

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD
2014 RECIPIENT
KATHY FLORES

The Making Democracy Work Award is a signature award program created by the League of Women Voters US.

The League of Women Voters of Appleton initiated the program this year, 2014. The League partnered with Post-Crescent Media in making the award and worked with Dan Flannery, Regional Executive Editor of Gannett Wisconsin Media and Executive Editor of the Appleton Post Crescent.

Members of the award committee developed the process, reviewed nominations, and selected the honoree. Committee members for the 2014 Making Democracy Work Award were, Dan Flannery, Beth English, Marti Hemwall, Marcia Engen, Sara Companik, and Chair Gayle Hardt.

The Making Democracy Work Award honors a community leader who is actively engaged in hands-on work to keep our community a strong and vibrant place to live...an individual who has envisioned a way to improve our community and has mobilized others to affect change.

This truly describes the honoree, **Kathy Flores**, who was selected from a pool of nominees from the community. Kathy, Diversity Coordinator for the City of Appleton, is the first recipient of the Making Democracy Work Award.

Kathy's nominators, Miriam Douglass, Barbara Kelly and Karen Jansen wrote the following:

"Through her work, Kathy Flores promotes acceptance and true feelings of citizenship within our culture by breaking down barriers, creating opportunities for celebrating our differences, promoting inclusiveness within our community and advocating for the rights of its members."

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The nominators also had this to say:

“Feelings of citizenship develop from a sense of belonging to a cultural or societal group. Respect and acknowledgement leads to inclusiveness, where individuals become active citizens who are then able to make positive contributions in the public sphere in terms that are their own. Government based on the diversity and inclusiveness of its citizens is broad-based and representative. The City of Appleton has benefited from the increased participation of a broader cross section of citizens, and we have all benefited from the more inclusive environment enhanced by Kathy's work.”

Kathy has increased awareness of critical community issues by working with the Appleton Public Library to present “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” - a series of panel discussions on topics such as Bullying, Heroin Addiction, and Human Trafficking. She coordinated a series of panels to increase understanding of the various faith communities in the Fox Cities including Judaism, Sikhism, Islam, Unitarian Universalism.

Kathy was significantly involved in the “Include Initiative.” This initiative was started following several teen suicides and bullying incidents related to LGBTQ youth.

Kathy was a primary influence in the passage of an important ordinance by Appleton’s Common Council. The ordinance prohibits housing discrimination of transgendered people. Appleton was the first WI jurisdiction to take this official stand.

Kathy coordinates the annual Juneteenth Celebration in collaboration with African Heritage, Inc. She serves as chair of the planning committee for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

The League of Women Voters of Appleton and Post-Crescent Media are pleased and honored to have presented **Kathy Flores**, Diversity Coordinator for the City of Appleton, with the inaugural **Making Democracy Work** Award. We thank Kathy for the good work she is doing to keep Democracy strong!

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The Award: The League of Women Voters of Appleton commissioned Linda Muldoon of Coventry Glass to create a piece that would symbolize the spirit and characteristics of an award for Making Democracy Work. Linda describes the award: “The rainbow streamers symbolize the multitude of people, the colored bits tumbling throughout the center represent the collective ideas, and the mirrored border offers a reflection of your own personal involvement in the democratic process.”

