

League of Women Voters-Appleton Annual Report Summaries 2006-2007

President

By Beth English

Thank you all for a wonderful opportunity. Being your president has been an enriching experience. This board has been the best! As individuals and as a team, we were able to grow this League.

Early in my term, we made time to do some strategic planning. Together with the membership, we identified what worked and what didn't – what we had time to do and what we'd do only if we had time. We came out of with a strategy consisting of three goals:

1. Voters service;
2. Membership; and
3. Visibility.

I am proud to report that we made progress in all three areas.

We had a very strong Voter Service Committee. Director Lynda Cutts worked with Shirley Adams, Shirley Strange and Winnie Doxsie to interview candidates on Time Warner Cable, produced questionnaires for school board and county board candidates that were posted to our Web site. They held neighborhood candidate meetings and a public meet and greet for aldermanic candidates. Jan Quinlan and Nadine Miller produced both a smoking ban forum and a huge project, the 8th Congressional District voters forum.

Every activity we offered these past two years had an element of membership. Carolyn Mewhorter held the annual new member tea for those wanting to know more about League. Shirley Adams, Barb Hoffman, Susi Alger, Carolyn and Deb Cronmiller made sure our studies included members – new and old and some non-members. Candidate forums were open to the public. Members were pressed into service to act as ushers, timers, to review budgets, open their homes to candidates, to serve on committees and send letters to legislators. Mostly we worked on growing leadership among members. Our mission is simple, League procedures are not. It takes new members a while to learn all the ways League preserves its grassroots fundamentals. We hope this board has learned those.

This board really came together to increase our visibility. Our new webmaster, Jody Vandomelen, improved the look of our home page. She consistently prodded us to keep the information relevant and up to date. Miriam Douglass kept the Bulletin looking fresh and made sure it was in the hands of every member every month. When Karon Sandberg came back from Indonesia her good friend Kathy Kamps offered her services as P.R. chair. Karon (and Winnie before her) kept us in the press. We have increased our influence by forming coalitions with other community groups. This had the added benefit of introducing more outside groups to League.

All in all, we have tried new things. Not everything we tried worked. Some things just need to be given time to catch on. And we are still not finished! Winnie and the Shirleys have committed us to recruiting 150 new poll workers for the city before the next presidential election. Ambitious, but with the enthusiasm these women show, you have to believe they will get it done. Leaguers with a sense of history want to be part of Appleton's sesquicentennial celebration by having us march in the Flag Day Parade. What a great way to celebrate the impact League has had on the community!

How do I tell you what a pleasure it has been to work with all of you? The way you took ideas and ran with them, the enthusiasm for League that you brought – you all have renewed my commitment to League. Thank you for everything!

Treasurer

By Sue Silton

The 2006-07 financial report and the proposed budget for 2007-08 are included at the end of this annual report. The \$634.85 difference between the 2006-07 actual income on the proposed budget and the total income on the financial report includes \$568.60 from the Ed Fund and \$66.25 additional interest taken from both CDs for operating expenses.

A discussion was held at the April board meeting about membership dues. The LWVUS per-member payment currently is \$26.30 and the LWVWI PMP is \$27.00. Current basic membership dues are \$45.00 and sustaining membership dues are \$65.00. Basic dues would have to be at least \$53.30 to cover national and state dues, and this does not cover any local costs. There was discussion about raising dues and many pros and cons were voiced. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the membership at that annual meeting that **basic membership dues be increased from \$45.00 to \$55.00 and sustaining membership dues from \$65.00 to \$75.00**. The motion carried.

Action Vice President

By Winnie Doxie

The role of this position is changing because of the LWV State and National e-Action Alert capabilities. I've had more time to do special projects and focus on local issues. As directed by the board, I wrote letters to the editor of the Post-Crescent (Karon Sandburg did more) and testified before the City Planning Commission about the proposed Appleton West sports complex.

I participated in the State LWV Legislative Day on April 11 with a delegation of Appleton LWV members.

As a member of the Voter Services Committee, I assisted in the taping of the candidates in the Grand Chute Town Chairman race that was broadcast on Cablevision channel 4 as well as WI on Demand. We worked with the Harmony Café and Working Families Win to promote several forums held at the Harmony Café; the County Board Chair race, the Supreme Court race, and a meet-your-Alderman activity prior to the spring elections.

A project that will continue into next year is the Poll Worker Project. The Appleton League will be working to recruit 150 new election officials to serve in Appleton and surrounding communities. Currently, working at the polls is a very long day. Our goal is to recruit enough individuals (create a large enough pool of workers) so that the Appleton Clerk has the people power to offer a half-day option. One benefit that we hadn't anticipated is that we have one employer evaluating their policies to include serving as an election official as part of their civic duty policy – pretty cool! Please watch the Bulletin and check out the Web site to learn how you can participate.

If I could recommend one thing, it would be join a committee. It's a great way to meet talented, interesting people and make a difference with a small time commitment.

Program Vice President

By Nadine Miller

Our 2006-07 Program Calendar is near the end of this annual report packet.

Due to the involvement of many directors and members, this year featured several successful programs, including our annual holiday brunch with speaker Joy Perry from UW-Fox Valley on Energy, in conjunction with our state study topic. Lively Issues in January was well attended with good discussion generating the recommended and non-recommended program of study for next year (listed on the agenda).

Our most visible voters' service program this year was the debate between the candidates for the open 8th Congressional District seat, which was broadcast live on network television. Thanks to all those who planned, led and participated in our programming this year.

Public Relations

By Karon Sandberg

With the goal of getting our name out there and increasing our exposure in the community, the League had some definite highlights this year. Thanks to an exciting 8th Congressional race, we got television and newspaper coverage of our co- sponsorship of the Gard-Kagen Debate in October. This was a great collaborative event with a number of organizations in the community.

League joined Aware Fox Cities, an organization of groups that focus on political issues in our community. Through Aware, we are able to promote our activities to the public through monthly posters, advertising and support in the Post Crescent and The Valley Scene. Joining Aware has also allowed us to get to know other politically active groups in the community and to collaborate with them on similar issues.

Throughout the year, I spoke to a variety of service organizations educating them about League and the work we do in our community. We also spoke to groups of first-time voters, getting them excited and informed about the voting process.

Spring brought about more coverage in the Post Crescent concerning our taped candidate interviews, adermanic forums and letters to the editor. Look for League members to march in the Flag Day Parade on June 9, celebrating the suffragettes and women's right to vote. We will also be putting together an educational display to be

viewed at the Appleton Public Library sharing our history and ways we have help to shape our community through study and action.

Voter Services

By Shirley Adams for Lynda Cutts

The Voter Service Committee, Shirley Adams, Winnie Doxsie, Shirley Strange and Chairperson Lynda Cutts, conducted video interviews of the candidates for county sheriff and county clerk prior to the fall primary election. Televised forums of the candidates for the 56th and 57th Assembly Districts took place before the November election. The candidates for Town of Grand Chute Chairman were interviewed on Time Warner Cable TV before the spring election. The interviews and forums were rebroadcast a number of times and were available on DVD at the Appleton Public Library. Time Warner has no way of knowing how many people view the community channel. Please let us know if you viewed the interviews/forums on TWCTV's, Community Access Channel 4 or if you heard any comments about this service from friends and neighbors. The LWVWI is opposing the state cable TV bill that would likely eliminate public access channels. In addition to the interviews/forums, we co-sponsored with Harmony Café the County Executive Debate and Meet the Alderpersons activity. Thank you to Karon Sandberg for the publicity of these events. The flier *Voting in Wisconsin, A How to Guide* was distributed at various opportunities.

Observer Corps

By Shirley Adams

The September through May meetings of the Appleton Common Council were attended by Cindy Carter and Carolyn Mewhorter. Carolyn would like to see greater involvement of the League in riverfront development planning, consistent with the League's study of several years ago. Nancy Graham and Dick Sampson monitored the Outagamie County Board during the same time period. Nancy commends the county board for expansion of methane collection at the landfill to use as an alternative energy source. We are indebted to these four members who gave so generously of their time to keep local politicians aware of the presence of the League. This past year we had no observers at the school board meetings. Please consider an observer assignment next year.

Bulletin

By Miriam Douglass

Nine monthly Bulletins were issued during September 2006 through May 2007. Sixty-two percent of the membership received their copies of the Bulletin by e-mail, saving our League \$10/member. We hope that more members will choose this faster, more colorful and less expensive mailing method next year. Members received Action Alerts by e-mail unless they chose to opt out.

Nominating Committee

By Shirley Strange

Sue Eich, Chair, and committee members, Jan Quinlan and Pat McConnell, along with board-appointed members, Carolyn Mewhorter and Shirley Strange, comprised this year's Nominating Committee. Thanks for your work.

Mental Health Study Committee Update

By Debra Cronmiller

During the 2006-07 League year, the Mental Health Study Committee has worked to collect information from our community needed to identify:

- The needs, range of issues, and treatments available for those living with mental illness;
- The services currently in place to meet the needs of the population;
- The gaps or missing links in services available to those living in our community, especially those reliant on the county mental health systems; and
- The impact of service gaps on other area providers (for example transportation, police and housing providers).

The committee, including Karen Aspenson, Debra Cronmiller, Jennifer Dieter, Sue Eich, Diane Mandler, Peg McGaffey, Carolyn Mewhorter, Kathleen Munske, Tom Tatlock, and Mary Wisnet, has collected a great deal of information from various community mental health providers, and the United Way and Community Foundation as they have recently studied the emerging needs in the mental health service system. Additionally, information regarding the education and training of psychiatric professionals and other mental health providers has been collected to help determine the most significant issues related to mental health services and delivery in our community.

Our next steps include the drafting of papers that will condense the research so all members of the League can begin to review and educate themselves on our current system and its strengths and weaknesses. From the analysis of all the research, our consensus questions will be developed and in the 2007-08 League Year discussion sessions on the questions will be held. Forums or panel discussions with experts may be offered in addition to the papers so all League members can best understand the issue. During the annual meeting in spring 2008, all League members will have proposed local mental health position to act on.

Proposed Budget for 2007-2008 (with comparisons)

	<i>2006/07 actual</i>	<i>2006/07 budget</i>	<i>2007/08 budget</i>
INCOME	as of 4/21		
A. Dues	1,795.00	2,070.00	1,800.00
B. Contributions			
1. Member Contributions	665.00	1,300.00	1,000.00
2. Member Ed Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Non-member Contribution	100.00	800.00	1,000.00
4. Non-member Ed Fund	0.00	200.00	0.00
C. Other Inc			
1. Interest Inc from CD's	403.70	200.00	300.00
D. Miscellaneous			
1. Holiday Brunch	301.30	450.00	450.00
2. Annual Meeting	45.00	550.00	550.00
3. Transfer from Ed Fund	568.60	1,589.00	100.00
4. Transfer from Savings or CD	0.00	0.00	2,140.00
TOTAL INCOME	3,878.60	7,159.00	7,340.00
EXPENSES			
A. Operating Costs			
1. General Supplies	56.95	125.00	125.00
2. Telephone and Answering Svc	222.25	300.00	300.00
3. Post Office Box	80.00	76.00	80.00
4. Insurance	250.00	250.00	250.00
B. Board and Committees			
1. Finance Committee	0.00	150.00	150.00
2. Membership Expenses	60.00	150.00	150.00
C. Delegates, Travel & Workshop			
1. State Council	0.00	0.00	100.00
2. State Convention	0.00	900.00	0.00
3. National Convention	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
4. Workshops	100.00	100.00	100.00
D. Financial Support for League			
1. Lake Michigan Interleague	25.00	25.00	25.00
2. State PMA	1,188.00	1,242.00	1,250.00
3. National PMP	1,137.20	1,071.00	1,100.00
E. Bulletin	266.50	750.00	500.00

F. Educational Activity			
1. Membership Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Program			
a. National	0.00	50.00	50.00
b. State	0.00	50.00	50.00
c. Local	0.00	75.00	75.00
3. Voter's Service	18.00	200.00	200.00
4. Website	76.32	400.00	200.00
5. Archive	0.00	335.00	75.00
G. Position Support	48.13	0.00	50.00
H. Misc			
1. Corporate Filing Fee	10.00	10.00	10.00
2. Holiday Brunch	281.31	400.00	450.00
3. Annual Meeting	0.00	500.00	550.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,819.66	7,159.00	7,340.00