

December, 2007



Board of Directors

President

Carolyn Mewhorter
739-0000
mewhorter@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President - Action

Nadine Miller
733-0012
nadinemiller@tds.net

Vice-President - Program

Shirley Strange
730-8774
shirleystrange@yahoo.com

Secretary

Open

Treasurer

Sue Silton
739-4898
suesilton@new.rr.com

Membership

Winnie Doxxie
739-7593
winnie@mapsolutionswi.com

Voter Service

Shirley Adams
731-2807
shirladams@sbcglobal.net

PR

Karon Sandberg
954-1683
karonsandberg@hotmail.com

Bulletin

Vicky Olenski
729-5506
olenskivictori@aasd.k12.wi.us

Finance

Jan Quinlan
733-4808
quinlanj@lawrence.edu

Website

Jody VanDomelen
730-8932
jodyv@new.rr.com

State and Local Studies

Natural Resources
Cindy Carter
733-0483

Mental Health
Debra Cronmiller
830-2284

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS—APPLETON, WI

Visit our website at www.lwvappleton.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

President's Corner

By Carolyn Mewhorter



The December Bulletin is filled with notices of important upcoming activities. Note those you wish to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Carolyn Mewhorter

Legislative Action Highlights of 2007

by Nadine Miller, vice president-action

Thanks to our individual and collective efforts as the League of Women Voters, we had many legislative successes at the local, state and federal levels in 2007. At the state level, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Executive Director Andrea Kaminski says passing the state's biennial budget took a great deal of work this year. A few success stories from the Legislative Committee include:

- Passing the \$1 per pack cigarette tax that will help prevent kids from smoking and help adults quit, according to Pat Finder-Stone, LWV Greater Green Bay. She adds that this tax revenue will expand health care access for low-income residents through BadgerCare Plus.
- Darlene Wellner from LWV Manitowoc says the budget includes and 8.1 percent increase in special education funding and a 5 percent increase in foster care rates annually.

Kaminski says just as important are some of the things that did not pass this legislative session, such as the repeal of the moratorium on nuclear energy. For more information, look under Legislative Action on the state League Web site at: <http://www.lwvwi.org>

League Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>
Thursday, Dec. 6 4:30-6:00 PM	Mental Health Study	Leadership Community Room Suite 1A City Center, 1 st floor
Saturday, December 8, 10:30AM- 1:00 PM	Holiday Brunch	Radisson Paper Valley, Redwood Room, 1 st floor
Tuesday, Dec. 11 6:00-7:30 PM	Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library, lower level
Tuesday, Jan. 8 6:00-7:00 PM	Immigration Study Consensus Meeting	Appleton Public Library, lower level
Tuesday, Jan. 8 7:00-7:45 PM	Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library, lower, level
Saturday, Jan. 19 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon	Lively Issues	Harmony Café/Multicultural Center

Questions for the Immigration Study Consensus Process

By Shirley Strange

For the first four questions, we are asked to rate each as follows: "High Priority," "Lower Priority," "Disagree," or "No Consensus"

1. Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- c. Environmental Impact Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution in Home Countries
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- j. Rights of all Individuals in US to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)
- l. Education and Training

2. Unauthorized immigrants currently in the US should be treated as follows:

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of US Employers
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustments of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry
- f. Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status

3. Federal Immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the US for immigrants who are:

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S.
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs

(Continued on page 3)

(Immigration Study Consensus Continued from page 2)

- c. Entering the U.S. as Students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country
- 4a. In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include: Social Security Card or other national ID card with secure identifiers for ALL persons residing in the U.S.

14b. Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

- I. Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- II. Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points
- III. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas until They Leave the Country
- IV. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers
- V. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- VI. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- VII. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs

- VIII. Significant Fines Proportionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take
- IX. Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees

For questions 5 and 6, we are asked to respond with "Consensus" or "No Consensus"

- 5. Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.
- 6. Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

Study materials can be downloaded at:

www.lwv.org, click on "Projects" then on "Immigration Study." For League members who do not have internet access, please contact Shirley Strange at shirleystrange@yahoo.com or 730-8774 to request a packet of study materials.

2007-08 Program Calendar

December

- ★ Saturday, Dec 8, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, **Holiday Brunch**, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
- ★ Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:00-7:30 PM, **Board Meeting**, Appleton Public Library, lower level
- ★ Saturday, Dec. 15, 10a.m.-12:00 Noon; **Moderator Training**, Dane County Office, 2712 Marshall Court, Ste # 2., Madison. (Snow date-Dec. 18). Contact LWVDC@chorus.net, 608-232-9447

January 2008

- ★ Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6:00-7:00 PM, **Immigration Study Consensus Meeting**, Appleton Public Library, lower level.
- ★ Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:00-7:45p.m, **Board Meeting**, Appleton Public Library, lower level

- ★ Saturday, Jan. 19, **Lively Issues**, 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon Harmony Café/Multicultural Center
- ★ Thursday, Jan. 31st Membership Count deadline

February 2008

- ★ Friday, Feb 1, Immigration Study: **Response Forms deadline**
- ★ Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:00-7:30 PM, **Board Meeting**, Appleton Public Library, lower level
- ★ Thursday, Feb 14, **League Birthday**, Event TBA

For any additions or corrections please contact:

Shirley Strange
Vice President-Program
shirleystrange@yahoo.com
920-730-8774

Updates on the status of the PCB clean project

Submitted by Debra Cronmiller



Dear Community Leader:

As a follow-up to my recent email summarizing 2007 work, I wanted to update you on the status of discussions with the EPA and DNR as it relates to finalizing the remediation effort in Little Lake Butte des Morts.

As I wrote a couple of weeks ago, we will be dredging and performing sand cover operations again next year, beginning in spring 2008. As you know, next year will be the fifth year for our cleanup effort. I share that again because there was a recent order by the EPA forcing work to begin on other Fox River cleanup projects, and I want to be clear that the EPA order will not directly impact our project, as we continue to make very good progress in remediating PCB contaminated sediments in Little Lake Butte des Morts.

As I wrote a few weeks ago, we anticipate that our dredging and sand cover work will be completed next year and, at that time, we will begin to implement the final phase of the cleanup effort. The proposed plan for the final phase is to address the remaining sediment using an optimized remedy that takes into account what has been learned from the earlier stages of the project and the most current experience on how to remediate areas with lower PCB-concentration sediments.

We have been working with the EPA and DNR on the optimized remedy over the last few years, meeting the agencies' requirements while jointly devising a plan for final agency review and approval. The EPA and DNR will soon announce their conclusions on an optimized remedy. The EPA will then receive public comments and hold a public hearing on the plan. Finally, the plan will need to be approved by the agencies and reviewed by a federal judge, as part of an amended Consent Decree, for the project to be completed.

As stated in EPA's most recent *Fox River Current* (Fall 2007), the proposed plan will use three remediation methods: additional dredging, sand cover and armored capping. It would require additional dredging in shallow areas so that caps are only placed where the final water depth will be no less than 6 feet. It would also require sand cover be used over areas with low levels of PCB-contaminated sediment as well as over some areas previously dredged but with residual PCB concentrations. Lastly, armored caps – gravel and sand layers of minimum thickness – would be placed over remaining sediments to be addressed by the cleanup effort. These armored caps would keep sediment in place to ensure that it is not available to the biota (fish and invertebrates). Such a proposed plan would be consistent with the remedy approved for the downstream segments of the Fox River earlier this year. We support such an optimized remedy for the remaining sediment targeted in Little Lake Butte des Morts because we believe, based on science, engineering and experience, that it is as protective as dredging and is more cost effective.

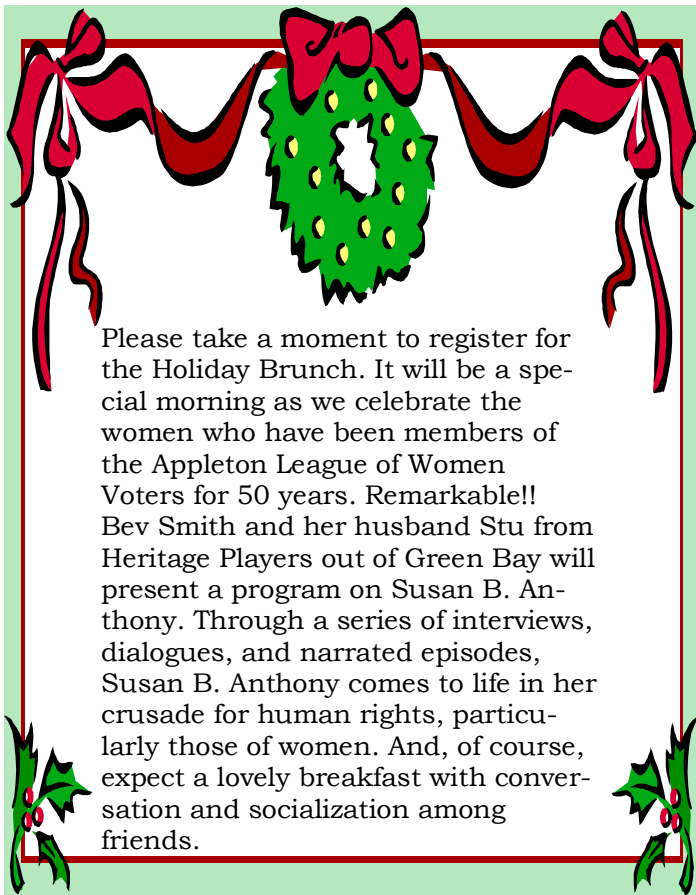
This optimized remedy will allow us to achieve the goal of reducing fish exposure to PCBs in an accelerated timeframe and will be the final step in providing a cleaner lake. With this optimized remedy, our work in Little Lake Butte des Morts would likely be completed in 2009, with some remaining on-shore activities in 2010.

Again, the EPA will be sharing more details of the proposed optimized remedy with you and the general public in the coming days, but as always we want to keep you aware of any developments with our project. If you would like more information on the proposed final plan, please visit www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver. If you have questions for me, I can be reached at littlelakecleanup@execpc.com or 920-912-5065.

We hope you will review the proposed plan and agree it is the best final step to meeting the PCB reduction goals set by the EPA and DNR, and it will best provide for a cleaner Little Lake Butte des Morts in the timeliest manner.

Bill Hartman,
Project Manager
Little Lake Cleanup Team

Holiday Brunch



Please take a moment to register for the Holiday Brunch. It will be a special morning as we celebrate the women who have been members of the Appleton League of Women Voters for 50 years. Remarkable!! Bev Smith and her husband Stu from Heritage Players out of Green Bay will present a program on Susan B. Anthony. Through a series of interviews, dialogues, and narrated episodes, Susan B. Anthony comes to life in her crusade for human rights, particularly those of women. And, of course, expect a lovely breakfast with conversation and socialization among friends.



Your Representatives

President Bush
president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Russell Feingold
feingold@feingold.senate.gov

Senator Herbert Kohl
kohl@kohl.senate.gov

Representative Steve Kagen
www.house.gov

Governor James Doyle
wisgov@mail.state.wi.us

State Senate – Michael Ellis
sen.ellis@legis.state.wi.us

State Assembly – according to district search
<http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/Index.aspx>

Mental Health Study

By Shirley Strange

The League of Women Voters of Appleton Board of Directors has accepted the following questions for study from the Mental Health Study Committee:

- How can we develop a regional system for the provision of mental health services that enhances the quality and access of care, provides the needed specialized care, and encourages the recruitment and retention of providers in the mental health profession?
- How can we influence our current health care systems, both public and private, to provide more responsive access and better mental health care?
- How can we educate our citizens, community leaders, consumers, governmental bodies and health providers, public and private, for profit and non-profit, insurers, hospitals and managed care organizations so that the likelihood of creating a more regional and sustainable system for providing mental health care is created?
- How can a mental health coalition be formed to provide ongoing evaluation of mental health services, to monitor the progress toward insurance parity, and to report to the community the ability of the system to meet the current mental health needs?
- How can the League of Women Voters most effectively call for the necessary changes in the mental health system to accomplish the goals for improvement?

The Mental Health Study meeting on Thursday, December 6th at 4:30 PM will address the five questions you find here in the Bulletin. The meeting place, The Leadership Community Room, is the School Board Room in the Appleton Area School District Office in the City Center.



Annual Holiday Brunch

When: Saturday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Redwood Room,
Main Level 333 W. College Avenue, Appleton

Celebrating our 50-year League Members

*A Dramatic Presentation of Susan B. Anthony
by Beverly Smith and Stu Smith*

Cost included tax and tip: \$16.00 per person

Reservations to: Shirley Strange
W3435 Equestrian Trail
Appleton WI 54913

Payment at the door: Call Shirley at 730-8774
Please send in or call by December 4.

Reservation Form

Yes, I am attending the Holiday Brunch, December 8th.

Number attending: _____

Name (s) _____

Check payable to: **LWV of Appleton**
\$16:00 per person

E-mail saves us nearly \$10 in printing and postage costs per person per year. It also speeds delivery. If you are willing to receive the Bulletin by E-mail, send your E-mail address to Vicky Olenksi at olenksivictoria@asdk12.wi.us. If you prefer to only *try* this version of the Bulletin, say so and we will send two copies, one by the traditional hard copy snail mail route and the other as the electronic version to your E-mail address.

Snail-Mail



E-mail



How would you like to receive your Bulletin?

LWV of Appleton



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