

The *informed* Voter



League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin

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

www.lwvappleton.org

March/April

VOTE on Tuesday, April 1

Spring Election Day

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Upcoming League Program Events

Monday, April 7 at 6:30 pm

Appleton Public Library

Fox Cities Book Festival

The LWV of Appleton is

Sponsoring

Author Barbara Miner

Supporting League

Education Positions



Barbara Miner is the author of *Lessons from the Heartland: A Turbulent Half-Century of Public Education in an Iconic American City* (2013), which looks at Milwaukee's public school system and efforts at desegregation. The book won the Studs and Ida Terkel Prize, given annually by New Press to celebrate authors "who share Studs Terkel's commitment to exploring aspects of America that are underrepresented by mainstream media." Matt Rothschild, editor of the *Progressive*, called the book "a panoramic sweep of the city's history and tensions" and a "magnificent work."

In July she was a guest panelist on Bill Moyers' PBS show *Frontline*, talking about her book as it related to a *Frontline* documentary on two Milwaukee families surviving the "new American economy."

Miner has been a reporter, writer and editor for almost 40 years, for publications ranging from the *New York Times* to the *Milwaukee Journal*. The former managing editor of *Rethinking Schools*, Miner has co-edited numerous books on education, including the ground-breaking *Rethinking Columbus*.

For more information:

Visit her website www.barbarajminer.com

Read about and watch the Bill Moyers' show [Surviving the New American Economy](#)

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LWV Appleton Annual Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, April 17, 2014

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 with 75th Anniversary Champagne Toast

Reserve online at www.lwvappleton.org

or mail in the attached form.

Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Appleton Library @ 6:30 -8:00 pm

April 24

Trafficking

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May 22

Steve Elliot of Appleton Police Department

Will be presenting on Sex Trafficking in the Fox Cities.

Details to follow.

1939-2014



Happy 75th Birthday

League of Women Voters of Appleton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Companik

Dear Members,

The LWV of Appleton Annual Meeting will be a celebration and a business meeting for members and invited guests. The meeting was scheduled in April this year because of the Anniversary events in May. I apologize for unintentional scheduling of the meeting during Passover and on the Christian celebration of "Maundy Thursday", "Holy Thursday". You welcome to come to the meeting after the dinner.

The state and local leagues are focusing on keeping Redistricting an issue for the public to support. On February 25 the Outagamie county Board passed a **Redistricting Resolution** 28 to 3. Supervisor Jim Maham brought the resolution to the County Board after it passed in his committee. Richard Schoenbohm and Sara Companik spoke to the passing of the Resolution.

Spring Election Voting Issue-

The Appleton Absentee ballot sent out by the City Clerk's office directed voters to vote for 2 Appleton School Board Candidates instead of the correct 3 candidates. . The clerk sent letters to those absentee voters to correct the mistake. The league contacted the Post Crescent, the GAB (Government Accountability Board) and listed the information on Facebook to have friends contact absentee voters who are out of town. They can have a ballot sent to where they are visiting. The ballot needs to be postmarked by April 1 and received by Friday, April 4.

Attached is the information for the 2014 LWV of Appleton Annual Meeting:

The Membership will vote on Re-Adoption of Local Positions. You can find those positions at www.lwvappleton.org Click on **Positions**

Reservation Form for 2014 Annual Meeting

2014-2015 Proposed Budget

2014-2015 Proposed Program

2014-2015 Proposed Slate of officers, directors, and Nominating Committee

Library Position

75th Anniversary Celebration Events



May 19

Appleton City Council

Can you be there for support?

At the May 19 City Council meeting at 7:00 pm, Mayor Hanna will read a Proclamation proclaiming the week of [May 26-31, 2014 as League of Women Voters of Appleton week.](#)

May 26

Appleton Memorial Day Parade

Can you be there?

LWV of Appleton hopes to have a presence to ride or march in the Appleton Memorial Day Parade. We have the availability of some convertibles for riders. The Cronmiller Family has agreed to represent three generations of League members with Mary, Debra and James, and Katie. The parade starts at 9:00am

May 30

Our 75th Celebration Dinner

[The first](#) **LWV of Appleton Democracy Award** [will be presented.](#)

You are invited to share in the celebration.

LWV of Appleton will have a **Celebration Dinner** for members, past members, state convention attendees, and the community.

Keynote Speaker

Kevin Kennedy

Director and General Counsel of the Government Accountability Board.

May 31

2014 State Annual Meeting

The LWV Wisconsin State Convention will be held at the Paper Valley Radisson Hotel on Saturday. You can register for our dinner and the Meeting for \$80.

April 2014

Sun	Mon	1 Tues VOTE	2 Wed Board Meeting	3 Thurs	4 Fri	5 Sat.
6	7 6:30 Barbara Miner	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 5:30 Annual Meeting	18 Due Democracy Award Application	19
20 EASTER	21	22	23	24	25 6:30 Trafficking	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	1 Thurs	2 Fri	3Sat
4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Dinner Reservation Deadline	16	17
18	19 City Council Resolution	20	21	22 Trafficking	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day Parade Walk	27	28	29	30 5:00 75th CELEBRATION	31 State Annual Meeting

May 26-31

**League of Women Voters of Appleton Week
in Appleton**



LWV Speakers' Bureau

Amy Oberg

The LWV Speakers Bureau was organized in late 2013 with the mission of "spreading the word" on important issues to the public. Currently bureau members of Amy Oberg, Irene Strohbeen, Richard Schoenbohm and Jacqueline Klimaszewski are available to speak to groups who would like non-partisan information on Redistricting. In the future, more topics will be added. This is a free service. Currently on our schedule:

Irene Strohbeen will be presenting on Redistricting on April 14 to the Appleton Noon Lions Club.

If you have a group you think might be interested in this service,

Contact Amy Oberg at 781.229.2925.



Gayle Hardt

Making Democracy Work Award

League Members Invited to Nominate a Community Leader

The League of Women Voters of Appleton and Post-Crescent Media are partnering to recognize individuals who have envisioned a way to improve the Fox Cities community and have mobilized others to effect change that has benefited the broader community. The Making Democracy Work Award will honor one such individual who has helped to make our community strong, vibrant and fair.

League members are encouraged to nominate an individual for the inaugural Making Democracy Work Award. Individuals can nominate themselves or may be nominated by a friend, colleague or organization. The nomination form can be downloaded from the League web site at www.lwvappleton.org. Nominations must be received by **April 18, 2014**. This first Making Democracy Work Award will be presented May 30, 2014 at a dinner celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Appleton League.

Jacqueline Klimaszewski



Voter Services Update



Candidate Forums

March has been the month for Candidate Forums. The School Board forum was held on March 11th at Roosevelt Middle School. Three of the four candidates attended and we had around 20 participants.

The City Council Alderperson forum was held on March 18th at the Appleton Public Library. APL co-sponsored with us. Many thanks go out to Elizabeth Eisen for her part in helping to coordinate and for getting a video of the event. We had 38 in attendance and many interesting questions. Seven of the eight candidates were able to attend.

The questions from the forum were sent out to all the candidates for posting on the Appleton League of Women Voters website.

Special thanks go out to all those who helped: Sara Companik, Shirley Strange, Gayle Hardt, Lois Bressette, Amy Oberg and Deb Werth. I also appreciate those you sent questions.

VOTE411

Three of the four school board candidates and seven of the eight alderperson candidates submitted their information to VOTE411.

Registration Assistance

Registration assistance has not been a priority this month due to the candidate forums. However, we have begun some discussion regarding a way to organize the registration opportunities at the high schools in the coming year.

Posters- Can you help?

If anyone out there has a graphic arts background, I could use some assistance in developing a poster that can be supplied to the various voter registration sites to help advertise and promote the upcoming registration assistance sessions (e-mail me at JJKlim@new.rr.com). Thanks! **You can contact me at 830-2919**



Penny Robinson
Legislative Director



LWV Appleton Legislative Report

Note: We will not know the final fate of some of these bills until after April 1 (the Senate's last day) of when the governor signs (or not).

Bills that passed this legislative session

Voting Rights

A plethora of anti-voting bills progressed through the legislature in March. In coalition with the Wisconsin Election Administration Coalition we focused on four egregious bills: SB324 limiting early voting, SB267 requiring proof of residence at all voter registrations, AB202 allowing election observers three feet from the voter/election official and SB655 changing campaign finance deadlines and limits.

All four passed. Attention is now centered on asking Gov. Walker to veto the early voting limits. A letter asking Walker to veto the early voting limits is being circulating for signatures. The League will also send a letter.

On March 19th a federal judge ordered the feds to allow states that requested it to add their own requests to the National Voter Registration Form such as proof of US citizenship. This would create a messy two-tiered registration system different for state and federal elections. The two states filing the request were Kansas and Arizona. Appeals pending.

The GAB is reviewing the Wisconsin section of the National Election Commission Report for ways to improve Wisconsin's already good report. They are determining

what changes/improvements would require legislative action and what they might implement. This might shine some light on possible improvements vs. constant attacks on the voting process.

School Accountability passed but simply requires all schools that take public money to have performance data and other information included on report cards for the public to see.

Highway Projects

Gov. Scott Walker has signed into law a bill that increases spending on highway projects this year by \$43 million. The bill Walker signed Wednesday in Pewaukee accelerates spending on 11 projects around the state thanks to an \$83 million surplus in the transportation fund.

The projects include maintenance, road resurfacing, pavement replacement and bridge rehabilitation. The projects are in Brown, Calumet, Door, Douglas, Langlade, Lincoln, Monroe, Outagamie, Sauk, Taylor and Walworth counties. The bill unanimously passed the Legislature.

The Assembly did not take up any RTA legislation.

HEALTH

Chemotherapy Parity Bill (SB 300) No amendments were urged, but Robin Vos inserted an amendment for \$100 monthly co-payment if pills prescribed rather than IV injection, certainly a boon for insurance companies and a negative for patients. Governor expected to sign.

Seven bills to improve mental health services passed, including improvements in crisis intervention, workforce expansion, and tele-health services for rural areas.

TAXES

On the same day that the state Assembly passed a substantial property and income tax cut package, it declined to reverse a recent tax hike for parents who work at low-wage jobs.

The \$537 million tax cut package, which diverts money that would otherwise go to the state's rainy day fund, has already been approved by the Senate and now goes to the governor for his signature. (For more about the tax cut, read our March 4th blog post, [Five Things to Know about Wisconsin's Proposed Tax Cut Package](#).)

Despite the Assembly's enthusiasm for cutting taxes, it missed a chance yesterday to roll back a recent tax increase for families with low incomes. The Assembly failed to advance a bill that would repeal changes made the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2011 that resulted in working parents with low incomes paying higher taxes. The bill to improve the EITC would have

cost \$54.5 million over two years, or about 1/10 of the amount of the larger, untargeted tax cut package.

That 2011 tax increase on low-income families is particularly harmful because Wisconsin taxpayers with the lowest incomes pay a higher share of their income in state and local taxes than taxpayers with the highest incomes. As a result of the 2011 tax increase, a single mother who has three children and works full time at minimum wage has paid about \$1,500 more in taxes over the last three years than she otherwise would have.

Campaign Donations

Assembly Republicans gave final approval to bills that would allow lobbyists to start making campaign donations seven weeks earlier than under the current law.

BILLS NOT PASSED OR IN LIMBO

Nearly 10 other contentious bills have either dropped into limbo or fallen by the wayside all together. Here's a look at their chances, or lack thereof:

Speed limit: The Assembly passed a bill in October that would raise the speed limit on Wisconsin interstates to 70 mph. Fitzgerald's spokeswoman said the Senate won't take the measure up because no one in the Republican caucus is pushing for the change.

7-day workweek

Sen. Glenn Grothman, R-West Bend, introduced a bill in January that would allow factory and retail employees to work seven straight days. The Assembly adjourned without voting on it, killing it.

Gun Safety

The Senate's public safety committee unanimously approved a measure that would create a formal legal process for confiscating guns from people subject to domestic restraining orders with no discussion. The panel also unanimously approved a proposal that would require judges preparing to return weapons as restraining orders expire to ask the state Justice Department to determine if anything else in the person's record prohibits them from possessing a gun. The only comment on that bill came from committee Chairman Jerry Petrowski, R-Marathon, and the measure's chief Senate sponsor. He said the proposal would help the flow of information.

Irene Strohbeen VP Action



The Keeping Families First (KFF) coalition has made great progress in expanding the WI Family Medical Leave Act under the leadership of 9 to 5; LWV is an active member of the state-wide KFF coalition. We have a draft bill that includes expansion of the current FMLA to include siblings and grandparents/grandchildren as well as leave for military families. A key provision of the bill is the establishment of partial wage replacement (“insurance”) during extended leave taken for an employee to take care of themselves or a family member, paid out of an employee-paid fund. This bill also would allow independent consultants, free-lancers and entrepreneurs the option to opt-in for a minimum of three years.

The KFF coalition has recently learned that Rep. Sony Page will be introducing a similar but more limited bill before the end of the current Legislative session. This bill is very similar to the FML Insurance bill from New Jersey. Reps. Pope and Mandy Wright (who were planning to introduce the KFF bill) have agreed to work together to integrate the two bills for reintroduction in January 2015. Clearly, the excitement and interest in Family Medical Leave Insurance is building!

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President Barack Obama

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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>