

# The *informed* Voter



## League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

### February 21, 2012

#### Calendar of Events

##### March

- Tuesday, March 6, 11:30am-1:00PM, **Board Meeting**
- Wednesday, March 14, 11:45 am-1:30 pm, **Food for Thought Luncheon**,
- Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 pm, Appleton Council Meeting-
  - Dinner 5:30 Cheyenne's, Sara Companik 731-0663
- Monday, March 12, Appleton School Board, 7:00 pm-
  - Dinner 5:30 Cheyenne's, Shirley Strange 730-8774
- Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 pm, Outagamie County Board-
  - Dinner 5:00 Fratello's, Marlys Fritzell 731-0736

##### April

- Tuesday, April 3, 11:30am-1:00PM, **Board Meeting**
- Wednesday, April 11, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, **Food for Thought Luncheon**  
Karen Harkness and Julie Filapek:  
"Neighborhoods as the Heart and Soul of community Development and Civic Engagement. (Restaurant to be announced)

##### May

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



## March Event

**Our first "Food For Thought" Luncheon  
Presented by the League of Women  
Voters of Appleton**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012  
At**

**Johnathan's Italian Bistro**

**1910 N Casaloma Drive Appleton**

**Guest Speaker: Amy Oberg, MS in Studies  
of the Future. Topic: "The Future of  
Women"**

**RSVP to Sara Companik 920-731-0663**

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## **Greetings!**

**Mayoral Forum** Many thanks to Irene Strohbeen for planning and organizing this event which took place February 13 at the Appleton Public Library. The audience of 107 people had an opportunity to hear the three candidates who are running in the Primary Election, Donald Geenen, Mayor Timothy Hanna, and Alderperson Curt Konetzke. Irene moved the candidates through the questions expertly. Questions were offered by the League and from the public. The public was invited to send in questions to our email address or submit them at the forum. There was a plethora of questions covering several topics.

**Food For Thought Luncheons,** March **14 and April 11, 11:30am**, Check in with Sara Companik.

**Annual Dinner May 10, 5:30pm. Mark your calendars!! Make your reservations!! Annual Meeting Discussion: RTA Position, Local Study Items, Slate of Officers, Budget and more!!!**

**Women's Equality Day, August...Specific Date To Be Determined--** Forming a committee and you're invited to join it. Check in with Shirley....[shirleystrange@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleystrange@yahoo.com)/920-730-8774.... Terry Bergan has offered us the venue (History Museum at the Castle) and program (Woman Suffrage in Wisconsin). What's left to do???? Decide on food and beverage, publicity, invitations, etc. and have fun planning it!!

Thanks to everyone who continues to work on committees, attend events, and offer financial and moral support. Together we make a difference in our community.

## **WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY 2012**

**\*\*JOIN THE COMMITTEE TO PLAN THIS EVENT\*\***

CONTACT Shirley

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

920-730-8774

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights...

More Information on Women's Equality Day

<http://nwhp.org/resourcecenter/equalityday.php>

## **Voter Service – Voter Education: “Power the Vote!”** *by Irene Strohbeen*

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The changes in the new Voter ID law enacted in 2011 affect every aspect of voting, including Voter Registration, Absentee Ballots, and ID requirements for each phase in voting. Thus an important aspect of LWV's Voter Service this year is to provide Educational Forums for voters so that they can plan ahead and be prepared to meet all the new requirements. The Appleton Public Library with the LWV-Appleton co-sponsored an Educational Forum on January 25 where Jane Booth, Appleton Elections Clerk, answered questions about many topics related to voting and the new law. This event was captured on video for future viewing; contact us to request the DVD:

[league.appleton@yahoo.com](mailto:league.appleton@yahoo.com).

In addition, League members of the Voter Registration Committee have taken our “show on the road,” providing information and assistance on Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots to residents at Oneida Heights. We also spent a few hours at Appleton Central High School where we helped students and teachers with their Registration. So far, we have helped 20 voters to register, 2 voters to request Absentee ballots, and 1 person to get her Photo ID at the DMV. And we're just getting started!

We will begin a larger “push” on our Voter Registration Assistance for the next Early Registration period for the Spring election, from February 22 through March 14. Future plans include assisting voters in the community, at senior and low-income housing locations, and at churches and ethnic gathering places. In addition, we are assembling a system to connect voters who need a photo ID with volunteers to drive them to the DMV. We will also be pursuing a grant to provide funding for voters to obtain a birth certificate if needed for their photo IDs. Contact [league.appleton@yahoo.com](mailto:league.appleton@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities for Voter Service.

Is there any doubt why the LWV-US has adopted the phrase “Power the Vote” for this year's efforts?

## **Voter Service – Mayoral Candidates' Forum** *by Irene Strohbeen*

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On Monday February 13, the LWV-Appleton and the Appleton Public Library co-sponsored a Candidates' Forum for the Mayoral Primary election to be held on February 21. Over 100 people heard the 3 candidates Donald Geenen, Mayor Tim Hanna, and Alderperson Curt Konetzke answer questions posed by the League and from the audience. The event was well-received, with the audience and the candidates being very respectful of each other as well as the process. It was gratifying to see so many interested voters turn out on a snowy winter evening to learn more about the candidates in order to cast a more informed vote at the polls.

Once the field of candidates is narrowed to 2 based on the primary vote, the LWV-Appleton will plan to host another Candidates' Forum just prior to the April 3 election, on Wednesday March 28 from 7:00-8:30 at the Library again.

## Observer Corps Report by Marlys Fritzell

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At the last Board meeting, Barb Dorzweiler suggested we feature in The informed Voter some thoughts from members who have observed a local governmental meeting this year. What a good idea! Here are quotes from two relatively new League members who have attended meetings recently.

From Sara Companik: "There is so much to learn about my community when attending my local government meetings. It connects me to local issues, to the inner working of departments, and to the hard working government employees and elected officials who need to hear from us. Attending meetings opens our eyes to how few people are speaking on issues which ultimately affect their lives. If that means people trust what elected officials are doing, that's a good thing. If people are complacent, that's a bad thing."

From Irene Strohbeen: "I had never attended a meeting of any governmental body previously, so when I heard we would go as a group to the Appleton Common Council meeting, I realized that would be a safe and easy way to observe and learn. It was fascinating to me to see how the Common Council worked to address issues, discuss, and vote on motions. Luckily it didn't take me too long to figure out the Council's process of working through their agenda and where to find the information in the meeting handouts. It certainly helped to have the "experts" sitting next to me to answer any questions. I'm looking forward to going again when I can fit it in!"

Thank you, Sara and Irene. If you would like to experience visiting a governmental meeting, please join us in March. See the dates and locations in this newsletter.

**Observer Corp: Dinner and an opportunity to see local government in action.**

**Enjoy the company of fellow members of the Appleton League of Women Voters and attend one of the following:**

**Appleton Common Council meeting 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.**



## Lively Issues 2012 Report by Sara Companik

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The Appleton League began its program-planning year on January 21 with the annual Lively Issues discussion. 17 League members and guests were present.

From the national, state, and local positions, which have been studied and voted on for consensus, the Appleton League can take action. Our discussion began with the review of the national and state studies in progress. The state does not have a current study.

The national league is conducting a study of Privatization, whose scope is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state, or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. The consensus deadline is May 1, 2012. A group of members will participate in reading the materials from the national study for discussion and consensus. You are invited to join this discussion group, which will take place in the afternoon of April 26. This is a link to the national study. <http://www.lwv.org/content/about-privatization-study>

Next Members were brought up to date on the RTA (Regional Transit Authority) in Wisconsin and the issue of fracking.

Then Members were asked to consider studying local issues, categorized by the Appleton League Positions into Local Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policies. Discussions on the following issues were held: location of polling places, updating the library, keeping public access to the river, reducing the prison population, and the Well Woman Program. Members then discussed whether our League positions enabled us to act on these issues, and what actions League members can take. The Individual Action Policy was emphasized for action. Members present voted on their choice of a new issue to study.

### **Local Government:**

- Polling Place: City Clerk decides the polling places.
  - Library - 10 votes

### **Natural Resources**

- Public Access to Fox River-Discussion concluded that we have positions for action.
  - V. Fox River Corridor- A. 4. Public Access

### **Social Policy**

- Prison Population - It was determined that we would have a position to address this.
  - III. ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION
    - Well Woman Program – 7 votes

The detailed minutes for the 2012 Lively Issues can be found at:

[http://www.lwvappleton.org/images/stories/Lively\\_Issues\\_Minutes\\_January\\_21\\_2012.pdf](http://www.lwvappleton.org/images/stories/Lively_Issues_Minutes_January_21_2012.pdf)

We will see you at our Appleton League Annual Meeting on May 10, 2012 to vote on the program for this year.

Sara Companik  
Vice President Program

**Background:** The current position to be presented to the League of Women Voters-Appleton at the 2102 Annual Meeting supports the development of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA). We propose establishing this position under the existing position of Local Transportation.

## VIII. Local Transportation

### D. Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

1. provide a sound, dependable funding source
2. direct election of board members
3. advisory committee of users

LWV-Appleton – Local Support Position(s)

**Study Committee:** Irene Strohbeen; Stevie Schmidt; Corinne Goldgar; Marlys Fritzell; Shirley Strange, co-chair; Carolyn Mewhorter, co-chair.

### Consensus

1. Because of need for public transportation, the League of Women Voters of Appleton supports a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) that will provide sound, dependable funding. The League of Women Voters-Appleton has long had a position on Local Transportation. Valley Transit continues to serve the needs of the community providing rides for employment, medical care, personal needs, school, and entertainment. 41% of the 1,143,832 trips taken in 2010 were for employment purposes. Many employers in the Valley rely on transit to attract and retain employees.
2. Federal funding has been consistent in the past; however, the 2010 census has shown our population to be over 200,000 a point at which the federal government will withhold 1.5 million dollars in support to Valley Transit. A loss of 1.5 million dollars would result in decreased services and even possibly an end to a transit system in our area.
3. State funding is not consistent with a 10% cut being made earlier in the year (2011). Efforts to take transit out of the transportation budget and put it in the general fund have been dropped as of this writing.
4. A Regional Transit is already in place with 13 municipalities and counties participating in the service. The communities have long worked together to provide this important service which will facilitate establishing a Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

### Discussed – Without Agreement or Dissent

1. Make up of the board of a Regional Transit Authority. Election or appointment of members. Size of the board.
2. The 100 Busses Coalition.
3. Supporters of Valley Transit.
4. The Connector.
5. The School ID Ride Program.

## Possible Action Initiatives

1. Attend Transit Commission meetings when possible.
2. Monitor budgets funding transit – federal, state, and local.
3. Track legislation pertaining to transportation/transit on a regular basis and provide support as is appropriate. Keep League members aware of developments.
4. Work with other groups supporting funding for transit, e.g. ESTHER.

### Your League of Women Voters

#### Educating the Public about the Voter ID law.

Recently Shirley Strange and Irene Strohbeen were interviewed by the Post Crescent on the issues surrounding voter ID. Their interview appeared in the The Post Crescent and is available online via this link.

Here is the link to the interview that  
you can use.

[http://www.livestream.com/postcrescent/video?clipId=pla\\_3d75fd5e-33f2-41ac-8c0a-1774455d37d8](http://www.livestream.com/postcrescent/video?clipId=pla_3d75fd5e-33f2-41ac-8c0a-1774455d37d8)

# LWV Appleton Annual Meeting and Dinner

**Thursday, May 10, 2012**

**Liberty Hall Banquet and Conference Center  
800 Eisenhower Drive  
Kimberly, WI 54136**

**5:30 PM Social with cash bar  
6:00 PM Dinner  
6:45 PM Annual Meeting**

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## Family Style Dinner

Please complete and return form below with check by Wednesday, May 4, 2011 to

Sara Companik  
889 Kernan Ave., Menasha, WI 54952  
Questions- 920-731-0663 or scompanik@yahoo.com

**Please make check for \$15.00 (per person) payable to LWV-Appleton.**

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**LWV APPLETON  
Annual Meeting and Dinner  
Thursday, May 10, 2012  
RESERVATION FORM**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest(s) Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_



## 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>

## Board of Directors

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