



# The League of Women Voters

of Appleton, Wisconsin

March 2006

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

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## English Rhetoric



### The President's Message

Hello Fellow Leaguers,

We've turned the corner on winter and, hopefully, left the bitter cold weather behind us. Here is a recap of this month's League news. You will see us prepare for the spring elections and wrap up the education study.

### Spring Election

Preparations are underway for an educational forum to be held March 23 regarding Appleton's smoking referendum. The format is designed to educate and inform voters about the referendum. The League does not have a position related to the smoking ban. Speakers will represent the differing points of view and the public will have an opportunity to ask questions.

### League Calendar

Date	Event	Meeting Place
Thursday, March 9 6:00-7:00 PM	Appleton LWV Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room
Thursday, March 9 7:00-8:00PM	Concurrence Meeting on Education Positions	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room
Thursday, March 23 7:00-8:00 PM	Forum on Smoking Ban	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room
Tuesday, April 4	Spring Elections	
Tuesday, April 11 6:00-7:30 PM	Appleton LWV Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room
Wednesday, April 12 11:45 AM	State Heritage Parkway Fox River Corridor	China Buffet Northland Mall
Wed-Thurs, April 26-27	Community Leadership Summit	Paper Valley Radisson Hotel, Appleton

There are fewer uncontested local races due to the diligence of one of our own. Helen Nagler prodded her fellow county supervisors into helping her persuade candidates to run for races in districts with either no candidate or only an incumbent running. Thank you, Helen, for giving voters a choice.

### **Kenya Exchange Proposal**

World Services of LaCrosse, which has worked closely with the Russian partnership over the last few years, has applied for a US State Department grant. The BECA Request for Application Professional Exchange Program would support Wisconsin/Kenya international exchange partnerships under the theme of governance. The goal will be to enhance citizen participation as fundamental to responsible governance in the Kaposwar/Kerio Valley, Kenya. World Services, First Congregational Church and ThedaCare invited Appleton LWV to support this grant proposal. Should this grant be approved, it would give us a chance on a local level to continue work begun by the LWV-US.

### **Education Study**

Consensus meeting for the Education Study is March 9 at the Library. The committee has done a great job. Thank you all.

### **State Energy Study**

The LWV-WI State Energy Policy Study Committee has published *Wisconsin Energy Basics* as the first part of the state study. Their purpose is to assist local Leagues and their members or committees assigned to the energy study in the coming months. The papers are part of the Committee's effort to create the League's energy information base in order that we may inform ourselves and in turn our communities, so we can participate effectively in the public dialogue on this major issue. We are looking for a study chair for the energy study.

### **State Voting Rights Study**

The LWV-WI State Voting Rights Study Committee is preparing study material. It should be available this month. We are also looking for a study chair for the voting rights study.

### **Council 2006**

Council 2006 will take place Saturday, May 20 at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. Details will be in the next FORWARD. If interested, we can take a carload to Cedarburg.

### **Convention 2006**

National Convention is June 9-13 in Minneapolis. The Minnesota LWV is looking for volunteers to help man the convention. Volunteers will receive a badge allowing them to attend the plenary sessions without paying the registration fee but they will have to sit in the non-voting section unless they are delegates. This might be a way for us to send more members to convention. Let me know if you are interested.

See you at the meeting,

**Beth**



**Appleton Spring Referendum**  
**Smoking Ban Forum hosted by LWV-Appleton**  
**Thursday, March 23, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**  
**Appleton Public Library – Lower Level Meeting Room**

City of Appleton voters face another decision on April 4 - whether to dramatically change the smoking ban that took effect July 1, 2005. Our League does not have a position on this referendum so we are offering an educational forum to help inform voters. We hope all members will attend - and bring their neighbors and other interested citizens.

Speakers will offer their views on the issues in this election and respond to questions from the audience.

Invited speakers are:

Lawrence Government Professor Steven Wulf

Robbie Johnson, bar owner

Attorney George Schroeder

Stevie Schmidt, Community Action for Tobacco-Free Living

Former Appleton Alderman and physician Dr. Shiloh Ramos

The Moderator is Beth English.

The following question will appear on the Spring Election ballot:

Shall the City of Appleton Municipal Code Sec. 7-100, also known as the Smoke-Free Indoor Air Ordinance, be changed in all of the following ways:

- a) eliminate persons who serve as a volunteer for a business or non-profit entity from the definition of “employee” and eliminate non-profit entities from the definition of “employer”; and,
- b) eliminate the existing prohibition of smoking in motor buses, taxicabs, or other public passenger vehicles and only prohibit smoking in publicly owned and operated forms of transportation; and,
- c) to permit smoking in meeting rooms where people gather for business, professional, union, recreational or social purposes; and,
- d) to prohibit smoking on all sidewalks surrounding the Appleton Public Library except the south sidewalk along Franklin Street from Appleton Street to Oneida Street; and,
- e) to permit smoking in any business that possesses a “Class B” retail license including, but not limited to taverns, nightclubs, bowling alleys or the bar areas of restaurants; and,
- f) to enable the City Council, by a simple majority vote, to exempt any entity, organization, business or workplace from the Smoke-Free Indoor Air Ordinance; and,
- g) to reduce the dollar amount of the fines and penalties for violations of the Ordinance?



## Meet the Candidates

There are five contested races for Appleton City Council this spring election. Planning is in progress for neighborhood gatherings at which voters can meet the candidates.

The District 4 meeting will be March 29th at 7 PM at Richmond Elementary School. District 8 meeting is planned for March 27<sup>th</sup>, District 9 for March 28<sup>th</sup>, District 10 for March 22<sup>nd</sup> and District 2 is yet to be scheduled. Meetings will occur in schools, churches or possibly a district restaurant. Look for a complete meeting schedule closer to the dates on Channel 4 Community Announcements, district fliers and the newspaper. It would be helpful to have several League members at each meeting to “meet and greet.” If you are able to assist please contact Shirley Adams at 731-2807.

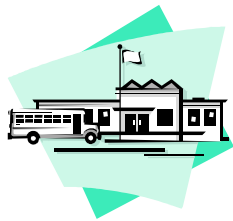
We will again participate with WHBY for the April 4<sup>th</sup> reporting of election results from city polling places. Requests are out for your assistance with this League fundraiser.

## Annual Meeting and Dinner Thursday, May 4, 5:30 PM

The LWV of Appleton will hold its annual meeting and dinner on Thursday, May 4 at 5:30 PM at Mark’s East Side, Appleton. A reservation form will be included in the April Bulletin.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for the 2006-2007 League year. All positions are for two years except where noted.

<b>Action VP</b>	Winnie Doxsie	<b>2007 Nominating Committee</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Silton	Sue Eich, Chair
<b>Director</b>	Kathy Kamp	Jan Quinlan
<b>Director</b>	Lynda Cutts	Pat McConnell
<b>Director</b>	Jody Van Domelen	



## Consensus Meeting Updating Our Education Positions

Thursday, March 9, 7:00-8:00 PM

Appleton Public Library, Lower Level Meeting Room

The consensus questions that will be considered are:

**Question #1:** Should we remove the Education Positions as identified by the Local Study Committee?

**Question #2:** Should we accept the revised language of all our Education Positions as drafted by the Local Study Committee?

The Local Study Committee has been busy updating and revising all of the Appleton League’s education positions adopted over the last 30 years. After extensive research, including interviews with school administrators and teachers and consultations with existing members, the draft revisions are ready to present for consensus. The revised positions are included in this Bulletin.

## **Education Positions – Draft of Revisions/Deletions/Reorganization**

### A. Education Equity

1. Definition
  - a) Educational opportunities must be available to everyone regardless of race, gender, ability or socioeconomic status.
  - b) All students must meet recognized standards of performance but not necessarily in the same time period.
  - c) All students should have equal access to co-curricular activities.
2. Equity is an important goal for public education.
3. Appleton Area School District should make available the following support district-wide:
  - a) Busing with user fee waivers available for low-income students (using public transportation whenever possible).
  - b) Open-enrollment when feasible.
  - c) All schools should offer comparable educational opportunities.

### B. Curriculum

1. Primary purpose is to create literate productive members of a democratic society.
2. Should foster a positive learning environment that meets individual needs, encourages curiosity and develops initiative and responsibility.
3. Guidance services made available to every school, especially at the elementary level.
4. User fees to supplement co-curricular programs. Fees should be nominal and not exclude those unable to pay.
5. Continued alternative education programs for students.
6. Skills and knowledge that require mastery to achieve a high school diploma.
  - a) Basic skills – writing, reading, oral, computation and technology.
  - b) Problem solving skills – research, analysis, interpretation.
  - c) Liberal arts – humanities and fine arts, social and natural sciences, foreign languages, financial life-skills and physical education.
  - d) Comprehension of the political process.
  - e) Competency testing with appropriate curriculum for those in need of remediation.
  - f) Student assessment by professional educators.
7. Appropriate education services should be provided to every child with a disability or exceptional need.
8. A Gifted and Talented Program with the following parameters: (1986)
  - a) Students selected for the program through a combination of the following: peers, parents, teachers, self-identification and objective testing.
  - b) The program should start in second grade and continue through high school.
  - c) Its goal should be to allow each child to develop his/her own individual potential to the utmost, leading to creative productive adults.
  - d) All schools at the same level (i.e. all elementary schools) should have similar offerings. All schools involved in a gifted program should have their own space and staff.

- e) The director should have a graduate degree in gifted education and the staff members should have specialized training.
  - f) Extensive in-service training and ongoing training opportunities such as seminars and videotapes must be available to regular classroom teachers.
9. Family Growth and Development curriculum with the following parameters:
- a) Materials should be available for parental review.
  - b) The program should be required, but parents should have the option to remove their child from portions of the program.

C. Staffing

- 1. A 30 to 1 maximum student/teacher ratio for class size without an aide. This does not apply to special education aides nor to elementary schools with unitized systems.
- 2. Class size should not be increased for fiscal reasons.
- 3. A class should be offered at the secondary level if a minimum of 15 students indicate interest.
- 4. Supervisory aides at all levels.
- 5. Each full-time media specialist to serve no more than two schools.
- 6. Open and staff the LMC by a media specialist or aide during school hours.
- 7. The concept of a building-centered volunteer program.

D. Teaching quality

- 1. Effective hiring procedures include certification, references, and background checks with an interviewing board made up of principals, teachers, and when appropriate, representatives of specialized areas.
- 2. Competitive salaries (to other comparable positions in Northeastern Wisconsin) and consideration of supplemental pay for distinguished teaching.
- 3. Effective and practical in-service grounded in scientifically based research for professional development organized at both the school and subject area level.
- 4. A formal system of evaluation of educators by principals and, when appropriate, representatives of specialized areas. New teachers should be evaluated each year for the first three years.

E. Administrative quality

- 1. A formal system of evaluation for both the central administration and school principals with input from teachers and parents.
- 2. Periodic evaluation by outside consultants.

F. Organization

- 1. Modifying school boundaries as a means of balancing enrollment: Boundary changes should include consideration of traffic and geographic problems, balancing school demographics, the importance of school loyalty, and the need for continuity that would allow a student to start and finish in the same school.
- 2. Avoid a piecemeal approach to solving organizational problems.

G. Sites and Facilities

- 1. Ongoing maintenance program established and retained with money being set aside in the budget.



## **Fox River Corridor Update State Heritage Parkway Plans**

**Wednesday, April 12, 11:45 AM**

**China Buffet, Northland Mall**

The League of Women Voters of Neenah Menasha, Oshkosh, Green Bay and Appleton have been combining their efforts to support work on the Fox River Corridor—a natural resource we share.

On April 12, 2006 please join the LWV-Neenah Menasha for lunch at the China Buffet in the Northland Mall at 11:45 am. The speaker will be Ed Kleckner, ASLA Community Development Planner from East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. His topic will be the State Heritage Parkway plans for the future.

## **Community Leadership Summit**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Community Leadership Summit will be held in Appleton April 26-27. It is an opportunity for league members to enhance their leadership skills, learn community-building tools and network with people in other community organizations. Given that it's in Appleton this year, it will be convenient for several of our leagues. For more information: [www.wirural.org](http://www.wirural.org) or [www.uwex.edu/ces/wrip](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wrip). For program questions, call Kelly Haverkamp 608/850-4411. For registration questions, call Janet Short at 608/263-0817.

## **LWV "Action" in the 21st Century**

In League "action" means advocating for issues supported by the LWV - usually reached through research and consensus.

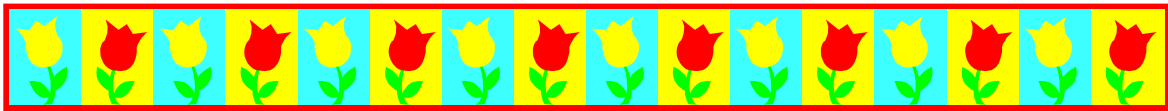
Way back in the 20th Century, when phone-calling was the most expeditious way to take "action" -- individual League members sometimes missed opportunities to reach out to our elected officials when time was short.

Now there's a new way to take individual action via your personal computer: Just log on to the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and sign up to receive Action Alerts directly from the national League of Women Voters. Those of us who are already connected to the LWVUS action alerts find this to be an excellent way to connect with legislators on issues important to us. Try it.

If you're interested in receiving state and local action alerts, simply ensure that our local League has your current email address. We will email you information we receive about state and local advocacy and action.

Jan Quinlan, Action Vice-President

# Think Spring!!!



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