



The League of Women Voters

of Appleton, Wisconsin

September 2006

Visit our website at www.lwvappleton.org

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English Rhetoric



The President's Message

Here we are, ready to begin a new year of League activities with renewed energy and focus. Much of that is due to the strategic planning done in June when League members brought their thoughts to the strategic planning meeting. Through brainstorming and sorting we were able to really zero in on what it is the Appleton League does best. We also tried to put a finger on what would best be eliminated. (That was the hard part.) By the end of the meeting we all agreed on 3 key elements that all of our activities should include. Those key elements are

Voter's Service

Membership

Increased Public Awareness

The Board will have these 3 goals on each of our agendas. Together with our mission statement they will guide our work for the year. The additional benefit of the brainstorming session was that so many great ideas surfaced. We all hope to incorporate as many of those as possible in the League program.

League Calendar

Date	Event	Meeting Place
Tuesday, September 12 6:00-7:30 PM	Appleton LWV Board Meeting	Housing Partnership 611 N Morrison St
Tuesday, September 12	Primary Election	Polls
Thurs, September 21 7:00-9:00 PM	State Voting Rights Study Consensus	Appleton Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room
Monday, October 9 7:00 PM	Welcome New and Potential Members	Carolyn Mewhorter 315 N Drew St
Sat, September 2 & 9 5:00 PM	LWV Interviews with Candidates	Time Warner Cable Chan 4 WI on Demand Chan 1111

(Beth's message continued)

This fall we'll be targeting voter service activities. Like last year, we will use a variety of tools such as forums, televised interviews and our website. Lynda Cutts and her voter service committee are contacting candidates right now to engage them in our voter education activities. Dates and locations are listed here and on the website <http://lwvappleton.org>

You will also find a dues reminder in this Bulletin. Please be the first to pay your annual dues. Your dues allow us to function as the relevant resource the community relies on. And League membership makes a great gift for someone you know and love.

See you at the next meeting!

Beth

Membership Dues

This is the month to renew your LWV membership. An envelope to be returned to the Treasurer is enclosed for your convenience. The regular membership dues to the Appleton LWV are \$45. They do not cover our expense for dues to the State (\$27.00 per member) and National (\$26.30 per member) Leagues, which are a part of your membership with the local League. The \$65 sustaining membership provides \$11.70/member for our Appleton League expenses. Please consider paying sustaining dues to cover our obligation to the State and National Leagues and help with our local League's expenses.

Please provide your e-mail address when you submit your dues., *This will only be used by our local League to send you Action Alerts and other information of interest to you and in the membership list that you will all receive. We will not provide your e-mail address to any other groups.* **THANKS** for your continued LWV-Appleton membership.

State LWV Voting Rights Study Consensus Meeting

We will meet at the Library on Thursday, Sept 21st from 7 to 9 to continue and finish our consideration of the State Study of Voting Rights. We, along with the other local Leagues in the state, will be considering such questions as: Should felons be allowed to vote? (see our previous discussion), Should we continue to oppose Photo I.D.? Continue to support same day registration? What about absentee balloting and registration of deputies? Perhaps we can agree on most of these. (This is called consensus)

In order for us to start on the same page, Jody has posted the following items on our Web site. Go to www.LwvAppleton.org to find

- Voting Rights Study information (Prepared by the State Committee),
- 2005 Wis. Act 451 (the Legislative Reference Bureau's plain language summary) this is 13 pages- just look at it?
- Local Voting Rights Study Committee (meeting talked about felon voting among other things),
- Interview with Cindy Hesse (Barb Hoffman talks with City Clerk).

If you can't get this information let Barb know at 734-3627.

General Meeting for All Members to Welcome New and Potential Members

The League of Women Voters - Appleton will hold a general meeting to bring members together to meet new and potential members. You are cordially invited to attend and bring with you people you think might be interested in becoming members.

Beth English will provide a background on the League of Women Voters and what our plans are for this upcoming year. Other members will fill in the details and answer questions.

The meeting will be held **Monday, October 9, 2006** at the home of Carolyn Mewhorter, **315 North Drew, Appleton** and will begin at 7 pm. Those wishing to bring food (cheese, crackers, dips, etc.) to share are encouraged to do so. Parking is available on Harris and Franklin Streets.

State LWV Energy Study COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!!

The LWV-WI is in the second year of a two year energy study limited to electricity. The study is intended to update the league's energy information base so that an aggressive legislative agenda can be pursued. You can review the in-progress study at www.lwvwi.org . If you are interested in participating in the local study call Shirley Adams at 731-2807. If you have a contact at the new Fox Energy Power Plant in the town of Kaukauna please let her know.

Mental Health Study COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!!

For the next two years, we will be studying issues related to mental health services in our community. We hope to look at three primary areas, including:

- the needs, range of issues, and treatments available for those living with mental illness,
- the services currently in place to meet the needs of the population,
- the gaps or missing links in services available to those living in our community, especially those reliant on the county mental health systems, and
- the impact of service gaps on other area providers (for example transportation, police and housing providers).

This will be an interesting and relevant study! But in order to be really impactful, we need to have interested committee members. Please contact Kathy Kamp if you are interested in being on this committee. You can call her at 832-0718, or email her at kathy@housing-partnership.org. Please consider joining and also suggesting those not in the League who you think might be interested in participating.

Observer Corps OBSERVERS NEEDED!!

Hi! I am the new Voter Services Director. Shirley Adams, Winnie Doxsie, and Shirley Strange are all members of the Voter Services Team. Anyone else who would like to join our task force is more than welcome. Contact Lynda Cutts at 882-8601 or lyndacutts@earthlink.net

One of League's goals is to be more of a consistent presence at local government meetings (Appleton School Board, City Council, and Outagamie County Board) through the Observer Corps.

Observer Corps accomplishes two objectives:

- It allows League to keep track of government progress on issues of concern to the League and
- It lets our representatives know that we, as a group concerned with educating voters, are noting their conduct and providing oversight.

Because this is such an important role, we would like as many members as possible to commit to observe a regular meeting. School Board meetings are 7:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Mondays; County Board meetings are 6:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; City Council meetings are 7:00 PM on the first and 3rd Wednesdays. Below are the meetings listed through December:

School Board:	Sep. 11, 25	Oct. 9, 23	Nov. 13, 27	Dec. 11
County Board:	Sep. 12, 26	Oct. 10, 24	Nov. 14, 28	Dec. 12
City Council:	Sep. 6, 20	Oct. 4, 18	Nov. 1, 15	Dec. 6, 20

Shirley Adams is our Observer Corps Coordinator. Please call her at 731-2807 to volunteer, or myself at 882-8601 if you cannot reach Shirley.

You can go with a friend or another League member, and have fun while you're learning more about local issues and politics! An added benefit of Observer Corps is that it improves our visibility with our elected officials.

Report from the National LWV Convention

Beth English

The League of Women Voters US held its 47th biennial national convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 4 -day gathering gave League members from around the country the opportunity to celebrate the organization's accomplishments on civil liberties, election reform, judicial independence and global democracy and to discuss important public policy issues.

- Mary G. Wilson of Albuquerque, New Mexico was elected unanimously by the more than seven hundred delegates to a two-year term as the 17th president LWVUS.
- Adopt the LWVIL Death Penalty position by concurrence on the Convention floor. The position will read "The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty."
- Adopt a three year study of immigration policies.
- Adopt a per member payment of \$26.30 for FY2006-2007 and \$26.80 for FY2007-2008.
- Adopt the position on the Citizens' Right to Vote be interpreted to affirm that LWVUS supports only voting systems that are designed so that:

Cindy Carter 1st Wed council meeting
Crabon m. 3rd Wed meeting - city Council
Dick Sampson 2nd Tues County Bd

- they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent; and
- the voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent; and
- such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting; and
- the paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts; and
- the vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record; and
- routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts can be conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction.

More about convention can be found at www.lwv.org . Thank you for the opportunity to attend!

Report from the State LWV Council Meeting

Deborah Cronmiller of Appleton was elected to serve as First Vice President of Administration for the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Wisconsin State Board. Over sixty members met for the League's biennial State Council Meeting on Sat., May 20th at the Cedarburg Cultural Center.

Council delegates elected a new slate of State Board members. Two-year terms were Debra Cronmiller from LWV Appleton -1st VP of Administration; Kathy Allen from LWV Ashland/Bayfield - VP/Membership; and Ellen Rosborough from LWV La Crosse Area -Treasurer. Julie Arneith from LWV Greater Green Bay to fill a one-year vacancy as Secretary. Also elected to two-year terms, were Diane Beres from LWV Ripon Area; Peggy Cox from LWV Neenah/Menasha; Diane Legomsky from LWV Greater Green Bay; and Linda Jorgenson from LWV Ashland/Bayfield Counties. Continuing on the Board until 2007 are President Melanie Ramey (LWV Dane County); Second VP/Program Marion Ruelle (LWV Wisconsin Rapids Area); Clare McArdle (LWV Dane County); Kathy Propp (LWV Oshkosh); Marilyn Boeldt (LWV Milwaukee County); Earnestine Moss (LWV Dane County); and Nancy Moore (LWV Stevens Point Area).

The luncheon keynote speaker was Jane Silberstein, U.W. Extension, who spoke on "The Eco-municipality Movement in the Chequamegon Bay Area." Her work with the UW Extension focuses on helping communities, governments, nonprofits, businesses and institutions become more sustainable.

Council 2006 was hosted by the League of Women Voters of Ozaukee County. The next state-wide meeting of the League will be October 21st in Madison, WI for the annual Issues Briefing.

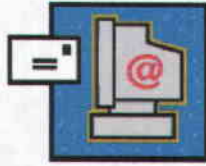
Legislative Committee Report to Council 2006 - In the last Legislative Session, the LWVWI Legislative Committee registered positions on 65 Senate and Assembly bills in addition to some budget subjects. The Legislative Committee wrote and submitted 47 statements to legislators and the press, as well as six letters to Governor Doyle. Executive Director, Andrea Kaminski presented LWVWI testimony on elections and voting issues to the U.S. Committee on House Administration. LWVWI also sent out 33 Action Alerts to urge members to contact their representatives or the Governor. For a full listing of the League's positions, go to the State Ethics Board's Lobbying in Wisconsin website: <http://ethics.state.wi.us/LobbyingRegistrationReports/Lobbyingoverview.htm>

The Primary Election will be Tuesday September 12, 2006

League of Women Voters – Appleton interviewed the candidates in contested races for Sheriff, Clerk of Courts and 56 Assembly District. The interviews will be broadcast on Time Warner Cable Channel 4 at 5:00 p.m. every Saturday between now and the primary and also on Wisconsin on Demand Channel 1111.

LWV of Appleton

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Snail-Mail

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