

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

August 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Program Calendar is unfolding, and I think you will find interesting topics, issues and events. See calendar in this newsletter.

Women's Equality Day- Celebration of Women's Equality Day at a special event on Tuesday, August 30th at the Gardens of the Fox Cities, 4:30-6:00PM. Refreshments will be served. The presentation topic is the new Voter ID law and its effects. We have invited Carolyn Castore to be our guest speaker. Carolyn has served on the state League's legislative committee since 2001 with voter's rights and election administration as her portfolio. In 2003, she represented the League and Citizen Action of Wisconsin on the state's HAVA committee—a committee set up by the then State Elections Board to help implement the Help American Vote Act. She has tracked many election related issues as a lobbyist for Citizen Action and for the League. She helped craft the current regulation around challenging voters. Last fall, she worked with state board member Ellen Rosborough to design a statewide election observer program and revised it this summer for use in the recall elections.

We are also highlighting the League. We are sending out invitations to a large number of people who have recently retired. Many are retired educators. We want you to be there. During the informal reception, we would like to have League members available for conversation about the league and to answer questions that our guests might have concerning the league.

Recycling Tour- Please see Report in this newsletter.

League of Women Voters Wisconsin Annual Meeting-Please see report in this newsletter.

League Portable Display: Stevie Schmidt and I are developing a stand-alone display that can be used at League functions. We want the display to encapsulate the Appleton League. We are collecting memorabilia. If you have any league artifacts or pictures lurking in your attic, please let me know if we can use them. Shirley - 730-8774 or shirleystrange@yahoo.com

August 2011

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Calendar

August

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	31			

My Notes:

EVENTS

Women's Equality Day

August 30, 4:30PM-6PM

Gardens of the Fox Cities

Appleton League Memorabilia

Stevie Schmidt and Shirley Strange are looking for League pictures or other memorabilia to be used in a League display. If you have any items that we could use, please call Shirley 730—8774.

WI State LWV Website is for YOU!

Our WI League of Women Voters has been very busy updating and improving upon the state LWV website. The website is a wonderful source of information for the public and voters. The state office regularly posts informative updates on issues related to the League mission on the website: www.lwwi.org.

Even more exciting is the Members-Only section of this new website. All members have access to information from their local chapter as well as any chapter across the state. This Members-Only section should become a valuable tool to find out what's going on throughout the state, plus promote collaboration and sharing among the various locations.

Here are instructions to register on the Members-Only section:

1. Go to www.lwwwi.org.
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and click on the Register link.
3. Type your Username in the designated field, which is the 1st initial of your 1st name followed by your last name, with no space or other character in-between (for example, SStrange).
4. Type in the requested information in the fields for:
 - a. First name
 - b. Last name
 - c. Display name (this is the name you'd like to see displayed on the screen)
 - d. E-mail address
 - e. Password (any password that you can remember)
5. Click on Register.

Within a short period of time, you will receive an e-mail containing a secure code to verify your 1st log-in. Follow the instructions contained in that e-mail, and when prompted, input that code into the required field the 1st time you log in.

Your registration to the website is not quite completed yet: the last step in the process is to send an e-mail to our Administrator, Barb Dorzweiler (bjdorz@yahoo.com), to let her you that you've registered so she needs to change your status to Member.

Once you're logged onto the LWV-WI website, you can click on the Members tab and open the Members Only section. This is where you'll find information from each local chapter; be sure to look at the La Crosse page for an example of the type of information that could be posted for our members' benefit. Other interesting topics are covered such as League Process and the League's Nonpartisan Policy.

For both new and seasoned members, this website serves as a ready resource of information and ideas. Your Board hopes that all members will register and take advantage of the information available there.

2011-2012 Program *by Sarah Companik*

The Appleton League of Women Voters is excited to be kicking off a new year with an August 30 celebration of Women's Equality Day and a membership recruitment event at the Gardens of the Fox Cities. In September members and the public will be invited to the library for Dessert and Coffee to be informed about Transit issues in the Fox Valley. **League members are asked to suggest friends who should be invited to these events.**

Show off your League of Women Voter button. We hope to bring members together socially and actively and to gain more visibility in our community with "Dinner and Observer Corp" starting in October. ***Observer Corp: Dinner and an opportunity to see local government in action. Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting 1st and 3rd Wednesdays; an Outagamie County Board meeting, 2nd and 4th Tuesday or an Appleton School Board meeting, 2nd and 4th Mondays.** [Find one or more](#)

dates you are available. We will meet at a downtown restaurant for dinner, and then attend one of the local government meetings. A League objective is to monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community/state. Let's invigorate our Observer Corp.

Food for Thought is part of our calendar in 2012. We plan to have lunch and share a topic of interest. What's on your mind? What issues/topics would you like to hear about? Food and Friends comes to mind as our League Calendar unfolds. To share topics and issues in our community with fellow members, prospective members, and other interested citizens is energizing. Check out the proposed calendar for upcoming events.

League of Women Voters of Appleton

Program Calendar 2011-2012

August

- ❖ Tuesday, August 2nd, 11:30-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**, Shirley's House
- ❖ Tuesday, August 30, 4:30-6:00 pm, **Women's Equality Day Celebration**, Gardens of the Fox Valley

September

- ❖ Tuesday, September 6, 11:30am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Wednesday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 pm, **Local Bus Transportation**, Do we need buses? Desserts and Coffee, Appleton Public Library, Room A

October

- ❖ Tuesday, October 4, 11:30am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Thursday, October 13, 7pm-8:30 pm, **Regional Transit Authority Forum**, Appleton Public Library, Room A
- ❖ ***Observer Corp/Dinner:** Dinner at a restaurant 5:30 and Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wednesday, Oct.5, at 7:00 pm; an Appleton School Board meeting on Monday, Oct. 10, at 7:00 pm; or an Outagamie County Board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11

November

- ❖ Tuesday, November 1, 11:30am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ **RTA Consensus Meeting TBA**
- ❖ ***Observer Corp/Dinner:** Dinner and Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 2; or an Outagamie County Board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 8; or an Appleton School Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 14

December

- ❖ Tuesday, December 6, 11:30am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Saturday, December 10, **Holiday Brunch**, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, **Sustainability**

January 2012

- ❖ Tuesday, January 3, 11:30am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ **Budget Meeting**
- ❖ Saturday, January 21, 10:30-12:00 noon, **Lively Issues**, Appleton Public Library

February

- ❖ Tuesday, February 7, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Wednesday, February 29, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, **Education Forum: How to Run For Office**, Appleton Public Library
- ❖ ***Observer Corp/Dinner:** Dinner and Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1; or an Appleton School Board meeting on Feb. 13; or an Outagamie County Board meeting on Feb. 14

March

- ❖ Tuesday, March 6, 11:30am-1:00PM, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 11:45 am-1:30 pm, **Food for Thought Luncheon**,
- ❖ ***Observer Corp/Dinner:** Dinner and Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wednesday, March 7; or an Appleton School Board meeting on Monday, March 12; or an Outagamie County Board meeting on Tuesday, March 13

April

- ❖ Tuesday, April 3, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Wednesday, April 11, 11:45 am-1:30 pm, **Food for Thought Luncheon**,
- ❖ ***Observer Corp/Dinner:** an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wednesday, April 3; or an Appleton School Board meeting on Monday, April 9; or an Outagamie County Board meeting on Tuesday, April 10

May

- ❖ Thursday, May 10, 5:30 pm -8:30 pm, **Annual Dinner and Meeting**

TBA= To Be Announced – See League of Women Voters Appleton website @ www.lwvappleton.org or Contact us at league.appleton@yahoo.com

***Observer Corp: Dinner and an opportunity to see local government in action. Attend any of the following: Appleton Common Council meeting 1st and 3rd Wednesdays/ Outagamie County Board meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesdays/ Appleton School Board meeting 2nd and 4th Mondays.**

**The League of Women Voters Appleton
P.O. Box 1281
Appleton, WI 54912**

Recycle Plant Tour Report

The Single-Stream Recycling Tour was informative. There were five of us. We had so many questions and requests for details and clarification that the tour took almost two hours. Chris, our guide, aptly explained the process and shared a great deal of information. She had set aside extra time for this tour (we learned later) knowing this group would require as much.



Winnie shows us the affordable composter. The bin measures approximately 3 feet wide by 3 feet tall. Cost \$45.00. It holds 13 cubic feet of material. (Sells on the internet for close to \$100.00.)

The prestigious Gold Award in the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) annual Excellence Awards Program has, for the second consecutive year, been awarded to an innovative [recycling](#) system designed and built by Bulk Handling Systems (BHS).

The award was made to the custom tailored Tri-County Single Stream Recycling Facility in Appleton, Wisconsin. BHS custom tailored the recycling system, utilizing the latest in patented screen, air and optical technologies to maximize recovery and minimize residue.

Chris stated that when BHS was studying the trash and waste to provide the needed recycling equipment, they noted that they had not seen so much glass or newspaper discarded. The beer drinkers are reading.

Yes you can....

Recycle non-pesticide empty aerosol cans (discard caps)

Recycle envelopes with see-through window (no need to remove the clear window)

Recycle all plastics #1 and #2 with narrow neck, or where bottom circumference is larger than top....milk bottle okay, small plastic bucket-no.

Leave that little plastic ring on the milk jugs and water bottles etc. (discard caps)

Leave those labels on cans etc., no need to remove

Paper egg cartons

No you can't...

Recycle

Tissue

Gift wrap paper

Ribbon/bows

Plastic or waxed coated containers (they are mainly refrigerator or freezer storage containers---butter, drink cartons etc.

The Appleton League of Women Voters
Cordially Invites You to Celebrate

Women's Equality Day

Please join us at the Gardens of the
Fox Cities

Guest Speaker:

Carolyn Castore

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.



August 30, 2011

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Free event. Please R.S.V.P. by
August 23 to
league.appleton@yahoo.com
RSVP is required. Space is
limited to 100 participants.**

This event is possible through a
grant from the Joyce Foundation to
the League of Women Voters
Wisconsin Education Fund.

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/

The Outagamie County Board endorsed a land sale for the proposed Fox Cities Exhibition Center. The group pushing this project is asking for a three million dollar commitment from the city of Appleton by early August.

The Appleton City Council is looking at a million dollar renovation project for Houdini Plaza. It is hoped that 30% of the cost can be raised from private groups. Look for some money to be set aside in the 2012 budget for the first phase of this project. What will not be in the upcoming budget is funding for a library expansion/building project. Those plans have been put on hold for the next two years.

The County Board and the City Council have approved redistricting plans. The city's plan would reduce the size of the council from 16 to 15 members to take effect in January, 2012. What effect the state redistricting plan passed by the legislature without local input will have is still unknown. At this writing, the state League is urging the governor not to sign the bill.

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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LWVWI Annual Meeting Report by Shirley Strange

Whitewater, June 10-11, 2011

Staying in the Dorm... Irene Strohbeen and I, and of course, Deb Cronmiller (State Vice President) attended the annual meeting in Whitewater. Irene and I had a great opportunity to feel like a college student again...staying in the dorm. Starin Hall is the new updated version of a student dormitory at UW Whitewater. It has several suites in the building. Each suite has a kitchen and small sitting area. Opposite the kitchen there is a hallway. Along one side of the hall, there are four individual rooms. The shower, toilet and wash basins are across from the rooms. Each room has a bed, small 3-drawer dresser and a desk. There is a metal rack that would hold about eight hangers. Good thing students wear jeans and t-shirts. The mattress is covered in a firm, thick plastic as is the pillow. What good luck that I brought my own pillow. Not so for Irene.

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Membership Recruitment Initiative Meeting,

Friday evening all leagues attended the Membership Recruitment Initiative Training workshop. State couches, Louise Petering, Peggy Cox and Vonna Pitel led the session.

Ideas shared by the presenters:

Using membership numbers in public....usually people are unimpressed with membership numbers unless they're really big, a million?! Here's an interesting way to talk about our membership numbers, especially since we are a smaller organization. Talk about who we represent....we represent over 3,000,000 voters! (Wisconsin has 3,493,306 eligible voters)

Membership benefits such as discounted admission used by museums and zoos or other enticements are not the reason people join the league. Reasons include: appreciate what we do, a way to feel part of a community, chance to be part of a group that makes change.

Telling others what we do is boring. Rather tell them how the value we provide makes a difference in their lives or in the lives of the people they care about. Effective way: Personal Stories!!! (So please submit your story as to how you came to join the League. I am going to start hounding).

New members: Recruiting new members does NOT mean that our current members aren't good enough! You know we have much work to do, and we need people with interests that cover our broad range of issues.

TWO IMPORTANT THINGS WE SHOULD ALWAYS DO:

- 1). Make the ask!!! Ask people to join...individually and at league functions.
- 2). Intentional planning...Every event is a possibility for new members...have sign -in sheets, invite people to forums who are interested in specific issues, extend membership invitation from the podium at every league function.

Roundtable Discussions:

I went to a **REDTRICTING** discussion led by Green Bay President, Joyce McCullum. She reviewed the basics. Earlier in the month, Andrea Kaminski sent an email to Deb Cronmiller and to me asking us to be members of a citizens panel on redistricting. The goal would be to educate and empower citizens to be more engaged in the state-level legislative redistricting process and to raise awareness for the need to reform the process. This is a project of an alliance of organizations including Common Cause, League of Women Voters, and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

Irene attended the **VOTER SERVICE** discussion. She reports that there is enthusiasm for providing access to Candidate Forums using YouTube, Public Access TV and Broadcast TV. Irene is already using the information she gathered by planning a Voter ID informational meeting (coinciding with Women's Equality Day). Irene plans to invite a woman she met at the round table discussion who is well informed on voter ID to be a guest speaker on the topic.

Message from LWVUS... Janice McMillan from the national board brought the following message:

There is a new effort from National and it is:

THE POWER OF THE VOTE

- Finding and eliminating legal barriers to voting
- Nonpartisan voter information
- Registering voters
- Candidates debates, bring candidates before the voters
- Educating voters on issues
- Campaign 2012....The election should serve the voter

As Janice McMillan stated...these are the same issues we have always addressed.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Charles Franklin, UW-Madison Professor

Spoke on the "Impact of Partisan Polarization in Wisconsin Politics". He stated that Wisconsin is 78% polarized. Republican approval for the current administration is very high at 89% and Democratic approval is very low 9%. Independents will be critical in the recall election. Professor Franklin had slide after slide (power point) of polls showing trends for a variety of topics and issues. If you like charts and predictions, go to pollsandvotes.com

Breakout Sessions: 501 (c) (3) and Website-LWVWI Members –Only

I went to **501 (c) (3)**....Andrea Kaminski led the discussion with support from Deb Cronmiller. In a nutshell, we are on track with the application for nonprofit status with all materials being sent to IRS sometime early August. Timeline for IRS reply is unknown. The work of our own treasurer, Sue Silton, was noted. Andrea was impressed with Sue's treasurer's report. She used the category listings as a model to explain how we might go about tracking and reporting lobbying expenses.

Irene attended the workshop on the **new state league website members-only**. She brought back information on a newly developed state website where local leagues will each have their own "workspace" on the state site. We will share more information on this in the coming months. This service was made possible by the 2010 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

LWVWI Program.....Studies....

The State League is not introducing a new study. It will continue to advocate on health care, sustainability and judicial impartiality issues. The decision was made in light of limited resources and a challenging political environment.

LWVUS Program:

The Education Study: [The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education](#)

Materials are available www.lwv.org. November 30 is the deadline for consensus. Following site goes directly to study materials. Hopefully we will begin local membership discussion on this.

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=17189#_downloads

Parade of Leagues: A great opportunity to hear what other Leagues are doing. I can say we are holding our own among the leagues.

Report Completed June 2011



LWV of Appleton

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