

The *informed* Voter

"Serving the citizens of the Appleton area & Outagamie County"



Strange Remarks from the President

Returned from Africa on a dead run with League events and business...your Board has been busy...

Cake: Cake at City Center to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters was enjoyed by over 100 people. Thanks to all of the League members who came for cake and those who helped serve. A big thank you to Barb Dorzweiler for organizing the event. Donna and Len Weis shared the same piece of cake. One ate the frosting, the other ate the cake. Now who ate that frosting?

Census Forum: Please mark your calendars for March 24, 6:30PM for an important Census forum at the Appleton Public Library. This is our big push to make an impact on our community regarding the 2010 census. We have an illustrious panel. See more on the event in this newsletter. Please try to attend. It only happens once every ten years. This is an opportunity for us to shine as a League.

Financial Contributions: Thank you for the wonderful response to the 90th Anniversary fund raiser. We will honor your generosity with hard work and careful stewardship. Thank you to Jan Quinlan and her committee for the time and effort to make this a successful campaign.

Annual Meeting: Thursday, May 13th, Red Ox Supper Club, 5:30PM. Cocktails, dinner and meeting. Nadine Miller and Leslie Taylor will share information on "The Natural Step Framework" a comprehensive model to integrate sustainable development. More information in this newsletter.

Shirley Strange
March 2010

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Vice-President Program NEWS

Submitted by Barb Dorzweiler.

Thanks to all who helped celebrate the 90th anniversary on Tuesday February 16th at City Center Mall, downtown Appleton. (Photo attach



- The Board will be reviewing the recommendations from our Lively Issues meeting that took place on Jan 23, 2010. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Board on Tuesday March 9, 2010. Look for the Board's voting outcome in the April "The Informed Voter". Then, as directed by our bylaws, the recommendations will be presented to the membership for a vote at our Annual Meeting on Thursday May 13, 2010.
- The LWVWI Annual Meeting will be held June 18-19 in La Crosse. The theme will be sustainability. The second day's program and plenary session will take place in a facility that allows for full teleconferencing - audio, video and interactivity. Two or three Leagues in other communities will host "satellite sites" where members may attend and participate in the second day of the meeting. Registration is not open yet, and many details are still being worked out. Those who wish to attend in La Crosse are encouraged to make their room reservations at the Radisson hotel. Check the For Members page of the LWVWI website for details, which will be posted as they develop
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES
49th National Convention June 11-15, 2010 in Atlanta. The 2010 Convention Theme: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE. A FUTURE OF HOPE.
- Flag Day Parade update: No one has come forward to volunteer a vehicle for the LWV entry in the Flag Day Parade. We have extended an invitation to the Winnebago LWV to join us in the Flag Day Parade. The Parade is on Saturday, June 12. Still hoping...

Local Study Update: Finding a framework for natural resources policy

*Submitted by Leslie Taylor, Local Study Chair and Nadine Miller, committee member.
Other committee members include: Shirley Strange, Cindy Carter and Barb Dorzweiler.*

In the time of Twitter and other immediate forms of communication, it's becoming more difficult to keep League policy positions ahead of pending legislation.

The local study committee struggled through three meetings trying to come up with an effective way to tackle this year's recommended program of study:

"A policy to reduce energy consumption and cost in local government, schools, buildings, etc."

After several discussions, the study committee decided that finding and recommending an appropriate framework local governments, schools and building owners could use to continually reduce energy consumption and cost would be the best approach to a policy. Such a framework could be applied to any resource management decisions made in the public sector, and would achieve reductions in energy consumption most effectively and efficiently. This seems like a policy that the League could act on without its members having to become experts in energy technology or cost management practices.

The Natural Step provides decision-making framework

Several of the committee members were familiar with The Natural Step, an approach to achieving sustainability that is coming into wider use around the world, across the U.S., and in many Wisconsin municipalities. The Natural Step originated in the medical community in Sweden and was vetted by scientists from several countries before business and municipal managers began applying its objectives and system management process in their fields. One of the four objectives of The Natural Step approach is the continual reduction (elimination) of wasteful dependence on fossil fuels and other substances extracted from the earth's crust. The other three objectives are to meet human needs fairly and efficiently; to reduce (eliminate) the build-up of unnatural and toxic substances in the environment; and to reduce (eliminate) the degradation of natural systems.

The Natural Step Framework also includes a process for determining how to achieve these objectives, which is what sets it apart from other sets of management principles or philosophies.

One of the exceptional resources the study committee discovered, *Toward a Sustainable Community: A Toolkit for Local Government*, recommends local governments adopt and implement of the Natural Step Framework, and one of its first chapters is devoted to Energy. We also learned how the City of Madison used The Natural Step Framework and a comprehensive baseline analysis of the city's energy use to focus their first energy-reduction actions on the parts of city operations where the waste was the greatest.

Next steps for local study

1. The local study committee will develop consensus question(s) for board approval.
2. The question(s) will be sent to all members. Watch for information in the April and May newsletters.
3. There will be a consensus meeting of the general membership to learn the study committee's findings and to discuss and respond to the consensus question(s).
4. The study committee formulates a position statement, along with the consensus meeting report to the board. The board decides if consensus was reached by the members at the consensus meeting, reviews and approves the position statement, and adopts the position.
5. The members reaffirm all local positions at each annual meeting.

If you have questions or input for the Local Study Committee, please contact Study Chair Leslie Taylor at leslietaylor@gmail.com or (920) 739-7307.

Spring Primary

Submitted by Beth English

A group of almost a dozen voters met at the home of Diane Ragus in February. They were all interested in the outcome of the primary election, February 9, to determine the final two candidates for District 1 Outagamie County Supervisor. All three candidates appeared and answered a variety of thought provoking questions. Candidates were able to distinguish themselves from each other on a range of topics--from a sales tax to methods of communicating with constituents.

The election resulted a tie. Both Sue Wollersheim and Michael Potter garnered 40 votes. A drawing determined that Michael Potter will go on to face incumbent Charles Schmidt in the April election. Our thanks go to those who came to educate themselves about the candidates and those who took the time to vote. There are still opportunities to get involved in voter service. Contact Beth English if interested.

CENSUS 2010

CENSUS-2010-EMPOWERMENT! Public Forum, *March 24, 6:30PM-8:00PM, Appleton Public Library, lower level.* A group of panelists will share important information and answer questions pertaining to the census count.

How does four hundred billion dollars get dispersed by the government? Will we get our share? How are new districts drawn for equal representation? Who draws them? Why might Wisconsin be undercounted?

Panel members include: U.S. Census Bureau Regional Specialist, Dale McNamee, East Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Associate Planner, Kara Homan, Lawrence University Assistant Professor of Government, Arnold Shober, Outagamie County Planner, Mike Hendrick, and Seymour City Clerk, Susan Garsow.

Community representatives who will also be present to answer questions:

Shirley Strange, Appleton League of Women Voters, Debra Cronmiller Appleton Emergency Shelter Director, Kathy Flores City of Appleton Diversity Director, and a representative from the Appleton School District. Sponsored by the Appleton League of Women Voters and the Appleton Public Library. Open to all.



Your Representatives

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president@whitehouse.gov

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Senator Herbert Kohl
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Representative Steve Kagen
www.house.gov

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

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

Observer Corps

Submitted by Marlys Fritzell

Appleton Area School District:

*The School Board is applying for federal stimulus non-interest borrowing funds to be used for infrastructure projects such as boiler replacement, energy saving lighting, and safety projects.

*The Board is applying for a grant from the Wis. Dept. of Public Instruction to consider the feasibility of starting a bilingual (English/Spanish) elementary charter school.

Appleton City Council:

*Heard a report from the executive director of the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau outlining the feasibility of building a convention center in the area. The area apparently has sufficient number of hotel rooms and meeting venues, but lacks exhibit space, a must-need for many conventions. The mayor plans to appoint a committee to look into possible sites, parking needs, and operational costs.

*The Planning Commission has endorsed a zoning request for a \$25 million residential/commercial development on the site of the former Riverside Paper Co. The request will be taken up at the City Council meeting on March 17th.

Outagamie County Board:

*The primary election in District One resulted in a tie vote for the second place on the April ballot. A coin was tossed to decide the winner – another example of how every vote counts.

*The Board voted to oppose a state effort to consolidate all assessment districts into programs run by the counties. Passage of a state bill is considered unlikely at this time.

Town of Grand Chute:

*The Town Board is considering a deer- feeding ordinance in response to complaints about property damage caused by deer in residential areas.

*The Cedar Meadows trail construction is back on track after a restraining order requested by some residents was lifted.

*The Grand Chute Community Development Director, Allen Davis, will be leaving his post to take on similar duties in Oshkosh.

Observer Corps Schedule

Event	Day	Location
Appleton Common Council Meeting	1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 7p.m.	Council chamber, 6th floor, City Building, 100 N. Appleton Street
Outagamie County Board Meeting	2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 6:30p.m.	Board Room, 2nd floor County Admin. Building, 410 S. Walnut
Appleton Area School Board Meeting	2nd and 4th Mondays @ 7p.m.	Board Room, Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Center, 122 E. College Ave. Suite 1A. or at an Appleton School

www.appleton.org/departments/clerk/council/

www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Schoolboard/

www.co.outagamie.wi.us/county/

March - Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tue Mar 9, 2010	LWV-Appleton Board Meeting	Appleton Library lower level.	6:00 PM
Mar 15-19, 2010	Sunshine Week	Local, State, and National	
Mar 24, 2010	Community Leaders Panel Presentation on the 2010 Census	Appleton Public Library	6:30pm - 8:00pm
Mar 22-27, 2010	Media and grassroots campaign for US Census education	Local, State, and National	

Calendar of Events

Apr 1, 2010	US Census Day, mandated by the US Constitution	Local, State, and National	
Tue Apr 6, 2010	Spring Election	Appleton Aldermanic & Outagamie Co Board(see our elections page)	
Tue Apr 13, 2010	LWV-Appleton Board Meeting	Appleton Library lower level.	6:00 PM
Apr 19-23, 2010	National Volunteer Week	National	
Thu May 13, 2010	LWV-Appleton Annual Meeting and Dinner	The Red Ox Supper Club, Appleton	5:30 cocktails 6:00 dinner 6:45 business meeting
May 29-30, 2010	LWV Wisconsin Annual Meeting	LaCrosse, WI	
June 11-15 2010	LWV-US 49th National Convention	Atlanta, GA	
Sat Jun12, 2010	Appleton Flag Day Parade LVW-Appleton parade unit celebrates our 90th.	Downtown Appleton	2:00 pm start time
Aug 26, 2010	Womens Equality Day: Celebrating the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution	Luncheon honoring the elected women of our area	TBD

