



AUGUST 2024



President's Message: Lace Up Those Shoes for the Race We Face

By Linda Bjella
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You've probably enjoyed watching the Olympic games in Paris these past few weeks. What a thrill to see world-class athletes compete in that glorious city! It started me thinking about the race we're set to run in the next three months.

Heading into the fall of a presidential election year is when League members need to strap on their running shoes for the final sprint. Our attention will be primarily focused on assisting voters and informing them about candidates. There will be many opportunities for you to be part of the team.

- **Help at tabling events**

Our new colorful spinning wheel and civics quiz has really increased the engagement with people passing by. It is a fun way to provide information, start a larger conversation about voting, and remind people that the League is THE source for reliable nonpartisan information.

- **Take a shift or two at the DMV**

Our new project to assist voters at the Outagamie Department of Motor Vehicles has been wildly successful. You meet people from all walks of life there. Most are friendly and very grateful for our help with online registration. Between our spring and summer sessions, we registered a total of 283 people!

- **Provide questions for candidate forums**

What questions would you like candidates for congress and the state legislature to answer? Let us know! You can have a say in what we ask candidates in a forum or on Vote411.

- **Speaking of vote411.org ...**

You can help spread the word about this valuable award-winning website offered to voters nationwide.

- **Put up a yard sign**

We have lots of nonpartisan LWV signs that encourage people to vote. Let us know, and we'll deliver one to your door. Ask for several, and help distribute them to your friends and neighbors.

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PRESIDENT: Get Ready for the Race We Face, cont.

- **Help distribute posters in the community**

We have a new batch of colorful posters in English and Spanish with a QR code linked to myvote.wi.gov just waiting to be distributed around the community to coffee shops, laundromats, grocery stores, etc. Take a few and drop them off.

- **Help dispel mis- and disinformation**

Share our website, lwvappletonfoxcities.org, and the my.lwv.org/wisconsin where reliable nonpartisan information is abundant. We are getting more and more calls to our answering service from people looking for the League's help as the election approaches. And be sure to follow our League's Facebook page and share the content.

- **Volunteer to be a poll worker or observer**

See for yourself how carefully and securely our elections are conducted in Wisconsin. Contact your local clerk to volunteer.

September is just around the corner and we're off and running. Strap on your shoes and get in the race!

ACTION: Delegates Log Decisions at LWV US Convention

By Jan Quinlan

Vice President, Action

action@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

As most of you know, the League of Women Voters operates on the local, state, and national levels. Each level focuses on the corresponding government entities. I attended the LWV National Convention virtually on June 28-30, 2024. Here are the highlights of our work that weekend.

Program Planning 2024-2025

Delegates passed the following program of work for the upcoming year:

1. Making Democracy Work — LWV supports redistricting, voting rights protection, and direct election of the President by popular vote, and continues our advocacy priorities of these issues.

2. Concurrence on the LWVWA (Washington State): Local News — It's Not a Journalism Problem, It's a Democracy Problem. LWV believes it is the responsibility of government to provide support for conditions under which credible local journalism can thrive.

3. One-year study of the Federal Judiciary — LWV will study independence, transparency, and conflicts of interest in the Supreme Court as well as other Federal court systems in a one-year process so we can take action on these issues as soon as possible.

Other Plenary Decisions

We passed resolutions supporting reproductive rights, libraries as civic spaces, immigration reform, DC statehood, ethics in government, and CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women). We elected a new LWVUS slate of officers and nominating committee with Dianna Wynn as president. We were introduced to new executive director Celine Stewart, formerly Chief Counsel. We adopted a new budget with a financial report that LWVUS is in a more sound financial position than two years ago.

Workshops I Attended

A. Ranked Choice Voting: LWVUS has a position advocating for ranked choice voting which results in the following outcomes: campaigns are more issues oriented; elections are more cost-effective, eliminating run-off elections, more women and candidates of color run for office and win elections.



Celine Stewart

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ACTION: Delegate to LWV US Convention, cont.

B. Eliminate the Electoral College: LWVUS' 2022 Denver Convention voted to make National Popular Vote for President our "moonshot." What's Wrong with the Electoral College? It continues to suppress the voices of Black Americans; it means only a few swing states matter in elections and in national governance; it discourages voter participation, and more. What we need right now is grassroots education for a possible Constitutional Amendment.

C. Corporate and Organizational Partnerships: Expanding Your Reach — This session covered new ways to forge partnerships with corporations or organizations and it Included documents we can use in our next finance drive.

Public Safety Needs You!

This year our League will study Public Safety issues

in our communities: law enforcement, fire safety, police school liaisons, drug enforcement, surveillance technologies and their impact on privacy, etc.

We need you to determine the scope of the study and then help with the research. The Public Safety study committee will start meeting this fall with regular meetings (virtual and/or in person) throughout the year.

Study Committees are a great way to get to know League members and how League works. Whether you're a newer member or a veteran. Whether you are someone interested in these issues. Whether you know lots about Public Safety or want to learn more — please join in. If you have questions, or are ready to volunteer, contact Jan Quinlan by emailing her at action@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

MEMBERSHIP: League Membership Is Blossoming

By Cindy Fallona
Membership Director
membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

The summer months have brought a growth in our membership. It must be the combination of warm weather and rain. Please join in welcoming —

Ada Hall, Neenah; Ann Dreir, Jennifer Haese and Jaime Rosandick, all of Appleton

Looking to join the League? It's easy! Simply visit the [League website](#) and click on Join.

For our members, if you need to make any changes to your membership status — such as an address change, new phone or email, sign up for an event or make a donation — go to our website, lwwappletonfoxcities.org. You will need to log in with your membership password. If you do not remember your password, the website allows you to obtain a new one. If you have any problems logging in, contact Cindy Fallona at membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org for assistance.

VOTER SERVICES: Productive Summer Leads to New Needs

By Jacqui Klimaszews
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voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



Kim Schiedermayer and Helene Pohl quiz a young visitor on her civics knowledge.

This summer we held three registration assistance events: on June 25 at the UWO Fox Cities Open House, Celebrate Diversity Picnic on July 20, and the Appleton Farm Market on July 27. We were able to reach out to more than 90 voters regarding the August 13 election, providing information on redistricting, and the ballot questions on the changes to the state constitution. We also connected with 8 prospective new members. Thank you to the volunteers: Tami McLaughlin, Linda Bjella, Rick Bjella, April Savage, Sara Companik, Mary Sullivan, Helene Pohl and Kim Schiedermayer.

AND we had very productive DMV sessions —

- 136 voter registrations over 11 days — 12.4 registrations per day
- 186 volunteer hours filled (out of 202 possible) — 92% of volunteer hours filled (note: we lost Friday, July 19, but we did have it staffed)
- .8 registrations per volunteer hour (136 registrations/170 volunteer hours)

- no shifts with zero voter registrations
- 312 informational handouts
- 5 people interested in joining LWV Appleton-Fox Cities

We are set up for the next DMV sessions starting on National Voter Registration Day, September 17, and going through October 16th. **Many volunteers will again be needed**—so get on the calendar now! Brian Post will be your contact (6615@sbcglobal.net). Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-50626730-dmvmvoter#/>

We are also looking for volunteers for the **Appleton Farm Market on August 24th**. Help is needed at 7:30 a.m. for set up; 2 volunteers are needed for the 8:00-10:00 a.m. time slot, and 2 volunteers are needed for the 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon time slot. Help is also needed for the takedown at 12:30 p.m. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ADAB2FA6FCC07-50630073-appleton>



Tami MacLaughlin at UWO Fox Cities

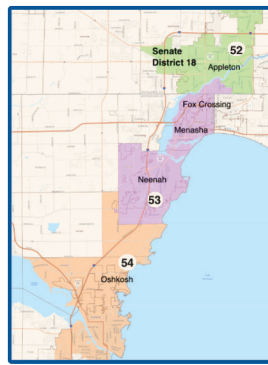
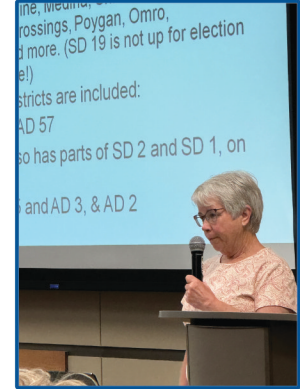
Looking Ahead

Latino Fest: Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m.– 3 p.m. at Pierce Park, Appleton. At 9:30 a.m. help is needed with set up; 2 volunteers are needed for the 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. time slot, and 2 volunteers are needed for the 12:30-3:00 p.m. time slot. Help is also needed for the takedown at 3:00 p.m. We would like to have at least 1 bilingual speaker at each session. Contact J. Klimaszewski at voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org if you can help. A Signup Genius invitation will be sent out at the end of August.

Be on the lookout for more information via email and Sign-Up Genius, and join us in getting the word out!!

VOTING: New Legislative Maps Draw Interest

More than 70 area residents interested in knowing how the new state legislative district maps would affect them turned out to hear Penny Bernard Schaber's presentation at the Neenah Public Library on July 11. The nonpartisan informational program, hosted jointly by the Leagues of Appleton-Fox Cities, Winnebago County, and LWV WI, also provided an opportunity for regional candidates to introduce themselves to voters. Here are a few photos taken at the presentation. The presentation may be viewed [HERE](#).



WOMEN'S EQUALITY: Organizations Gather at Market

The League will be one of a trifecta of women's organizations that will have a presence at the Appleton Farmer's Market on August 24 to call attention to women's equality. That's the date of the annual observance of Women's Equality Day, calling attention to its importance historically and today.

The nonpartisan League, the Women's Action Coalition of the Fox Valley (WAC), and Appleton Area NOW (National Organization of Women) will each lead activities connected to the day. The League will assist people who wish to register to vote, and WAC volunteers will snap photos of women who pen their thoughts about equality on postcards to go with the photos. NOW will kick off a campaign called WomenRoar2024, a get-out-the-vote effort.



The League is a member of WAC, an alliance of women-serving organizations in the Fox Cities which also includes the American Association of University Women of Appleton (AAUW), the Northeast Wisconsin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region.



LISTEN | LEARN | LEAN IN

TO BE PART OF THESE LEAGUE ACTIVITIES,
ADD THESE TOPICS AND DATES TO YOUR PLANNER
NOW WHILE DETAILS ARE BEING FINALIZED.

2024

- Monday, September 16:** Sustainability & Resilience — Fox Cities Green Initiatives
- Monday, October 7:** Reproductive Health Care in Wisconsin
- Monday, November 11:** “When We Walk By” — Unhoused in the Fox Cities
- Saturday, December 14:** Holiday Brunch — Is There a Child Care Crisis in Our Community?

2025

- Saturday, January 11:** Lively Issues
- Monday, February 3:** Legislative Town Hall
- Monday, March 10:** Public Safety Committee Report
- Monday, April 14:** Financing Public & Private Education
- Thursday, May 22:** Annual Meeting Evening

program@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



In Memoriam

Karen de Young passed away on June 19, 2024. Karen was a loyal LWV Appleton member for decades starting in the 1970s and held a number of leadership positions in our local League, including president. Karen was known for her lively spirit and ever-present sense of humor. Many also will remember Karen as executive director of the Outagamie County Chapter of the American Red Cross, which she served for 19 years. We send deepest condolences to Karen's family.



To all the municipal clerks and assistants, poll workers,
observers and all who voted in the August 13 primary —
Thank You!

You help ensure that Wisconsin elections are safe, secure, and accurate.