

December, 2008



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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS—APPLETON, WI

Visit our website at www.lwvappleton.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

President's Corner

By Carolyn Mewhorter



Happy Holidays. I will see you at the **Holiday Brunch** on December 6 at the Radisson.

Carolyn Mewhorter

Mental Health Action

By Barb Dorzweiler

On Monday November 17th, the Appleton Public Library and the Appleton League of Women Voters hosted Sherry Oja, Program Coordinator of the NAMI Fox Valley. It was well attended and Sherry's talk stimulated good questions and discussion. Here are some highlights.

What is NAMI?

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families. It was founded in 1979 in Madison, Wisconsin by two mothers of mentally ill teens. It has grown to become the nation's voice on mental illness!

What are mental illnesses?

Mental illnesses are disorders of the brain that disrupt a person's daily functioning and ability to relate to others. They are very treatable, but not curable.

What is NAMI's mission?

NAMI Fox Valley exists to improve the quality of life for those with brain disorders and their families and friends through education, support, advocacy and research.

(Mental Health Report NAMI—Continued on page 2)

What does NAMI do?

NAMI promotes the public understanding of mental illnesses as treatable, physical brain disorders, advocates at all levels of government for improved services, and supports housing and employment opportunities. It collaborates with other local services. NAMI members act as mental health advocates on such committees as the Crisis Advisory Council of Outagamie County, the Coordinating Council Committee, the advisory committee to Aging & Disabilities Resource Center and the Coordinated County Systems committee in both Outagamie & Calumet Counties.

Do they have education programs?

Education programs available from the Appleton office of NAMI Fox Valley include:

- Family-to-Family
- SPARK (Supporting Parents as Education Advocates and Resources for Kids)
- Peer-to-Peer
- Provider Education Program
- Crisis Intervention Team Training
- Crisis Intervention Partners

Do they have support groups?

Regularly scheduled consumer support groups include:

- New Hope Consumer Support Group (4 times a week)
- Five O'clock Friday (for young adults age 18-25)
- Wings of Change (for women who have experienced violence and have a mental illness)

What can you do?

In the spirit of the League of Women Voters, become involved!

Join NAMI Fox Valley to help end discrimination and stigma.

Seek volunteer opportunities at NAMI special events, outreach, developing funding resources. Walk at the NAMI Walk, an annual fund raising event.

NAMIWALKS for the Mind of America is October 2, 2009.

Call 920-954-1550 for more information.



LWV Observer Corps

By Barb Dorzweiler

Our observer program is a structured way for individuals to exercise their right to know. It also provides a service to our community through education and information sharing.

An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League. Reporting can be as easy as an email. The League also has short and quick guides for the new observer.

If you are interested, go with an experienced League member, or, bring a friend or neighbor. Contact **Barb Dorzweiler** bjdorz@yahoo.com if you need more information.

You can be an Observer if:

- You are a good listener and can summarize proceedings in a fair way
- You are interested in local government
- You can be an “ambassador” for the LWV
- You are not working a personal or partisan agenda while serving as an observer

Meetings the LWV-Appleton observes:

- Appleton Common Council
- Outagamie County Board
- Appleton Area School District Board

December meetings

Monday Dec 8	AASD Board	7:00 pm	Wilson Middle School
Tuesday Dec 9	Outagamie Co Board	6:30 pm	County Building
Wednesday Dec 17	Common Council	7:00 pm	City Center
Monday Dec 22	AASD Board	6:00 pm	City Center

Did you renew your membership yet?

We are coming up on the end of our membership renewal “drive”. Please take a few moments to send in the renewal form included with this Bulletin. This has been a great time to belong to Appleton League – and the Board has plans to keep you interested and informed in 2009. Someone will call and remind you soon, so please save us a phone call and renew now!

Thanks for your support. Winnie Doxsie, Membership Chair

If you have questions please call Winnie Doxsie at 739-7593 or e-mail winnie@mapsolutionswi.com

December Calendar - 2008

Time **Event** **Location**

Saturday, December 6 10:30AM-1:00PM	Holiday Brunch	Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Tuesday, December 9 6PM-7:30PM	Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library, lower level



2008-09 Program Calendar

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 920-730-8774



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>

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



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**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

E-mail _____

\$75 - Sustaining Membership
Covers the full cost of Membership

\$55 - Regular Membership
Covers most, but not all, of the cost of membership.

\$70 - Household Membership

Send me the Bulletin and other LWV information via e-mail. (Your address will *not* be shared)

Tax deductible contribution to LWV Appleton \$ _____

**Goodbye 2008 and
Welcome 2009**

Happy Holidays!

