

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - APPLETON
ANNUAL MEETING PACKET
Thursday, May 10, 2012**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda
2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Report

Financial Report

2012-2013 Budget

President's Report

Membership Report

Membership List

Program Vice-President's Report

Local Study Report

Lively Issues Minutes January 21, 2012

Nominating Committee Report

Action Vice President's Report

Voter Service Report

Observer Corps Report

Internet and Social Media Policy

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS APPLETON
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Presiding: President Shirley Strange Recorder: Secretary Miriam Douglass

Call to Order, Greetings and Introductions, Introduction of Parliamentarian	President Shirley Strange
Remarks from the Parliamentarian	Marlys Fritzell
2012 Annual Meeting	
Adoption of Agenda	President Shirley Strange
Acceptance of Minutes (2011 Annual Meeting)	
Appoint Committee to Approve Minutes	
President's Report	
Membership Report	Membership Chair Stephanie Malaney
Budget Presentation	Treasurer Sue Silton
2012 Program	Sara Companik
Report on 2010-2012 Local Study	Carolyn Mewhorter
Consideration of Non-Recommended Program	Sara Companik
Discussion of Recommended Program	
Discussion of Non-Recommended Program	
Adoption of Recommended Program	President Shirley Strange
Adoption of Non-Recommended Program	
Nominating Committee Report	Nominating Chair Beth English
Nominations from the floor	President Shirley Strange
Adoption of Board Nominees	
Re-Adoption of Local Position	President
Adoption of Budget	President
New Business	President
Directions to the Board	President
Motion to Adjourn	President

Agenda

Printing of Annual Packet
Thank you to
Sue and Larry Silton

League of Women Voters Appleton
Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2011
Liberty Hall
Social Hour 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Present: Shirley Strange, Barb Dorzweiler, Jan Quinlan, Sue Silton, Marcia Hittle, Sara Companik, Beth English, Marlys Fritzell, Miriam Douglas, Sue Eich, Gayle Hardt, Marty Hemwall, Barbara Hoffman, Carolyn Mewhorter, Colleen Rortvedt, Irene Strohbeen, Leslie Taylor

President Shirley Strange called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She asked the members to introduce themselves by going around the table and having each person give her name and LWV responsibility.

Marlys Fritzell, the parliamentarian, briefly set out the guidelines to be followed in running the meeting.

Carolyn Mewhorter moved the adoption of the agenda. Jan Quinlan seconded and the motion carried.

The president appointed a committee of Miriam Douglass, Jan Quinlan, and Sue Eich to review and approve the meeting minutes.

Treasurer Sue Silton presented the Financial Report for 2010 - 2011. She explained the membership payments which the Appleton LWV must make to the state and national League. The finance drive, which has been targeted at current and former members, is doing well. About \$1,000 has been raised so far. In the fall, the finance drive will expand to solicit the business community. One of Sue's goal is to contact other Leagues to find out what software they are using to maintain their financial records. She would like to use this software to ensure that there is a seamless transition to the new treasurer when Sue's term in office ends. It is expected that League will finally gain 501C(3) status this year. If this happens, \$75 of LWV dues would be tax deductible.

In her President's report, Shirley lamented that the celebration (petit fours and champagne!) which she had planned to honor this year's board members had to be cancelled due to a snow storm. The new board will have it's organizational meeting on June 14. Shirley expressed the hope that it will function as effectively as this year's board.

Sara Companik presented the membership report, in the absence of the membership chair, Winnie Doxsie. There has been an increase in membership this year up to 50 members. We have been following the suggested strategies of the Membership Recruitment Initiative to gain new members. She also announced that Miriam Douglass won the Connie Steele Women of Strength award.

Sue Silton presented the proposed Budget for 2011 - 2012. The only major expense still coming up this year is the State Annual Meeting in June. She pointed out that next year it may be necessary to take more than \$4,000 out of savings to balance the budget. Sue raised the possibility of increasing the membership dues for next year. The current local dues fall \$5 short of covering our dues payment obligations to the state and national LWV. Sue calculated that the League actually spends around \$120 - \$130 per member per year. Jan Quinlan moved to increase the regular dues from \$55 to \$60 per year, and the household dues from \$70 to \$ 90 per year. Marty Hemwall seconded and the motion carried.

Vice president Barb Dorzweiler presented the program report. The local study committee is in the second year of the Regional Transit Authority study. Carolyn Mewhorter, who is co-chairing the committee with Shirley Strange, reported that the committee is organizing materials in preparation for an informational general meeting in the fall. Barb explained that no new study was recommended at the Lively Issues meeting because the RTA study will be continuing. Several topics for general meetings were suggested at Lively Issues: new library, new exhibition center, voter ID, riverfront development. Carolyn Mewhorter moved adoption of the recommendation to hold a series of educational programs on the above topics. Sue Silton seconded, and the motion passed.

Marcia Hittle presented the Nominating Committee Report in the absence of the chair, Helen Nagler. The slate of officers and directors for next year are:

President: Shirley Strange

Vice President Program: Sara Companik

Secretary: Miriam Douglass

Directors: (2 years) Barb Dorzweiler, Carolyn Mewhorter, Irene Strohbeen

Director: (1 year) Leslie Taylor

2012 Nominating Committee: Beth English, chair; Barbara Kelly, Marcia Hittle

Unanimous acceptance of the Nominating Committee's slate was moved by Jan Quinlan, seconded by Gayle Hardt, and the motion passed.

President Shirley Strange presented the changes in our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation which must be adopted in order to bring the Appleton League into compliance with the requirements for gaining 501C(3) status. These changes are underlined in the Annual Meeting packet. There are also two small wording changes needed to bring our Bylaws into conformity with reality. (1) The date for the Annual Meeting is changed from "April" to "spring." (Article VI, section 2) (2) The word "honorary" is removed in reference to life members. (Article III, Section 2) Sue Silton moved acceptance of the Bylaw changes, and Jan Quinlan seconded. The motion passed with the required two thirds vote.

A discussion of the Articles of Incorporation followed. Most members were surprised to learn that our League was incorporated. Barb Hoffman then explained that incorporation had occurred in order to shield the organization from any liability that might be incurred as a result of "what she (Barb) might say to the mayor." The changes to the Articles of Incorporation are identical to the ones that the LWV-WI has made in the state Articles of Incorporation, in order to qualify for 501 C(3) status. These changes were approved.

Jan Quinlan moved the re-adoption of the local program positions. Sue Eich seconded, and the motion passed.

Carolyn Mewhorter moved adoption of the budget, seconded by Sue Eich. To reflect the increase in dues approved earlier at this meeting, Sue Silton moved to amend the budget to add \$310 to the dues line (A). Beth English seconded and the motion passed. Jan Quinlan then moved to add a line "Membership Scholarship" for \$180 under expenses. Marty Hemwall seconded and the motion passed. To reflect these changes and balance the budget, Sue Silton moved to reduce the amount under D.3, "Transfer from Savings or CD" from \$4,356 to \$4,226. Barb Dorzweiler seconded and the budget was adopted as amended.

New business: Carolyn Mewhorter reported that long-time member Len Weiss had died. The League will send a card to his wife, Donna, and a tribute will appear in the newsletter.

Directions to the Board: Gayle Hardt - continue image building.

Beth English - commended the membership committee for gaining six new members this year.

Barbara Hoffman - toot your horn all over the community, emphasize self-promotion

Jan Quinlan - commended Shirley on her leadership as president.

Sue Eich - schedule more general meetings.

Shirley - plans to schedule another tour of the recycling plant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Hittle, secretary

Treasurer's Report

By Sue Silton

The 2011-12 financial report and the proposed budget for 2012-13 are included in the annual meeting packet.

As I reviewed the treasurer's report that I wrote for last year's Annual Meeting, I read that I was hopeful that our local league would receive 501C(3) status from the IRS. I am so pleased to write that we did receive 501C(3) status shortly after last year's fiscal year ended.

As a result, dues payments up to \$75 are fully deductible as are other donations to our local league. This includes cash as well as in kind donations.

I want to thank Shirley Strange, Sue Kinde and Jan Quinlan for serving on the budget committee.

Account Balances as of 5/4/2012

CD 18273	\$5,000 0 .00
Checking 2009-10	6,441.12
Monies kept by LWV Ed Fund	180.55
Overall Total	\$11,621.67

As I finish my tenure as treasurer of our local league, I want to thank each and every one of you. It has been an honor to serve with a wonderful, bright group of women with common goals.

2012-2013 Budget

	Budget		
INCOME	Budget for	Actual as o	Draft of 2012-13
	2011-12	5/4/12	budget
A. Dues	2,510.00	2,870.00	2,515.00
B. Contributions			
1. Member Contributions	1,500.00	1,097.60	1,500.00
2. Non-member Contributions	500.00	200.00	750.00
3. State & National Ed Fund	250.00	25.00	-
C. Event Income			
1. Holiday Brunch	550.00	447.00	550.00
2. Annual Meeting	550.00		550.00
3. Women's Equality Day		575.00	500.00
D. Other Income			
1. Interest	50.00	98.70	50.00
2. Transfer from Savings	4,226.00		2,356.00
3. Merchandise Sold		70.00	-
TOTAL INCOME	10,136.00	5,383.40	8,771.00

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
SHIRLEY STRANGE
2011-2012

The Appleton League of Women Voters proved itself to be a vibrant, vital organization engaged in the community in 2011-2012!

Lively Issues, the Holiday Brunch, Food for Thought Luncheons, this Annual Meeting, and other events, organized with attention to topics, speakers, and the details of planning and executing were in the hands of *Sara Companik*. Many thanks to Sara for the time and attention given to make this year's Program new, creative and interesting for all of our members. She has bountiful ideas and knows how to execute them.

It was our second celebration of Women's Equality Day in August 2011. It was held at the Gardens of the Fox Cities. We had wine, hors d' oeuvres and a program on the new voter ID law. We are going for our third this year at the History Museum with a program on Women's Suffrage in Appleton. Wine and hors d' oeuvres again. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Appleton League to present itself to other women in the community and for us to gain new members and contacts. An ad hoc committee plans this event.

Voter Service began to crackle and pop when the new voter ID law came to our attention last summer. We worked to inform voters of the implications of the law and to register voters. We visited high schools, Fox Valley Tech, UW Fox Valley and nursing homes. We held informational forums and candidate forums. Many thanks to *Irene Strohbeen* who, in her first year as Voter Service Director, learned and assimilated the information, and organized, managed and directed all of the events. There was no stopping her.

Local Study on the Regional Transit Authority concluded with a consensus meeting on November 10th. Thanks to *Carolyn Mewhorter* for chairing the committee and steering the effort.

We presented statements on local budgets to the Appleton Common Council and the Outagamie County Board. We took issue with the elimination of the Park and Recreation Department making a statement to the council and meeting privately with the Mayor. We presented testimony in favor of a Fox Cities RTA before the Senate Transportation and Elections Committee March 8, 2012 in Madison.

Stephanie Malaney stepped in to take over membership when *Winnie Doxsie* moved to Eau Claire. Stephanie saved the day for us and brought many new ideas. Our membership list is complete. That is, every member on the list has paid her/his dues. We have lost a few, but also gained. We continue to be a part of the Membership Recruitment Initiative begun at the national level. Appleton is doing fine with recruitments. We will continue our work with our sights on strong numbers. Always, always make the "ask".

We say good-by to board members, *Marlys Fritzell*, *Sue Silton*, and *Jan Quinlan*. They have finished their terms and then some. These three women have been more than board members to me. From the beginning, they supported me with their wisdom, knowledge, and advice. I counted on them for guidance and direction. These women are League Women par excellence. Thank you, thank you.

All of the board members are vital to the operations of the league. Thanks to *Barbara Dorzweiler* for the new Communications schemata, and *Miriam Douglass*, for providing us with the minutes of each meeting along with her wisdom and knowledge. And she's just plain fun. We also say good-by to *Leslie Taylor*. Our thanks to Leslie for her work on sustainability in our community. And finally, thanks again to *Vicky Olenski* who steps down after several years of publishing the newsletter to make time for her career and studies. Thanks, Vicky and good luck!

Membership Report from Stephanie Malaney

Current Membership

We currently have 52 members. 4 are Life members. 6 new members which includes one student.

Membership Drive Process for Renewal and New Members

To ensure that our league has membership up to date by the January 31 assessment date by the national and state organizations we will be following the schedule below.

Calendar of Membership Drive	
August/September	Get information on membership renewal into August and/or September newsletter Membership forms, brochures, membership board ready for all meetings Kick Off ready for Women's Equality Day
September	Membership forms, brochures, membership poster board ready for all meetings
October	General drive to increase membership and getting members to renew
November	Personal emails to members who have not paid dues
December	Post cards, emails and phone calls to members who have not yet paid dues
January	Phone calls targeting Jan.15 as date to complete renewals
Ongoing	Small face to face gatherings with new members for continued support
Ongoing	Membership information at every event

Follow Up after Membership Dues are Received

When members renew they will receive a letter confirming the dues were received and it will have the information for taxes. New members can expect a face to face meeting with league leadership along with new member information.

Program Report
Sara Companik
2011-2912

The Holiday Brunch, Lively Issues, and the Annual Meeting are the major events planned by the Program VP. With the input of the League Board, another goal this year was to generate visibility and provide opportunities for a consistent presence in the community throughout the year. A calendar of events was established in September to hand out to members and potential members at League events. As the year progressed, Voter Service VP Irene Strohbeen organized two Educational Forums on Voter ID, and two Candidate Forums to add to our calendar. Thanks to Marylx Fritzell and President Shirley Strange who kept the League presence at City, County, and Appleton School Board meetings through attendance and the President's statements on League positions.

The Appleton League year began with the second annual Women's Equality Day program at The Gardens of the Fox Cities. Irene Strohbeen, Voter Services chair, arranged for Carolyn Castore from the State LWV to speak about the changes in Voter ID.

In September the Appleton League held an educational meeting at the Appleton Library entitled "What's Next for Education in the Appleton Schools." Appleton School Board President, Sharon Fenlon, shared information and answered questions about programs, policies, and procedures in the Appleton Schools.

Carolyn Mewhorter and the League RTA Study Committee organized a public forum in October asking five experts to discuss options to support funding for public transportation in the Fox Cities.

In December our Holiday Brunch speaker Leslie Taylor, who is a founding member of Sustainable Fox Cities and a League member, shared what has been happening with the "Sustainable Community Development in the Appleton Area."

In January we had members bring their ideas for Lively Issues to our League program. League members will vote at the Annual meeting on the Recommended program: Updating the library position in light of the possibility of a proposal for building a new library in the future as well as a possible library referendum,

In March and April the League held two successful "Food for Thought" Lunches to provide opportunities to introduce the organization to new audiences. Amy Oberg's topic "The Future of Women" enticed 41 women for the lunch. In April, Julie Filapek from Sustainable Fox Valley and Quasan Shaw from the Appleton City Community Development Department shared ongoing programs and insights for the future in developing sustainable communities.

The National League Privatization Study brought 12 members together in April for a lively discussion on the strategies and considerations for Best Practices of Privatization.

The May Annual Meeting will finalize the 2011-2012 League program, and the membership vote on the Recommended program will give us direction for 2012-2013.

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Study

Background: The current position to be presented to the League of Women Voters-Appleton at the 2102 Annual Meeting supports the development of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA). We propose establishing this position under the existing position of Local Transportation.

VIII. Local Transportation

D. Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

1. provide a sound, dependable funding source
2. direct election of board members
3. advisory committee of users

LWV-Appleton – Local Support Position(s)

Study Committee: Irene Strohbeen; Stevie Schmidt; Corinne Goldgar; Marlys Fritzell; Shirley Strange, co-chair; Carolyn Mewhorter, co-chair. Committee meetings were held March 10, 2011; May 19, 2011; June 9, 2011; July 21, 2011; September 1, and 23, 2011; October 27, 2011; November 3, 2011; December 1, 2011/

Meetings: (1) A general meeting was held on February 17, 2011 at Valley Transit. Mayor Hanna and Deborah Wetter, General Manager of Valley Transit, provide an overview of Valley Transit; services, current funding sources, and challenges to these funding sources. A meeting was held on February 8, 2011 with Deborah Wetter to plan for the general meeting. (2) A forum open to the public and the second general meeting for League members was held on October 13, 2011 at the Appleton Public Library. Titled “Public Transportation at Risk in the Fox Cities” the forum provided a panel made up of citizens and officials knowledgeable about Valley Transit and the Fox Valley area it serves responded to questions from the audience. Those on the panel included: Tim Hanna, Appleton Mayor; Al Runde, WI Legislative Fiscal Bureau; Thom Ciske, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce; George Dearborn, Community Development, Menasha; Penny Bernard Schaber, State Representative, 57th District, and Jo A. Egelhoff, Founder Fox Politics.net. (3) A consensus meeting was held on November 10, 2011 at the Appleton Public Library. Those in attendance included Stephanie Malaney; Renee Gralewicz; Sara Capanik; Maryls Fritzell; Marcia Hittle; Shirley Adams; Helen Nagler; Irene Strohbeen; Shirley Strange; and Carolyn Mewhorter.

Consensus

1. Because of need for public transportation, the League of Women Voters of Appleton supports a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) that will provide sound, dependable funding. The League of Women Voters-Appleton has long had a position on Local Transportation. Valley Transit continues to serve the needs of the community providing rides for employment, medical care, personal needs, school, and entertainment. 41% of the 1,143,832 trips taken in 2010 were for

employment purposes. Many employers in the Valley rely on transit to attract and retain employees.

2. Federal funding has been consistent in the past; however, the 2010 census has shown our population to be over 200,000 a point at which the federal government will withhold 1.5 million dollars in support to Valley Transit. A loss of 1.5 million dollars would result in decreased services and even possibly an end to a transit system in our area.
3. State funding is not consistent with a 10% cut being made earlier in the year (2011). Efforts to take transit out of the transportation budget and put it in the general fund have been dropped as of this writing.
4. A Regional Transit is already in place with 13 municipalities and counties participating in the service. The communities have long worked together to provide this important service which will facilitate establishing a Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

Discussed – Without Agreement or Dissent

1. Make up of the board of a Regional Transit Authority. Election or appointment of members. Size of the board.
2. The 100 Busses Coalition.
3. Supporters of Valley Transit:
4. The Connector.
5. The School ID Ride Program.

Possible Action Initiatives

1. Attend Transit Commission meetings when possible.
2. Monitor budgets funding transit – federal, state, and local.
3. Track legislation pertaining to transportation/transit on a regular basis and provide support as is appropriate. Keep League members aware of developments.
4. Work with other groups supporting funding for transit, e.g. Esther.

(Draft - February 13 ,2012)

Lively Issues
 January 21, 2012
 Appleton Public Library

Present: Sara Companik, Irene Strohbeen, Kim Wetzel, AnnaLee Wetzel, Penny Robinson, Colleen Rortvedt, Leslie Taylor, Miriam Douglass, Penny Bernard Schaber, Marcia Hittle, Dale Schaber, Jan Quinlain, Helen Nagler, Stevie Schmidt, Janeine Cardin, Shirley Strange

Sara Companik called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

The meeting began with Introductions.

Shirley Strange distributed a flowchart handout showing the steps to program-making. It begins with choosing an issue for study, followed by the study. Next is the consensus process. The final step in is the adoption of a position which takes place at the Annual Meeting of the membership in the spring.

Sara explained, for new members, that there are local, state and national positions. And that it is from these positions that the league takes action. Sara shared information on the national study, the study of Privatization, whose scope is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. The consensus deadline is May 1, 2012.

Sara invited members present to participate in reading the materials from the national study for discussion and consensus. Sara will invite the membership through email.

Sara then shared information from the state league. There may be a proposal presented at the state league meeting to carry out a statewide public education program on judicial independence including issues of judicial selection, recusal and the influence of money. Materials and resources would be provided. This is still in the development stage.

RTA

Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber brought us up-to-date on the status of the RTA in the legislature. Though the creation of an RTA was in last year's budget, it was completely eliminated in the 2012 budget.

Penny has put forward two bills, one introduced, Friday, January 21 for a statewide RTA. It would allow communities to create RTAs. Regions vary in how they want to do it...some are countywide; this area can't do counties because of the tri-county situation here. The bill refers to Metropolitan Urbanized Areas, which means that communities can decide for themselves if they want an RTA. Communities can determine the amount of tax but must have a referendum. Tax authority can tax up to .05%. Helen Nagler stated that this amount of tax would generate \$ 13-19 Million for Outagamie. The RTA should not gather more money than they need. Penny is sure that the bill will not go anywhere but it will present the opportunity for people to start thinking about it, get structure set up, and begin to build consensus for future.

Fox Valley bill for an RTA will be introduced on Tuesday, January 24 for the Fox Valley. It is a unique situation here in that the 2010 census bumped the population to 200,000, a cut-off for federal funding. It is the same basic structure as the state RTA bill. The communities involved are those that are served

by Fox Valley Transit. Same basic structure of the state RTA bill was put forward. Mike Ellis said he would co-author the Fox Valley RTA.

There is work being done at the federal level by Petri and Ribble for the 100 bus legislation. Penny Robinson said there are two bills in the House of Rep now... Penny Bernard Schaber urged the statewide, the Fox Valley bill and us to write to local legislators to support both. She also urged us to contact Petrowski and ask for Public Hearing. The Fox Valley Chamber of Commerce is supportive of an RTA.

Penny explained the difference between co-author and co-sponsor:

Co-author....bill belongs to all who co-author... bill will carry more weight/influence

Co-sponsor...actively supporting it though not in on the origin of the bill

Penny reminded us of effective ways to advocate: Phone calls (probably talk to a staff person but be assured that they are qualified and will deliver the message), personal letters and personal email. Form emails do not carry much weight. Penny reminded us of the importance of being polite whether phoning or writing.

And Penny also shared an excellent website to use to follow the legislative process. It is www.legis.state.wi.us or you can google Wisconsin State Legislature.

Sara shared that the New York State League is asking for support in recommending that the National League take the following issue on as a priority for 2012--to congress to pass the FRAC act which repeals an exemption for gas companies from the Clean Water Act.

FRACKING

(Note, the recorder to aid the reader in understanding the issue has inserted information in italics).

[Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking). The term refers to the act of using high powered pumping equipment to force water, sand and proprietary mixtures of chemicals deep into the Earth's crust with extreme pressure in an attempt to literally shatter (fracture) formations of shale, a type of rock, and in doing so liberate natural gas trapped in the rock. Other high powered and very complex equipment then collects both the fracking solution and any freed natural gas at the surface.]

Leslie Taylor gave us some background on fracking. It is a threat to air and water. Using water and pressure to force gas out of the shale has the potential to harm the environment. Companies don't have to identify the chemicals being used in fracking. Penny added information..even though Wisconsin won't have fracking, Wisconsin has the sand needed for fracking and now sand mining is going on. There are no standards or regulations around mining sand. Extracting the sand is causing big pits and quarries. Also of concern is that a greater amount of seismic activity is taking place in areas where fracking is going on. Penny stated that there is also concern that chemicals will come to the surface and contaminate the soil. *[Environmentalists fear that the diesel fuel, which contains toluene, xylene and benzene (a known carcinogen), will escape the bore holes, or leak through the fractured rock, and seep out into the soil and possibly the water table.]*

Penny shared that natural gas escapes and gets into water supply and in some instances your water can actually catch on fire. She noted that there have been improvements with this issue. But Leslie reminded us, ultimately we need to use less gas.

Leslie would like to address this issue locally by educating public on managing energy.

LOCAL ISSUES

Sara described the points to think about when considering a study...

- 1). Does the issue require a new position
- 2). Does the issue fall within LWV principles?
- 3). Can LWV have an impact?
- 4). Is issue timely?
- 5). What resources are needed to study and take action?

ES
YS
KS

Sara displayed the local league categories, Local Government, Natural Resources and Social Policies and led the discussion addressing each area in turn.

Suggestions and discussion:

Local Government:

Helen Nagler submitted a concern over the location of polling places. She noted that Lawrence students will have to cross the river to vote. She encouraged league to take this on looking at the logic and convenience of polling place locations, concerned with Lawrence students...consider a place that is more convenient...

Shirley suggested updating the library position in light of the possibility of a proposal for building a new library in the future as well as a possible library referendum. The league should be prepared to take a stand. Jan shared that the library board supports a plan where she and Colleen go out to aldermanic districts for listening sessions asking residents what they want to see in their community and how the library fits into priorities. Leslie would like to see the library join with other groups for this process. Kim mentioned that the Life Study offers information along these lines. Marcia asked whether a study by the league at this time would match the strategic timing of the library. Is this a good time for the league to take this on or is the library building plan too far into the future for us to take this on now? Colleen stated that aldermanic districts is a unique way to bring about deliberate involvement... Janeine spoke to looking at excellent examples of libraries...specifically one in Kansas. Colleen said other states are not always comparable...funding etc.

Natural Resources: Helen Nagler spoke to the need to look at keeping public access to the rivers. With new development going on there is always the danger of losing public access to water. There was discussion on whether this is already a part of our positions. We felt that our positions support action on this.

Social Policies:

Sara shared that WISDOM (state organization to which ESTHER belongs) is working on a program called 11x15, trying to reduce people in prison to 11,000 by 2015. The prisons hold twice as many inmates now

as they did in 1995. Wisconsin is 47th in the nation for number of people in prison. Only three states have more people in prison than does Wisconsin. We have a position on alternatives to incarceration that would allow us to take action. Penny reminded us that the "Earned Release" program was dissolved during the present administration.

Penny Bernard Schaber suggested a study around the Well Woman Program. It was previously housed with Planned Parenthood. Governor Walker said no state money can go through a program that includes abortion. This forced the Well-Woman Program to vacate the Planned Parenthood building and find a new location by December 31st. They are now housed with Winnebago County. Penny suggested that we look at the bigger picture of women in the health system, access to health care.

Stevie Schmidt suggested that rather than put the Polling Place issue into a study, we take action. A motion was made and seconded. Discussion included the fact that we have positions to act upon it and that it would become a moot point after a prolonged study. The changes would have taken place before the study was completed. Motion carried.

Members voted on their choice for a study:

Local Government:

- Polling Place: Take action
- Library - 10 votes

Natural Resources

- Public Access to Fox River-Discussion concluded that we have positions for action

Social Policy

- Prison Population - It was determined that we would have a position to address this
- Well Woman Program – 7 votes

Meeting adjourned 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Strange

2012-2014 Nomination Slate

Vice President: Irene Strohbeen
Treasurer: Barb Kelly
Director 2 yr: Stephanie Malaney
Director 2 yr: Stevie Schmidt
Director 2 yr: Penny Robinson
Director 1 yr: Lee Snodgrass
(remainder of Irene's term)
Nomination Chair: Jan Quinlan
Nomination Committee: Nadine Miller
Nomination Committee: Sue Eich

Continuing Board Members (year 2 of 2)

Shirley Strange, President
Sara Companik, Program Vicepresident
Miriam Douglass, Secretary
Barb Dorzweiler, Director
Carolyn Mewhorter
Irene Strohbeen

Respectfully submitted
Beth English, Marcia Hittle, Barb Kelly, Jan Quinlan and Carolyn Mewhorter

Action Vice President's Report 2011-2012,

submitted by Janice Quinlan, Action Vice-President

President Shirley Strange and Vice-President Jan Quinlan attended the City of Appleton Budget Saturday discussions and Finance Committee meeting. We delivered a statement at the City of Appleton public hearing supporting the need for green space in the central business district, a "stand-alone" Parks and Recreation department staffed with professional specialists administering to both recreation programs and park services, the importance of not cutting back on Valley Transit services, and in support of equal benefits available to same-gender couples as to those of heterosexual couples.

President Shirley Strange also spoke on behalf of the LWV-Appleton at the Outagamie County Board budget hearing supporting alternatives to incarceration and a redistricting process open to public input. At the Appleton Area School District budget hearing, Shirley commended the Board of Education, the AASD administrators and staff on putting students first and their civility in resolving issues during this challenging year.

Shirley Strange, Jan Quinlan, and Marlys Fritzell, met with Mayor Tim Hanna in early January to discuss the City's budget process. This year there were changes made to the mayor's budget following the lengthy discussions on Budget Saturday. Some of these changes were voted on very late at night when few community members were in attendance. The mayor was receptive to any ideas for improving the process to inform citizens of last-minute changes to the budget.

We also used email to forward many additional action alerts to members from the state and national LWVs, encouraging individual League members to advocate for positions on those levels.

LWV-Appleton Voter Service Report—2011-2012 Fiscal Year

Submitted by Irene Strohbeen

Dear LWV-Appleton members,

Thank you for your trust in me to take on the challenge of Voter Service for the 2011-12 fiscal year. With the changes in the law that were signed into law in summer of 2011, we have had so much to do around Voter Education and Voter Registration. And, with 2012 being an election year, we also needed to deliver candidate information to our voters for the Spring elections. See details below for a summary of Voter Service action.

It's been a year of learning for me, and I have appreciated the opportunity to serve our voters at the same time as I've become more educated myself. It's been a fun journey for me!

Irene Strohbeen

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Voter Registration:

- Have 41 volunteers interested in helping voters to register
- Held 10 Voter Assistance sessions at high schools and local colleges
- Helped over 160 voters to register
- Helped additional voters to identify their new districts and polling places

Voter Education:

- Held Voter Education forum about the Voter ID law in recognition of Women's Equality Day, with Carolyn Castore from LWVWI Legislative Committee as expert speaker
- Held Voter Education forum about details of the Voter ID law, with Steve Pickett from the Government Accountability Board as expert speaker
- Held Voter Education forum to answer specific questions about Voter Registration, Absentee Voting, Voter ID, and the Polling Process, with Jane Booth, Appleton Elections Clerk as expert speaker
- Provided Voter Education forum at Oneida Heights

Candidate Forums:

- Held Appleton Mayoral Candidates' Forum prior to the Spring primary election
- Provided "Meet & Greet" forum for Appleton Districts 4 and 10 City Council seats prior to Mayoral Primary Forum
- Held AASD School Board Candidates' Forum plus Appleton Mayoral Candidates' Forum prior to the Spring election

Observer Corps Annual Report

Submitted by Marlys Fritzell

The League tried something new this year in scheduling dinner outings before local government meetings once a month. The idea was to gather interested League members to discuss local issues on the agenda for that evening's meeting. Turn-out was good at first, but for a variety of reasons attendance fell off. One issue we faced was change of meeting time and dates particularly around budget time and elections. I want to thank contact people, Sara Companik for the City Council and Shirley Strange for the School Board. I took care of the County Board. Members attended budget hearings and League president, Shirley Strange, presented statements to the School Board, County Board, and City Council. Articles were included in the League newsletter about issues being considered by the various boards. I wrote an informational article about county government structure as it occurred to me that many people are less aware of county functions.

As I wind down my term on the Board as Observer Corps director, I've been thinking about how long I have been attending local government meetings. On an "on again, off again" schedule, it has been over forty years. The officials have changed – when I started Mayor Buckley was in office and the office of county executive had not been established. The venues have changed – City Hall was in an old school building, then in a former electric company building. The size of the council and the county board has also changed. But many of the issues have remained unchanged, especially budget matters; how to provide for the needs of the community with limited tax dollars. Over the years the members of these bodies have grappled with these issues and through their decisions have continued to make the Appleton area an attractive place to live and work. I have to complement the men and women who run for office and give their time and energy in serving on governmental bodies. They care about the community and do their best to represent the people who elect them. I would encourage League members to run for office, support those who do run, and become involved in observing some of these government meetings. I think there is no better way of learning about local government than by watching the meetings in progress. Thank you to the League for giving me the opportunity to serve in this manner.

Website Facebook and Newsletter

Submitter Barb Dorzweiler

Our electronic communication has become more robust in the past year. Our website remains pretty static, while there is increasing potential for outreach via social media. Our Facebook page currently has 54 Likes. That may seem trivial, but with the interactive nature of social media, our reach grows exponentially. With Facebook connections, our Facebook posts have the potential to reach 14,139 Friends of Fans. (data per Facebook)

Our Facebook page looks a little anemic, however. As you know, Facebook was created for a visual connection to friends. We are lacking in photography opportunities. If anyone has pictures of League activities, please send them to post on our Facebook page. Or, a simple picture related to Appleton may be nice too. Photographs would also be a nice addition to our newsletter as well.

What we could really use is someone experienced in the marketing field. There is so much potential to expand our communication and recruit new members and enhance the impact of our local league. I have no marketing experience and have done what I can do to keep our presence in the fast paced world of instant information.

If anyone has suggestions for improving our website, our Facebook page, or our newsletter, please send your creative comments to the league email at league.apleton@yahoo.com.