

# The *informed* Voter



## League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

### February 2012

#### League of Women Voters of Appleton

#### Program Calendar

2012

[www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org) Contact us by email:  
[league.appleton@yahoo.com](mailto:league.appleton@yahoo.com)

#### February

- ❖ Tuesday, February 7, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, **Board Meeting**
- ❖ Monday, February 13, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Mayoral Candidate Forum. Appleton Public Library
- ❖ **Observer Corps/Dinner:** Dinner and Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wed., 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, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, **Food for Thought Luncheon**, Jonathan's Italian Bistro. Guest Speaker: Amy Oberg.
- ❖ **Observer Corps/Dinner:** Dinner and Attend an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wed., 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 Corps/Dinner:** an Appleton Common Council meeting on Wed., 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**

#### January Event!

#### VOTER EDUCATION FORUM

Wednesday January 25

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Appleton Public Library

Cindi Hesse, Appleton City Clerk and Jane Booth, Appleton elections Clerk will be available to answer all questions on the changes for 2012.

#### February Event!

#### APPLETON MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Monday February 13

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Appleton Public Library

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Happy New Year to All.*

The New Year brings joy, anticipation and hope as well as a sadness of farewells and losses. Again, our condolences to Stevie Schmidt who had to bid the final farewell to her husband, Ed. May we all be sustained by our support of and fondness for one another.

**Voter Service:** Irene has organized a Voter ID education forum, found a way for us to help voters get registered, and is gearing up for a mayoral candidate forum with opportunity for voters to meet their city council candidates. It's been a big job and thanks to league members who have jumped on board to help out. It's encouraging!!

**Park and Recreation Department Eliminated:** Under this year's city budget, the Park and Recreation Department was eliminated. I, as President of the Appleton League, made a statement at the public hearing on the budget stating the league's support for the department. In the statement, I also spoke to the process involved in making a decision to completely eliminate a department. We urged the council, if they were to entertain this idea that it be brought before the public. The public deserved to hear discussion on the matter and have opportunity for input. The final decision to shut down park and recreation as a separate department was made in the early hours of the morning. This process did not exemplify openness or transparency. We then made an appointment with the mayor. Jan Quinlan, Vice President-Action, Marlys Fritzell-Observer Corps Director, and I spent an hour with the mayor discussing the need for openness and transparency. We had a good dialogue with the mayor. We expressed our views. How important it is for us to monitor government proceedings!!! This happened under our vigilance. We are going to continue to speak out against decisions being made in the wee hours of the morning. The mayor and council simply must find a better process.

**February Forum:** Hope you'll forgive us for cancelling a February forum on how to run for office. We are on overload with the new voter ID law, elections and registering voters. We are putting all of our resources here.

**NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 Board of Directors:** Beth English is the chair of the 2012-2013 nominating committee. If you are interested in serving on the board or would like to submit a name, please either contact Beth English 735-9917/mb3nglish@yahoo.com or send a note to the league email at [league.appleton@yahoo.com](mailto:league.appleton@yahoo.com)

Shirley Strange  
January 2012

## LIVELY ISSUES - Appleton League of Women Voters

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 from 10:00 am to 12:00 NOON**

**Appleton Public Library, Lower level**

[www.lwvappleton.org](http://www.lwvappleton.org)

**Put Lively Issues on your Calendar. It is open to League members and friends.  
BRING your ideas and concerns for our community.**

This is YOUR chance, every member's chance, to take part in the League's grassroots planning process. Lively Issues will be a time to discuss our present Positions and suggestions for Actions from our Appleton League. It is also the start of the program year where suggestions for a New Study can be brought to the members. All topics are welcome and open for discussion.

New Local study issues are suggested with the following criteria in mind. The issues for study should be 1) of high interest, 2) those upon which the league can make an impact, 3) related to government 4) and timely.

The Appleton League Positions are grouped into three categories:

Local Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

This is a link to the Appleton League of Women Voters website and our Positions:

[http://www.lwvappleton.org/images/stories/LWV\\_App\\_positions\\_Annual\\_Dinner\\_2010\\_amended\\_approved.pdf](http://www.lwvappleton.org/images/stories/LWV_App_positions_Annual_Dinner_2010_amended_approved.pdf)

## Voter Education by Irene Strohbeen

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With the Voter ID law in place, our Voter Service efforts have stepped up to insure that our voters know what they need to do in order to maintain their right to vote. A Voter Education Forum was held in late November with an expert speaker, Steve Pickett, from the Government Accountability Board sharing information on changes due to the new law. He reminded us that his—and our—role is to learn how to operate within the law now that it's been passed. The GAB website is a valuable source of information on all aspects of the Voter ID law: [www.gab.wi.gov](http://www.gab.wi.gov).

Another Voter Education Forum is scheduled for Wednesday January 25 at the Appleton Public Library from 6:30-8:00. Cindi Hesse, Appleton City Clerk, and Jane Booth, Appleton Elections Clerk, will be our featured experts at this structured yet informal session. Cindi and Jane will answer questions in a "Q&A" format, encouraging questions from the audience. Topics will include Voter Registration, Absentee Voting, Photo ID, and the Voting Process. Directly after the session, League members will be helping voters to complete their mail-in forms for Early Registration in our Voter Registration Assistance program. (We will not be holding Voter Registration Drives as we will not be deputized as Special Registration Deputies.)

Contact Irene Strohbeen or the League if you'd like to get involved or learn more about our Voter Service efforts: [ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com](mailto:ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com) or [league.appleton@yahoo.com](mailto:league.appleton@yahoo.com).

## Candidates Forum—Appleton Mayoral Race

Election-year politics are heating up right here at home, with local elections taking center stage soon. With the Appleton mayor and seven district city council seats being chosen in April, several of these races will go to primary vote on February 21. Three candidates have filed paperwork for mayor: Donald Geenen, Timothy Hanna, and Curt Konetzke. In addition, two of the Appleton districts have three candidates interested, so a primary vote will be required for those offices (Districts 4 and 10).

LWV Voter Service will host a Candidates Forum for the Mayoral candidates on February 13 from 7:00-8:30 at the Appleton Public Library, just prior to the primaries. We will also host a “meet and greet” for the city council candidates in Districts 4 and 10 before the forum at 6:30.

Please submit questions you may have for the Mayoral Candidates' Forum to Facebook or to our e-mail address: [league.appleton@yahoo.com](mailto:league.appleton@yahoo.com).

## Observer Corps Report by Marlys Fritzell

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The Observer Corps dinner meetings will resume in February. We meet for dinner (or a snack), discuss issues before the various Boards, and then go to the meetings. It isn't necessary to stay for the entire meeting. If you can't join us for dinner, do come to the meetings. Members of these Boards like to see community members interested in their proceedings. The February dates, places, and contact person are listed below.

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, Appleton Common Council meeting at 7 p.m. Dinner at Cheyenne's at 5:30 p.m. Contact person: Sara Companik - [scompanik@yahoo.com](mailto:scompanik@yahoo.com)

Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Appleton School Board meeting at 7 p.m. No Dinner.

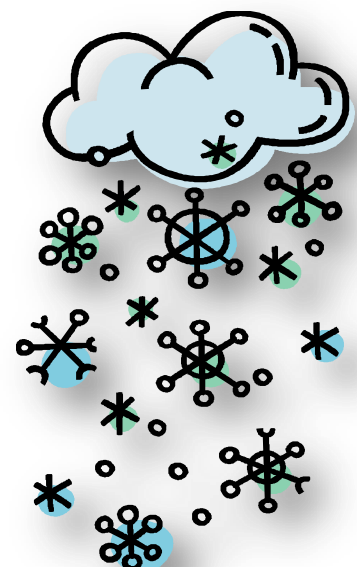
Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Outagamie County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. NO dinner. Contact person: Marlys Fritzell – [pmfritzell@att.net](mailto:pmfritzell@att.net)

**Observer Corps:** Enjoy dinner with League friends and share an opportunity to see local government in action.

Appleton Common Council meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm;

Appleton School Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays  
at 7:00 pm;

Outagamie County Board meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.



## 2011 League of Women Voters Holiday Brunch by Sarah Companik

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Appleton League of Women Voters Members and Friends enjoyed being together for the annual Holiday Brunch. Stephanie Malaney was introduced as a new member who is stepping in as Membership Chair. Kate Cronmiller was introduced by her grandmother, Mary, and father, James, as becoming a new member that day.

Our speaker Leslie Taylor is the Appleton League's Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability. Last year Leslie, and other League members Nadine Miller and Miriam Douglass founded a new charitable organization to give support to the sustainable community movement in the Fox Valley. This year Barb Dorzweiler has also joined the board of the new Sustainable Fox Valley.



Leslie is a UW Madison graduate in cultural geography. In 1994 after selling their daily farm operation in Fond du Lac County, the Taylors move to the Appleton Area. From her interest in creating trails, Leslie was introduced to Sue Kinde who was heading up an effort to create trails in the area. For six years Leslie worked with Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and is currently developing a collaborative community network of support for lower-income elderly people to continue to live independently as long as they

are able.

Leslie spoke at the Holiday Brunch about Sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future generations to meet their own needs". She gave examples of what is being done in the Appleton Area. Leaders in Sustainability Action, called LISA, is a project with Lawrence University students and Appleton Career Academy students to work on concrete projects such as the elimination of Styrofoam, food waste composting, doing a carbon audit, and developing curriculum for schools. Another project is to study residential energy efficiency and conservation called Fox Cites Unplugged through a team challenge in Appleton schools. The Sustainability group is also working with the Arbutus Park Neighborhood to be a model for neighborhood revitalization and sustainability.

Thank you to Leslie for her passion, knowledge, and informative talk in updating the League on Sustainability in the Appleton Area. Their website is **[sustainfv.org](http://sustainfv.org)**

Sara Companik  
Program VP

## Like us on Facebook!



**The League of Women Voters of Appleton has a new Facebook page. It is an organization page, not a “friend” page.**

**When you open Facebook, search for “League of Women Voters of Appleton”. Tip: Do not use “LWV”.**

**When you open our page, hit the Like button!! We post event information here for you as well as in the newsletter and on the website.**

## **Your Representatives**

### **President Barack Obama**

[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto: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>

## **LWV Appleton Board of Directors**

### *President*

Shirley Strange

730-8774

[shirleystrange@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleystrange@yahoo.com)

### *Vice-President - Action*

Jan Quinlan

[jldquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:jldquinlan@gmail.com)

### *Vice-President - Program*

Sara companik

[scompanik@yahoo.com](mailto:scompanik@yahoo.com)

### *Secretary*

Miriam Douglass

[mdouglas@new.rr.com](mailto:mdouglas@new.rr.com)

### *Treasurer*

Sue Silton

739-4898

[suesilton@new.rr.com](mailto:suesilton@new.rr.com)

### *The Voter*

Vicky Olenski

729-5506

[olenskivictori@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:olenskivictori@asds.k12.wi.us)

### *Directors*

#### *Voter Service*

Irene Strohbeen

[jbstrohbeen@new.rr.com](mailto:jbstrohbeen@new.rr.com)

#### *Observer Corps*

Marlys Fritzell

[pmfritzell@att.net](mailto:pmfritzell@att.net)

#### *Natural Resources*

Leslie Taylor

[ltaylor@sustainfv.org](mailto:ltaylor@sustainfv.org)

#### *Communicaton*

Barb Dorzweiler

[bjdorz@yahoo.com](mailto:bjdorz@yahoo.com)

#### *Membership*

Stephanie Malaney

734-6750

[smalaney5@aol.com](mailto:smalaney5@aol.com)



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