

President's Report

It was an exciting, productive year thanks to the time and energy given and the skills of many league members and especially, the Board. The nine members of the board, Vice Presidents, Barb Dorzweiler and Jan Quinlan, Treasurer Sue Silton, Secretary Marcia Hittle, Voter Service Director, Beth English, Membership Director, Winnie Doxie, Membership Recruitment Initiative Chair, Sara Companik, Newsletter Director, Vicky Olenski, and Observer Corps Director, Marlys Fritzell, were a powerhouse of action and accomplishment. Many thanks to these outstanding women. Each woman has been absolutely invaluable to the League in its work over the past two years.

The Women's Equality Day celebration catapulted us into the year with new friends, networking partners, and higher visibility in the community.

Our Voter Service efforts kept us in the spotlight and served the voters. Advocacy included statements before the City Council and County Board and letters to the editor and legislators on action issues.

Observer Corps was an interesting place to be this year. Budget restraints have put pressure on school districts and local governments like no other year. The decennial census put redistricting front and center.

Lively Issues was just that, a time to discuss important issues in our community and study our positions in a meaningful way. A local study was not suggested this year due to the two-year study underway.

The two-year local study is proceeding forward as the committee members study and gather information to share with the membership this fall. The topic of the local study is: A study of the implications of implementing an RTA, (Regional Transit Authority) looking specifically at issues of governance, funding, and service.

The Holiday Brunch was a classic League morning...friendship, fun, shared information and learning. Karen Harkness, Director of Economic Development for the City of Appleton, was our speaker. And we welcome Karen along with our other new members to the Appleton League!!!

Membership Meetings: I am often asked by prospective members the question, "When do you meet?" We are unlike other organizations in that we don't have a specific monthly schedule for membership meetings. We are looking, however, to provide more membership meetings, perhaps on a monthly basis, around interesting topics and issues. Please feel free to make suggestions.

Website, Facebook and email...electronic communication continues to be an invaluable way to connect with our membership, networking partners and friends. This summer we will be looking into electronic means for making payments and donations .

Two Board members are leaving this year. They will not be considering another position for the coming year. They will be missed, Marcia Hittle and Beth English. Thank you Marcia and Beth for your time, work, support, and for adding to the fun and camaraderie of serving on the Board.

Shirley Strange
May 2011