

Appleton Public Library
1978

Appleton Public Library Consensus Report

League members believe that the Appleton Public Library should be a center for citizens' educational and cultural life. While recognizing the constraints of an inadequate facility, staffed by too few people and with budget limitations, League members agreed that improvements are needed in the following areas: materials and services, facility, library personnel, and the Library Board.

In addition to meeting the needs of the general reading public, League members recommend that the needs of special groups of people should be met in order to encourage library use:

1. The elderly and handicapped:

- a. Providing easy access to the library;
- b. Adding mailing services to individuals even if they are within the Appleton city limits;
- c. Adding out-reach programs to groups;
- d. Improving publicity of services currently available (such as the large print collection) and new services as available.

2. Children:

- a. Weeding and improving the collection;
- b. Improving organization of the book collection;
- c. Providing a welcoming environment in an easily accessible location.

3. High school students:

Determining how to meet the needs of this group in order to encourage library use in years following graduation.

4. New patrons:

Providing this group with information regarding policies, services, and the location of library materials in a welcoming manner.

League members strongly support the following changes in materials and services:

1. Increasing book collection, especially popular books;
2. Adding audio-visual equipment for use within the library and on a loan system;
3. Publicizing all library programs through the media as well as through in-library publications;
4. Increasing hours to accommodate Sunday opening and some summer weekend hours. Members would favor closing of the library during times of low patron use if financially necessary to avoid higher labor costs.

There is strong support for a new building, centrally located in downtown Appleton, on a bus route, and with safe and adequate parking.

Some members oppose the adaptation of any existing building to library use, in the belief that library needs should be designed into a structure from its inception.

All members oppose any move for the Appleton Public Library which would be only a short term solution to its requirements.

Members favor the following interim improvements to the current facility: 1) a ramp as easier access for the elderly and handicapped and 2) improvements in decor which could be achieved with minimal expenditures. A minority of members favor an over-the-street walkway from the parking garage.

While agreeing on the need for a new library, members favor the early implementation of those changes that could be accomplished with a small financial investment. Members oppose the philosophy which discourages all changes until such future time as a new facility is built. But members also oppose the philosophy which would encourage all possible improvements to the current structure.

There was support for investigating all possible funding sources after the community has become committed to the construction of a new facility. Library costs are an appropriate use of funds such as federal revenue sharing funds. Some members cautioned against dependence on outside funds for costs to be regularly incurred, opposing outside funds for staffing and programs while supporting them for capital investments.

Members agreed that Outagamie County should fund that portion of the facility which would be related to the Federated Library System of Outagamie County.

Members discussed the Federated Library System and, in general, support the concept as it exists, but members did not study alternative modes of organizations.

Recognizing the frustration of operating a library with an inadequate number of librarians and supporting staff, members strongly support the following:

1. Increasing staff to equal the minimum standards recommended by the American Library Association;
2. Providing written job descriptions for all employees;
3. Using staff members to perform duties most appropriate to their training;

4. Providing for programs of continuing education and in-service training for staff members;
5. Developing a commitment on the part of all staff, currently employed and those to be hired in the future, to serve the public courteously and creatively, encouraging a warmer atmosphere within the library.

There was strong agreement that the Library Board should improve communications with the Appleton Common Council, convincingly and aggressively expressing library needs, providing the leadership for getting a new library.

Members agreed that the Library Board should use the media more effectively to inform the public of library needs, attempting to increase the library's visibility and importance to the public, thereby attracting users.

There was very strong support for the creative use of volunteer talents to benefit the Appleton Public Library, such as a Friends of the Library or the use of students and other volunteers within the library. Some members cautioned against reliance on volunteers as a purely cost-saving mechanism.

The recommended support position:

Appleton Public Library

1. Build a public library for Appleton, ~~opposing any short-term solutions to a temporary facility.~~
2. Develop programs to meet needs of special groups: elderly and handicapped, children, high school students, and new patrons.
3. Bring staffing and funding up to levels recommended by the American Library Association.
4. Encourage a more positive attitude by all staff toward the public.
5. Encourage the Library Board to aggressively communicate its needs to both the Common Council and the public.
6. Use the media and in-library publications to publicize library services.

"After thorough consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of the AAL building as a possible location for the Appleton Public Library, the consultants recommend that the building not be used for library purposes. The costs of rehabilitating the structure for library uses, the multiple disadvantages to users and staff, and the substantial addition in cost for staffing the building over a period of years outweigh other factors."

Raymond Holt, Library
Consultant

The library Board members unanimously agreed at the special board meeting of November 18, 1976 to the following: "BE IT RESOLVED: a new and separate building is the most desirable means of providing adequate library services. The Aid Association for Lutherans' building is the considerably less satisfactory alternative."

We invite you to join with the Library Board, the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Appleton Library Board to work for the most efficient and economical library service. A call to your alderman and the mayor's office would be appreciated.

FOR SAFETY

FOR EFFICIENCY

FOR ECONOMY

LET'S BUILD A NEW LIBRARY

APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
IN THE A.A.L.?

NO!

WHY NOT?

SITE PROBLEMS

When the AAL parking lots are open to the public, building staff, shoppers and library patrons would all be competing for limited space.

For people laden with library materials, any parking would be some distance, across busy intersections.

Dropping off or picking up children and handicapped would be both inconvenient and dangerous in downtown traffic.

Busy traffic on all surrounding streets would be a danger for bicyclists and pedestrians, children or adult.

BUILDING PROBLEMS

The AAL building would require extensive and costly modifications to safely house a library:

reinforcing the floor to support the weight of books

adapting a percentage of such facilities as restrooms, drinking fountains, and telephones for the handicapped to meet the Wisconsin Building Code.

changing the heating, lighting telephone and ventilating systems to serve the library

A fragmented, multifloored library will require 25-30% staff increase above that needed to service the same space designed as a library. Not only surveillance but service would suffer without this additional staff.

Storage space, vital to a library, is limited and would soon be insufficient.

After costly remodeling and hiring of staff, the building would meet the needs of the library for only 10-15 years. At that time the library would be faced again with its present problem of shuffling materials and services within cramped quarters. And the taxpayer would again be faced with the need to find new housing for the library.

IS THE EXPENSE JUSTIFIED FOR TEMPORARY QUARTERS?

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

=====

AAL

Library's portion of the cost of the AAL Building\$ 1,750,000

Rehabilitation costs estimated as high as.....\$ 1,500,000

Total initial costs.....\$ 3,250,000

NOTE: Due to the inappropriate design of the building for library purposes, additional staff to assist patrons on all floors would add an estimated additional annual cost of \$ 262,000.

NEW APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Estimated cost of construction...\$ 3,900,000

FUNDS AVAILABLE

=====

Funds available for site acquisition through the Federal Housing & Community Act in 1977.....\$ 642,000

City of Appleton's estimated share of General Revenue Sharing funds for 1977-1980.....\$ 4,000,000

Outagamie County's share of General Revenue Sharing funds estimated for 1977-1980.....\$ 4,000,000

Meetings of interest for Library Action

Feb. 21	7:30	City Hall	Mayor's Lib. com.
Feb. 23	7:00	Library	Site selection etc., Lib. Bd.
March 2	8:00	Library	Library Board Reg. Mtg.
March 7	9:15		Slide Show Plus LWV Unit
March 8	9:15 9:30	All-Saints Church Library	Tour of Library "
March 9	8:00	Library	Slide Show Plus "
March 14	7:30	Library	Joint Meeting LWV-FCAL-AAUW? +?
April 5 (?)	7:30	Berta's	Library Action Committee Meeting LWV
April 6	8:00	Library	Lib. Bd. Regular Meeting
April 9	2:30	Library	Meet with Mayor

Mayor's advisory committee will also be meeting, times + places unknown at this time

Berta Churchill	2515 Crestview Dr.	734-4974 off-733-7393
Ann Reinhart	213 East Kimball St	731-0486 off-731-5201
Chris Calder	2509 N. Mac. Donald	739-7000
Dorothy Graham	1701 N. Mac Donald	734-9427
Corinne Laldgar	914 E. Eldorado	734-8676
Nusi Ward	1821 S. Carpenter	733-6489
Penny Coffin	159 River Dr.	739-9068
Joan Rose	2101 E. Foundee	739-7608
Cathy Bruning	56 Belleaire Ct.	739-2670
Susan Joyce	76 Schaeffer Circle	734-2295
Deitcher Phillips	1112 West Parkway	734-5298
Cathy Boardman	731-4444 938 W. Prospect	731-4010
Stevie Schmidt	910 S. Midpark	733-8782
Barbara Dickie	811 Whittier Dr.	731-2514
Sue Kinde	2010 Palisades Dr.	734-5759
Pat Schenabeck	1212 E. Oppehee	734-6101
Pat Danford	1215 N. Rivercliff Dr.	734-0853

A meeting of the Appleton League of Women Voters' Committee in Support of a New Library met at the Churchill home at 2515 East Crestview Drive on Tuesday, February 7, 1978, at 7:30 p.m. Berta Churchill, chairman; Ann Rinehart, Chris Calder, Dorothy Draheim, Corinne Goldgar, Robert Coffin, Nusi Ward, Joan Ross, Betty Breunig, Susan Joyce, Gretchen Phillips, Penny Coffin, and, as an observer, Don Churchill were present.

A suggestion by Bob Coffin and Dorothy Draheim, members of the Board of Trustees of the Appleton Public Library, that Ann Rinehart serve as volunteer counsel for the Board. Ann agreed to do so if the law firm with which she is associated approves.

Berta reviewed League's interest in and efforts on behalf of a new library up to the present date. The group was reminded that the League's position on the Appleton Public Library, confirmed at the last annual meeting, reads as given below, governs, or limits, action that may be undertaken by this committee unless and until changes in the position are approved by the membership at its annual meeting on April 28, 1978:

- "a. Provide a better facility for the Appleton Public Library, preferably a new building.
- "b. Develop programs to meet needs of special groups: elderly and handicapped, children, high school students, and new patrons.
- "c. Bring staffing and funding up to levels recommended by the American Library Association.
- "d. Encourage the Library Board to aggressively communicate its needs to both the Common Council and the public."

The group discussed the kinds of action that are open to its members: Talking to aldermen and encouraging all interested persons to convey their views to their aldermen; checking with Library Mothers at elementary schools to secure names of people interested in the library.

Recognizing that the League is basically supporting a new library, members agreed with Bob Coffin that we would have a new library, but what kind? Will there be a referendum? Not necessarily. The City Council can determine whether or not a referendum is held and also has the power to authorize loans if that is the route it chooses. Corinne Goldgar and Dorothy Draheim opined that a referendum would be held.

Attendance of committee members and other members of League at Library Board, City Council, City Council Library Panel, County Board meetings will continue to be urged. Library Board meets at 7:30 p.m. on February 23 and on March 2.

*A coalition of LWV, FOAL and AAUW is gradually taking place. As various suggestions were made it was emphasized that individuals calling aldermen and officials in their own names is the appropriate and effective way to proceed.

Nusi Ward reported League members' visit with the Mayor and her own visit with John Torinus, editor of the Post-Crescent. Torinus supports a new library; the mayor suggested that LWV formulate an "idea of a library."

R. Coffin said that it is very important for individuals to think about, talk about and communicate their ideas of what library services should include, noting that prime targets for omission appear to include a children's story hour room, a genealogy and local history room and a 300-person meeting room.

C. Calder's suggestion that library card holders be asked to solicit opinions, but the need for more political people for that task prevailed.

2. LWV Library committee meeting, February 7, 1978

It was urged that Don Stone, Chamber of Commerce spokesman, be consulted again and impressed with the need to enlist men's clubs in the effort to obtain a quality library for Appleton.


It was emphasized again that the need for positive statements concerning their opinions about what the library should provide be solicited from as broad a segment of the public as possible.

Calder wanted space, Goldgar urged flexibility, flexible space, Rinehart presented an argument: build now to save construction costs to provide in the future services that will be demanded.

Ann Rinehart, Betty Breunig, Berta Churchill and Nusi Ward will study the Holt report to develop a list of services that should be provided in a public library in Appleton.

* The next meeting of this group and of any interested recruits will be held at Bob and Panny Coffins' home at 159 River Drive, Men. Mar. 6.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy Draheim

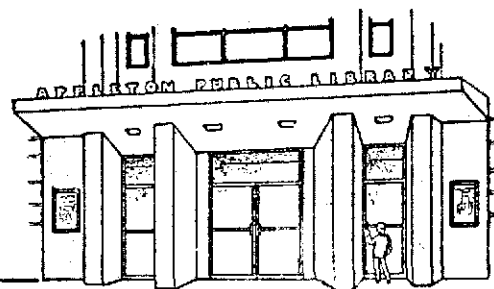
Addresses of "new" people at this meeting:

A. Rinehart	213 East Kimball Street	Office 731-5201 Res. 731-0486
Susan Joyce	76 Schaefer Circle	734-2295
Gretchen Phillips	1112 West Parkway	734-5298

**Barbara Dickie will be chairman of FOAL's new library committee after the April election of FOAL officers.

* No committee meeting held this week due to Unit meetings on Library Action Added this week.

Appleton Public Library



March 28, 1975

121 SOUTH ONEIDA STREET
APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

PHONE 734-7171

League of Women Voters
Library Study Committee
Mrs. Parker Marden, Chairwoman
934 E. Pacific St.
Appleton, Wis. 54911

Dear Mrs. Marden:

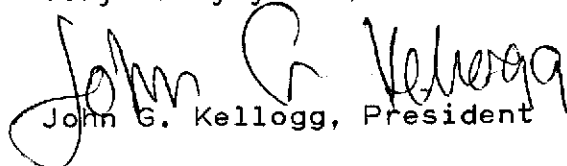
The Board of Trustees of the Appleton Public Library wishes to thank the League of Women Voters, and particularly the members of the Library Study Committee, for the excellent study and report. A motion expressing the Board's appreciation was adopted at its March 25th meeting.

When the Library Board meets again on April 22nd it intends to devote time to discussing the recommendations that the Library Study Committee made, and it is our hope that some very practical and positive results will accrue from the study.

Thank you, again, for a job well done. We are certain that the people of Appleton will be the long-term beneficiaries of your hard work.

For the Board of Trustees:

Very truly yours,


John G. Kellogg, President

Gordon H. Bebeau, Director

November 20, 1978

Mr. Harold Adams
First National Bank of Appleton
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

Dear Harold,

Thank you for your letter of November 13. You may be sure that November 7, 1978, was an exciting and momentous day for the Appleton League of Women Voters.

We want you to know that we appreciate your skillful management of the Council Committee on a new library, or, more correctly, the Council Library Planning Committee. The actions taken by the committee surely reflected your determination that Appleton acquire the library that all its people need.

We realize that real work remains to be done and we trust that you will be involved in it. We in League will continue to play our part until the new library's doors are open, constantly supporting quality library service.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy H. Draheim, President
Appleton League of Women Voters

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF APPLETON
APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54911

HAROLD C. ADAMS
CHAIRMAN

November 13, 1978

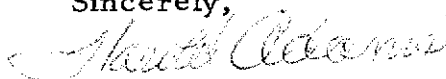
The League of Women Voters
c/o Ms. Dorothy Draheim
1701 North McDonald Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

Dear Dorothy:

I am convinced that the citizens of Appleton desire to maintain a high standard of education and culture within our community. Although I was away at the time the referendum was voted upon, I was informed that night of the successful vote and much of the credit for this vote goes to your work. Please accept my thanks for the part you have played in helping us take this early step toward a new library. Every effort will be made to see that it is completed at the earliest possible moment.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely,



Chairman
Library Building Committee

HCA:gv

February 18, 1977

I. Should the City buy the A.A.L. Building?

A. Long term and short term costs

AAL purchase \$5,225,000 (?)
AAL remodelling \$1,500,000
Greater library staff costs \$262,000
Maintenance \$320,000 per year minimum.

New library \$3,900,000
New city hall (?)

B. Effects

On the library, if located in AAL

On the downtown, if AAL not purchased by city

II. Library Plaza (AAL consultant) vs. Independence Plaza (Holt Report)

III. References

A. Raymond Holt Report:

Analysis of AAL library, advantages and disadvantages, p. 143.

Cost of AAL building - library occupation, p. 146.

Conclusion, p. 147.

B. Hammer, Siler, George Association Report on AAL:

25%-30% increased staff costs depend on design changes, management of space, and personnel utilization

Maintenance costs of AAL

C. Community Action Committee for a New Library flyer - funds available other than higher taxes

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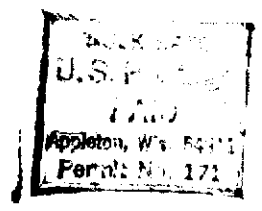
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APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1. If constructed as planned the new library will have:
 - Access for the handicapped
 - Expanded meeting room space
 - Adequate parking
 - Accommodation for new technology
 - Expansion room for at least 20 years
 - Add on capabilities for 50 years
 - Adequate shelving, seating, and work space
2. If the decision on a new library is put off Appleton will have to build a smaller building at the same cost, or the same building at greater cost. The cost has already been estimated at 36% over buildings begun in 1976!
3. The site recommended for the new library is the City Hall block. The Power Co. building on the southwest corner of this block is being considered as a new City Hall. This property can be quickly acquired, at reasonable cost. It is in a central location, accessible to all citizens.
4. The present library building was built in 1899.
5. When the present building was fully occupied by the library (1955) Appleton's population was only 42,000; the collection was only 81,000 and the staff was only 14. Today the population is 61,000; the collection 160,000 and the staff 31. Space has not increased at all.
6. Since 1973 the library's circulation has risen 37%.
7. Since 1973 reference questions have increased 95%.
8. Almost 30% of the library's collection is stored either in the basement, in the Zuelke building, or on the tops of stacks.
9. American Library Association standards suggest a minimum of 4 books per capita. Appleton has 2.6.
10. In 1976 the circulation per capita in communities such as Oshkosh, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc was double that of Appleton's.
11. The new library as proposed would be about triple the size of the present one - 63,800 square feet.
12. The estimated cost of construction is \$4.2 million.
13. Based on 20 year bonds for \$4 million the tax impact would be 45¢ per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.
14. The tax impact on property assessed at \$40,000 on 20 year bonds would be \$18 per year.
15. The anticipated increase in operating costs would add 28¢ per \$1,000 of assessed valuation at 1978 prices. \$11.20 for a \$40,000 property - the approximate price of one hard cover book!
16. Even with increased operating costs in a new building the per capita cost (\$12.07) will be lower than those of libraries in comparable Wisconsin communities.

August 31, 1978

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
APPLETON, WISCONSIN



Phyllis Dintenfass
738 E. Eldorado
Appleton, Wi 54911

2/4/92

What kind of library does the community want?

What changes would you like to see?

Less	No	More
<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>

Children's:

- Space
- Collection size
- Staff size
- # of Programs
- Weed Collection
- Educational toys/
Equipment

Young Adult:

- Space
- Collection size
- Staff
- Programs

General/Adult:

- Space
- Collection size
- Staff
- Programs
- Automation
- Study/Quiet Space
- Patron Survey
- Staff Development
- Noise Control
- Circulation area

Handicap Services:

- Consult advocacy groups
- Automate front doors
- Literacy collection
- Parking

Volunteers:

Use of

PR:

- Suggestion box
- Signs and labels
- Input into collections
- Newsletter/newspaper info
- Info/new patron/card application desk

Recognizing there is no free lunch, how do we pay for changes?

What action should LWV take to insure this kind of library?
(Give copy of recommendations to Library Board, Common Council, AAUW, FOAL etc)