childhood section – E4 talks about affordable childcare but nothing regarding senior care. None of the positions discuss adult care.]
3. **Low-income senior care facilities**, quality and affordability also prompted a lot of discussion. [While this issue can be covered under current position statements, it is not specifically mentioned. This will probably be included within the housing education program.]
4. **Dissemination of information to newcomers** Given the state of local journalism/press, how do newcomers become familiar with our communities? This is a new issue brought to light. Is there a way for the city to do this?
5. **Local News Coverage** The breakdown of local news coverage and corporate ownership of newspapers is a rising concern. [We are offering an education program regarding this issue April 17, 2023. Look for announcements in March!]



Potential Education Programs as Springboards to Studies

- **Solid Waste and Food Waste Disposal**
- **Law Enforcement Program** to invite the new Appleton Chief of Police to help us better understand her priorities and concerns.
- **Senior housing/assisted living** for low income: What’s going on with Calumet County? Hopefully we’ll offer a joint program with LWV Winnebago County.
- **Appleton Area Affordable Housing**
- **Broader Land Use Issues** and how area developers and government agencies are looking forward.

Upcoming confirmed programs

March 20: Consensus meeting (details TBD) (in-person only)

April 17: Program focused on the impact of buyouts of local news outlets on communities. (details TBD)

May 20: Annual Meeting and Brunch; 10 a.m. - Noon; Scheig Center, Memorial Park, Appleton

VOTER SERVICE: Conducting Forums Before Feb. Primary

By Jacqui Klimaszewski, Voter Services Vice President
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INTERVIEWS/VOTE411 – Primary, February 21

The goal of the interviews is to inform voters about candidate stances on issues in a non-partisan way. The interviews with the 3 Outagamie County Executive candidates are on the website and they have all responded to the questions on VOTE411.

INTERVIEWS/VOTE411 – April 4th

Candidate Interviews will be set up for late February and early March for the following races:

- Appleton Area School District
- Appleton City Council – District #7
- Grand Chute Town Chair
- Grand Chute Town Board Supervisors-#1 and #3

Please contact voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org with questions you would like to ask the candidates in these races. Be sure to indicate the race for each question.

We will be expanding the information going up on VOTE411. We currently have information for these additional races in our area:

- Kaukauna School Board
- City of Kaukauna Alderperson
- Village of Harrison-Village Board President and Trustee
- Kimberly School District
- Hortonville

If you live in a municipality not mentioned above and would like your local races entered on VOTE411, please contact voterservice@lwwappletonfoxcities.org.

We would need League members to contact the municipal clerks and ask for:

- The races on the ballot
 - The name, address, phone, and email address of the candidates (should be a campaign or personal e-mail).
 - Any additional information such as “vote for 1” or “vote for 2”.
- Also, send any questions you think are particularly important due to current issues in the municipality.

VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

Voter registration events are being set up for late February and early March at East, West, and North High School. Requests for volunteers will go out via Club Express email.

VOTE 411

Voter Guide Launches in Time for Primary

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin launched its VOTE411.org voter guide for the Spring Primary Election. Voters across the state can find information about upcoming races including Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, Special Election for Senate District 8, Circuit Court Judges and local races like town, village, city boards, and more.

This one-stop shop for statewide election information has tools– in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#)– to help Wisconsin voters navigate the voting process. These include candidate information, voter registration tools, polling place information and other helpful Election Day resources.

Voter guides are especially helpful for nonpartisan spring elections, as candidates on the ballot are not marked with any party affiliation. On VOTE411, voters can learn more about the responsibilities of these offices and each candidate's values.

Voting should be pleasant and simple. So head on over and get out to **vote** on **February 21!**

MEMBERSHIP: Let's Go All. The. Way!

By Cindy Fallona, Membership Director

membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org



The "mercury" has been rising, but we'd like it to go all the way to the top! We're talking, of course, about all of you who have renewed your League memberships!

I am delighted to report that 90% of our members have renewed their membership for 2023. We value the contributions of each one of you, and hope that if you have not yet renewed, you will still consider doing so.

It is EASY to renew online. Go to <https://lwwappletonfoxcities.org>. You can also renew by check. Send it to LWV Appleton-Fox Cities, PO Box1281, Appleton, WI 54912.

Questions, problems or concerns? Contact Cindy Fallona at membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

We look forward to having you join us as we Empower Voters and Defend Democracy!

YOUR FUTURE hangs in the balance in this spring's WI Supreme Court election.



**YOUR
VOTE
DECIDES**

- Voting Rights
- Reproductive healthcare
- Clean Air & Water
- Fair Maps

Spring Primary: February 21
Spring General Election: April 4



www.myvote.wi.gov