

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

October 18, 2012

Calendar of Events

October

- Oct 18, 55th Assembly District Candidate Forum at Neenah City Hall, 211 Walnut St, 6:30 pm.
- Oct 29, 3rd Assembly District Candidate Forum at Liberty Hall, Kimberly, 7:00 pm.
- Oct 30, 56th Assembly District Candidate Forum at the Bordini Center, 7:00 pm.

November

- Nov 8, Board Meeting, 9:00 to 11:00 am.
- Nov 6, election day.

December

- Dec 6, Board Meeting, 9:00 to 11:00 am.
- Dec 8, LWV Appleton *Holiday Brunch*



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October Event

LWV-Appleton sponsors candidate forum:

**WI 56th Assembly District
Candidates
Richard Schoenbohm
David Murphy**

**Tues Oct 30, Bordini Center.
Room 103, 7:00 PM**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANK YOU MEMBERS!!! Thank you to all who were able to give a donation to the League this year beyond your membership dues. Your gracious donations total \$1,720!! Thanks to you, our mission and work continue. We have had several items on our wish list, and your donations make one very important item a reality. Barbara Kelly with her technology skills was sent, by the Board, on a mission to explore the cost of computer projectors. They are costly, but they have come down in price considerably. We have purchased a very good basic projector for \$400.00. This item has become a force for our presentations. In the past we have had to rent the use of a projector or borrow one or hope that our hosts could provide a projector. Rental cost can be as much as \$200.00. Invited speakers nearly always count on a projector for Power Point presentations. We have had complications with not having our own projector. Two experiences in the past are a testimony. At one of the presentations, the person who was supposed to provide a projector forgot to bring it. At another presentation there was an issue of not having enough time to transfer the projector from the host's needs to our computer for our presentation. You can be sure that we are grateful to have our own equipment. Thank you.

Candidate Forums: Irene Strohbeen has given an enormous amount of her time to organize the candidate forums and set up voter registration assistance sessions. Bravo Irene!! Please offer your services at the candidate forums if possible.

Holiday Brunch....Around the corner...December 8th.

Shirley Strange
October 2012



Community Presentations: WHO is the League and just what does the League do? Our state league, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, through working with focus groups found that people don't really know who we are and what we do. We want to change that. We want our community to know us better, to know our hallmark of nonpartisanship, our goals, the good work that we do, and the way we go about it. We have already begun the effort. On September 18, Irene and I presented a program for the Rotary Club at their monthly luncheon meeting. We also received an invitation from the local Wisconsin Insurance Professional's Group, and I spoke at their monthly dinner meeting. The presentations included information on the league and information about voting. We are prepared to do more presentations upon invitation. So please share the word.

Voter Service *by Irene Strohbeen*

VOTER SERVICE – HEATING UP FOR ELECTION 2012

Voter Registration Assistance

LWV-Appleton continues to help voters to register at local high schools, community clinics, local colleges, and the community dinner at Loaves and Fishes. As of this writing, we have held 13 Voter Registration Assistance (VRA) sessions, helping over 100 voters to register for the Fall election.

This voter service could not have been possible without the support of our VRA volunteers: David Haas, Shirley Strange, Sara Campanik, Penny Robinson, Miriam Douglass, Martha Swanson, Connie Kanitz, Judy Gaines, Louise Eklund, Judy Christensen, Anne Ahrens, Nancy Schanke, Deb Werth and Kay Roberts. A big THANK YOU to all of you!

Special thanks go to Jacqui Klimaszewski who generously offered to cover almost every VRA session—and did! Between Jacqui, Shirley and me (Irene Strohbeen), we are providing the needed help to voters for a total of 17 VRA sessions this Fall.

Candidate Forums

LWV-Appleton has two Candidates Forums scheduled for local state Assembly races. Questions for the candidates can be submitted to League.Appleton@yahoo.com.

District 3 includes the eastern portions of the Fox Valley—Kimberly, Little Chute, Combined Locks, Buchanan, Harrison, and parts of Appleton and Menasha. This Candidates Forum will be held on Monday October 29 at Liberty Hall from 7:00-8:30 pm. Candidates Kole Oswald, Al Ott (incumbent), and Josh Young are invited to participate.

District 56 extends from northern parts of Appleton through Grand Chute, Greenville, and into Winnebago county west of the Valley. The Candidates Forum for this district will be held on Tuesday October 30 at the Bordini Center from 7:00-8:30 pm. Candidates David Murphy and Richard Schoenbohm will attend.

Voter Turnout

During this election year, LWV reminds you of the importance of voter turnout. The US historically has a very low percentage of voter turnout among eligible voters, typically just over 60% during a presidential election year. Turnout is even lower during a mid-term election, around 45%. And, these numbers are truly abysmal in comparison to other democracies: The US typically is in the bottom quartile or worse of any list of countries for % Voter turnout. Indeed, some countries require citizens to vote, thus achieving over 96% turnout.

Interestingly, among registered voters in the US, the turnout percentage is much higher: around 95%. This statistic emphasizes the value in helping voters to register, hopefully converting those that are “eligible” to “committed” voters!

Issue Briefing, Saturday, October 14, 2012

Madison, WI

It was a packed day of information. We heard from Helen Marks Dicks, Associate Director for State Advocacy, AARP-WI, on state and federal issues on healthcare. She stated that the Affordable Health Care Act will not be repealed...that repealing a law is extremely difficult to accomplish. But, she said, stops, delays and other steps will be used to ambush it. She predicts a spring war over Medicare, Medicaid and ACA. AARP is setting up teleactivists all over the state to respond to legislation that would be detrimental to Medicaid, the area she is most worried about.

Elizabeth Wheeler, Staff Attorney for Clean Wisconsin gave us information on mining that raised our concerns over keeping Wisconsin beautiful and environmentally safe. Wisconsin has very desirable sand that companies want to use to extract natural gas found in underground formations. The process is known as*fracking. Here in Wisconsin, we are dealing with sand mining. Wisconsin has seen an increase of sand mines, from 60 to 87 in 10 months. Ms. Wheeler warns us that there are no real state regulations for sand mining in Wisconsin. There is concern over harm to our environment as the number of these mines increase.

Joel Rogers, professor of law, political science, public affairs and sociology at UW-Madison and Director of Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) spoke about Wisconsin's economy. The employment picture is bleak, but he offered ideas for dealing with the economy. He recommended smart growth-building up and out so that infrastructure use can be maximized and that manufacturing should compete on productivity and quality, not just on price.

Elizabeth McNamara, United States League President, delivered a rousing message. The US League is working across our nation to help states give voice in our fight to preserve Democracy. Elizabeth states that there are two tenets paramount to Democracy, THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH and THE RIGHT TO VOTE. She explains that the Supreme Court ruling in Citizens vs. United sets the bar very high preserving free speech. Not so with Voting Rights. The Supreme Court is setting the bar very low regarding the voter's rights. This is of great concern and puts the League on the front lines across our nation to fight for our citizens' basic right to vote.

Melanie Ramey, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin State President, spoke on the status of the Voter ID lawsuit. It is in the Appeals Court. Here is the message I want to share with our Appleton League Members.....Melanie said that when the state league decided to bring forth the lawsuit against the State of Wisconsin, there was no money to do this. Melanie stated that they went ahead knowing it was the RIGHT THING TO DO with the hopes that the money would come from those who care about the right to vote. The money came...Melanie said they received \$190,000. We care in Wisconsin. That amount of money is not uncommon for lawsuits. But, now that the lawsuit is in the Appeals Court, Melanie reports that the **state needs another \$5,000**. She threatened (with her usual coyness) to lock the doors on us until we handed over a check. If you are in a position to offer a donation to the state league, you can imagine it will be appreciated. Information for donations to support the League lawsuit:

<http://www.lwwi.org/Donate/WaystoSupporttheLeaguesVoterIDLawsuit.aspx>

** Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking). The term refers to the act of using high powered pumping equipment to force water, sand and proprietary mixtures of chemicals deep into the Earth's crust with extreme pressure in an attempt to literally shatter (fracture) formations of shale, a type of rock, and in doing so liberate natural gas trapped in the rock. Other high powered and very complex equipment then collects both the fracking solution and any freed natural gas at the surface.*



Sara Companik, Penny Robinson, Irene Strohbeen, and Shirley Strange join LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara and LWVWI President Melanie Ramey at Madison, Wisconsin.

Program by Sara Companik

December

Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 8 @ 10:30 AM
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel

Women's Access to Health Care

Speaker: Kristine Stacker
Fox Cities Community Health Center

January

Lively Issues

Saturday, January 19 @ 10:30 AM
Appleton Public Library

Discussion of Local, State, and National Positions,
Library Study progress, and New Study Proposals

February

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, February 5 @ 11:30-1:30 PM
Radisson Hotel, Lawrence Room

Speaker: Jane Anne Morris
Corporate Anthropologist

Author of *Gaveling Down the Rabble: How "Free Trade" is Stealing Our Democracy* Website: democracythemepark.org

March

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, March 5 @ 11:30-1:30 PM
Radisson Hotel, Lawrence Room

Speakers: Cindy Sahotsky and Oren Jakobson
Riverview Gardens Appleton
Executive Director and Manager

April

Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, April 2 @ 11:30-1:30 PM
Radisson Hotel, Lawrence Room

Speaker: Becky Boulanger
Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, Executive Director

OBSERVER CORPS MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

AASD meets at 7 p.m. every other Monday

City Council meets at 7 p.m. every other Wednesday

Outagamie County Board meets at 6:30 p.m. every other Tuesday

Refer to the individual websites for further information.

AASD: www.aasd.k12.us/Schoolboard/

Appleton City Council: www.appleton.org

Outagamie County Board: www.outagamie.org



ONE MORE REMINDER: CANDIDATE FORUMS!

Wisconsin 55th Assembly District

Thursday, October 18. Neenah City Hall, 211 Walnut Street.

6:30 PM

Candidates are Republican incumbent Deant Kaufert, Democrat Jim Crail, Libertarian Rich Martin.

Wisconsin 3rd Assembly District

Monday, October 29, Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly

7:00 PM

Candidates are Republican incumbent Al Ott, democrat Kole Oswald, Independent Josh Young.

Wisconsin 56th Assembly District

Tuesday, October 30, Bordini Center Room 103. 5 North Systems Drive, Appleton

7:00 PM

Candidates are Democrat Richard Schoenbohm, Republican David Murphy. (The incumbent is not seeking re-election.)

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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