

The *informed* Voter



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

May 16, 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Members,

The last four years as president of the League of Women Voters have been rewarding in so many ways. The people, places and events made my "retirement" years exciting, challenging in the best way, and fulfilling. Thank you for your support as a leader of this wonderful organization. Thank you for your ongoing support and membership in the league. It is an honor to participate at any level in an organization begun by strong, courageous women and carried on by strong, courageous women and men working together, keeping a watchful eye, taking action, and learning, always learning. We work to make communities stronger, to defend democracy, to fight the good fight. And we will not give up. We are needed now just as much as ever to inform and educate the voters in a way the League does so well, with substantive information from a nonpartisan point of view. We will also, as the League also does so well, rally behind our next group of leaders with support and gratitude and eager anticipation to do more good work!

Thank you.

Shirley

BARBARA HOFFMAN

IN MEMORY

I first met Barb Hoffman in 1968, soon after I'd moved to Appleton and joined League. Moving to Wisconsin after growing up in NYC and living in Africa, seemed like I had come to a different country. Barb, however, made me feel right at home. She spoke her mind, had a hearty laugh, and was a force to be reckoned with. 'Discussions' which included Barb and Corinne Goldgar were intense and lively, and Barb was most definitely a mover and shaker. I am sorry for her loss.

Phyllis Dintenfass

Barbara was one of my League mentors. When I think of her I think of this reflective, cantankerous yet respectful (if you were on her side) person, who loved a spirited discussion and loved the League. I served on a committee about Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas as we sought to have the Appleton-Oshkosh area get this designation from the federal government that would make us eligible for beneficial federal government programs. She hired me as the volunteer receptionist for Planned Parenthood here in Appleton. She took on the Director's position when they first opened their doors by in the mid-70's. My son was just a few months old at the time and I was nursing, so she let me have him with me by the reception desk. I smile when I think of the expression on her face and the twinkle in her eye when she had a new idea she wanted to get your reaction to. She will be missed. I miss her already.

Cathy Thompson

I met Barbara only nine years ago. I moved to Appleton and joined the League of Women Voters. During my first year in League, I went to the state league's annual meeting in Madison with Barbara. She and I drove and roomed together. I remember serving her a cup of coffee in bed. Well, after all, she was the senior member and I was the neophyte. Her health made it difficult for her to function in the mornings, but that did not stop her. She made the adjustments, such as finding someone to serve breakfast in bed, and carried on. On that trip, I learned of Barbara's intelligence and her gentle heart underneath the curmudgeon personality. Barbara served on the local study for the RTA just two years ago. It was her and Corinne's last league study and the last time they worked together on a league project. What a privilege it was to watch these two fine women still showcasing their spirit and intelligence and their commitment to this community. Personally, I was very, very fond of Barbara and collectively, we experience a great loss.

Shirley Strange

Updating the LWV Position on the Appleton Public Library Local Program for 2012-13

Can libraries survive in the digital age? There is convincing evidence that the answer is YES! – not only survive, but thrive. The internet has had a major impact on how people find and access information and e-books are helping to change reading habits. In a recent study of Americans ages 16 and older the Pew Research Center found that many patrons are eager to see digital services expand, yet also want print books to hold their central place. The availability of free computers and internet access now joins book lending and reference expertise as a vital service of libraries.

The study found that

- 80% of Americans say borrowing books is a “very important” service libraries provide.
- 80% say reference librarians are a “very important” service of libraries.
- 77% say free access to computers and the internet is a “very important” service of libraries (especially important for those with lower income).

They also say they would embrace even wider uses of technology at libraries such as

- Online research services allowing patrons to pose questions and get answers from librarians
- Apps-based access to library materials and programs
- Access to technology “petting zoos” to try out new devices
- GPS-navigation apps to help patrons locate material inside library buildings
- “Redbox”-style lending machines or kiosks located throughout the community where people can check out books, movies or music without having to go to the library itself and
- “Amazon”-style customized book/audio/video recommendation schemes that are based on patrons’ prior library behavior.

Priorities on which services libraries should offer to the public were

- Coordinating more closely with local schools (85%)
- Offering free literacy programs to help young children (82%)
- Having more comfortable spaces for reading, working, and relaxing (59%) and
- Offering a broader selection of e-books (53%).

The study found that 53% of Americans visited a library or bookmobile and another 6% either visited a library website or used a handheld device to access a library website. The link to this study is

<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/22/library-services/>

This week on NPR’s On Point Tom Ashbrook explored the future of the library in the digital age with Anthony Marx, president and CEO of the New York Public Library and Eli Neiburger, associate director of information technology and production at Ann Arbor District Library. Both find that use of their libraries continues to increase (as does use of the Appleton Public Library). The public wants access to information and new ideas. The library provides a free, unbiased source of information. A librarian can quickly access information and assess whether it is good or not. The public needs access to computers and free Internet use. A centrally-located library is an anchor for a community where people can come together. It is the “3rd space” (not home or work/school). A library provides programs for people of all ages. The link to this interesting conversation is <http://onpoint.wbur.org/2013/05/07/future-of-libraries>

Voter Legislation Continues

Legislation about voting continues to heat up, both in terms of ways to suppress the vote as well as innovative ways to facilitate voting. On Wednesday April 17, Irene Strohbeen and Lois Bressette traveled to Madison to participate in Lobby Day for Voting Rights. Irene spoke as the LWV representative, encouraging our legislators to support voting by seeking more innovative ways to improve the entire process, rather than proposing legislation to set up roadblocks to voters. Participants also lobbied their legislators regarding AB54 which would standardize Early Voting hours to 7:00 am to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday only for the 2 weeks preceding the election. This measure would reduce in-person Early Voting hours in those larger municipalities that are open late in the evening and on weekends to accommodate voters with busy work week schedules.

At the press conference, three new bills were introduced: a bill by Rep. Sandy Pasch to provide additional locations for Early Voting, and two bills proposed by Rep. Terese Berceau to provide SRDs by county rather than by municipality, plus a proposed bill by that would make it permissible for voters to register on line, which is already allowable in 12 states (including Arizona), passed in 4 states pending implementation, and proposed in 14 other states.

Wisconsin Eye captured the entire press conference on video; the link is here: <http://www.wiseye.org/videoplayer/vp.html?sid=9913>

\$200 Joyce Foundation grant!

We are pleased to announce that LWV-Appleton has received a \$200 grant from the Joyce Foundation to continue working on the Spanish and Hmong language instructional videos on the voting process. While these grants are typically made for voter education forums, clearly this project was seen as an innovative way to reach our non-English speaking voters.



LWV Appleton 4th ANNUAL WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY CELEBRATION

The League is planning to celebrate Women's Equality Day for the fourth year. Plans are being made, dates are being discussed, and Committees are forming.

Sara Companik
Program

Program by Sara Companik

In May of 2014, The Appleton League of Women Voters will be 75 years old! In order to celebrate this momentous occasion, a 75th anniversary committee, chaired by Shirley Strange has been formed. Members are Marcia Hittle, Irene Strohbeen, Carolyn Mewhorter, Sara Companik and Sue Eich. In order to maximize our exposure to the public we are centering activities around the June 2014 state annual meeting to be held in Appleton. We plan to ask the mayor to declare that week Appleton League of Women Voters Week and seek permission to hang banners from the College Ave. light posts in the center of downtown. We hope to send out letters to selected area organizations to tell them of our anniversary and let them know we are available to speak at a meeting of their group to explain League. To that end we will be working on a power point presentation. We will be hosting the Fri. night social at the state meeting and would like to present a Democracy Award to a member of the public who has truly displayed the spirit of democracy. This person would be nominated by and voted on by our League members. We would hope to make this a continuing event.

We have identified 5 subcommittees that we feel will be needed. They are

- 1) a coordinator to work with the state League for us hosting the annual meeting. Ideally, this person will be appointed to the board for this year.
- 2) people to work on the power point presentation.
- 3) public relations
- 4) hosting the Fri. night social
- 5) fundraising.

Pick one that interests you and sign up with the anniversary committee. This is a celebration for all of us!!

Sue Eich
Anniversary Committee

Legislative News by Penny Robinson

FROM LWVUS

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the [National Voter Registration Act](#) (NVRA). The League of Women Voters, which was instrumental in the landmark legislation's passage, is marking the date as we await a Supreme Court decision that will impact the voter registration process for millions of future voters

Commonly known as the "Motor Voter Act," the NVRA streamlined voter registration, making it easier for citizens to register to vote, and protecting against state restrictions on voter registration for federal elections. On March 18, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a critical voting rights case, [Arizona v. Inner Tribal Council, Inc.](#), which seeks to limit those critical federal protections. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) submitted [an amicus brief](#) and the League of Women Voters of

Budget Hearings: League members from around the state testified at the Joint Finance Committee hearings in support of funding for Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD), in support of public transit, against expansion of vouchers, and in support of accept federal dollars for Medicaid/BadgerCare expansion.

LWVWI Legislative Committee News - LWVWI agreed to support five bills introduced by Vinehout on the authority of local governments to hold public hearings. The state League agreed to support **SB398 through 402 – related to our right to know about sand frack mining**. Currently there are very minimal regulations on sand fracking; currently companies can mine under homes without notifying the owners.

Lois Bressette has agreed to be our representative on the state committee working on redistricting.

The new book, ***The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks*** by Dr. Janne Theoharis is recommended. It deals with the transit boycott that also started the career Martin Luther King Jr.

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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