

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

March 21, 2013

Calendar of Events

March

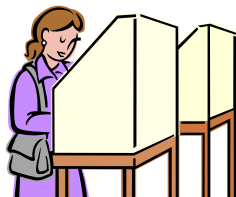
- March 21, general meeting for library study, 2:00 pm speaker, at the library.

April

- April 2, Lunch and Learn, 11:30-1:30 pm.
- April 4, Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- April 5, Library Study Committee meeting, 9:00-11:00 am.
- April 10, general meeting for library study, 2:00pm speaker, at the library.

May

- May 2, Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- May 16, LWV Appleton Annual Meeting and Dinner, 5:30-8:30PM. Liberty Hall, Kimberly.



VOTE APRIL 2nd

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April Event

Our Local Study: for all members!

The Library of the Future
Gary Golden, Futurist and Speaker
Wednesday, April 10
2:00 pm

Appleton Public Library, lower level

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone!!!

The articles in this newsletter are a testament to the work of the Appleton League of Women Voters. Bravo to the leadership of the Board. I would like to point out one of the notable things about league this year, one that has inspired the Board, and that is ***your participation***. Volunteering even for one event in the year is greatly appreciated and very, very helpful. And it truly allows us to accomplish so much more in the community, and, in turn, our name and work remain in the public eye. This brings more interest in membership as well and financial support. So bravo to us all!! Let us encourage each other to keep up the good work.



Shirley Strange
March 2013

Local Study *Miriam Douglass, Chair*

Thursday, March 21, 2:00 pm. Speaker Anton Tony Nelessen, urban designer and architect, at the APL.

and

Library Futures Series
Garry Golden, Professional Futurist
Wednesday, April 10, 2:00 PM
Appleton Public Library, Lower Level

**This is important information for our
local study of the APL!**

<http://www.garrygolden.net/>

Spring Candidates Forums a Success

Spring is officially on its way: it's now Daylight Savings time, and the League has completed two Candidate Forums and three high school voter registration assistance sessions for the upcoming Spring Elections on April 2.

On Wednesday March 13, our League's Voter Service hosted a Candidates Forum for candidates running for three seats on the Appleton Common Council: for Districts 3, 5, and 13. Unfortunately one of the incumbents, Curt Konetzke, was unable to attend due a family medical emergency, but the remaining five candidates answered seven questions from the audience within little over an hour.



After the City Council Forum, we then moved on to the AASD School Board election. In this Forum, four candidates are running for two Board seats. The audience submitted many thoughtful questions, and the candidates provided answers to nine of those questions within one hour.



The League has also created a Voters' Guide based on candidate answers to submitted questions, to be posted on the LWV website at least one week prior to the election. Look for it at www.lwwappleton.org.

Lunch and Learn 2013

Riverview Gardens is a way of engaging the Fox Valley in community stewardship, in community compassion, and in sustainability. That was the message from the Riverview Gardens and COTS Executive Director Cindy Sahotsky and Riverview Gardens Manager Oren Jakobson on Tuesday, March 5th. The vision of the COTS Board to purchase Riverview Country Club and organize it into a socially innovative, self-supporting venture is in its second year. There is a mission to collaborate with local outreach organization in ending poverty, homelessness, and unemployment in the greater community. Starting this year there will be a market garden program to purchase locally grown food. Riverview Gardens is collaborating with other local growers. Produce will be sold to restaurants and at 4 Appleton area produce markets including the Farmers' Market. They will be growing food all year long in the ten hoop houses on the property. The Community Center is used by nonprofits for office space, and can be rented for events. Even cooking classes by local chefs is in the plan. Also unemployment for COTS residents is addressed through job training opportunities and work at the gardens. A community park space for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing are available on the property. Volunteerism has been highlighted with over 700 volunteers this year from all age groups. With various outreach programs, people are brought together to help change the community's perceptions of people in need. Riverview Gardens is creating a unique model as a win-win venture in the Fox Valley.

[Hear what another community gem is doing at our next Lunch and Learn](#)

Tuesday, April 2, 2013
Radisson Paper Valley in Lawrence Room
11:30 am-1:30 pm

Speaker:

Becky Boulanger

Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, Executive Director

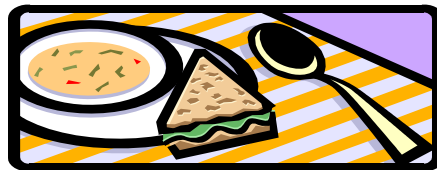
Topic:

The Women's Fund
& the Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin Report

\$17.00

RSVP by Friday, March 29

Sara Companik 731-0663 or scompanik@yahoo.com



AASD Board meets at 7 p.m. every other Monday

Appleton 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

The Appleton League of Women Voters can use the help of its members to observe at the Appleton City Council meeting, the Outagamie County Board meeting or the Appleton Area School meeting sometime during the League calendar year. League visibility all year long keeps the Appleton League vital to the community as a watchdog group, an outreach group, and a citizen action group. Would you consider joining in? **Contact Sara Companik.**



Legislative News by Penny Robinson

REPORT FROM LWVWI LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE meeting of Feb. 27, 2013

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

According to Governor Walker's proposed budget, public transit would see a continued cut from the previous budget that amounts to \$23.6 million dollars in operating assistance. Additionally, Governor Walker proposes that transit be moved out of the designated Transportation Fund to the general fund in 2014 where it will compete with other programs such as education and health care.

The move to pull transit from the designated fund comes just before the state is set to take a vote that would amend the state constitution making the designated Transportation Fund unable to be used for purposes other than transportation. It is clear that the current leadership is determined to build roads and bridges at the cost of transit and the many other programs in the general fund.

The Governor's budget is in direct contradiction with his own *Transportation Finance and Policy Commission*, which called for an increase of an annual investment of \$36.3 million over ten years for transit assistance and to maintain its funding through the state transportation fund.

LWVWI Legislative Committee agreed to support and advocate for the following:

1. Oppose moving the funding for public transit out of the designated Transportation Fund.

2. Again, call for 10% funding (\$23.6 million) that was cut from the current biennium be restored to public transit assistance.

It was agreed to find out if the league has a position related to the amendment to the state constitution to protect the Transportation Fund (Assembly Joint Resolution 2)

HEALTHCARE – League opposes turning away Medicaid Expansion

In a statement issued on Feb 14: “The League of Women Voters is extremely disappointed that Governor Walker has chosen to turn down billions of federal Medicaid dollars designated under the Affordable Care Act to ensure that low-income uninsured Americans can get health insurance coverage. Because of the Governor’s decision, Wisconsin’s share of the funding will now be available for people in other states.”

CAMPAIGN FINANCE – Constitutional amendment nullifying *Citizens United*

Sue Lloyd asked if the League should join Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG) and a coalition called *Money Out – Voters in Wisconsin*. The coalition is supporting an advisory referendum on the statewide ballot in 2014 to call for a U.S. constitutional amendment to say that corporations are not individuals and money is not speech and Congress and states can limit corporations regarding campaign spending.

Mental Health

The Task Force on Mental Health plans about 4 hearings around the state by May 31; the first one was in Madison on February 27. Invited speakers are many and cover the main groups who are advocates for the mentally ill. There will be opportunity for public input following testimony by the invited groups. Some bills may be introduced following the task force hearings. **Watch for a hearing in our area.**

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mining Bill – Andrea Kaminski was at the Senate hearing. It was passed by both the Senate and Assembly and was signed by the governor.

Federal Farm Bill - A Memo was submitted from the President of LWV-Illinois to Toni Larson, LWVUS Advocacy Chair, on the 2013 Farm Bill. LWV-Illinois states the Farm Bill merits LWVUS attention and action for two reasons: Climate change and food safety. It suggests focusing on three topics for advocacy:

1. Conservation programs – related to protecting surface waters from nutrient and pesticide runoff and sequestering carbon, complicated by an error in the Jan 1, 2013 extension of the 2008 Farm Bill resulting in farmers’ ineligibility to sign up for the Conservation Stewardship Program this year.
2. Sustainable agriculture and research programs
3. The budget and appropriations for food safety programs

Why now? The Farm Bill only gets reauthorized every five to seven years. The 2011 LWVIL voted to conduct an update agriculture study. LWVUS declined to make the Farm Bill a priority in 2012, and Congress only extended it to the end of September 2012. In Oct 2012 Congress extended it to the end of the year. Congress again extended it to the end of the fiscal year 2013. Because there may not be League in-house expertise to engage in this advocacy, LWVIL is urging LWVUS to consider joining like-minded coalitions devoted to these issues.

LAKE MICHIGAN

A report was submitted, summarizing the top issues for Great Lakes Day 2013: (March 6-7, D.C.)

- Supporting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to attack the most urgent threats like Asian carp, toxic pollution contaminating rivers and bays, habitat and wetland loss, and urban and farm runoff that leads to algal blooms and degraded water quality. The latest reports can be found at www.healthylakes.org
- Strengthening Great Lakes Restoration – new legislation is needed that puts in place a permanent Great Lakes restoration framework to guarantee continued restoration success.
- Stopping Asian Carp and Other Invasive Species

Other possible issues:

- Protecting Farm Bill conservation programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program provide funding for restoration efforts and improve the quality of river and streams that flow into the Great Lakes – pushing Congress to ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finishes its study on permanently preventing Asian Carp – and other invasive species – from invading the Great Lakes.
- Stopping sewer overflows.

2013 Great Lakes Conference in Milwaukee - 9th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference

Hosted by the Healing Our Waters®- Great Lakes Coalition

September 10-12, 2013 – More information at <http://conference.healthylakes.org>

CORRECTIONS/JUVENILE JUSTICE

Barb Hussin reported the Governor's proposed budget moves the Office of Justice Assistance, including TAD to the Dept. of Justice, but is not given much new money. Dept. of Corrections is given new funding for collection of DNA of \$9.3 million. She encouraged the league to send out information on 11 X 15, prison reform.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES - **Governor Walker's Budget**

OPPOSITION TO VOUCHERS – Andrea Kaminski submitted a statement in opposition to vouchers on March 5, 2013 for the Grandparents United for Madison Public Schools:

"The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes any expansion in our state of the private school voucher program, which diverts funding from public school districts while not demanding accountability from the voucher schools."

CONSUMER (non)PROTECTION

March 3 (Post-Crescent) "Republican Gov. Scott Walker has quietly tucked provisions into his executive budget that would free rent-to-own businesses from Wisconsin's consumer protection act, ensuring they would **not** have to disclose what industry opponents say are exorbitant interest rates."

Penny Robinson
Legislative Director



LWV Appleton Annual Meeting for Member Review:

1. Program: Recommended and Non-recommended study.

Appleton League of Women Voters Program 2013-2014

Local Study: Our current study will update our position on the public library. We will be prepared for a possible new library proposal and be able to take informed action if the city puts the issue to a voter referendum.

The Focus: What will the Future Library Look like?

The Appleton League local study committee was established in 2012 and continues its 2 year study. Miriam Douglass is the committee chair.

Recommended Program: There is no new recommended study for 2013-2014.

Non-recommended Program: Provide the membership and the public with information on vouchers and public education.

2. Nominees for the Board

2013-2015 Nomination Slate

President:	Sara Companik
2nd Vice-President:	Kim Wetzel
Secretary:	Lois Bressette
One year Director:	Miriam Douglass
Two year Director:	Karen Jansen
Two year Director:	Jacqui Klimeszewski
Two year Director:	Gayle Hardt

Continuing Board Members (year 2 of 2)

Vice President/Action/VS:	Irene Strohbeen
Director/ Membership:	Stephanie Malaney
Treasurer:	Barb Kelly
Directory/Legislative:	Penny Robinson

Nominating committee 2014:
Shirley Strange, Chair, Nadine Miller, Jan Quinlan

Respectfully submitted, 2013 LWV Nominating Committee,
Jan Quinlan, Chair, Sue Eich, Nadine Miller, Irene Strohbeen, Penny Robinson

3. Proposed Budget

The budget is attached in your email as a separate document. Please refer to your email.

LWV Appleton Annual Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, May 16, 2013

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

Family Style Dinner

Please complete form below and mail with check by Wednesday, May 8 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.

LWV APPLETON Annual Meeting and Dinner Thursday, May 16, 2013

RESERVATION FORM

Your Name: _____

Guest(s) Name(s): _____

Total Attending: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Your Representatives

President Barack Obama
president@whitehouse.gov

US Senators

Wisconsin Senator: Tammy Baldwin

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 – David Murphy

40th - Kevin Petersen

6th - Gary Tauchen

5th - Jim Steineke

3rd - Alvin Ott

search <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/Index.aspx>

Board of Directors

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Shirley Strange
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shirleystrange@yahoo.com

Vice-President – Action and Voter Service
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Vice-President – Program and Observer Corps
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Transportation Study Chair
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