

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

www.lwvappleton.org

September 2013

Upcoming League Program Event



Affordable Care Act Forum Panel:

Wednesday, September 18 6:00 to 8:00 pm Appleton Public Library

Sara Finger, Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health

Michael Bare, Community Advocates,, Public Policy Institute

Lisa Lamkins, Advocacy Director, AARP Wisconsin

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JOIN the LWV of Appleton for a Webinar and Discussion

Affordable Care Act and the Implementation of the Health Insurance Marketplace in Wisconsin

Thursday, September 19 at 4:00

Appleton Public Library Room D

RSVP and questions to: Irene Strohbeen ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com

Cathy Leonis, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, has offered to provide an afternoon webinar to Leaguemembers in Wisconsin to hear about the Affordable Care Act and the implementation of the Health Insurance Marketplace in Wisconsin. Ms. Leonis will provide an overview of the Marketplace, application process and in-person assistance that will be available starting October 1, 2013.

Human Trafficking in Wisconsin



Thursday, October 17

6:30 -8:30 PM

Looking forward to October, LWV Appleton is partnering with the Appleton Public Library to co-sponsor a special program that will prove enlightening for the community. Our October program focuses on the disturbing incidence of human trafficking in Wisconsin, especially northeast Wisconsin. Women and young girls in fragile emotional and financial situations are the primary victims of this, but those who are perpetrating these crimes are also taking advantage of young boys.

Come hear Lyn Beyer, executive director of REACH Counseling, speak about this issue, the task force she is on to address this abusive matter, and the different agencies that are working together in coordination to help those affected by this often violent, coercive crime.

Kim Wetzel

VP Program

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Companik

Dear Members,

LWV of Appleton has had an eventful summer. We celebrated Women's Equality Day, launched a new website, and announced the upcoming 75th Anniversary.

We welcome [Marcia Engen](#), [Cindy Fallona](#), [Cheryl Reissmann](#), and [Deborah Wetter](#) as new league members this year. Welcome to past member and long time supporter [Marge Koepke](#) who has rejoined the league.

Speaking of membership----- your membership and opinions are valued.

Here is a Very Brief survey that we need all of our members to complete- only 3 questions, so please take the time right now.

Here is the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHNLZ36>

The league board voted to be an endorsement partner for 9 to 5 Keep Families First Coalition to protect Wisconsin's current Family and Medical Leave Act and create Family and Medical Leave Insurance. Check out the website: <http://9to5.org>

The vote passed to implement a Making Democracy Work Award. Gayle Hardt will chair the committee.

Observer Corps- One of the best ways to improve the quality of government is to "put it in the spotlight". League has long believed in the value of an observer corps whose job it is to stay abreast of issues by maintaining a presence at as many government meetings as possible. It really is interesting to watch our local government in action.

How about attending one City Council, School Board, or County Board meeting this year, wearing a league pin, and observing. Our presence is welcomed as community members who value the issues of government.



OBSERVER CORPS

[Appleton City Common Council](#)

[First/Third Wed. @ 7:00pm](#)

[Appleton School Board](#)

[Second/Fourth Monday @ 7:00pm](#)

[Outagamie County Board](#)

[Second/Fourth Tuesday @ 6:30pm](#)

[Did you take the survey???? Just checking.](#)



2013 Women's Equality Day

August 26

Hats Off to a Wonderful Women's Equality Day!!



Thank you to The History Museum at the Castle for hosting our 2013 Women's Equality Day. Thank you to Curator Nick Hoffman for sharing the history of Progressive Appleton and its connections to women's suffrage. There were some brave and bold citizens who were worked for the right to vote.

Thank you to the organization, time, and creativity of the WE Day Committee and the Anniversary Committee. There were yellow roses, the symbol of the suffrage movement; hors d'oeuvre and wine to make it festive, and an authentic drummer who sounded the announcement of the upcoming 75th Anniversary of the Appleton League in 2014.



Thank you to those of you who were able to come and share in honoring our predecessors who worked for education, advocacy, and change.

In August 1920, the 19th Amendment was one state shy of ratification when it came up for vote in Tennessee. The Suffragists, led by Carrie Chapman Catt, descended on Nashville to lobby for ratification along with Tennessee women of every background, race and social class. Despite their diversity, they were united under a single symbol: the yellow rose -- which was worn everywhere by supporters of the



Membership

Stephanie Malaney Director

It is already time to start thinking about membership renewals. Membership dues are due December 31, 2013. Our membership remains at the minimum of \$60. This amount only covers membership costs. Please consider adding an additional amount to put in our budget to cover of our programs and other activities throughout the year. We also have scholarships available to cover dues when needed.

We have several new members this year:

Cindy Fallon, **Marcia Engen**, **Cheryl Reissmann**, and **Deborah Wetter** as well as a returning member **Marge Koepke**. We also lost our life member **Barbara Hoffman** this past year.

I need members to join me on the Membership Committee to increase our membership to carry on the important work of the League. If interested in being on the membership committee please contact me by email,

smalaney5@aol.com, or phone 920 734-6750.

Gayle Hardt Director

Making Democracy Work Award

The "LWV's Making Democracy Work Award" is recommended by the national League as an undertaking for local Leagues. It is seen as a way to increase the visibility of the work of local Leagues and recruit new members. The vision for the award is that local Leagues will present a community leader with the award each year. The award is meant to recognize a woman who is or has been in the work force and contributed to the community in a meaningful way.

The national League has provided a guide for the program but recognizes that local Leagues know their community and what will work best for establishment of this annual award.

At the meeting on September 4th, board members voted to implement this program for the Appleton League of Women Voters. A committee composed of League members would need to be convened to create the criteria and process in order to implement the program as well as plan and carry out the award event.

Penny Robinson Legislative Director

Legislature is Back at work

Regional Transit – Senator Mike Ellis and Penny Bernard Schaber have again introduced RTA legislation, SB 259 in the Senate, and AB 349 in the Assembly. LWVWI is again supporting these bills, as it has in the past, and we will soon be calling for a public hearing.

Open meeting laws - LWVWI supports four open meetings bills re-introduced by Senators Richards and Vinehout. Identical to the bills from the last session, they require the Legislature to comply with open meeting laws. One bill would amend the state constitution. The other three bills would amend the Assembly, Senate and Joint rules, respectively. Common Cause, Wis. Freedom of Information Council and others are also supporting the legislation.

From the LWVWI Legislative Committee Meeting, August 28, 2013

Regional Transit- Penny Robinson reported that 4% of the funding for public transit that was cut from the current biennium has been restored in the next budget, and public transit funding has been put back into the Transportation Fund as we had requested. **The State League supports SB 259 and AB 349 as it has supported RTA legislation in the past.**

Natural Resources: Caryl Terrell reported on a groundwater withdrawals proposal (LRB 823/3) being circulated for co-sponsorship which would reverse ground water protections the League has fought for in the past. It imposes a 65-day presumptive approval time period, limits the conditions that can be placed on high capacity wells, makes well approvals valid for perpetuity, and limits DNR's rulemaking authority. **Recommended action: Strongly Oppose**

Predatory Lending/Consumer Protection - Dorothy Dean reported that the "rent-to-own" relaxation of consumer protections in the Governor's budget was defeated in Joint Finance continue to discuss.

Corrections – Barb Hussin and Tish Minor expect a strong legislative move to deal with drunk driving, but they do not see a position under the Corrections portfolio on which to take a position. They noted that SB 154 has been passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This limits circuit court judges' ability to block laws they have ruled unconstitutional.

Campaign Finance – Sue Lloyd reported that AB 225 was passed by the full Assembly in June and has been referred to the Senate elections committee. **It would double the limits on campaign contributions (both individual limits as well as overall limits). It also provides for online voter registration. Money Out-Voters In movement- LWVUS has communicated to LWVWI that we are not to support a constitutional amendment aimed at reversing the Citizens United decision.**

Redistricting – Carolyn Castore reported that two bills, AB 185 and SB 163 would have the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau draw district maps for approval by the Legislature. The Chair of the Assembly elections committee, Rep. Bernier, said earlier this year that she would give such a proposal a hearing. However, the Assembly bill was referred to the Government Operations committee instead. There has been much recent public support for giving these bills a hearing, with editorials in 9 newspapers on one Sunday.

Elections/Voting. Sen. Lazich has introduced eight election-related bills. The League is opposing SB 263, which would allow challenges to same-day registrations in the case of a recount. The League is also opposing SB 266, which authorizes a draw-down of ballots if poll workers fail to require voters to sign poll list, and SB 268, which doubles the number of candidates from which the Governor may choose to be members of the Government Accountability Board. SB265 says that whenever two or more election inspectors are required to perform a duty at polls, as far as practical, they should be appointees from the two major parties. This politicizes the polling place and increases administrative difficulty. SB 267 requires registrars to document what type of Proof of Residence document is used for Election Day Registration and this information must be entered into the Statewide Voter Registration System. **Motion: Oppose SB 267 because it is unneeded and unnecessary – Passed.**

Health care/Aging –Patricia Finder-Stone reported that public education about navigation of the new health care system is a current emphasis. She recommended opposing AB 247, banning employers from requiring influenza immunizations. **Motion: Oppose AB 247 –passed.**



League of Women Voters
WISCONSIN Education Network

Come to Issues Briefing

Come to the League of Women Voters' annual Issues Briefing, October 5 in Madison!
Featured presentations:

- **A New Proposal for Judicial Selection**, Attorney Joseph Troy, Former Circuit Court Judge, Chair of Wisconsin State Bar Judicial Task Force
 - **The Climate Crisis and American Health: Threats and Opportunities**, Joel Charles, M.P.H., M.D. Candidate, UW-Madison School of Public Health
 - **Developing Civic Leadership in the 21st Century**, Desirée Culpitt, Co-chair of *Leaders of Today and Tomorrow*; Board Member of LWV-St. Paul, Minnesota
- State Capitol Update: Redistricting Reform and Other Current Legislation**,
LWVWI Legislative Committee



2013 State of Wisconsin Issues Briefing

Saturday, October 5, 9:00 Am – 2:00 PM

Crown Plaza Madison

Join the car pooling members

who are attending.

Introducing 9-to-5: A New LWV Partner

9 to 5 is “the” national organization for working women, lobbying for justice for working women for 40 years on issues related to employment and pay equity. 9 to 5 has been involved in such women-empowering legislation as:

- the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act,
- the Civil Rights Act of 1991,
- the Family Medical Leave Act, and
- the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Here in Wisconsin, the 9 to 5 organization has been focused in Milwaukee and Madison, but this year they have worked to extend their reach throughout the state to gain broad support for initiatives around Family Medical Leave, their “Keep Families First” Coalition. Spring 2013 marked the 25th anniversary of the WI Family and Medical Leave act (WFMLA), one of the first states to provide legal protections for family and medical leave.

LWV-WI and LWV-Appleton are members of the Keeping Families First Coalition to protect the WFMLA and expand its benefits by working with legislators, community groups and individuals to create Family and Medical Leave Insurance which would provide some level of continued income during a leave, similarly to how unemployment insurance functions. In the upcoming months, we will share more information on action you can take to help maintain the WFMLA plus establish FML insurance.

Why Not Rely on the Federal Family Medical Leave Act?

The WMC (WI Manufacturers and Commerce) has stated their intent to repeal Wisconsin’s FMLA (WFMLA) in favor of the federal law. 9 to 5/Keeping Families First Coalition will work to protect the WFMLA as the provisions of WIFMLA are more favorable to employees than the federal law. Key differences between the laws are as follows:

- The WI law applies to employers with 50 or more employees throughout the state, no matter how far apart the building are.
- The federal law applies only to employers of 50 or more employees in 1 building, or buildings within a 75-mile radius.
- The WI law requires 1,000 hours in the preceding 52 weeks.
- The federal law requires employees to have worked 1,250 hours in the preceding 12 months in order to qualify for FML.

- The WI law provides leave for birth, adoption, or to care for the employee's own sick parent or child PLUS care of domestic partners and in-laws.
- The federal law only covers leave for birth, adoption, or to care for the employee's own sick parent or child.
- The WI law ALWAYS covers intermittent leave (rather than having to take a continuous length of leave).
- The federal law includes intermittent leave only on a case-by-case basis.

THE COUNTDOWN TO OCTOBER 1 IS ON!

What's happening on October 1, 2013?

That is the date that the Health Care Marketplace opens for enrollment via the online Exchange for Wisconsin. Open enrollment closes March 31, 2014, and coverage can begin as early as January 1, 2014.

Across the state, about 600,000 people are expected to enroll for health insurance through the Exchange by January 1. Research has indicated that 75% of the people will prefer to have 1:1 assistance to navigate the online Exchange, understand their options, and enroll in a plan. However, although federal funding provides for trained Navigators to help with individual enrollments, the number of funded Navigators throughout the state will be woefully short—the WI Hospital Association estimates as few as ten—and additional people from NGO groups will be needed to assist with the massive enrollment that will need to be completed.

A coalition of groups here in the Fox Valley is coming together to determine how to provide assistance with the Exchange enrollments. Your League is part of this group, being spearheaded by Cathy Thompson of the RCRC (Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice) and Nathan Hoffman from Wisconsin Voices.

We will be seeking LWV volunteers to help in whatever way possible to ensure a smooth implementation of the Exchange in Wisconsin.

If you are interested in learning more and/or volunteering your time and services, please contact Irene Strohbeen, ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com.

The Appleton Public Library's mission continues: "Learn, Know, Gather, and Grow – your center of community life." But specifically what APL's future looks like will be influenced by changes in our local community and how library services are changing world-wide.

As a part of APL's long-range planning, their staff researched the future of these areas of library services: Children's Services, Public Services, Community Partnerships, Materials Management, and Technology/Network Services. This research provides a fascinating look at the 21st Century which extends beyond the library, and will inform our LWV-Appleton local study on the APL.

We encourage you to view the "Prezi" slide show (available on most computers) and read the print summaries from APL's Fine Print newsletter, Summer 2013 edition, which follow.

A "Prezi" slide presentation (each section takes about 10 minutes) is available online at:

http://prezi.com/cdbfiemi3kbd/staff-experts-presentation-21st-century-libraries/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy

Jacqueline Klimaszewski **Voter Services Update**

Irene Strohbeen has passed on all her information on Voter Services to me, so I hope to have a seamless transmission. Things are off and running in preparation for National Voter Registration Day, September 24. A number of agencies have been contacted and there have been positive responses, so we will need numerous volunteers to assist in order to cover all the locations.

Last year's volunteers have been contacted regarding the dates and, there will be two "refresher courses" for volunteers--if you're interested in attending, please let me know as Room D in the Appleton Public Library isn't that large. **Anyone who has not volunteered in the past but would be interested in this training is welcome to attend!**

Monday, September 16 - 4:00-5:30 OR Wednesday, September 18 - 4:00-5:30

The following dates, times and locations need to be staffed with volunteers:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. September 24(Tuesday) | FVTC | 11:00 - 1:00 pm |
| 2. September 24 (Tuesday) | Community Medical Clinic | 9:00 – 11:00 am |
| 3. September 24(Tuesday) | Appleton Central HS | 10:30 – 1:30 pm |
| 4. September 24(Tuesday) | Appleton North HS | 10:30 - 1:30 pm |
| 5. September 25 (Wednesday) | Appleton East HS | 10:30 - 1:30 pm |

I do have additional contacts with other organizations that have not yet responded, so there will likely be more. Please let me know which you would be willing to work--the goal is to have at least two people at each registration assistance session.

Voter registration assistance continues to be an important contribution to our democracy and a great way to get involved. Feel free to call if you have questions.

Jacqueline E. Klimaszewski
830-2919

Meet New Board Members

President

Sara Companik

scompanik@yahoo.com

Vice-President – Action

Irene Strohbeen

ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com

Vice-President- Voter Service

Jacqui Klimeszewski

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Vice-President – Program and Observer Corps

Kim Wetzel

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Penny Robinson

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Natural Resources

Karen Jansen

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Library Study Chair

Miriam Douglass

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Director

Gayle Hardt

gayle.hardt@gmail.com

Membership

Stephanie Malaney

smalaney5@aol.com

Website

Shirley Strange

shirleystrange@yahoo.com



Lois Bressette

Lois is a Substitute Teacher with the Clintonville School District and Co-owner of Great Lakes Endurance LLC. Lois earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration degrees from Northern Michigan University, in her hometown of Marquette, MI. Lois moved to Clintonville 10 years ago with her husband Jeff Crumbaugh, a science teacher at Clintonville High School. Lois has been serving two years on the Clintonville City Council and has recently been appointed by the mayor to serve on the Board of Review, Board of Zoning, Library Board, and Airport Commission. Lois completed “Leadership Waupaca County” training in 2012. She is a member of the Mid-Day Women’s Alliance in Appleton. In her spare time, she likes to bike, X-country ski, read, hike and sled with her two huskies, Wilson and Oslo.

Gayle Hardt

Gayle recently retired from United Way Fox Cities where she served as Vice President of Community Development. In this position, Gayle had the opportunity to work with a variety of non-profit organizations on health and human services issues confronting the greater Fox Cities area. Before joining United Way, she worked as Director of Career Planning & Placement at Lawrence University. She joined the League of Women Voters Appleton in 1996 and looks forward to serving as a member of the board.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

President Barack Obama

president@whitehouse.gov

US Senators

Wisconsin Senator: Tammy Baldwin (202-224-5653)

Wisconsin Senator: Ron Johnson (202-224-5323)

US House Representatives

6th Congressional District, Thomas Petri (202-225-2476)

8th Congressional District, Reid Ribble (202-225-5665)

Governor: Scott Walker (608-266-1212)

Lt. Governor: Rebecca Kleefisch

Attorney General: J.B. Van Hollen

Secretary of State: Doug La Follette

Wisconsin State Senators: (Madison Phone)

Senate District 19 - Michael Ellis (608-266-0718)

Senate District 1 - Frank Lasee (608-266-3512)

Wisconsin State Assembly : (Madison Phone)

57th - Penny Bernard Schaber (608-266-3070)

56th - David Murphy (608-266-7500)

40th - Kevin Petersen (608-266-3794)

6th - Gary Tauchen (608-266-3097)

5th - Jim Steineke (608-266-2418)

3rd - Alvin Ott (608-266-5831)

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

LWV of Appleton

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