



The League of Women Voters

of Appleton, Wisconsin

December 2006

Visit our website at www.lwvappleton.org

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English Rhetoric

The President's Message

It didn't take long for the Board to look past our successful voter service activities to see how we could do even better. That effort is a hallmark of this Board and makes me so proud to be a League member. This spring we will explore some creative ways to encourage new poll workers, educate homebound voters and keep the campaign debate issues based.

The December *Forward*, from the LWV-WI, will hit your mailbox soon. A special committee formed by the State League and the Board of the Education Fund have determined that we could consolidate our current operations into a single 501(C)(3) organization with no negative consequences. The proposal would allow us to lobby at our current level and yet continue to receive tax deductible contributions. Pay particular attention to the details of the restructuring proposal and how it will affect local Leagues. Electronic copies of the details of the proposal have been sent through email. If you need a hard copy or would like to discuss the 501(C)(3) details, let us know. The State League would like our comments.

League Calendar

Date	Event	Meeting Place
Saturday, December 9 10:30 a.m. - Noon	Holiday Brunch	Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Tuesday, December 12 6:00-7:30 p.m.	Appleton LWV Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library
Tuesday, January 9 6:00-7:30 p.m.	Appleton LWV Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library
Saturday, January 20 10:00.- Noon	Lively Issues	TBD
Tuesday, February 13 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Energy Consensus LWVWI Study	Appleton Public Library

(Beth's message continued)

We are hoping for a good turn out at the Holiday Brunch on Dec 9. If you haven't sent your reservation, there is still time. Bring a friend—no pressure to join—just enjoy the speaker and the company.

"I miss the discussions, I miss the intelligence, and I miss the generational wisdom." That sentiment is from Cheryl Barnes, an Appleton League member who recently moved to Kansas City. (Cheryl is joining the League in her new home.) Don't you miss out on the conversation. As our lives get busy with the holiday season, take some time to gather with other League members. You will be glad you did.

Happy Holidays to you and your families,

Beth

Energy

New Holiday Brunch Topic

Joy Perry, UW-Fox Valley, will speak on Energy in conjunction with our state League Study.

A reminder to get in your reservation for the League's annual Holiday Brunch. Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in downtown Appleton.

Send your reservation with check for \$16 by Tuesday, Dec. 5 to:

Nadine Miller
914 N. Fox St.
Appleton, WI 54911

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

!! Last Chance to Renew Your Membership !!



Just a reminder to pay your annual dues (\$45 regular, \$60 household, \$65 sustaining). Please consider paying the sustaining membership amount as it allows us to cover most of the costs associated with your membership in League. If you lost your envelope from the September Bulletin, send the dues to Sue Silton, 540 W. River Road, Appleton, WI 54915-1259.

If you have an email address, include it with your dues, so that we can send you Action Alerts. Please mail your dues ASAP as we need to get the count of members accurate for purposes of state and national dues. THANKS!

The MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY will be mailed in December.

Input Requested - State Energy Study

We will seek consensus on the following questions at a general membership meeting at 5 p.m. on February 13, 2007, prior to the board meeting at the Appleton Library. You can best prepare for the discussion by reviewing the packet called Study Materials at www.lwvwi.org.

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin State Energy Policy Study

MEMBER AGREEMENT REPORTING FORM

Please answer each question below with comments and Yes or No where appropriate.

I/We concur with the proposed revisions of the current LWVWI energy positions as printed in the study materials.

YES _____ NO _____

(please identify any bullet point(s) to which you are referring)

Global Warming

1. What are the implications of global warming for electric energy policy?
2. Should the LWVWI adopt a position on global warming/climate justice?

YES _____ NO _____

What would you include in a position using these terms?

Strategies for Clean Electricity

1. Should the LWVWI support the following measures to limit or control demand for electricity?

- a. _____ Energy Conservation
- b. _____ Energy Efficiencies
- c. _____ Management Measures for Voluntary Limits or Control of Demand
- d. _____ Other

2. Should the LWV-WI oppose any new coal fired plant, and any existing plant being rebuilt, unless it meets the following conditions (please answer yes or no to a through d)?

- a. _____ Equipped to burn renewables
- b. _____ Equipped to capture steam for heating and cooling other facilities as well as the generating plant
- c. _____ Equipped to integrate gasification and combined cycle (IGCC technology)
- d. _____ Equipped to capture and sequester carbon (CCS) using the best available control technology

3. Given the increased demand for natural gas, which of the following points should LWVWI emphasize? Of those selected which is the most important?

- a. _____ Obtain natural gas in the safest and most sustainable ways.
- b. _____ Prohibit drilling in sensitive offshore areas, such as the Great Lakes.
- c. _____ Maintain existing protections for sensitive on shore public lands, such as the Great Lakes.

- d. _____ Ensure natural gas pipelines are constructed and maintained in an environmentally sensitive and safe manner.
- e. _____ Route any new pipelines along existing transportation and utility corridors.
- f. _____ Ensure that imports of natural gas do not come from environmentally sensitive areas or from countries without adequate safeguards.
- g. _____ Promote conservation efforts to use less natural gas.
- h. _____ Promote maximum use of energy efficiency and renewables to conserve use of natural gas.

Planning

Should planning for the generation and transmission of electricity in Wisconsin be based on the following concepts?

- a. _____ The Public Service Commission, acting under energy policies adopted by the Governor and the Legislature, is the primary energy planner in the state.
- b. _____ A twenty-year comprehensive energy plan is prepared by the PSC with data provided by the utilities that is updated on a regular basis, using forecasting models that are agreed upon to be current, reliable and have the confidence of consumers of electricity.
- c. _____ The long-term comprehensive plan must consider the range of strategic options that may be needed to address future changes in demand and resources.
- d. _____ The long-term comprehensive plan must be integrated with those of Wisconsin utilities and should be reflected in the plans of the Regional Transmitting Operator (MISO).
- e. _____ There is a priority within state and local planning processes placed on continual involvement of interested citizens that allows for their ideas to be considered and reflected in public policy.
- f. _____ There is a continuous effort by energy planners statewide to provide the general public information about electric energy, the policies and priorities that govern the use of electricity, the energy industry, and the significant energy issues that are under consideration.
- g. _____ Other

Regulation

Should the Wisconsin system of regulating the generation and transmission of electricity have the following characteristics? A system that is:

- a. _____ Fair, open and transparent in all of its proceedings;
- b. _____ Accessible to the public and that values public participation;
- c. _____ Adequately funded and staffed to assure good-decision making and the ability to fulfill statutory responsibilities;
- d. _____ Independent and free from political and utility influence; and that
- e. _____ Requires a two-year waiting period before a commissioner or staff of the PSC can be hired by a utility; and
- f. _____ Other Characteristics:

Additional (non-agreement) Questions

Other areas of emerging agreement:

Related topics that arose in our discussion:

City of Appleton Budget Public Statement

We appreciate this opportunity to share our views on the 2007 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 understand that this budget is tight in large part due to the state levy freeze preventing the city from raising property taxes. As funding sources change we encourage the city to look for other innovative and equitable ways to fund programs.

In 2005 the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed a climate protection agreement calling for cities to reduce global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies. This initiative seems to us to be a perfect fit with the newly created position of Director of Facilities and Construction. We urge the city of Appleton to make energy efficiency a priority and sign on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it makes good economic sense.

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.

Outagamie County Budget Public Statement

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.

We understand that this budget is tight in large part due to the state levy freeze preventing the County from raising property taxes. As funding sources dry up we encourage the County to look for other innovative ways to fund programs. We will also look for changes in the state legislature to offer opportunities to lobby for state funding of mandated programs. Regionalization of services is one way to serve a broad base of residents and keep costs down.

The League of Women Voters supports the proposed increase in tipping fees. Tipping fees should reflect the current costs of landfill operations, as well as preparing for long range costs. Through agreements with Brown and Winnebago Counties, Outagamie County keeps recycling costs down and is able to offer recycling at community festivals and offer a multi-county clean sweep program.

The Emergency Preparedness Plan 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.

Health and Human Services opening of a new Aging and Disabilities Resource Center along with Calumet and Waupaca Counties is another example of better utilization of regional resources to meet the needs of residents.

Once again, 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.

We hope the county minimizes cuts to preventative human services programs, especially when these programs are non-mandated. The Parent Connection program, that assesses first time parents when they are still in the hospital, can significantly reduce cases of child abuse and neglect and is an example of one such program. 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.

The County continues to support the installation of trails throughout Outagamie County. We also support your commitment to connect county trails beyond county borders when funding is available. And we urge you to keep a portion of the property at Highway 15 and Casaloma Drive as green space.

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 maintains a strong tax base for the entire region.

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.

Have You Ever Considered Running for Office?

The League of Women Voters of Neenah-Menasha invites you to attend a free seminar.

Thursday, January 18, 2007, 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Neenah Police Department Community Room
2111 Marathon Avenue - Neenah

*No fee. Registration Required. Call 722-3619
Open to anyone over age 18*

Speakers:

- Mark Harris - Winnebago County Executive
- Sue Ertmer - Winnebago County Clerk
- Jim Godlewski - City of Neenah Attorney
- George Scherck - City of Neenah Mayor
- Donald Merkes - City of Menasha Alderman
- Mark Ellis - Former candidate and media expert

Happy Holidays



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