

February, 2009

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS—APPLETON, WI

Our website is under construction



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Vote Feb. 17 on two school referendum questions

submitted by Nadine Miller, Vice President-Action

There will be two referendum questions regarding the Appleton Area School District's spending on the Feb. 17 ballot. A summary of each question follows. More information is available from school board members, including AASD Board of Education President Sharon Fenlon, who is also a League member; or on their Web site at: <http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/About/referendum.htm>

Referendum Question #1 (summary):

Asks to exceed state revenue caps on AASD's operating budget to lower student-teacher ratios to 25:1 in elementary and 26.5:1 in middle and high schools. Also includes funds to update curriculum and technology.

Cost: \$3.9 million the first year; \$3.5 million each of the following two years to lower class sizes + \$900,000 for curriculum & technology. According to the Post Crescent, this would add an average of \$67/year per \$100,000 of assessed home value for each of four years.

League Position (excerpted from Education section X, 1983 & 1993; revised 2006:

C. Staffing

1. A 30 to 1 maximum student/teacher ratio for class size without an aide. This does not apply to special education aides nor to elementary schools with unitized systems.
2. Class size should not be increased for fiscal reasons.
3. A class should be offered at the secondary level if a minimum of 15 students indicate interest.

Referendum Question #2 (summary):

Improve school building safety and technology.

Cost: \$5 million; or an average of \$8/year per \$100,000 home value for eight years.

League Position: G. Sites and Facilities

1. Ongoing maintenance program established and retained with money being set aside in the budget.

Please contact Vice President-Action Nadine Miller 920-733-0012 or nadinemiller@tds.net with any questions.

Consensus Meeting Election Administration Study

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30PM, Appleton Public Library

Submitted by Shirley Strange

It is time to give our feedback to the Election Administration Study Committee. Our responses to the questions formed by the committee will be used to modify and update the state League's positions on Voting Rights and Election Administration.

We will be discussing the following questions:

Should Wisconsin move to a true early voting system?

If so:

What precautions should be included?

Should the state provide additional resources to municipalities for early voting, possibly based on the percentage of absentee/early voters in the last presidential election?

Expanding access to the polls:

Rate the following measures in preferential order that would be most effective and suitable to Wisconsin to expand access to the polls.

- expanding voting hours
- weekend voting
- school holiday election day
- election day state holiday-
- internet voting
- voting my mail
- early voting

Should the use of the HAVA checks of new registrations against other state databases remain a function of improving the quality of the Statewide Voter Registration lists?

Or should it be used to determine voter eligibility resulting in purging names from the SVRS?

Consensus: A technique for arriving at agreement. In the process, the members participate in group discussion. I think Corinne Goldgar has the best definition of consensus: "It's a mystery".

Please go to website for discussion guide and background materials www.lwvwi.org

Under 'Election Administration Study Consensus', click on "Studies and Projects", click on "Election Admin consensus Discussion Guide". Also the other articles posted are good background information.

OBSERVER CORPS



Sunshine Week March 15-21 2009

Source: From: LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson
LEADERS' UPDATE: December 11, 2008

As the LWV Education Fund continues its work on **openness in government**, we will once again co-sponsor a panel discussion on this important topic in Washington, DC, during Sunshine Week. Scheduled for March 20, this year's event will include national policymakers and journalists. It will be web cast live.

also go to <http://www.sunshineweek.org/> for more information

LWV Observer Corps

By Barb Dorzweiler

This is a reminder that we have lots of opportunity to volunteer small amounts of our time. You are not obligated to a fixed schedule. In fact, if you are interested in just one meeting, please attend and report to bjdorz@yahoo.com. Meeting agendas are available online. See links below. 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. Take a friend or neighbor with you! Contact Appleton League President Carolyn Mewhorter if you are interested.

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

Call 832-6445 for info or www.appleton.org/departments/clerk/council/

Outagamie County Board

Call 832-5054 for info or www.co.outagamie.wi.us/county_clerk/services/ccmain.htm

Appleton Area School District Board

Call 832-6126 for info or www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Schoolboard/

February meetings

Wed, Feb 4, 2009	App Common Council	7:00 pm	City Center, College Ave
Mon, Feb 9, 2009	AASD Board	7:00 pm	122 E College Ave, Scullen Leadership Center
Tues, Feb 10, 2009	Outagamie Co Board	6:30 pm	County Building 410 S Walnut St Appleton
Wed, Feb 18, 2009	App Common Council	7:00 pm	City Center, College Ave
Mon, Feb 23, 2009	AASD Board	7:00 pm	Horizons Elementary School
Tues, Feb 24, 2009	Outagamie Co Board	6:30 pm	County Building 410 S Walnut St Appleton

Second Consensus Meeting: March 17, 6:30PM, Appleton Public Library, we will have a consensus meeting on the LWVUS National Popular Vote Study. Please mark your calendars.

For background information on the study please go to: www.lwv.org/NPV

DID YOU KNOW?

By Barbara Dorzweiler

Liutenant Governor Barbara Lawton convened a high level Task Force on Women and Depression in 2005. The task force report created a roadmap to progress in this critical area of medicine that has been too long misunderstood, sidelined for its complexity and for the old-fashioned prejudices, born of misunderstanding, that have attached to mental illness. While some of the responsibility is on the healthcare system, a partnership with government is clearly needed to change the system. Written in 2006, it is still evident we have not yet reached all our goals.

The 10 recommendations of the Task Force are highlighted here.

1. Pass legislation providing for mental health parity in insurance coverage; i.e., coverage for mental health needs that is equal to coverage for physical health needs.
2. Use the purchasing power of state government to address the treatment needs of women and girls with depression.
3. Address insurance company issues that limit access to effective treatment for depression.
4. Conduct a statewide multicultural campaign to educate women and girls, employers, educators, health care providers, and others about depression and to help eliminate stigma attached to depression.

5. Include training on gender-sensitive, age, and culturally appropriate approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of depression in women in university training programs.

6. To achieve early intervention, appropriate screening for depression and referral for follow up care should be incorporated into the routine health services of medical, educational and social service settings.

7. Provide treatment for depression that is evidence-based, is tailored to the needs of the individual woman, and produces positive, measurable outcomes.

8. Increase access to qualified mental health providers.

9. Include prevention outreach in treatment services and programs.

10. Public agencies and private organizations should collaborate to address the problem of women and depression in Wisconsin.

To learn more go to

<http://www.lt.gov.wisconsin.gov> and click on "Initiatives", then click on "Mental Health"
Or <http://lt.gov.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=11100&locid=126> to read the Lt Governor's entire report. (in pdf format)

Make your voice Heard

By Shirley Strange

There are 2 opportunities for you to participate in LWV Consensus meetings. These meetings are how League (at all levels) decides what we stand for and will speak about. The format of a consensus meeting is that a facilitator will ask the consensus questions (supplied) and the group will discuss. If we come to agreement (pro or con) that will be recorded and sent in. You don't have to know a lot, reading some of the study materials will be helpful but not a prerequisite for attendance or participation.

These meetings are always interesting.

Election Administration Study - February 18.

We'll meet at 6:30PM at the Appleton Public Library and Cheyenne's after for anyone interested.

The Election Administration State Study Committee is accepting consensus/ member agreement forms from local Leagues and LWV Members-at-Large. Find the discussion guide and consensus questions, and other materials on the [Studies and Projects](#) page.

<http://www.lwvwi.org/cms/content/view/33/65/>

This is a Wisconsin LWV Study

LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact Study - March 17

We'll meet at 6:30PM at Appleton Public Library and Cheyenne's after for anyone interested.

[Click here](#) for the National Popular Vote Compact Study Committee Pro article and [here](#) for the Con article. The NPV Compact Background article is already posted on the LWVUS Web site, as is the text of the Compact. [Click here](#). Short camera-ready articles abridging these three longer articles will be posted later this month, as will the consensus questions.

If you are viewing this via e-mail the links will work but we are supplying the addresses below.

Pro http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National_Popular_Vote_Compact&CONTENTID=12504&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

Con

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National_Popular_Vote_Compact&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=12505

General Information

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=National_Popular_Vote_Compact&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=157&ContentID=12169

This is a National LWV Study

Hope you can attend!

League of Women Voters—Appleton, WI

February 2009

League of Women Voters of Appleton
Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2009

Present: Carolyn Mewhorter , Winnie Doxsie , Shirley Strange, Miriam Douglass, Shirley Adams, Cindy Carter, Barbara Dorzweiler, Nadine Miller, Vicki Olenski

Absent: Sue Silton, Jan Quinlan

Call to Order: President Carolyn Mewhorter, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Agenda: (A copy is attached to the archived minutes.)

Minutes of the December 15, 2008 Board meeting were approved (motion by Shirley Strange, second by Vicki Olenski).

President's Report: President Carolyn Mewhorter had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: (attached to the archived minutes)

- Winnie Doxsie reported for Sue Silton that all PMP's have been made.
- The 2009-2010 budget will be presented for Board approval at its next meeting.
- The revised "Convention, Conference and Workshop Attendance Guidelines" (attached) was distributed.
- Account Balances as of 1/8/09

Bank Accounts

CD 12231	\$ 5,000.00
CD 12232	\$ 5,000.00
Checking 2008-09	\$ 2,355.08
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 12,355.08

Asset Accounts

Monies kept by LWV \$ 0.00

Total Asset Accounts \$ **0.00**

Overall Total \$ **12,355.08**

VP Program: Shirley Strange updated the calendar.

- The Annual Dinner and Meeting will be on Thursday, April 30 at 5:30 PM at the Red Ox with an \$18.00 per plate charge.
- The LWVWI Annual Meeting will be held in Manitowoc, May 29-30.
- Consensus materials for the Election Administration State Study have been received. The deadline for our input to LWVWI is February 20. Shirley will arrange a meeting place.*
- Materials for the National Popular Vote Consensus have been received. Shirley will find out the deadline for our input to the LWVUS and a date and place for our meeting.*

VP Action:

- Nadine Miller reported that the main activity has been Barb Dorzweiler's work on Mental Health (see below).
- On February 17 two Referendum Questions will be considered by the voters in the Appleton Area School District. The first question addresses smaller class sizes and preservation of course offerings (\$3,000,000) and updates of instructional materials (\$900,000). The second question deals with the security of school buildings (\$3,000,000) and of technology software and hardware (\$2,000,000). Nadine will explain the questions in the February Bulletin and cite relevant LWV positions.

Mental Health

- In the January Bulletin Barbara Dorzweiler provided a sample letter to the Outagamie County Board asking for funding of improved mental health services in the county. The mailing addresses of the County Executive and County Supervisors were also provided and League members were encouraged to join the letter-writing campaign. The letter will be attached to the February Bulletin as a Word document to facilitate editing by members to personalize their letters.

Voter Service:

- Shirley Adams reported that the February 17 primary election will have contests in Aldermanic Districts 1, 7 and 11 and for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and two AASD Referendum Questions.

Observer Corps: No report.

(Board Meeting Minutes continued on page 6)

(Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 5)

Membership: Winnie Doxsie is updating the LWVUS records.

Natural Resources – Cindy Carter reported that a Marine National Monument of 130,000 square miles has been established in Pacific regions.

Bulletin: Vicki Olenski set a January 27 deadline for receipt of February Bulletin materials.

Website

- To meet a primary purpose of informing the public, our League needs a new, better, user-friendly website.
- The current website is out of date. A motion to inactivate the site made by Winnie Doxie, seconded by Miriam Douglass, passed on a vote of 6-2. The site will show “Under Construction” until the current contract expires.
- Barbara Dorzweiler, Vicki Olenski, Sue Silton and Shirley Strange met with Chantelle Bray of All About You Custom Websites to explore contracting for a new website. Estimated costs were \$1700 to construct the new site, \$84/year to run and \$50/month to provide the host server and maintenance.
- Vicki will bring the names of other vendors to the February Board meeting.
- Funding possibilities are member contributions or use of funds in one of the CDs.

Around the Board: There were no additional comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Douglass, Secretary

* After the meeting the following information was received from Shirley Strange

- The consensus meeting for the Election Administration State Study will be on February 18, 6:30 PM, Appleton Public Library.
- The meeting for the National Popular Vote Consensus will be on March 17, 6:30 PM, Appleton Public Library.
- The deadline to submit the results of our meeting on the National Popular Vote Consensus is May 1.



Your Representatives

President Barack Obama
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>

February Calendar - 2009

Time

Event

Location

Wednesday, February 4 7PM	Appleton Common Council	See Below
Monday, February 9 7PM	Appleton Area School Board Meeting	See Below
Tuesday, February 10 6PM-7:30PM	LWV Board Meeting	Appleton Public Library, lower level
Tuesday, February 10 6:30PM	Outagamie County Board Meeting	See Below
Wednesday, February 18 7PM	Appleton Common Council	See Below
Wednesday, February 18 6:30PM-8PM	Consensus Meeting Election Administration Study	Appleton Public Library, lower level
Monday, February 23 7PM	Appleton Area School Board Meeting	Horizons Elementary School, 2101 Schaefer Circle
Tuesday, February 24 6:30PM	Outagamie County Board Meeting	See Below

Board Meetings

Location for meetings

Appleton Common Council 1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays	Council Chamber, 6 th floor, City Building, 100 N. Appleton Street
Appleton Area School Board 2 nd & 4 th Mondays	Board Room, Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Center, 122 E. College Avenue, Suite 1A or a School
Outagamie County Board 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	Board Room, 2 nd floor County Administration Building, 410 S. Walnut Street



2009 Program Calendar

March 2009

- ★ Tuesday, March 10, **Board Meeting**, 6PM-7:30PM, Appleton Public Library
- ★ March 15-21, **Sunshine Week**
- ★ Tuesday, March 17, **Consensus Meeting**, National Popular Vote, 6:30 PM-8PM, Appleton Public Library, lower level

April 2009

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

May 2009

- ★ Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, **LWVWI Annual Meeting**, Manitowoc

June 2009

- ★ 13th – 15th LWVUS Council meeting, Washington, DC

2nd and 4th Mondays – Appleton Area School Board Meetings
 2nd and 4th Tuesdays – Outagamie County Board Meetings
 1st and 3rd Wednesdays – Appleton Common Council Meeting

For further information contact:

shirleystrange@yahoo.com 920-730-8774

