



# The League of Women Voters

of Appleton, Wisconsin

December 2005

Visit our website at [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

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## English Rhetoric

### The President's Message

Increasing the League's local visibility has been the main focus of our Board meetings lately. That includes the recent web redesign meeting earlier this month. It amazes me to see the way young coworkers of mine run to their computers for information with every type of question—including how to spell a word. The fact that they run to Google instead of to the dictionary points to the real gap in our experiences. We need to address that difference by putting a sparkle on our web design and have it function well. Carmen gave us an historical perspective of how far our website has come from the contest winning design 5 years ago. Jan, Winnie and Susi walked us through the state and national websites. There is lots of good information once you take the time to look around. We have picked up a new member, Jody Vandomelen, who is excited about becoming our webmaster. Welcome Jody to League when you meet her. We got a lot of good ideas to further develop the website thanks to all who attended. Our website is the first impression that many potential members are greeted by. We all agreed we want it to portray the best we have to offer. The Board sees the website as another tool to make our League more visible. Keep the ideas coming!

### League Calendar

Date	Event	Meeting Place
Saturday, December 10 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Holiday Brunch	Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Tuesday, December 13 6:00-7:30 PM	Appleton LWV Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room
Saturday, Jan 21, 2006 10:00 AM – 12 Noon	Lively Issues	To be announced

Lobbying has been another big topic of the Board--could be because there is no fall election for us to focus on. One of the strengths of our Appleton League is our ability to affect change through our grassroots efforts. What is striking to me is that so much lobbying is being done by our members. Although we regularly address local issues as the Appleton LWV , some of that lobbying is not done under the League of Women Voters name. Our members, each one of us, take what we have learned in League and carry it with us to our other community organizations. League has a far greater impact through member involvement than what you read in these pages. We should be very proud of that accomplishment. That is the real power in League membership.

Hope to see you at the Holiday Brunch. A sign up form is in this Bulletin. Our speaker is former Appleton mayor, Dorothy Johnson. She is a member of the State Ethics Board. She should provide lively discussion. Members and nonmembers are invited. Take the time to invite a friend or bring one of our newer members with you.

It's not too early to start thinking about Lively Issues. That is the time of the year when we consider study and program for 2006-07. The Education Study Committee may have some areas of study to propose. We will entertain any idea for local study that is timely, can influence local government, and would interest our members. We also give recommendations to the state and national LWV on an issue for study. Our recommendations are ranked with other Leagues to determine the next item for study. Lively Issues meeting will be January 21 from 10-noon. Pray for good weather so we have good attendance at this important meeting.

Good Health and Happy Holidays to you!

**Beth**

## **Our League's Statement on the Appleton Budget**

My name is Beth English, and I am president of the League of Women Voters of Appleton. We appreciate this opportunity to share our views on the 2006 City of Appleton budget. Our views are based on League support positions which reflect studies we have done on local issues.

The League of Women Voters believes that active and informed citizens help government make better decisions on behalf of all our communities. Public hearings are an important part of the budget process since they provide community feedback to our elected officials. We do encourage the city to better advertise that this budget document is available to all citizens online since this improves availability of the budget to the public.

We commend the City of Appleton on involving significant public input in making decisions about Valley Transit when faced with the task of adjusting fares and routes. Public transportation is essential to some of our community members so it is important to hear their views when making these decisions.

We support the efficiency of combining the former Economic Development and Planning Departments. However, we caution the city to keep long-range planning as a top priority in city government. Strong centralized planning is key to our city's future and we do not want to see planning suffer in the new department. Economic Development is certainly one component of long-range planning but this must also include human services and environmental goals. We hope the new department will keep all these goals as priorities in the planning process.

In closing, the League of Women Voters of Appleton thanks the city again for providing open access to your budget, and for providing this time for hearing our input on these important decisions. Good luck.

## Our League's Statement on the Outagamie County Budget

My name is Beth English, and I am president of the League of Women Voters of Appleton. We appreciate this opportunity to share our views on the 2006 Outagamie County budget. The League of Women Voters believes that active and informed citizens help government make better decisions on behalf of all our communities. Our views are based on League support positions which reflect studies we have done on local issues.

First, we applaud the efforts Outagamie County is making to collaborate with other local governments. This regional cooperation improves services and contains costs for taxpayers. Examples of these collaborations are:

- 1) Following through on agreements with Brown and Winnebago Counties on cooperative management of recycling. This keeps tipping fees lower and holds costs down for taxpayers in each county.
- 2) The Emergency Preparedness Plan which represents intergovernmental cooperation between city and county health departments and epidemiologists. This plan prepares our region for public health emergencies – with the understanding that pandemics pay no attention to city or county lines.
- 3) Your cooperation with Calumet County on W2 services. Calumet County's contracting with Outagamie County provides efficiency of scale for those needing human services in both counties – and increases their effective delivery.
- 4) Sharing specialized highway equipment among counties saves taxpayers' money and avoids duplication of purchases within our region.

We also commend your continuing to encourage local governments to follow through with their long range plans – and, when needed, helping towns with their planning process. Long-range planning helps our communities focus on a wide range of quality of life issues and maintain a strong tax base for the entire region.

We hope the county minimizes cuts to preventative human services programs especially when these programs are non-mandated. Many of these preventive programs actually keep costs down in mandated programs – and preventative programs are a proven effective way to address human service issues.

We support alternatives to incarceration that meet public safety issues and satisfy justice for both the perpetrator and the victim. We support innovative and existing models which enhance the transition of the perpetrator to society. We also support prevention and early intervention programs for juveniles which have shown a direct correlation to justice system numbers.

Your Safe Exchange program is a model of collaboration with the Community Foundation, a private funding source. Protecting our most vulnerable citizens, our children, should always be a community priority. This coordination on behalf of children is a good positive program that improves parental accountability and provides benefits for children and their parents.

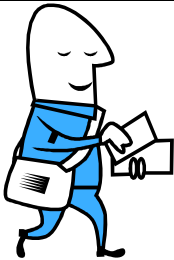
In closing, the League of Women Voters of Appleton thanks the county government for providing citizen access to your budget, and this time for hearing our input on these important decisions.

## Web Meeting Surfed Along

On November 17 we met at the Lawrence University computer lab where Jan Quinlan led us on a tour of the National LWV website. We explored the many resources that will help us be better informed citizens. Under the *Take Action* tab you can learn about League priority issues and sign up for an e-newsletter or Action Alerts. The Member's Only area is also very useful but be sure to have your *National Voter* handy when you first go to log in. After touring the state site Carmen Schippers showed us the Appleton Leagues site. We talked about the types of changes that could be made to our site that would make it a greater resource for LWV members and the community. The Board will be looking into updating the content and design of our website in the near future. The meeting concluded over coffee with discussions about websites, local politics and more. Thanks to all who helped and participated.

### LINKS

National LWV:            [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
State LWV:             [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org)  
Appleton LWV:        [www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)  
Winnie Doxsie, P.R.Chair Appleton LWV



## Guidelines for Contacting Government Officials

Information provided by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

### **Points to Remember:**

Begin with the proper heading and address.

State the specific bill number or issue [*i.e.* H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ or S. \_\_\_\_\_]

Convey your purpose for writing in first paragraph

- State your opinion in the first sentence
- Concisely explain why you are concerned and present information to support your view.

State how the bill addresses the problem.

Close by urging your representative to take corresponding action by voting, calling a committee hearing, or answering your question.

Sign your name legibly and include your address. If your name could be either masculine or feminine, identify accordingly.

Include pertinent materials and/or editorials from the press or Internet

## Format for Addressing Government Officials

Letter to	Address	Salutation	Closing
President of the United States	The President The Whitehouse Washington DC 20500	Dear Mr./Mrs. President	Very respectfully yours,
U.S. Senator	The Honorable Jane/John Doe United States Senate Washington DC 20510	Dear Senator Doe	Sincerely yours,
U.S. Representative	The Honorable Jane/John Doe U.S. House of Representatives Washington DC 20510	Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. Doe	Sincerely yours,
E-Mail to Congress	Subject Line: Identify topic or bill number Format of text: Your Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Salutation	Dear (Title)(Last Name):	
Members of the President's Cabinet	The Honorable Jane/John Doe The Secretary of _____* Washington DC	Dear Mr./Madam Secretary:	Sincerely yours,
Chair of Committee or Speaker of the House		Dear Mr. Chairman/ Madam Chairwoman OR Dear Mr./Madam Speaker	
Governor of Wisconsin	The Honorable Jane/John Doe Wisconsin Senate State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707	Dear Governor Doe:	Sincerely yours,
State Senator	The Honorable Jane/John Doe Wisconsin Senate State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707 Sen.(insert last name)@legis.state.wi.us	Dear Senator Doe:	Sincerely yours,
State Representative	The Honorable Jane/John Doe Wisconsin Assembly State Capitol [A-L: P.O. Box 8952] [M-Z: P.O. Box 8953] Madison, WI 53708 Rep.(insert last name)@legis.state.wi.us	Dear Representative Doe:	Sincerely yours,
Wisconsin State Legislative Hotline	1-800-362-9472		

# Sample Letter

The Honorable Jane Doe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senate Bill 101, Campaign Spending Reform

Dear Senator Doe:

I support SB 101, the campaign spending reform bill, and I respectfully urge you to do so as well.

It is obvious from the mounting costs of election campaigns that some form of action is needed to control campaign financing. Recent data from the XYZ Agency indicates that the Senate candidates spent over \_\_\_\_\_ last election.

SB 101 contains provisions that will benefit both the public and the candidates for public office. I understand that the bill is now in committee. The final version must contain the following provisions:

- Limits on contributions a candidate may make to his/her campaign
- Provisions for administration and enforcement by the Fair Political Practices

The reform of election campaign financing is vital to the preservation of a fair and open electoral process.

I urge you to use your initiative in committee to ensure that the above features are included in the final version of the bill. In addition, I encourage your support for SB101 when it comes up for a vote on the Senate floor. I would appreciate a response to this letter, indicating your position on SB 101. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Ms. Sally Smith  
101 South Main Street  
Anywhere, WI 53222

Enclosures

# *Annual Holiday Brunch*



*Saturday, December 10, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

*Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Lawrence Room*

*333 W. College Avenue, Appleton*

*“Should the State Ethics & Election Boards Be Combined?”*

*Speaker - Dorothy Johnson,*

*State Ethics Board member, former Appleton mayor*

Cost incl. tax and tip: \$16.00 per person – Make check payable to LWV of Appleton

Send your reservation with check **by December 6** to:

Nadine Miller

914 N. Fox Street

Appleton, WI 54911

If you prefer to pay at the door, call Nadine at 733-0012.

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## **Reservation Form**

*Yes, I am coming to the Holiday Brunch*

Name

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Address

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and I am bringing the following guests:

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My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

# Happy Holidays



LWV of Appleton  
P. O. Box 1281  
Appleton, WI 54912-1281