

The *informed* Voter



June 2011

League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

"SHIRLEY" STRANGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting held at Liberty Hall was a success!! The food was good, the meeting was productive and compact, and the attendance was respectable. Thanks to Barb Dorzweiler for her work planning the meeting! Everyone arrived at the meeting before the deluge of rain and hail except for one. Helen Nagler had asked that I make a statement to the Committee on Redistricting at the County Courthouse. I dutifully complied and leaving that meeting to dash to the annual meeting I got caught in the rain without an umbrella and arrived soaking wet!! Yes, Helen!

2011 Board of Directors: Your new board is ready to jump off to a new year of League Activities!! Thank you for your confidence in me to represent the Appleton League as President for the next two years. The 2011 Board is fully capable of another productive year.

Directions to the Board: Per usual, the members at the Annual Meeting gave direction to the new board. The suggestions were clear...continue working to keep our name out there, toot our horn, offer more membership meetings, continue to work on increasing membership, and find new sources of revenue to support our organization. The first Board meeting will take place June 14 with these items on the agenda!

Membership Meetings: Thanks to Jan Quinlan for organizing the Library Informational meeting and the Fox River meeting. See articles on each in this newsletter.

Congratulations Miriam Douglass: See article on Miriam's award.

Recycling Tour, June 6, 10:00AM: (Arrive at 9:45) Join us for a tour of the Outagamie County Recycling Plant. We took a tour last November and found it to be very interesting. This is an opportunity to learn about the three-county (BOW-Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago) single-stream recycling efforts. There is a thirty minute presentation followed by a fifteen minute tour. Mark your calendars...will send out a reminder closer to the event.

June 2011

Calendar

June

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	29	30		

My Notes:

EVENTS

Treasurer's Report by Sue Siltan

The annual meeting included lively discussion about our dues. We voted to raise our regular membership dues to \$60 and household membership dues to \$90. Why these numbers? In 2011-12 our obligation to the state and national leagues will be \$60. For a household membership it will be \$90. It was decided that we must at least cover these costs in our dues.

Our actual expenses are approximately \$50 more per member. Sustaining membership and additional member and non-member donations account for much of this; however, we have been using some of our savings to cover some of our expenses. One of the directives to the board at the annual meeting was to look for new sources of revenue.

It was also decided to add a budget item in our expenses to cover up to three regular memberships in the form of scholarships.

We have just finished this spring's finance drive. This drive targeted our past and present members as well as several friends. This fall, we are planning on contacting additional non-members, including businesses, corporations and attendees of last year's Women's Equality Day Luncheon.

Congratulations Miriam

Miriam Douglass received the 2011 Connie Steele Woman of Strength Award. The award honors a woman who exemplifies strength of character, integrity, generosity, faith, courage, optimism, persistence and community service. They found the words to describe Miriam. You make us proud to be women, Miriam. Congratulations!!!

The award is given by the Samaritan Counseling Center. The award is named for the late Connie Steele, former senior legal counsel for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Steele served on the Samaritan Center board. She is described as a persistent, confident, optimistic, generous woman who understood what it means to be a woman in need and a woman of strength.

Library Informational Meeting



Colleen Rortvedt, Library Director

Colleen Rortvedt guided us expertly through a hefty meeting loaded with information about the results of two major studies exploring the future of the library. I could relate facts to you, but instead, I am going to tell you that you can find all of the information regarding the studies on the Library website. Click on the icon displaying books labeled

“Library Building Process.” Some points of interest...for every dollar invested in a public library; there is a \$4.06 return according to an economic impact research report. Both studies recommended that one centralized downtown library be retained, rejecting branches. The present library was built in 1981, well before the needs of a technological age. The economic issues facing the library to meet facility and efficiency requirements identified in the study will be a challenge. The library will continue working to inform and educate the public on the challenges of providing a public gathering hub that offers information and services to the community.



“State of the Art” Technology in the Present Library

Local Study by Carolyn Mewhorter

Several members of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Local Study committee met on Thursday, May 19, to begin preparation for a fall general meeting. There will be a committee meeting June 9, to finalize the time and date of the fall meeting, the agenda, panelists, and materials needed to best inform our LWV membership on the current and future status of a (RTA). If you are interested in participating on the committee, please let me know. The date of the general meeting in fall will be announced once it has been determined.

Fox River Walk & Informational Meeting by Jan Quinlan

April 29, 2011

The weather was chilly but the rain stayed away. A group of hardy LWV members and guests were led by Appleton's Director of Community Development Karen Harkness on river trails starting at Olde Oneida Street to Lawe Street and beyond. We saw development sites on both sides of the river, many pelicans and geese, historic locks and locks tenders' houses, and much more. Joining us for the walk were Dave Horst, Community Foundation's Communications Director, kayaker, and free lance environmental reporter for the Post-Crescent, and Vickie Milde, president of the Fox Cities Greenways Board.



Following the river walk, we reconvened the group at Trolley Square, Palace Car Room, for coffee and a continental breakfast. There we met Candice Mortara, President of Friends of the Fox and the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway; Bill Lecker, Appleton's Director of Parks and Recreation. They and Dave Horst presented updates on the Fox River corridor from an environmental perspective. We studied maps and learned success stories but also discussed challenges facing our community as we balance economic growth with environmental concerns. All agreed this was an informative update on our LWV Fox River Corridor studies – and we thanked our special guests for sharing this information with us.



Remembering Len Weis

HE LIKED ROCKS, UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE HE WAS A GEM.

Len Weis was a rare and remarkable man, a geologist, humanitarian, and philanthropist. He was a man of vision, a man of many accomplishments, a man of great integrity, generosity, and energy.

Len had been associated with the Appleton League of Women voters for over 50 years. He became a full member in the 1970s when the League opened its membership to men. He was a part of the 1976 Land Use study. A presentation was developed around this study called "Appleton What Next?" The Committee used Len's slides pointing up the fact that Appleton is built on clay over bedrock. The committee members presented this illustrated talk throughout the community.

Did you know Len liked to dance? The song the Weis family chose to celebrate Len's life was

Let It Be A Dance..."Let it be a dance we do, may I have this dance with you!" Can you see him on the dance floor with Donna, his eyes twinkling, enjoying the fullness of life as was his way.

Len's life is a model for showing us how to live. He lived life with gusto, meaning, and joy.

Our deepest sympathy to Donna, his beloved wife.

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/

Your Representatives

President Barack Obama

president@whitehouse.gov

US Senators

Wisconsin Senator: Herb Kohl

Wisconsin Senator: Ron Johnson

US House Representatives

6th Congressional District, Thomas Petri of Outagamie County

8th Congressional District, Reid Ribble of Outagamie County.

Governor: Scott Walker

Lt. Governor: Rebecca Kleefisch

Attorney General: J.B. Van Hollen

Secretary of State: Doug La Follette

Wisconsin State Senators:

Senate District 19 – Michael Ellis

Wisconsin 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>

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