



The *informed* Voter

League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

February, 2011

Calendar

Fri. Feb 4, 2011. **Meet Your Legislators.** Sponsored by the Heart of the Valley Chamber of Commerce. Call 766-1616 for more information. Free and open to the public Little Chute Village Hall Community Room
108 W Main St Little Chute
7:30 am - 9:30 pm

Mon. Feb 7, 2011. Outagamie County Executive candidate forum. UW-Fox Valley 6pm – 8pm.

Tue Feb 15, 2011. Primary Election Day

Thu Feb 17, 2011 Deborah Wetter, Gen Manager of Valley Transit will speak on our public transportation system in light of the changing economy. Sponsored by the LWV Appleton Local Study Committee. Valley Transit Administration Bldg. 801 S Whitman Ave, Appleton. 7p.m.

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

My notes

Strange Remarks from the President

February Greetings,

Lively Issues proved to be a time to get in touch with several community issues. Please see **Lively Issues minutes** in this newsletter for the details. Thank you to Barb Dorzweiler for her excellent work in making this meeting stimulating and informational. A new local study is not going to be considered this year because we have a local study in process: "A study of the implications of implementing an RTA, looking specifically at issues of governance, funding, and service."

Candidate Forum: February 7th, 6:00pm-8:00pm, UW Fox Valley, Student Union. Beth English has been working tirelessly. See flyer. Please attend and bring friends. It will be enlightening, I assure you!

Supreme Court Voter's Guide: Attached you will find the Voter's Guide for the Wisconsin Supreme Court candidates, courtesy of LWVWI Education Fund. Please feel free to send this on to people you know.

Arms Control Talk: The National League updated its arms control position after a two year effort by a task force made up of League members and experts in the field. The 2010 national convention approved the recommendations and amendments to update the arms control position. The LWV Manitowoc hosted an evening with guest speaker and task force member, W. Michael Slattery. Dr. Slattery researched and wrote the paper on arms control and shared provocative information. Bill Hansen, Lynda Cutts and I ventured out on that cold evening and were not disappointed. Background papers may be found on the LWVUS website and in the LWVUS Impact on Issues publication.

Membership Meeting: There will be an informational meeting on **Fox Valley Transit**, February 17, 7PM at the Valley Transit Administrative Building, 801 S. Whitman Avenue, Appleton 54914. Whitman is off W. Spencer Street, east of Lynndale. Deborah Wetter, General Manager, will give us information about our local public transportation system in light of the changing economy and changing federal revenue streams. The 2010 Census results, though Appleton shone in its success for returned census forms, put Appleton in jeopardy for federal funds. Find out more on February 17th!! How will Fox Valley Transit fare in 2011?

Shirley Strange
February 2011



Submitted by Barb Dorzweiler

The League of Women Voters of Appleton

LIVELY ISSUES MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2011

Present: Shirley Strange, Sara Companik, Barb Dorzweiler, Sue Kinde, Jan Quinlan, Helen Nagler, Miriam Douglass, Colleen Rotveldt, Winnie Doxsie, Penny Bernard Schaber

Shirley started the meeting with a review of Local, State and National League Positions. The Individual Action Policy adopted in 2010 was also reviewed. Also a reminder to use the Legislative notification service to follow legislation by signing up for daily or weekly emails for specific state legislative activity. Take a look at the site at <http://notify.legis.state.wi.us>

The current ongoing local study of the Regional Transit Authority is in progress. A report was given by Shirley Strange.

A member interest survey was distributed. The survey is a means to finding League members who can take action and guide the Board.

Jan Quinlan and Colleen Rortveldt gave a brief presentation on the Appleton Public Library building process. Two studies have been completed. In 2008 a library consultant team completed a study that supported an expanded library. In 2009 an architect team concluded a study that proposed 8 different options for library expansion. The current building has 88,000 square feet. One of the studies supported an expansion to a 138,000 square foot building. No decisions have been made yet.

Jan Quinlan and Helen Nagler gave a brief presentation on the proposed Exhibition Center for the City of Appleton. There are no final decisions on the site or the funding as of yet. Recommendations are a not-for-profit facility in the downtown close to the Paper Valley Hotel.

Sue Kinde gave a brief presentation on local efforts to build and support trails and greenways. She discussed the Outagamie County Greenways which reports to the Outagamie County Board, and the Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. which is a non-profit agency with approximately 150 members. Fox Cities Greenways proposes the "Complete Streets" concept and the "Safe Routes" to school program. To learn more go to www.foxcitiesgreenways.org

Sue Kinde gave a brief presentation on the Fox River corridor and reiterated some of the learnings from Karen Harkness' presentation at the LWV Holiday Brunch on development projects. The old water treatment plant on the Fox River is being demolished now. Some propose this site be turned into a park, others want it used for residential or commercial development. For more interesting information go to

www.friendsofthefox.org Sue recommended that the League be present at City Council meetings and support our positions on the Fox River developments.

Winnie Doxie gave a brief presentation on state funding for public education. In the mid 1990's a funding reform was passed in the form of a property tax credit. The state froze spending on schools and schools are barely keeping up. Children are not receiving quality education, especially rural schools. Winnie recommended that the Appleton League become a member of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. This organization is supported by the LWVWI and the PTA. The WAES is working to change the education funding system. For more information go to <http://www.excellentschools.org>

Penny Bernard Schaber gave a brief presentation on 3 bills pending in the state legislature. The first is a bill to take away same-day voter registration in the state of Wisconsin. The second is a bill to require identification for voters. LWVWI opposes this bill. If this bill passes the League needs to support the addition of different acceptable forms of identification. As of now the bill only supports 2 acceptable forms of ID: a state driver's license and a state ID card.

The third bill is a bill to require a 2/3 majority of both houses to pass a tax increase. For more information on all state legislative activity, go to www.thewheelerreport.com

The members then discussed what League positions enable us to act on these issues, and what actions League members can take. Several ideas were introduced. Due to the time limit of our meeting, it was proposed the President, VP Action and VP Program meet separately to plan educational meetings on these subjects. All agreed the presentations and discussions were very informative. Educational meetings will be discussed for League members and for the public. Shirley Strange, Jan Quinlan and Barb Dorzweiler will meet in the near future to plan informative events on the issues.

12:15 Meeting adjourned.



**League of Women Voters of Appleton
Individual Action Policy
2010**

Submitted by Barb Dorzweiler

Do you feel strongly about an issue on which the League already has a position based on study, such as mental health, energy conservation, and school funding or campaign finance reform? Do you wish the League would act on your issue when opportunities arise?

The Appleton League can act* on your issue with your help in initiating the action. Here's how you can help:

1. **Define the action you want taken.** Examples may include:
 - ☐ President's statement before a governing body (city council, county or school board, zoning committee, etc.) or personal visits with government officials;
 - ☐ Letter to the Editor of the Post Crescent or other newspaper; posting on an appropriate web site or blog;
 - ☐ Action alert to members to contact their legislators;
 - ☐ An educational forum.
2. **Find the League position that supports the action.**
 - ☐ Web sites: local, state or national Leagues
 - ☐ Vice President-Action or President
3. **Outline a plan.** Draft talking points, statement or letter. Outline activity or event. For example:
 - ☐ Organize group to attend city council meeting;
 - ☐ Suggest speaker for educational forum.
4. **Contact the local League Vice President-Action or President** for feedback on your proposal and then to submit to the board (may be expedited via e-mail rather than waiting for next board meeting).
5. **Help take the action** outlined in your plan. Examples may include:
 - ☐ Writing a newsletter article for the Informed Voter on the issue
 - ☐ Drafting an e-mail to send to members about a related event (relevant speaker at Lawrence or link to article online)
6. **Give a brief report** (written or oral) to VP-Action or President to share with Board:
 - ☐ Results;
 - ☐ Process improvement: what worked well and what could be improved.

***From the bylaws as amended April 2009: Article XIII, Section 4. Program Action. "Members may act in the name of the LWV Appleton only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by LWV Appleton, LWV Wisconsin, and LWVUS."*

thankyou!
Barb Dorzweiler
993-9620

Submitted By Sue Silton

Late last year, my husband and I were talking about our local league and the great events of 2010. At the same time, we discussed the amount of our obligations to the National and State Leagues. He was surprised that our dues did not, at least, cover our non-local expenses.

For each person who joins our league we send \$29.70 to the League of Women Voters of the US and \$30 to the LWV Wisconsin for a total of \$59.70. At our \$55 regular membership level we lose \$4.90 per member.

For each household joining our league, we send \$29.70 + 14.85 (\$44.55) to LWV US and \$30 + 15 (\$45) to LWV Wisconsin, for a total of \$89.55. At our \$70 household membership level we lose \$19.55 per household.

Larry, not wanting me to be sad about this, offered to donate \$20 for each regular and household membership. At this time, Larry's donation will be \$180; however, he will add to this amount when our final membership totals are sent to update the database maintained by the National League.

As treasurer, I feel it is incumbent upon me to bring this to the attention of the membership. Unless we either raise dues or obtain additional contributions from our members or non-members, it will be necessary to curtail our local events which will have a negative impact on our relationship with the community

Sue Silton
Treasurer

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
<u>www.appleton.org/departments/clerk/council/</u>		
<u>www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Schoolboard/</u>		
<u>www.co.outagamie.wi.us/county/</u>		



The League of Women Voters of Appleton
MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Please fill out and mail to Barb Dorzweiler 802 E Harrison St, Appleton WI 54915

1. What topics with community/government impact are you interested in?

Topic A:

Topic B:

2. How much knowledge do you have on these topic(s)?

Topic A:

Expert Knowledge	Moderate Knowledge	Some Knowledge	Not Very Much	None
5	4	3	2	1

Topic B:

Expert Knowledge	Moderate Knowledge	Some Knowledge	Not Very Much	None
5	4	3	2	1

3. How interested are you in these topics?

Topic A:

Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Lukewarm Interest	Not very Interested	No Interest
5	4	3	2	1

Topic B:

Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Lukewarm Interest	Not very Interested	No Interest
5	4	3	2	1

Candidate Forum

Spring 2011

Outagamie County

County Executive

- Charles Kramer
- Anne Strauch
- Michael Marsden
- Michael Thomas
- Tom Nelson
- Jack Voight

County Clerk

- Amanda Dietrich (D)
- Lori O'Bright (R)
- Aaron Pluger (R)

Join Us!

Monday

February 7, 2011

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**UW Fox Valley
Student Union**

Midway Road, Menasha

*** Meet Candidates ***
 - learn viewpoints
 - discuss issues



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®



Forum Sponsors



*** Primary Election ***
Tuesday, February 15th

Need more Info?
 Call: (920) 735-9917

Your Representatives

President Barack Obama
president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senate: Wisconsin Senator: Ron Johnson
U.S. House Representative: Wisconsin Rep: Reid Ribble

Governor: Scott Walker
Lt. Governor: Rebecca Kleefisch
Attorney General: J.B. Van Hollen
Secretary of State: Doug La Follette

State Assembly
5th District: Jim Steineke
57th District: Penny Bernard Schaber

US Senators
Herb Kohl with Ron Johnson
US House Representatives
6th Congressional District, Thomas Petri of Outagamie County
8th Congressional District, Reid Ribble of Outagamie County.

State Assembly
57th - Penny Bernard Schaber
56th - Michelle Litjens
40th - Kevin Petersen
6th - Gary Tauchen
5th - Jim Steineke
3rd - Alvin Ott

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



Visit us at www.lwvappleton.org



LWV of Appleton
P.O. Box 1281
Appleton, WI 54912-1281