

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

www.lwvappleton.org

November/December

Upcoming League Program Events



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON HOLIDAY BRUNCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013 AT 10:30 AM – 12:30

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel 333 West College Avenue, Appleton

SPEAKER: CAROLYN CASTORE, LWV OF WISCONSIN

Carolyn Castore's knowledge comes in part from serving on the state League's legislative committee since 2001. She has concentrated on voter's rights, election administration, and now has turned her energy and experience to address redistricting. You won't want to miss this!

TOPIC: REDISTRICTING

"WISCONSIN'S REDISTRICTING PROCESS IS HARDBALL POLITICS, AND THE INTERNAL AGENDAS ARE MYRIAD. ALL WISCONSINITES DESERVE A NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING SYSTEM THAT PUTS THE VOTERS — NOT THE POLITICIANS — IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT." CAROLYN CASTORE

Cost incl. Tax and tip: \$17.00 per person – Please make check payable to LWV-Appleton.

Send your check and reservation by December 9 to:

Kim Wetzel 2800 Schaefer Circle Appleton, WI 54915 920-997-9350



JOIN the DISCUSSION

January 18, 2014 @ 10:30 AM

Lively Issues at Appleton Public Library

Your input is valuable.

SAVE THE DATE !!!! SAVE THE DATE

**Library
News**



**Local Study - Updating the LWV Position on
the Appleton Public Library**

SAVE THE DATE!!

Study Presentation and Consensus Meeting

Thursday February 27, 2014, 4 - 6 p.m.

Appleton Public Library,



KIM WETZEL VP PROGRAM

To recap, our October event, *Human Trafficking in Wisconsin*, was well attended with 65 attendees, several of whom came from as far away as Waupaca. The four-person panel was informative and passionate, and the audience had many questions and personal stories to share. Co-hosting this event with the library, as with our September event, allowed us to gain a wider audience through APL’s marketing efforts, and offer an appropriate gathering space.

Our next event is the annual League Brunch, which will be held **Saturday, December 14 at 10:30-12:30** at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel. We’ll have a breakfast meal at a cost of \$17.00 per guest. Our speaker will be Carolyn Castore of the LWV Wisconsin, and she will speak on the issue of Redistricting. She has graciously agreed to fill in for our scheduled speaker, Lee Allinger, superintendent of AASD, who had to cancel last week.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Companik

Dear Members,

LWV of Appleton is working in the community on our mission and values. Our league directors are involved with study, education, and advocacy in the public arena. You can catch up with events, the advocacy, and action in the Directors' Reports.

League Statements: On October 28, I gave a statement from the league at the Outagamie Public Budget Hearing, and on November 6, at the Appleton City Public Budget Hearing, (I will try to attach the statements to the newsletter.)

Redistricting: You will learn more at the Holiday Brunch from Carolyn Castore about the state proposal for redistricting.

The Appleton League would like to get a resolution passed in Outagamie County, which asks the state to change the redistricting policy. I spoke with the Chair of the Legislative Committee who is interested. If that resolution passes in Outagamie County, it would give direction to the county's lobbyist to lobby in Madison for the league proposal. We would like a group of league members who live in Outagamie County to be part of the process. Would you like to be involved?

Public Education: There is a new group formed in the Fox Cities to advocate for Public Education, called *Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education*. Their goals are: To educate and inform the Fox Cities community on public education.

To build bipartisan actions that support and improve public education. The group is seeking other interested Fox Cities residents who want to work for these goals.

New Members: In November some new members gathered at my home for Soup and Conversation. It was a relaxing evening to get to know each other and share information about the league.

Membership Drive is beginning. Please renew your membership by mail or on www.lwvappleton.org

League Presentation: The league was invited to give a presentation to Sue Anderson's Sociology class at Fox Valley Technical College. Irene Strohbeen, Jacquie Klimaszewski, Cathy Thompson, and I shared information about the league, voter services and health care sign up. Sue is planning to attend our Holiday Brunch.

Fund Raising Committee: Donations have been received from 26 league members. On Monday, members gathered at Shirley's home to address and stuff donation letters to our Friends of the League.

Thank you, Shirley for your committee leadership and organization. Thank you to Jacquie, Barb, Gayle, Irene, Kim, Stephanie, and Miriam for making it an efficient and enjoyable task.

Holiday Brunch: Please invite a friend to share in our social and educational gathering. There's a place at the table for everyone. The topic is timely. We hope to see YOU at the Holiday Brunch on December 14.

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 @ 7:00 pm

Outagamie County Board

Second/Fourth Tuesday @ 6:30pm

Stephanie Malaney Membership Director

2014 League of Women Voters New Membership

Membership year is from January 31, 2014 to January 31, 2015

\$35— 1st Year Membership if joining after July 1, 2014 to Jan 31, 2015

✂ Please make checks payable to: **LWV Appleton**

Mail to: **LWV Appleton, P.O. Box 1281, Appleton, WI 54912**

Or pay online at www.lwvappleton.org (hit the “Membership” button)

Up to \$75 of dues is tax deductible

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (cell) _____

E-mail _____

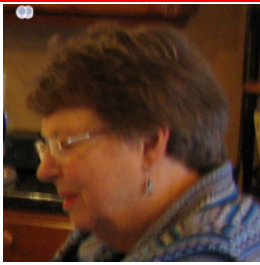
\$75 - Regular Membership

\$30 –2nd Member of Household.

\$30 - Student Membership

I want to make a tax deductible donation to LWV Appleton

\$35— 1st Year Membership if joining after **July 1, 2014 to Jan 31, 2015**



Local Study - Updating the LWV Position on the Appleton Public Library

The LWV of Appleton adopted a study of the Appleton Public Library for 2012 - 2014. The goal of the study is to update the current position created in 1975 and updated in 1992. The existing position can be found at www.lwvappleton.org ([click on Positions, then Local Positions, p. 4 Section VIII. Appleton Public Library](#)). The current study purposefully addresses the future of the library with respect to the physical structure, programs, services, usage, funding sources and oversight. After the updated position is adopted in spring of 2014, the League will have a position that facilitates meaningful advocacy now and for the foreseeable future.

Mayor Hanna's 2014 budget included the Library Board's budget essentially intact. His five-year plan for capital improvement projects includes \$17.6 million for the APL. This includes funding for preliminary assessment work in 2014, funding for architectural design in 2015 and funding toward construction of a remodeled or a new library in 2016-2017.

Based on the League's existing position President Sara Companik presented the following statement before the Common Council Finance Committee's hearing on the Mayor's 2014 budget:

"The League of Women Voters has supported the Appleton library since our first study in 1975 as a center for our citizens' educational and cultural life. The League is currently studying the future of the library in the 21st century with respect to program, services, physical structure and funding.

Our study shows that the library of the future will play a much broader role in the community. It will provide access to a wide range of information and materials and also provide new and diverse services. Libraries of the 21st century will be the hub of the community where people of diverse backgrounds come to learn, to share, and to be creators of knowledge.

The Appleton Public Library is already responding to the needs of 21st century patrons. Its services include the use of the internet, e-books along with multiple digital devices which continue to evolve. The transformation of the computer lab to the Creative Digital Lab is an outstanding example of how our library will offer modern services.

We applaud the library's 18-month planning process to determine the future for the Appleton Public Library. Extensive community input, road trips to visit modern libraries and public presentations by experts in the field set a sound stage for decision-making. We urge the Common Council to continue its financial support of the library. We are pleased that the city's 5-year plan incorporates "a library that meets the needs for today and in the future". The League of Women Voters believes that a great city like Appleton needs a great library."



League of Women Voters
WISCONSIN Education Network



Penny Robinson
Legislative Director

RTA Legislation

Senator Petrowski's office is planning to schedule a public hearing on SB 259 before the winter recess. This is the bill proposed by Senator Ellis that would authorize the Fox Cities to hold a referendum to decide whether or not to establish an RTA for the Fox Cities.

Outagamie County Human Services Transportation Plan – I participated in a meeting of the Committee for the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan on November 4. We are developing an action plan from results of a transportation assessment survey several months ago. Tentative plan results for feedback should be available soon.

Apparently there are still some problems with Non Emergency Medication Transportation (NEMT). **People with stories of problems are asked to call the State Fraud and Abuse Hotline at 877-372-8317 and Penny Bernard Schaber's office.**

From the LWVWI Legislative Committee meeting on October 23, 2013

Regional Transit – Sara Companik reported that there is a meeting today at the State Capitol, sponsored by WISDOM, to launch a campaign with the following mission: Restoration of the annual \$9.3 million cut to public transit implemented as part of the 2011–13 biennial budget and restoration of an additional \$9.5 million annually to bring transit tier funding back to historic levels. Penny Robinson, who attended the meeting, provided the committee with a timeline for the campaign that runs to mid-2015.

Election law/Voting rights – Carolyn Castore reported on SB 267, which LWV opposes and which requires clerks to enter the type of POR document in SVRS. The bill has had a hearing and the Senate elections committee has voted to recommend passage. She also reported on a bill being [drafted LRB 2396, for which Rep. Genrich is seeking League’s support. The bill will modernize and streamline voter registration. When someone qualified to vote gets a driver’s license or state ID, that person’s information would be transmitted to the GAB. The GAB would put it in the statewide voter registration system and notify the person that if they confirm the information, then they are registered to vote. Thus, when someone moves or gets a new ID, they would be registered.](#) People could confirm online, by mail, or in person at the clerk’s office or when they vote. The bill also authorizes the GAB to use other state databases as well, such as those used by social services. The voter would have to provide proof of residence the first time s/he votes.

MOTION: Support LRB 2396 in concept and work with Rep. Genrich to improve the draft. Passed.

Campaign finance – Sue Lloyd reported on LRB 0532/1, which requires disclosure of funding sources for mass communications, including radio and television ads. The disclosure must include a website or telephone number at which people may contact the group or individual funding the ad. The bill specifies that radio ads must disclose the source of funding at the beginning and end of the communication, and that television ads must have the information plainly visible and legible on the screen during the entire ad.

MOTION: Support in concept and watch for the bill to be introduced. Passed.

Redistricting – Clare McArdle reported that newspapers continue to editorialize in favor of public hearings for the bills currently before the legislature. Carolyn Castore noted the committee/legislative leadership's reluctance to hold a hearing is providing a platform for continued discussion of the issue. LWV Wisconsin Rapids Area has worked with the Wood County board to pass a resolution calling on the legislature to pass a nonpartisan redistricting plan. Castore will provide a copy of the resolution.

Health Care/Aging – Patricia Finder-Stone recommended opposition to SB 349, which strips counties, towns, villages and cities of police power authority to regulate air quality, water quality, and water quantity.

MOTION: Oppose SB 349, based on health care positions, natural resources positions, and local government control. Passed.

Rep. Nygren planned to submit a bill called HOPE Agenda (Heroin Opiate Prevention and Education), limiting immunity for people getting help for overdosed persons; supporting narcotic drop-off at approved repositories; requiring pharmacist to check ID when dispensing opiates; expanding Narcan administration.

MOTION: Support the bill in concept. Passed.

Rep. Bies is introducing legislation called the Backpack Tobacco Act (LRB 0574-1) to close loopholes that allow candy-flavored tobacco products to dodge Wisconsin's cigarette tax and be sold at a price meant to target kids. **MOTION: Support the bill in concept. Passed.**

A new LRB requires legislative approval to create a healthcare exchange and/or to request federal or state funds for such an exchange.

MOTION: Oppose this. Passed

Mental Health – The Speaker's Task Force has released its report and recommendations. Assembly bills are being introduced. **MOTION: Write a general statement and possibly an op ed supporting the recommendations based on League's Mental Health Parity positions. Passed.** Reference LWV Manitowoc County study. McArdle will write first draft.

Predatory Lending/Consumer Protection – SB 179, the "landlord-tenant bill," removes significant rights for renters. An amendment on the Senate floor did make provisions for domestic violence victims. **Both houses have passed the bill.**

SB 281 reduces from 6 years to 3 years the time limit for filing claims involving property damage or arising from a motor vehicle accident and covered by a motor vehicle insurance policy. The bill cuts into consumer rights in area of legal recourse. It has been referred to the Senate judiciary committee.

MOTION: Oppose SB 281. Passed.

Administration of Justice/Corrections – AB 61, the "Brown Jug Bill," has passed both houses. There is a fine for underage drinking (up to \$1,000) but this bill is a gift to the bar and alcohol establishments to let them take a civil action and get them up to \$1,000 from the offenders or their parents. It is believed this originated in Alaska and some of this state's ALEC supporters liked it and got it passed here.

Anti-discrimination – Joanne Elder reported on bill SB 184 on school bullying. Passed 9-0 by Senate education committee. **MOTION: Support SB 184. Passed.**

Sen. Schultz will offer an amendment to SB 317 Indian Mascot bill. The bill requires the collection of voter signatures totaling 10% of the school district's student population to bring about action on a race-based name or mascot. Schultz's proposal would require the Department of Public Instruction to review all school nicknames and mascots, rather than waiting for a complaint to be filed. If DPI feels a name could be race-based, it would turn its findings over to the local school board. The local school board could then work with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council to negotiate an agreement, hopefully avoiding a lawsuit. **MOTION: Write a letter to the editor supporting this approach, which is based on negotiation rather than complaint. Passed.**

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT – HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

LWV-Appleton is now a member of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Enrollment Network (EC REN) in support of the implementation of the ACA. The REN organizations exist to blanket WI since state and federal support of the rollout has been minimal. The EC REN is a group of primarily health care representatives working to inform people about enrollment in the Health Care Marketplace. To date, activity has focused on presentations at community events to get the word out and offer assistance; the presentations have been provided by the Certified Application Counselors from Partnership Community Health Clinic.

EC REN is seeking volunteers who are willing to help with these community events in order to expand our reach. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Irene Strohbeen at ibstrohbeen@new.rr.com or Cathy Thompson at wi_rcrc@yahoo.com. Training will be provided of course.

KEEPING FAMILIES FIRST – FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE

We are working with the Keeping Families First coalition to protect and expand WI's Family Medical Leave (FMLA). Shirley Strange and Irene Strohbeen attended a Town Hall meeting in late October with Penny Bernard-Schaber to participate in a discussion about the importance of FMLA to families. We are now working to arrange in-district meetings with Senators Cowles and Ellis to ask them to protect the existing law, and to not support any bill to repeal WI's law or "federalize" FMLA.

We are also working to find small business owners who are willing to complete a survey about Family Medical Leave. The survey can be found here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WBAEmployeeBenefits>

Interestingly, a bill to create Family Medical Leave Insurance will be introduced at the federal level on December 12 by Senator Gillibrand of NY and Representative DeLauro of CT. This bill, known as the FAMILY Act (Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act), would create a self-sustaining insurance fund to ensure people have much-needed income when using family and medical leave, and would include part-time and self-employed workers. The WI version of a bill to establish FML insurance is expected to be introduced in the first quarter of 2014.

Jacqueline Klimaszewski Voter Services Update



In 2014 we will be participating in the VOTE411 program. The information below is from their introductory letter. As you can see, this will be a valuable tool as we move forward with voter education in the elections in 2014

VOTE411 INFORMATION:

WWW.VOTE411.ORG is an invaluable resource for Election Day information, with links to state-by-state resources that will help you answer many questions. Resources include: a polling place finder, a voter registration tool, information about becoming a poll worker, what kind of identification is required on Election Day, early voting, information about applying for absentee ballots, candidate and ballot information and much more!

VOTE411 Voters' Guide Software:

Since 2010 Leagues have been using this software to create online voter guides which are featured on VOTE411. With this online tool, state and local Leagues can gather and publish candidate information with greater ease, consistency and visibility. In 2012, approximately 215 Leagues from 30 states used the system to cover over 7,000 races and invited over 15,000 candidates to answer the League's questions. So far in 2013, Leagues from 15 states have published 5,000 races and 7,000 candidates and the numbers continue to grow.

The online tool allows Leagues to:

- Cover any state or local race or ballot measure
- Publish an online voters' guide for your community in an easy-to-use electronic format
- Invite candidates to participate, using a custom email tool that gives your League the ability to automatically personalize each email while sending out invitations to several candidates at once!
- Track progress of your data collection with the easy-to-use tracker tool
- Strengthen partnerships with elections officials and media outlets by producing accurate, consistent information each election cycle
- Download all data entered into VOTE411 for formatting into a printed voters' guide
- Get accurate user statistics to track the impact of your work

In 2012 over 4,500 voters from Wisconsin turned to VOTE411 for their candidate and ballot information. Creating your voter guide on VOTE411 will continue to educate Wisconsin voters on the candidates and issues in their local communities!



Karen Jansen

Natural Resources

State Water Positions Review:

LWV WI has formed an ad-hoc committee to review state-level natural resource positions on water. Since the national positions can serve as a baseline and are available for use by all Leagues, the Water Positions Review Committee is assessing whether there are sufficient state-specific issues to warrant updating the state's current ones. As a committee we are dedicated to a process of review which upholds Wisconsin's history of leadership in environmental stewardship, and provides a vision where water quality is maintained for future generations across the entire state.

Diverting water from the Great Lakes:

Wisconsin is a state rich in natural resources, and particularly rich in what is coming to be called the "liquid gold" of the 21st century: Water. Water is necessary for life, and water as we know it in Wisconsin has become endangered, and in need of management.

Our state has long participated in a regional approach to water issues which is centered on the concept of whole basin management. That is, management not just of the water itself but of the land and watersheds which naturally drain to a particular river, lake, or other type of water body. Water management is therefore accomplished as management of the integrated system as defined by the natural basin boundaries, and we are part of the Lake Michigan area of the Great Lakes basin.

Interstate and international laws and agreements Wisconsin is part of strictly limit unnatural diversions of water from the Great Lakes basin where there is no possibility of its return. The progression of legal policy restricting unnatural diversions began at the beginning of the last century and has led to these recent laws:

1986: The federal Water Resources Development Act passed, prohibiting water diversions of any size without unanimous approval of the Great Lakes governors.

2001: Great Lakes Charter Annex signed, amending the 1985 Charter and committing US governors and Canadian premiers to the creation of new, binding water-management policies contained in the Great Lakes Compact and the Great Lakes Agreement.

2005: Great Lakes Compact and Great Lakes Agreement released. The Compact is a binding agreement between Great Lakes States, while the Agreement commits Great Lakes provinces in Canada to implement policies in parallel with the states' Compact. The Compact also contains provisions promoting the conservation and efficient use of Great Lakes water *inside* the Great Lakes basin. In addition, it sets guidelines for assessing the effectiveness of these management strategies.

2008: Great Lakes Compact signed into law (Wis stat 381.346).

Increased need based on population growth in SE WI has caused Waukesha County to submit a request to divert water from Lake Michigan, and that request is currently under review. Other states have considered making similar requests, including those of the “parched” southwestern United States.

To learn more about the Great Lakes Compact, go to the website of the Great Lakes Commission at: <http://www.glc.org/>

Also see: Great Lakes Water Compact Weighs on Region’s Future:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/04/great_lakes_water_compact_weig.html

US South expected to seek Great Lakes water:

http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/2008/04/23/us_south_expected_to_seek_great_lakes_water.html

Water Law Commons, at: [http://network.bepress.com/law/water-](http://network.bepress.com/law/water-law/?utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages&utm_medium=PDF&utm_source=www.repository.law.indiana.edu%2Fij%2Fvol59%2Fiss3%2F5)

[law/?utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages&utm_medium=PDF&utm_source=www.repository.law.indiana.edu%2Fij%2Fvol59%2Fiss3%2F5](http://network.bepress.com/law/water-law/?utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages&utm_medium=PDF&utm_source=www.repository.law.indiana.edu%2Fij%2Fvol59%2Fiss3%2F5)

Wilder, Julia R. (1984) "The Great Lakes as a Water Resource: Questions of Ownership and Control," *Indiana Law Journal*: Vol. 59: Iss. 3, Article 5.

Available at: <http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ilj/vol59/iss3/5>

Will Thirsty States Get Great Lakes Water?

http://www.alternet.org/story/96079/will_thirsty_states_get_great_lakes_water/

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Happy Holidays
from the

LWV of Appleton
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President Barack Obama

president@whitehouse.gov

US Senators

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

US House Representatives

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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>