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APRIL 2023

Co-Presidents' Message: Annual Request for Support



A wise person once said:

“ I like two kinds of change: the change in my pocket and change in the world.”

What a great description of nonprofits. A nonprofit focuses on a core mission which states what it wants to achieve. A clearly defined mission, and effectiveness in achieving that mission, attracts donations, contributions, and grants — which increases the nonprofit's effectiveness.



The same is true for our League. The League of Women Voters Mission:

To encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, to work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

An often used tagline to this mission:

To empower voters and defend democracy.

Now. Now you can help put change in the pockets of the League.

Recent months have been exciting for the League as all of us worked on some aspect of this mission.

- The nonpartisan spring election turned out to be more dramatic than most, and the turnout was massive — the highest for a spring non-presidential race in Wisconsin history.
- We had many voter registration events, and videotaped candidates for 411 and our website.
- We advocated for our policy positions in city councils, town government meetings, and school board meetings.

What makes it possible for the League to work in so many ways toward achieving our mission?

YOU. ME. US.

The League depends on each of us to provide support — by volunteering and providing financial support for our work. We all help to empower voters and defend democracy.

Right now our annual fund drive is underway. Please consider giving what you can to help the League's important work. Thank you for making a donation in whatever amount you can afford. Click for easy donation details [HERE](#).

The change in your pockets can, indeed, help change the world.

— **Linda and Marti**

president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

PROGRAMS: Health Care Study Needs Your Vote

By Renee Gralewicz, VP Program
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The March Consensus meeting was fabulous!! Members gathered to help the Study Team finalize our proposed position statements regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our health care systems.

You will see the Board-approved draft positions within the Annual Meeting Packet. Be sure to read them through prior to the May 20 meeting at the Scheig Center in Memorial Park, Appleton. Your vote matters there, too. Watch your email or the League website for Annual Meeting registration information.

Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

Saturday,
May 20, 2023
10 a.m. - 1:00. p.m.

- Scheig Center & Gardens
1313 Witzke Blv., Appleton
- Highlights of 2022
- Health Care Equity Study Recommendations
- Bylaws Changes; Election of Board, Officers
- Advice to the Board

We're ending the program season with a look into the changes in local investigative journalism and coverage of local governments. Given the rapid advances with digital and social media, news corporations adjusted and some of those changes have altered the relationships between journalists and our elected officials.

"Stop the Presses! Local News Matters" features a panel including Jim Fitzhenry, editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Ideas Lab and director of Community Engagement for 11 Wisconsin newspapers, and Karen Schneider, publisher of The Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News. Former Appleton Mayor Tim Hannah will moderate the discussion. Come join us and learn how newspapers contribute to healthy communities.

Attendance in person is an option, and in-person registration should be made on the League's [website](#). Since seating is limited, another option is to attend virtually. No registration is required for the virtual option, and details can be found at the same link.

Stop the Presses!

Local News Matters

Join the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities and the League of Winnebago County at an informative panel presentation on the challenges and innovations in providing local news coverage.

Monday, April 17, 2023 • 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Register to attend in person, or find the link for the virtual event, all [HERE](#).

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

VOICE OF THE LEAGUE: Making a Statement

Our League takes an active role in the crucial decisions made by our local governments. Here are two recent examples of official statements made by Jan Quinlan to the Appleton Common Council and Linda Bjella made to the Grand Chute Town Board.

April 5, 2023

Dear Appleton Common Council,

The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities supports the proposed College Avenue Lane Reconfiguration pilot project. We have several positions, reached through study and research and the consensus of our members, supporting this proposal.

We support Appleton creating safe and convenient routes for walkers, bicyclists, and people of varying abilities and needs. We support downtown development that encourages employers to locate downtown, provides more housing options, and promotes a welcoming and safe downtown that is accessible for all.

Police reports documenting unsafe conditions on College Avenue are alarming. Many of us have experienced firsthand the traffic speed, traffic gridlock, traffic noise, and lack of safety. We realize that Appleton has tried for years to find solutions to these problems and we appreciate those efforts. Recently, however, the increase in unsafe conditions has turned many residents and visitors away from downtown. Clearly, more needs to be done -- and this College Avenue pilot project is well-researched, well-vetted, and cost-effective.

In order for downtown Appleton to remain the welcoming "heart" of our community, it should be accessible and enjoyable to a wide variety of community members.

For these reasons, we encourage you to vote YES on the College Avenue Lane Reconfiguration pilot project.

Jan Quinlan
Vice President of Action
LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities

Statement to the Grand Chute Board of Supervisors

April 11, 2023

The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities has been a voice for good government in our community for over 80 years. We conduct rigorous studies and adopt positions so that we can speak out to local governments in support of what we believe is in the best interest of the residents in our community.

We have several position statements that pertain to Town government. Today, I cite one such position in support of a paid full-time professional administrator. A professional administrator possesses the specialized educational qualifications and skills that are necessary to manage the complexities of rapid suburban growth in an urban town such as Grand Chute.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bjella, Co-President
League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities