

THE INFORMED VOTER

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• Empowering Voters
• Defending Democracy

JUNE 2025



President's Message: Let's Come Together to Unite & Rise 8.5



By Janice Quinlan, President
president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

It has been more than 100 years since the League of Women Voters launched an initiative like Unite and Rise 8.5. In April, the League of Women Voters of the United States declared our nation in a Constitutional Crisis. By May 1, they had created Unite and Rise 8.5 to drive change through voter advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement.

Unite and Rise 8.5 will be a priority for our League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities. We announced the initiative at our Annual Meeting in May. Each member received a flyer with QR codes connecting them to important information and resources. Our Summer Picnic will share specific ways you can be involved.

- [Tell Congress Not to Gut Medicaid](#). Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the country. Tell your personal story of how it will impact your friends and family members and close residential facilities that depend on Medicaid reimbursements.
- Raise your voice about illegal deportments without due process. Organizations like [Hope & Help Together](#) help immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers in our community.
- [Oppose the SAVE Act](#). This act requires documentation to vote, and will jeopardize millions of legal voters' ability to safely cast their votes. The dangerous bill has passed the House of Representatives and is now in the Senate. Call Senators Baldwin and Ron Johnson.
- Stay alert to new emails from all levels of the League of Women Voters. Advocate with our elected officials. [Find Your Elected Officials Here](#).

Are you interested in finding other ways to be involved with Unite & Rise 8.5? Contact me at president@lwvappletonfoxcities.org to learn about ways you can help with our local efforts.

Forward, Jan

Lest Anyone Doubt the League's Impact



2024 ELECTION



30m+ VOTER CONTACTS	9.19m+ USERS GIVEN ELECTION INFORMATION VIA VOTE411.ORG
9.38m+ VOTER RIGHTS PROTECTED THROUGH LITIGATION	70k VOTER-TO-VOTER GOTV CONVERSATIONS

Voice of the League: Calls to Action Rise Above the Noise

Following a bold move to call out members of Congress at a news conference for not exercising their oath to protect and defend the US Constitution, LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities (LWVAFC) again followed the lead of LWVUS when the national organization declared the US to be in a Constitutional Crisis and launched an evolving initiative called Unite and Rise 8.5.

The local League introduced the effort on its website, and in materials distributed and discussed at its annual meeting. The League also has made available copies of a postcard stating the LWV US Oath to Democracy which individuals may use to express their views to their state and national legislative delegates.

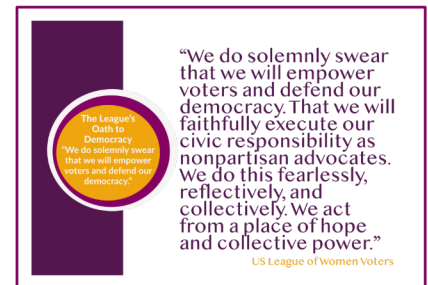
Meanwhile, LWV AFC exercised its voice publicly when then-President Linda Bjella submitted Letters to the Editor to *The Post-Crescent* and to the *Dairyland Patriot* online publication. The president is the official and only person who speaks on behalf of the League, unless another informed individual is authorized to do so.

Read the Letter [HERE](#).

Incoming President Janice Quinlan and Linda were interviewed by *Dairyland Patriot* Editor Kelly Fenton to announce and define Unite and Rise 8.5.

Read the extensive article [HERE](#).

If you'd like to know more about the local League's advocacy efforts, check out its Action Alerts under the heading News to Know/Action to Take on its website, lwwappletonfoxcities.org Follow the links for more detailed information. Send email inquiries to action@lwwappletonfoxcities.org or to president@lwwappletonfoxcities.org



Programs: Annual Meeting Wraps Up Meaningful Year; 2025-26 Lineup Taking Shape

By Jan Smith
Program Director
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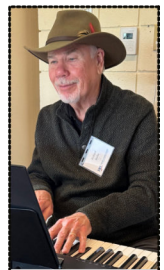
As LWVA-FC closed a meaningful 2024-25 program year, the Annual Meeting on May 22 offered an opportunity to recap, review and renew. It was held at the lovely Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Region offices, and was attended by 58 people, which included several guests. Many thanks go to Dottie LeClair and the Events Committee for an event well planned and executed, which was topped off by an Afterglow event at Holiday's Pub.

The annual **Summer Picnic on June 12** at Thousand Islands Nature Preserve, 1000 Beaulieu Ct. Kaukauna, will provide one more opportunity to gather with League friends and ease into what promises to be an action packed year for 2025-26. You will be introduced to the national League's initiative called Unite and Rise 8.5, which will continue to be a major focal point with growing momentum throughout the year.

Program planning for 2025-26 is underway with topics selected from the Lively Issues discussion held in January that include an examination of such core topics as local government, biodiversity and sustainability, immigration, and diversity.

Certainly, if you have any interest in becoming further engaged in any of the League activities, please reach out to any of the members of the board at the picnic. Your involvement would be welcomed.

Lens on the Annual Meeting



Voter Services: Community Partners Join In at Juneteenth Booth

By Jacqui Klimaszewski

Vice President, Voter Services

voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

The LWV Appleton-Fox Cities had a table at the Juneteenth event sponsored by African Heritage and held at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center. We provided voter information and played the Civics Game with a number of those in attendance.

J. Klimaszewski and April Savage with joined by Timber Smith and three volunteers from Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Jelani Lawson, Majeed Abbara and Myles Dixon did a fantastic job connecting with those present—especially the younger attendees. We thank them for joining us and Timber Smith for making the connection!

Look for more tabling opportunities coming up throughout the summer — Farm Markets, Pride Fest, Latino Fest, Celebrate Diversity — and others! Watch for information coming your way via email from Club Express and Sign-Up Genius.



Above: Jelani Lawson, Majeed Abbara, Myles Dixon, April Savage. Below left: Timber Smith, April Savage. Below right: Myles Dixon with Josiah.

If you know of an event that we could participate in, please contact us:

voterservice@lwvappletonfoxcities.org

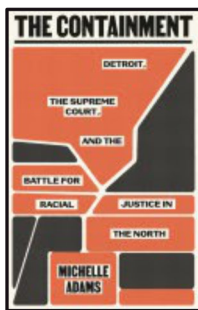


Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: All Are Welcome to Discussions

By Kathie Kinnaman

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Director

dei@lwvappletonfoxcities.org



The DEI Committee has a new director. I'm Kathie Kinnaman, and I will be taking over this month from April Savage, who served as director for two years. I hope to continue the good work that April started, with an emphasis on local issues and events.

The committee, which always welcomes new members, will still meet on the first Monday of each month, but the start time has changed to 1:30 p.m. Most meetings are held via Zoom.

The DEI Book Share is a separate entity from the committee, and also welcomes new members! The group next meets on Wednesday, June 25 at 6 p.m. at Mondo's to discuss *The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North*, by Michelle Adams. NOTE: you are welcome to join the discussion without reading or finishing the book! Come listen to the discussion and join in as you feel comfortable. And bring a friend!

Call Your Senators and Tell Them to Vote No on Federal Medicaid Cuts!

Call our Senators in Congress ASAP with the message of "Vote No" on the drastic cuts in the current proposed Budget Reconciliation Bill. The Senate can still make changes to avoid these catastrophic cuts. As it stands right now, this Bill will cut \$715 billion in health care spending over the next 10 years – that's Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. And, 13.7 million people would lose health insurance. In addition, the proposal would cut \$300 billion nationwide in SNAP (Wisconsin calls it FoodShare) over the next decade. Two-thirds of the people who use SNAP/Foodshare in Wisconsin are also Medicaid participants. [Find Your Elected Officials Here.](#)

Membership: New Members Truly Herald from the Fox Cities!

By Linda Bjella

Membership Director

membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org

The LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities has enjoyed a surge in membership in 2025. Our total membership now stands at 157 — the largest number we have had, at least in recent memory. Please make a point of greeting the following new members who have joined in 2025. As you can see, we truly are the LWV of Appleton AND Fox Cities!

- **From Appleton:** Jean Janes, Jeff Jones, Ellen Weiland, Germaine Millard, Susan O'Neill, Shannon Featherstone, Karin Meier, Margaret DeWane, LaVanya Murali, Kris Gurholt
- **From Neenah:** Betsy Krizenesky, Jennifer Verderami
- **From Menasha:** Stephanie Vrabec, Patricia Jawort
- **From Hortonville:** Angie Eurhardy, Joanne Gorski
- **From Kaukauna:** Ute Kegel
- **From Larsen:** Zola Nimmer
- **From Oshkosh:** Darlene Patrick

At the Helm: LWVAFC Board Leaders Transition; Members Approve Needed Action

Members in attendance at the May 21 Annual Meeting approved a slate of officers and directors on the League Board. Among other items voters approved were the support positions review, bylaws changes, and a 2025-26 budget.

Positions approved included the following:

- **President:** Janice Quinlan (2025-2027)
- **First VP Action:** Nancy Jones (2025-2027)
- **Secretary:** Deb Otteson (2025-2027)
- **Communication/Technology Director:** Kathy Voigt (2025-2026)
- **Membership Director:** Linda Bjella (2025-2026)
- **DEI Director:** Kathie Kinnaman (2025-2027)

2026 Budget Committee: Karen Bachhuber, Barbara Kelly, Diane Putzer

2026 Nominating Committee: Cindy Fallona (chair), Jim Bowman, Terry Dawson

Linda Bjella recognized Cindy Fallona for her work as Membership Director, and April Savage for her work as DEI Director. April will be continuing on the Board as an appointed Director. Jan Quinlan thanked Linda for her “servant leadership” as our League president. Linda was presented with a gift basket with a Parisian theme from the board.

**Looking for a meaningful way...
to take action in these troubling times? Want to meet knowledgeable and energetic,
like-minded people?**

**Check out the League's Teams for activities that fit your interests and time available.
Many are once and done opportunities. But once you've stepped up,
you may just want to do more!**

Check out our [TEAMS](#) page, or email membership@lwwappletonfoxcities.org