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NOVEMBER 2023



President's Message: Refresh Awareness of League Positions

By Linda Bjella
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Have you taken a look at our local positions lately? They're easy to find on our [website](#). Click on the "About Us" tab on the home page, then select "Policies and Positions" on the drop-down menu. You'll find a link to national, state, and local League positions. In sum, there's over a century of history there, but let's focus on just our local positions. What follows is a chronological summary of the major ones.

Our first official position dates from 1961*. We studied Appleton's city government that year. We expanded and updated that position in '65, '67, and '69.

In the 1970's our study committees were delving into regional planning, local and regional law enforcement, Outagamie County government, juvenile law enforcement and corrections, and the Appleton Public Library.

We took another look at Appleton's city government in 1980 as well as the Parks & Rec Dept. in '82. Other issues we explored in the 1980's were energy conservation, Outagamie County's Health and Human Services, public health, education (again), Outagamie County government (again), and annexation.

In the 1990's our positions further expanded to include recycling, town government, regional law enforcement, youth advocacy services, housing, billboard control, local transportation, the Fox River Corridor, and yet another study of both the Appleton Public Library and education.

There were a lot of folks thinking about a new PAC in 2000, and so was the League. The next year, we tackled PCB's. In '02 we studied alternatives to incarceration. In '03-'04 we developed positions on smart growth and regionalization, and in '08, we delved into mental health care.

In 2014, we took yet another look at the Appleton Public Library. In 2015 and '16, we studied human trafficking and land use planning. In 2019, we developed an updated education position.

(Continued on page 2)

President: League Positions, cont.

Our most recent studies include Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency in 2020-2021, and this year we approved a position on equity in health care.

Some of you will remember serving on some of those study committees, but some of you weren't even born when they were done. Taken together, it's an impressive legacy for our local League. Each position represents countless volunteer hours of research, interviews, study, and meetings. But how well do these positions speak to this current moment and the future?

Our study committee this year is examining all those positions through a DEI and Fox Cities regional lens. The goal is to identify the positions that require a new, updated study, those that can be tweaked, those that need no change, and those that should be archived. We are using three DEI questions from LWV US to guide our work and one that focuses on regionalism.

1. Who is involved in the process?
2. Who will be impacted?
3. What are the likely intended and unintended outcomes?
4. Could this position be relevant throughout the Fox Cities?

Take a look at our local positions, and try this exercise for yourself. Stay tuned for our study committee's recommendations at our Lively Issues meeting in January.

-Linda

**I found one earlier position on Centralized Purchasing from 1958 in the archives.*



**BEFORE YOU PULL UP A CHAIR
WITH A GOOD BOOK,
CONSIDER WHAT THE FREEDOM TO READ
MEANS TO YOU!**

**THE SILENT AUCTION LAUNCHES
IN JUST A FEW DAYS!**

**JOIN THE BIDDING ACTION ON ANY
NUMBER OF INSIGHTFUL, FUN,
ADVENTUROUS BASKETS AND LIFT
UP THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE!**

Watch for the live auction link on the League website, lwvappletonfoxcities.org, and Facebook.

PROGRAM: Open Government Topic for November 20

By Jan Quinlan

Vice President of Action

action@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

Governments are not allowed to make decisions without your knowing why. Throughout our long history, LWV has been an advocate for openness in government. And Wisconsin “sunshine” laws are some of the most expansive in our nation. What does that mean for us in the Fox Cities? How does this inform our Observer Corps work?

Please join us for an important discussion of the statutes and the lived experiences with two community members who are on the front lines:

* City Attorney Chris Behrens, City of Appleton

* Larry Gallup, audience growth editor for USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, and former Post-Crescent editor

OPEN GOVERNMENT: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Monday, November 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Grand Chute Town Center Park building

1900 Grand Chute Blvd, Appleton, WI, 54913

We encourage you to join us in person, but if not, this event also will be offered on Zoom. Please register [HERE](#) to receive your zoom link.

VOICE OF THE LEAGUE: City, County Draw League Comments

action@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

One element of ensuring that government is transparent and accountable to the citizens is following the actions of the governmental units. That’s the role of the League’s Observer Corps. Volunteers attend governmental meetings and report their actions to the League in an impartial way. They alert the League to emerging issues that warrant League attention.

Presence of League volunteers puts elected officials and staff on notice that their work needs to be transparent. When the League president speaks at public meetings, the statement is based on the League’s well-researched positions.

League President Linda Bjella recently addressed the Outagamie County Board about its lack of virtual meetings that would enable more people to follow the proceedings, and at its budget hearing. Action Vice President Jan Quinlan followed the City of Appleton budget review sessions and addressed the mayor and Council on behalf of the League. Their correspondence may be viewed on the Voice of the League page on the League website. Find these and other full statements [HERE](#).



DEI: First Book Reviewed, Next Title Chosen

By Kathie Kinnaman, Member
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Our first DEI Book Share was around the book Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibrahm X. Kendi. Our inaugural meeting had a great turnout, with rich discussion on the practical and accessible insights from the book.

Stamped further provides a path to new perspectives, the names of those in the fight, a view of history that you didn't learn in school, and practicable/accessible shifts in thinking suitable for readers of all ages. It was the perfect choice to begin our DEI Book Share journey.

We are very much looking forward to our next read and discussion, and we welcome anyone curious, open minded, and interested in broadening their perspective. Please bring a friend and an open mind. Our next read will be:

What: Obreros Unidos: The Roots and Legacy of the Farm Workers Movement, by Jesus Salas
When: Monday, November 27, Noon-1 pm
Where: League Office, 120 N. Morrison St, Appleton

DIVERSITY•EQUITY•INCLUSION

BOOK SHARE SELECTS ROOTS OF FARM WORKERS MOVEMENT

Participants in the first Book Share conversation were eager for the next selection to discuss and identify actionable issues. Their choice is —

“Obreros Unidos: The Roots and Legacy
of the Farm Workers Movement”
by Jesus Salas

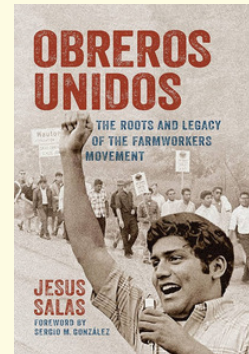
WHEN: Monday, November 27, noon to 1 p.m.

WHERE: League Office (120 N. Morrison St., Appleton)

WHAT: Action-oriented discussion

WHO: open to anyone

WHAT ELSE: Bring a snack, bring a beverage, bring 2 friends! We will also discuss what to read next (DEI theme, fiction or non-fiction, call to action)



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

ACTION: Pending Legislation Needs Your Support

Critical issues from fair maps to UW funding and salaries to mental health support and anti-discrimination bills are currently on the state legislative docket. And pending federal legislation is critical to Wisconsin farm workers. Learn the facts [HERE](#), and contact your elected representatives to voice your opinions. Find your representatives [HERE](#).

YOU can be an Election Hero by being a poll worker! Here are the simple requirements: be a United States citizen; be 18 years old (except high school student poll workers); be able to read and write fluently in English, and NOT be a candidate for any office to be voted on at the polling place in that election.

Sign up to be a poll worker at powerthepolls.org/lwvwi.

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome New Members



By **Cindy Fallona, Membership Director**

membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

*Please welcome our newest member —
Jan Smith of Neenah!*

Your League membership renewal time is just around the corner. **Members may renew online at lwwappletonfoxcities.org beginning December 3, 2023.** Renewing via check or cash is always an option. Mail your renewal form and payment to LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities, PO Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912, ATTN Renewal.

Each member will receive a letter and renewal instructions in late November from our President, Linda Bjella. In the meantime, any questions should be directed to Cindy Fallona, Membership Director at membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org.

A great opportunity to renew is at our Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 16 at Bubolz Nature Preserve. Renewing on-line and with check or cash will be available. Come and enjoy the holidays with League members and guests, and listen to our timely program, The Freedom to Read.

2024 will be a critical year for our democracy with several elections on the docket. Your support and participation will be vitally important. There is no better way to Defend Democracy/Empower Voters than by being a member of the League of Women Voters USA, Wisconsin and Appleton-Fox Cities.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF APPLETON-FOX CITIES

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ITS
HOLIDAY BRUNCH
“THE FREEDOM TO READ”

Saturday GORDON BUBOLZ 9:30 a.m.
December 16 NATURE PRESERVE to Noon
4815 N. Lynndale Dr. • Appleton

9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION & SOCIAL
10:00 A.M. - NOON BRUNCH & PROGRAM
\$25 PER PERSON INCLUDES HOT BRUNCH & GRATUITY
INVITE A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE!

- *Featured Speakers: Colleen Rortvedt, Appleton Public Library; Bradley Shipps, OWLS; Nick Ross, AASD School Board*
- *Presentation of the Making Democracy Work Award*

WATCH FOR AN INVITATION SOON!