

Observer Corps Schedule

By Marlys Fritzell

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/		

Observer Corps Report

Submitted by Marlys Fritzell

Appleton Board of Education

The Board gave approval for the expansion of Wisconsin Connections, an on-line charter school, to include grades 9-12 for the coming year.

Appleton City Council

The Council passed a budget that included funding for the city's diversity coordinator, but removed the position from the mayor's office to the Community Development Department. The Parks and Recreation Department took a big hit in the budget with most of its functions being shifted to other departments.

Outagamie County Board

The Board passed a budget that included funding for the county's share of building renovations at UW-Fox Valley. The renovations are needed to accommodate the expansion of the engineering program. Some bond money from a 2007 criminal case is being used toward providing instruction to county jail inmates to help them acquire their general education degrees (GED).

Town of Grand Chute

The Town Board passed a budget that includes \$25,000 for the design of an off-road recreation/pedestrian trail on County JJ between Fox Valley Lutheran and Appleton North high schools.

LIVELY ISSUES
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 10 AM – 12 NOON

Its time to come together again to discuss the Lively Issues in Appleton and Outagamie County government.

Since we have a local study in progress, the 2011 Lively Issues meeting will not establish a new local study. Instead, our Lively Issues will take a slightly less formal form. Several Board members have planned a get together focusing on our Positions and what's happening in our area.

We hope to break into 3-4 small groups to discuss current hot topics, such as the public library, our housing needs, our environmental resources, the energy policy of our city, the proposed convention center. All topics are welcome and open for discussion!

We will determine which of our Positions the topic relates to and ask if the Appleton League could speak out on the topic we discuss. We will ask if we could support the topic we discuss.

Our Positions are grouped into three categories: Local Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. I am including the summary of our Positions in this newsletter for your review. Bring this summary to Lively Issues.

Put Lively Issues on your calendars! Get involved in the grass roots efforts that the League excels in. It is open to all League members and friends. You do not have to be a League member to attend! This will be a lot of fun!

Save the date: Saturday, January 22 at 10:00 am to 12 noon.
Location: Appleton Public Library lower level meeting rooms.

Please refer to our website for new details. www.lwvappleton.org
You are invited to send your ideas and feedback to me at bjdorz@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,
Barb Dorzweiler
VP Program

Local Government

I. City Government Structure

The League favors an Administrator-Mayor-Council form of local government. We favor a small, part-time council elected by ward and an executive budget, which is spelled out by ordinance, and the judicious use of bonding.

II. Town Government

The League favors representative government employing professional administrators, adoption of a comprehensive plan and village powers, five-member town boards, the creation of special service districts and consolidated services with adjacent municipalities.

III. Outagamie County Financial Planning

We favor executive budget procedures including consultation with department heads and review by finance committee members. We favor a flexible schedule and a posted meeting agenda with adequate time for consideration.

IV. Outagamie County Government: Organization and Function

We favor a small County Board and a County Executive form of government, with well-defined committees and an emphasis on legislating policy, not administrative detail. The League also supports consolidated County-municipal services where possible, equitable assessment for services, and improved communication between citizens and their county government.

V. Local Police Protection

The League supports a flexible recruitment policy and merit-based promotion policies that favor internal promotion. We also support having written enforcement policies, which are approved by local office holders, and specialized in-service training for officers.

VI. Regional Law Enforcement

The League supports consolidation of regional law enforcement services, with rural areas policed by sheriff's departments and a long-term goal of a full Fox Cities metro law enforcement system if consolidation is successful. The League espouses several criteria to judge successful consolidation, and believes this issue should be an election issue, which is kept in the public eye.

VII. Parks and Recreation

The League favors a Park and Recreation Dept. with a single director and elimination of duplication of duties. The League supports making the Dept. responsible to a commission, which is in turn responsible to the Common Council. The commission should consist of five members, including an alderman and a school board member. The League encourages user fees to cover operating costs of certain programs and independent annually auditing of the Dept.

VIII. Appleton Public Library

The League supports increased funding for facility and program planning to meet the needs of a diverse and growing community.

IX. Land Use Planning in Appleton

The League strongly believes in citizen involvement in the planning process, and comprehensive planning based on community goals and objectives. The League believes the goals for the city's future design should balance economic, human resource, and environmental concerns. It also supports diverse redevelopment in the downtown region.

X. Criteria to be Applied in Annexation Decisions

The League has a comprehensive set of guidelines for annexation decisions and believes that such decisions should be judged based upon: the overall good of the area; environmental preservation; fairness in paying for services; and efficiency of urban services. The League also supports action at the state level, specifically involving the revision of county boundaries to help address the challenges of Appleton's location within three different counties.

XI. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)

The Appleton League believes the Appleton and Oshkosh/Neenah-Menasha Leagues should cooperatively deal with issues of environmental concern, area wide recreation, mass transportation and public communication.

XII. Regional Planning Agency

The League supports a regional planning agency representing both urban and rural interests, focused on priority community needs.

XIII. Regionalization

The League supports regional intergovernmental services when such practice would improve services and/or reduce costs/

XIV. Smart Growth**NATURAL RESOURCES****I. Energy Conservation**

The League believes that local governments should support energy conservation in their own facilities and policies, via energy-efficient public buildings, public transportation systems, education, legislation on solar access, and focus on recycling.

II. Solid Waste Disposal

The League supports WI DNR minimum standards for solid waste disposal sites and encourages regional cooperation to solve solid waste disposal problems.

III. Criteria to be Applied in Recycling Positions

The League supports responsible waste management with a focus on diverting waste from landfills and instituting fee structures that encourage waste reduction and recycling.

IV. Billboard Control

The League supports measures that ban construction of new billboards, phase out old billboards, and replace billboards with standardized logo and tourist-oriented directional signs.

V. Fox River Corridor

The League supports measures protecting water quality and natural areas while also providing for public access and appropriate economic development. The League believes that efforts toward these goals should be guided by regional local government organizations with input from a citizen Waterfront Advisory Committee.

VI. PCB Study

The League supports the effort to reduce the level of PCBs in the Fox River via site-specific methods and ongoing monitoring of the water quality. The League believes that contaminated sediments should be disposed of in segregated landfills near the Fox, and that the cleanup should be funded by the responsible parties and all available state and federal grant dollars.

SOCIAL POLICY**I. Juvenile Law Enforcement and Correction System**

The League supports expansion and strengthening of city and county law enforcement agencies and juvenile facilities, with a particular focus on upgrading the Appleton Police Department juvenile section to ensure that juvenile specialists are available around the clock.

II. Juveniles at Risk

The League supports juvenile support programs such as youth work programs, drug and alcohol programs, mentoring programs, and non-traditional systems for responding to and discouraging minor crimes. The League supports stronger coordination of these programs between schools, local governments, law enforcement agencies, libraries, and organizations such as the YMCA and AAL.

III. Alternatives to Incarceration

The League promotes reliance on alternatives to incarceration except for the most dangerous offenders. Such alternatives must be fiscally responsible, promote safety, and satisfy justice for both the victim and the perpetrator, with a focus on successful return to the community.

IV. Housing

The League recognizes the need for low-income and special needs housing, and encourages local and regional governments to actively pursue the development of adequate and affordable housing through regulation and comprehensive planning.

V. County Department of Health and Human Services

The League supports adult day care and respite programs, domestic abuse services, and family planning programs. The League encourages public participation in the planning of such programs.

VI. Public Health Services

The League supports public health services that provide for the health and safety of all residents in the community.

VII. Mental Health Care

The League supports community-based mental health system, which is financially and geographically accessible to everyone and coordinated among all providers, who must have knowledge of the complete delivery system.

VIII. Local Transportation

Tabled.

IX. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center

The League believes that the PAC improves the quality of life and stimulates economic development and therefore supports public and private financing for the PAC.

X. Education

The League believes that education equity is an important goal for public education. School curriculum should create literate, productive members of a democratic society, and include competency testing, guidance services, disability services, and gifted and talented programs. The League believes in a maximum 30:1 student-teacher ratio, and an effective teacher-hiring procedure offering competitive salaries and a formal system of evaluation. The League also supports formal evaluation of administration, and modifying school boundaries to balance enrollment.



This Election Season

by Beth English, Voter Service Chair

The best antidote for all the negative campaign ads this fall was to focus on the issues. That is exactly what this League did. Together with Harmony Café, the Appleton League let voters hear from candidates running for the 57th Assembly District. Penny Bernard Schaber and Chris Hanson tackled 17 questions from the audience on October 19th. The packed audience appreciated hearing their plans for serving the district.

Six days before the election, we co-sponsored a forum for the 8th Congressional District. It was the second time Congressman Steve Kagen and Reid Ribble met. Drawing on our prior experience running the same forum in 2006, and using some of the same League members, we put together a large group of co-sponsors to plan the forum. Fox Valley Lutheran High School Fine Arts Center was filled, by some estimates, with 400 people who came to listen to the candidates. But the audience was so much bigger than that. By televising the forum live on WBAY-2, streaming on the Post Crescent, WHBY radio and Wisconsin Eye websites and broadcasting on WHBY radio, we reached a much larger segment of northeast Wisconsin.

Thank you to all of you who volunteered your time and talent, especially president Shirley Strange and members, Nadine Miller, Jan Quinlan, Sarah Campanik and Winnie Doxie. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the night of the forum or just came to listen. I saw a lot of you there. You will be pleased to know that we will pick up a few new members because of our visibility. Our co-sponsors and volunteers are to be commended for a job well done. The community partners worked with us since last June to put together a successful forum--all of them passionate about fair and honest elections. We enjoyed working together with all of them.

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League of Women Voters Holiday Brunch



Saturday December 11, 2010 10:30 am – 12:30 noon

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton

**Speaker Karen Harkness, City of Appleton, Director of Community Development
“A Forecast for Appleton Development”**



www.lwvappleton.org

Cost incl. Tax and tip: \$17.00 per person – Please make check payable to LWV-Appleton.

Send your check and the Reservation Form by December 3 to:

Barb Dorzweiler
802 East Harrison St.
Appleton, Wisconsin
54915

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RESERVATION FORM

Yes, I am coming to the League of Women Voters Holiday Brunch.

Name: _____ with the following guests:

Guest(s) Name(s) _____

Total number attending: _____

Total enclosed: _____

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>



Visit us at www.lwvappleton.org



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