

November, 2008



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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS—APPLETON, WI

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



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

## President's Corner

*By Carolyn Mewhorter*



Looking back over the past two months, it is apparent that LWV-Appleton members have truly outdone ourselves with activities leading up to the elections, but we are not finished yet. On the horizon are the County and City budget hearings, the debate between Schaber and Egelhoff, the election, and on that same night a gathering at Cheyenne's to watch election returns. Our November board meeting will seem quiet compared to the past few months.

Join us when and where you can. If your schedule allows, we are still looking for members to cover City, County and Board of Education meetings. Please contact Shirley Adams to set up a time that works for you.

The holidays are upon us. Mark your calendar for our **Holiday Brunch** on December 6 at the Radisson. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

*Carolyn Mewhorter*

## STATEMENT ON COURT DECISION ON VOTER DATABASE LAWSUIT

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund applauds today's court decision, which upholds voters' rights to equal access to the polls. We urge all eligible citizens to become informed, register to vote, and exercise this most important constitutional right to be active participants in our local, state and national government.

*(Statement on Court Decision on voter Database Lawsuit—Continued on page 2)*

Judge Sumi's decision affirms that neither federal nor state law requires that Wisconsin's voter registration lists be matched with other state databases as a condition on the right to vote. She also affirmed the authority of the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board (GAB) to oversee compliance with election law. She noted that the Attorney General did not follow the required administrative procedure to appeal a GAB decision.

The League is particularly pleased that Judge Sumi's decision affirms protections that were written into the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. "For more than 40 years, it has been against the law for someone acting under cover of state law to deny someone the right to vote due to an error in a voting list. We've been down this road before, and the VRA banned this practice along with others designed to disenfranchise eligible voters," said Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director.

We encourage voters to check their registration status online at <http://vpa.wi.gov> or by calling their municipal clerk. If you have time before Election Day, you may wish to register and even cast your ballot at your clerk's office. Otherwise, you may register and vote at your polling place on Election Day, November 4.

You can save some time by going to the poll mid-morning or mid-afternoon, when the lines will be shorter. Be prepared to register or provide more information for your registration at the poll, just in case. This will require providing a Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin ID number, if you have one, or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you have never been issued a Wisconsin ID or Social Security number, you will be assigned a unique voter number. For more information, contact your municipal clerk.

Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director  
608-256-0827 or [kaminski@lwvwi.org](mailto:kaminski@lwvwi.org)

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# Mental Health Action

## NAMI Speaker

Hello!

The Appleton League of Women Voters has a new Social Policy position for Mental Health Care. It states broadly that we support a community based mental health care system with service availability, coordinated care, and the least amount of duplication in delivery of those services. This position is based on 2 years of study and member agreement. Not surprisingly, it is closely aligned with our other social policy positions on housing, public health services, transportation, and alternative to incarceration.

Taking action at the grassroots level makes the League unique, but in order to take action we need information.

In hope of educating League members and the public on this important social issue, Shirley Strange, Program Director and I, along with the Appleton Public Library, are offering **an evening with Sherry Oja, the Program Coordinator for NAMI Fox Valley (National Association for Mental Illness)**. We invite all League members to join us (and bring a friend!) It is also open to the public.

Lets join forces to act and influence public policy on this important social issue.

**[Shery Oja will speak at the Appleton Public Library on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7pm. See you there.](#)**

# INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH INTO PRIMARY CARE

*By Barb Dorzweiler*

**O**n October 1, 2008, Dennis Freeman PH.D presented his nationally recognized program on integrated care to area providers and public officials. His visit took place at the Fox Cities Community Health Center in Menasha and was attended by representatives of Winnebago and Outagamie Counties, NAMI, United Way, Children's Hospital and other health care providers.

Dr. Freeman is the CEO of Cherokee Health Systems in Tennessee. He discussed different models of care dating from the early 1960's to today. He finds the disparity between multiple systems is still a frequent and complex problem in many areas. But his program of integrated care for all of eastern Tennessee has met positive outcomes for many years. It focuses on prevention by working with Head Start programs and the public school system. It employs "Behavioral Health Consultants" as the front line working with the community. BHCs are embedded in various community and medical systems. In turn the BHCs refer patients to the health system that will efficiently deal with both mental health and physical health issues.

The success of the Cherokee Health Systems model is the integration of services and avoiding the separation of mental health from all other aspects of healthcare. His research found that 70% of primary care patients are seen for medically unidentifiable reasons and that psychosocial stress drives the majority of primary care. By blending both physical and mental health services, not only in the same visit but in the same building, the problems of social stigma, no-shows, and the premature mortality rate of people with significant mental illness are lessened.

The good news is that the Fox Valley area is well on its way to finding solutions similar to Dr Freeman's model. The various organizations and government bodies present planned to work together to improve the delivery of mental health care for our communities. Hopefully we can look for new signs of what is being done in our area and support their efforts. It takes many people and long hours to coordinate the disparate but well-intentioned services that the Fox Valley offers to all of us. Lets support community and government efforts that meet our Mental Health position which states we support a community based mental health care system with service availability, coordinated care, and the least amount of duplication in delivery of those services.

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**If you have ideas for further action, or would like to participate in the Mental Health Action committee, please contact me.**

**Barb Dorzweiler**  
**[bjdorz@yahoo.com](mailto:bjdorz@yahoo.com)**  
**LWV-Appleton**

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN

## Making Democracy Work

Stevens Point, WI  
October 4, 2008

*Submitted by Shirley Strange*

Shirley Adams and Shirley Strange attended the “Making Democracy Work” summit in Stevens Point, October 4, 2008. The keynote address, “Are We Ready for the Election?” was given by LWVUS President Mary Wilson and Nathaniel Robinson from the Government Accountability Board. Mary stated that we need to view the election as a system with many pieces which affect the process. These pieces include number of poll workers, training of poll workers, voting machines, means of communicating to the voters, ways of counting absentee ballots, and more. She stated that election officials who have a “pro-voter mindset” find that the process works much better. Voters gain a better understanding of the election process due to concerted efforts to get information to them. Election officials also prepare for election day challenges such as long lines and voting machines that don’t work. Mary Wilson was given a close-up view of the Oregon mail-in voting system. She stated that she came away feeling comfortable with the security of the ballots in their mail-in system. However, she does not encourage a change over to this way of voting because it would mean putting in place rigorous safeguards which would require much time and effort.

Nathaniel Robinson of the Government Accountability Board began by stating the creed of every election official: “May the victor have a wide margin in her/his victory.” There are 3.4 million Wisconsin voters. There are 380,000 new registered voters at this time. Of this number, 175,000 are new voters. The challenges this year, according to Nathaniel, will be getting all names into the system, getting correct information to voters, and long lines at the polls. The GAB is telling municipal clerks to prepare for a 90% turnout at the polls. He said that Wisconsin will need about 40,000 poll workers for the November election.

Mike McCabe of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign stated that the biggest change in the way things are done in campaign elections is, in a word, television. Candidates must raise big money for expensive television ads. Therefore you can run only if you are independently wealthy or are able to raise big sums of money. Television has also affected the number of newspapers. With shrinking numbers, there are very few eyes at the state capital. Where there might have been twelve reporters roaming the halls, there are now three. And there are no television personnel at the capital keeping watch over day to day proceedings. Therefore the information coming out through television waves is not based on first hand knowledge. He also spoke of the need to distinguish between phony issue advocacy and authentic advocacy. Outside interest groups who operate under the guise of issue advocacy need to be placed under the same disclosure laws as other groups and individuals. An interesting piece of information: The biggest lobbying group is the National Association of Broadcasters—the end beneficiary of campaign financing groups. America is the only country that does not provide free speech airways. As Mike put it, we need to put back the “R” in Free Speech.

**NEXT STEPS:** The United States Census will take place in 2010. What does this mean for the Leagues across the country... **REDISTRICTING.** As Melanie Ramey stated, we don’t have to think about this immediately. After all we have an election around the corner. She will give us until November 11<sup>th</sup>. (2008)

## League supports planning funds for new library

*submitted by Nadine Miller, Vice President-Action*

“Continued growth of Appleton requires a serious look at expanding the library or planning for a branch library.” This statement was added to the League’s position on the library in 1992 and was reviewed in 2005.

Following an Oct. 16 general membership meeting with Library Director Terry Dawson and Library Board member Terry Bergen, the consensus was that the League will support the Appleton Public Library’s 2009 budget request for \$75,000 for preliminary design of a new facility.

This “program architecture” phase includes determining how many program/ community meeting rooms are needed, the number of computer stations, expanded collection space, etc. The Library Foundation has pledged \$25,000, which would reduce the taxpayer cost to \$50,000.

Dawson added that if the current economic downturn does not improve, the project timeline would be delayed or short-term solutions sought. *(See timeline below.)*

At the Nov. 5 public budget hearing, President Carolyn Mewhorter’s budget statement will support spending \$75,000 to begin planning for a library expansion so that a good decision can be made as to what is the best value for Appleton-area citizens when it comes to meeting their information needs. “This is a relatively small expense—only 1/20<sup>th</sup> of 1% of the city budget, and it’s an investment in making a good decision on the library facility in the future,” Mewhorter says.

Other information provided by Dawson and Bergen:

- Timeline: 2009 preliminary design planning, 2010 site selection, 2011 site acquisition, 2013 construction.
- Private donations will be sought and the Library Foundation is planning to contribute to the project. Dawson said donors want to be assured that the city and citizens strongly support the project before they pledge gifts.
- Branches are not cost effective until a community’s population is greater than 100,000, according to consultants, due to the cost to duplicate collections and services.
- A 12,000-square foot expansion could be added as a wing on the second floor, but is only a “band-aid approach.” More space is needed, along with greater electrical capacity for computers.

**For details on the library’s proposed expansion, go to their Web site at:**

**[http://www.apl.org/facility\\_study.asp](http://www.apl.org/facility_study.asp) Please contact Vice President-Action Nadine Miller 920-733-0012 or [nadinemiller@tds.net](mailto:nadinemiller@tds.net) with any questions on the League’s position on this issue.**

# November Calendar - 2008

Time	Event	Location
Tuesday, November 4	<b>Election Day</b>	
Wednesday, November 5, 7:00 PM	<b>Appleton Common Council Meeting</b>	Council Chamber, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor, City Building
Tuesday, November 11, 6:00-7:30PM	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Appleton Public Library, lower level
Monday, November 17, 7:00-8:30PM	<b>NAMI Speaker on Mental Health</b>	Appleton Public Library, lower level



## 2008-09 Program Calendar

### December 2008

- ★ Saturday, December 6, **Holiday Brunch.**
- ★ Tuesday, December 9, 6PM-7:30PM,  
**Board Meeting.**

### January 2009

- ★ Tuesday, January 13, 6PM-7:30PM,  
**Board Meeting**
- ★ Saturday, January 24, 10:00AM, **Lively Issues,**  
Appleton Public Library

### February 2009

- ★ Tuesday, February 10, **Board Meeting,** 6PM-  
7:30PM

### March 2009

- ★ Tuesday, March 10, **Board Meeting,** 6PM-7:30PM

### April 2009

- ★ Tuesday, April 14, **Board Meeting,** 6PM-7:30PM
- ★ Thursday, **April 30, Annual Dinner and Meeting,** 5:30PM

**Please note date change for the Annual Meeting.**

For further information contact:

[shirleystrange@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleystrange@yahoo.com) 920-730-8774

### It's time to renew your membership!

It's fall already and time to renew your membership. You will belong to an organization dedicated to promoting active participation of citizens in government, a priceless activity. Appleton LWV members have been busy registering voters and doing other election related activities this summer and fall.. Please fill out the *Join the League of Women Voters* flyer attached to this newsletter and return it. I hope you will join as a Sustaining Member and invite a friend.

Don't forget about the gathering on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you have questions please call Winnie Doxsie at 739-7593 or e-mail [winnie@mapsolutionswi.com](mailto:winnie@mapsolutionswi.com)

# *Annual Holiday Brunch*

When: Saturday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Where: Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, McIntosh Room,  
First floor, west wing  
Main Level 333 W. College Avenue, Appleton

*“Rachel Carson: Enthralled by Life, She Changed The World”*

*Author of Silent Spring*

*Rev. Dottie Mathews, Associate Minister Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will talk about this strong woman who courageously spoke out against environmental contaminants.*

Reservations to: Shirley Strange  
W3435 Equestrian Trail  
Appleton WI 54913

**Deadline for reservations: Monday, December 1st**



## **Reservation Form**

Yes, I am attending the Holiday Brunch, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# Join The League of Women Voters of Appleton

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Join us  
today!**

Please fill out the information below and mail it to:

Winnie Doxsie  
1708 N. Hall Ave  
Appleton, WI 54911

## Benefits of Membership

- Information and Advocacy activities of the National LWV
- Information and Advocacy activities of the Wisconsin LWV
- Opportunities to participate in studies that are National, State or Community focused.
- Opportunities to join one of many committees working to support the mission of LWV
- Social activities such as the Holiday Brunch and Annual Dinner.

**For more information call 738-7766 or go to [lwwappleton.org](http://lwwappleton.org)**



I am interested in information about:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observer Corps: Attend 1 or 2 meetings annually of local or regional branches of government or education and report.               | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Service: Voter registration and education services such as candidate debates and community forums.                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in a Study: By indicating your interest in studies someone will contact you with information on current opportunities. | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy: Receiving e-mails from LWV about pressing issues at the local, state or national level and acting on the request |

Please make checks payable to **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON**

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Covers most, but not all, of the cost of membership.

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**Tax deductible contribution to LWV Appleton \$** \_\_\_\_\_





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[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

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[feingold@feingold.senate.gov](mailto:feingold@feingold.senate.gov)

**Senator Herbert Kohl**  
[kohl@kohl.senate.gov](mailto:kohl@kohl.senate.gov)

**Representative Steve Kagen**  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

**Governor James Doyle**  
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**State Senate – Michael Ellis**  
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**State Assembly – according to district**  
search <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/Index.aspx>

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