

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin
"Serving the citizens of the Appleton Area & Outagamie County"

April 18, 2013

Calendar of Events

May

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All,

Annual Meeting: A big reminder to get your reservations in for the annual meeting. Thursday, May 16, Liberty Hall Banquet Center, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly, 54136. Come and lend your support for the nominated slate of officers. Oh, what a group!!! And learn about the plans for the Appleton League's 75th Anniversary Celebration!!!

Thanks to Irene Strohbeen for all of the voter service activities-- candidate forums, the voter guide, and voter registration assistance. Such good work!!

Thanks to Sara Companik for the wonderful programming, three lunch and learns-all interesting information. At the March Lunch and Learn we learned about Riverview Gardens. We hope to set up a field trip to see firsthand the wonderful transformation of Riverview Country Club to Riverview Gardens.

Miriam Douglass Chair of the local library study and has offered us the opportunity to stretch our imaginations. A wonderful presentation was given March 21 by urban planner Tony Nelessen, revitalizing cities in the 21st century. We were enthused. And we were especially happy to see several council members present as well as the mayor. Next opportunity to let your imaginations soar is April 10, with Futurist, Garry Golden, APL, 2:00PM.



Shirley Strange
April 2013



Voter Service by Irene Strohbeen

With the Spring election completed, Voter Service can turn attention to legislative activities. On Thursday March 28, Shirley Strange presented the LWV statement at a press conference against limiting Early Voting hours statewide. This conference was organized by Organizing for Action; many LWV members attended to support the defeat of Assembly Bill 54.

The Election Protection Coalition set Wednesday April 17 as Lobby Day for Voting Rights in Madison. The day consisted of instruction on how to lobby, lobbying, and a press conference.

Work is continuing on the Spanish and Hmong language instructional videos on the voting process. Jacqui Klimaszewski and Shirley Strange are leading this effort. This voter service will have significant impact: at North high school, the faculty sponsor of the Hmong club requested Hmong language forms during our Voter Registration Assistance session for his students, and he planned to take students to City Hall to register as well as to vote early. Clearly any voter support in native languages and in English will be valuable.

Program by Sara Companik

Lunch and Learn

April 2, 2013

The League, April 2, Lunch and Learn topic of the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region was informative, inspiring, with a thought provoking discussion on women's issues. Becky Boulanger, Executive Director of the Women's Fund shared its mission, history, and growth since inception in 1994. The Women's Fund has strengthened our community by working to create positive social change and more opportunities for women and girls. Starting from 100 donors and \$100,000, to an endowment now of nearly \$1,200,000, the Women's Fund has granted more than \$677,000.

The mission goes beyond granting money, the Women's Fund educates and advocates for economic self-sufficiency, leadership development, violence prevention, and mental and physical health. Our community has benefited from having a local Women's Fund.

Sara Companik
Program

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 **\$17.00 (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: _____

The League of Women Voters of Appleton will arrive at the end of our study with an updated position on the public library, ready for action. The Appleton Public Library is also examining the challenges the library will face in the near future. To that end, the APL presented the Library Futures Series and I was fortunate to hear two engaging and thought provoking speakers.

Urban Planner Tony Nelessen spoke at the library on March 21. Mr. Nelessen is a Little Chute native and gave his listeners an over-arching view of change over the generations. Those who currently inhabit the earth are the GI generation, The Baby Boomers (born 1959-1960), The Generation X-ers, The Millennials (born 1982-2002), and some of Generation Z (born 2003-2022). Mr Nelessen discussed the time of "massive change" we are living in now, and that any organized body must have a long term vision and plan to survive. He cited the work "Massive Change" by Bruce Mau and Jennifer Leonard. Mr Nelessen expresses the message of this 2004 work which implies the design of our future will lurch out of "boardrooms and tidy disciplines" and use systems of movement and systems of information to create a world of "unprecedented interconnectivity". He gave examples of this movement beginning in urban areas worldwide. They are responding to "the re-emergence of a social, environmental and community consciousness" that incorporates these concepts:

- Cities must be a destination for business, information, and entertainment.
- Rehabilitation of urban land. Development of green buildings.
- Pedestrian access in our urban centers 24/7/365
- Greenways integrated into the urban landscape
- Increased access to multi nodal transportation system and decreased vehicle miles traveled by 65%
- Mandated energy conservation
- Parking pushed to outskirts of urban centers
- Rural land maintained for food production that moves into the urban center it surrounds.

Then on April 10, Appleton Public Library hosted Futurist Garry Golden. Mr. Golden discussed how libraries can anticipate societal changes and move toward the future while embracing those changes. Mr. Nelessen also discussed the inevitability of change. His discipline of Future Studies encourages listeners to "imagine multiple outcomes in a world of constraints", to "avoid being surprised" and not to do more with less but "do different things with less." He asserted the most important drivers of change are the need for lifelong learning, local (community) resilience, and place & space design. In his view, libraries need to discard the old concept of "Outputs", that is, collecting data on how many books, how many users, etc., and embrace the new concept of "Outcomes". Outcomes will enable libraries to capture how they have changed lives. How has the library contributed to one's mastery of skills, successful job searches, learning objectives? This will inevitably convert libraries to centers of learning with vastly increased connectivity in all realms of the community. Instead of managing and curating books, the library may manage and curate a collection of online instructors, both community and celebrity instructors. He challenged libraries to supply "a platform of behavior change" using all aspects of technology to coordinate data and provide information. Many current trends are paving the way for this massive information conversion: internet users go to YouTube to learn everything from plumbing to quilting. Students participate in online college courses. Job seekers create online portfolios on the LinkedIn website.

Mr. Golden described how community surveys help solidify planning goals for communities. They help communities become more self-aware and contribute to civic planning. There are many "citizen tools" like these in use nationwide. He recommends the information needs to come out of "silos" and be made transparent via community dashboards. A dashboard would display key indicators for social needs and civic growth. Not only new services but new spaces should evolve from the data to meet the needs for collaboration, social networking, and creative aging.

Both speakers were fascinating and brought many ideas for us to consider. From here, we move forward to the challenges that await us.

To learn more about Mr. Nelessen go to <http://www.anelessen.com/>

To learn more about Mr. Golden, go to <http://www.garrygolden.net/>

Barb Dorzweiler, Local Study Committee Member

Wisconsin Legislative Notification Service - Committee subscriptions now available
To receive notifications of any legislative committee activity, you need to set up an account at: <https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov>. Click on the committees icon. You will be able to select any committees you wish to follow. None of the other features (including subject) are working yet. For more information on how to use the site, follow this link:

<https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/Home/Help#Committeeslwvwi>

LWVWI LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ACTION (March 27, 2013)

Members of the Committee agreed to testify at the budget hearings by the Joint Finance Committee held around the state. Any member of the LWV can submit testimony as an individual. Written testimony can be emailed to: budgetcomments@legis.wisconsin.gov

Health Care/aging – Patricia Finder Stone reported that the unethical efforts of tobacco marketers continue as they push the “new” products to kids and mislead the public about their health risks. Products, such as little cigars and dissolvable tobacco, come in flavors (cherry, mint, chocolate, grape, etc.) and in shapes as candy, lip balm, and mints. A loophole in WI law allows them to be treated differently than cigarettes, making them cheaper and more accessible to kids. Efforts are being made to close this loophole

Corrections – The League agreed to support SB37 which would establish an independent pardon council (9 reserve judges appointed by governor and approved by the senate) to review each request for pardon and recommend to the governor and legislature.

Natural Resources – Caryl Terrell reported that Senator Vinehout has proposed five bills regarding frack sand mining – to the effect that citizens and local government have a right to know about prospecting and exploration studies and supervising of closing or abandoning mines in their area. The League agreed to support these.

WI needs two alternate delegates to Lake Michigan. 9th Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference in Milwaukee is September 10-12, 2013. More information at <http://conference.healthylakes.org>

Regional Transit – Penny Robinson reported that Senator Ellis is set to introduce RTA legislation any day, and that Rep Steinike will probably introduce the bill in the Assembly.

Campaign Finance – The League agreed to join a coalition called *Money Out- Voters in WI* (WISPERG) for an advisory state referendum to support an amendment to the U.S. constitution against Citizens United, i.e.

- Corporations are not individuals
- Money is not speech, and
- Election spending can be regulated

Penny Robinson
Legislative Director

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>

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