

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of APPLETON
ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 19, 2016**



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**League of Women Voters of Appleton
Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2016**

Fox Banquets & Rivertyme Catering

Social Hour: 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m., Business Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Presiding: Stephanie Malaney Recorder: Cindy Fallona

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Stephanie Malaney |
| 2. Introduction of Parliamentarian | Stephanie Malaney |
| 3. Remarks from the Parliamentarian | Beth English |
| 4. Adoption of Agenda | Stephanie Malaney |
| 5. Acceptance of Minutes (2015 Annual Meeting) | Stephanie Malaney |
| 6. Appointment of Readers (2016 Annual Meeting Minutes) | Stephanie Malaney |
| 7. President's Report | Stephanie Malaney |
| 8. Treasurer's Report | Barbara Kelly |
| 9. Membership Report | Elizabeth Laux |
| 10. Budget Presentation | Barbara Kelly |
| 11. Re-adoption of Local Positions | Stephanie Malaney |
| 12. Local Program | |
| ➤ Report on 2015 - 2016 Local Study | Shirley Strange |
| ➤ Presentation of Board Recommended Action 2016 - 2017 | Gayle Hardt |
| 13. Adoption of Board Recommended Action for 2016 – 2017 | Stephanie Malaney |
| 14. Adoption of Budget | Stephanie Malaney |
| 15. Presentation of Slate of Officers, Directors,
Nominating Committee | Marti Hemwall |
| 16. Nominations from the Floor | Stephanie Malaney |
| 17. Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee | Stephanie Malaney |
| 18. Report on Strategic Planning | Jacqueline Klimaszewski |
| 19. Other Business | Stephanie Malaney |
| 20. Advice to the Board | Stephanie Malaney |
| 21. Announcements | Stephanie Malaney |
| 22. Motion to Adjourn | Stephanie Malaney |

League of Women Voters of Appleton

Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015 –Liberty Hall, Kimberly

Members present (26): Sara Companik , Debra Cronmiller, Beth English, Cindy Fallona, Renee Gralewicz, Gayle Hardt, Martha Hemwall, Karen Jansen, Barbara Kelly, William Kelly, Jacqueline Klimaszewski, Sarah Leet, Stephanie Malaney, Nadine Miller, Helen Nagler, Amy Oberg, Jan Quinlan, Jeanne Roberts, Penny Robinson, Joan Schneider, Richard Schoenbohm, Sue Siltan, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Cathy Thompson, and Deborah Werth.

The meeting was called to order by President Sara Companik at 6:48. There was a quorum sufficient for all action items.

Debra Cronmiller was introduced as **Parliamentarian**. She indicated that we would be following Roberts' Rules of Order.

Penny Robinson moved and Richard Schoenbohm seconded the **adoption of the agenda** as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The **minutes of the April 17, 2014** annual meeting were read by a committed and filed. Jan Quinlan moved and Martha Hemwall seconded the approval of the 2014 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. President Companik appointed Renee Gralewicz, Amy Oberg and Sue Siltan as Readers for the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.

In the **President's Report**, Sara Companik highlighted elements of the written report, pages 12 of the Annual Meeting packet. There were 11 new members. Last year was the 75th Annual celebration. Sara Companik thanked the committee and all those who assisted with the planning for that event. She also thanked Making Democracy Work committee. This year we also included a Pay Pal option for payments and reservations.

The 6th Annual Equality Day will be Wednesday, August 26th.

Retiring board members Deb Werth and Karen Jansen were also thanked for their service to the League.

Barbara Kelly presented the **Treasurer's Report** which was accepted. The \$200 for the video grant has been on hold due to the changing nature of the voting requirements at the state level. She also explained the **budget**. She had three years of actual data. The goal is to lower in-kind contributions so we have a clearer picture of actual costs. She noted that Line D2 (Transfer from savings) on page 10 should be \$2,900 rather than \$3,000.

Stephanie Malaney shared the **Membership Report** (pp. 13-15) which was accepted.

Stephanie also explained the proposed **changes in the by-laws** that are necessary in order to match state and national wording. Copies were available on the tables. Stephanie recommended that any other changes be a part of strategic planning. Question came from Karen Jansen

regarding the nature of our proposed strategic planning. Should strategic planning be done by national? A discussion centered on the need to use strategic planning to examine how we might operate more effectively and energize a broader base of our membership to successfully attain our mission. All options should be considered with a potential change in our by-laws to be a feasible action as a part of a bigger plan.

Sara Companik presented the re-adoption of **Local Positions** (copies were available on the tables). Karen Jansen moved and Irene Strohbeen seconded re-adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

Irene Strohbeen and Cathy Thompson reported on the **2014-2015 Study on Human Trafficking** (p. 16). The work of the committee of nine included interviews, good resources, an educational forum, information on incidents to prove trafficking happens here and information on what is being done to prevent human trafficking. The steering committee is planning for volunteer work groups in the areas of Prevention, Protection, Treatment and Prosecution. Study Group plans for continuing efforts to address this issue include more community forums, tracking the progress of the steering committee, helping them find volunteers for work groups and advocacy of legislation related to prosecution, although nothing is specific as yet.

Gayle Hardt presented the **Recommended Program** (p. 9) from the Lively Issues discussion on January 24, 2015 (pp. 5-6). The Recommended Action Item: Selection of Appleton Police Chief has been rescinded. The Non-Recommended Program: Efficacy of Alternative Courts did not receive a motion to move it forward. Discussion centered on the possibility of promoting a study of Best Practice in Truancy Programs next year.

The **Recommended Program for Study** presented was an Update of Local Position on Land Use Planning in Appleton (Local Position on: Government IX, Land Use Planning In Appleton A-C and F) and Update of Local Position on Housing (Local Position: Social Policy IV, Housing). In the discussion it was agreed that neighborhood revitalization would be part of the scope of the project, as well as available transportation. The position on Land Use Planning was written in 1976 and has not been updated since 2001. Moving forward on this now might tie in with possible local action on these issues. Jan Quinlan moved and Karen Jansen seconded the motion to approve the recommended program for study for 2015-16. It passed unanimously.

Sara Companik asked for volunteers to participate in the study. Karen Jansen, Jeanne Roberts, Shirley Strange, Jan Quinlan, Barb Kelly and Amy Oberg volunteered; Amy Oberg agreed to chair the study. It was also suggested to reach out to the new members to participate in the study.

Renee Gralewicz moved to adopt the Local Program for 2015-16 (Human Trafficking Local Position). This was seconded by Sarah Leet and approved unanimously.

Barb Kelly moved and Amy Oberg seconded the adoption of the by-laws as presented. This motion passed unanimously.

Sue Silton moved and Jan Quinlan seconded the adoption of the budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Nadine Miller, chair of the **Nominating Committee**, presented the slate of officers, directors and nominating committee for 2015-2016 (p.17):

Nominated for 2-year terms--

President – Stephanie Malaney
VP Program – Gayle Hardt
Secretary – Cindy Fallona
Director – Elizabeth Laux
Director – Cathy Thompson
Director – Sarah Leet

Nominating Committee (1 year term)--

Martha Hemwall
Shirley Strange
Marge Koepke
(+ 2 members appointed by the board)

Continuing Board Members (year 2 of 2-year Term)--

VP Voter Services – Jacqueline Klimaszewski
Treasurer- Barb Kelly
Director – Irene Strohbeen
Director – Penny Robinson

Sara Companik asked for nominations from the floor; hearing none, the Nominating Committee motion passed unanimously.

Sara expressed her thank you to the Board and Members and invited Stephanie to bring up other business. Stephanie presented a thank you gift to Sara. She also reiterated the need to proceed with strategic planning to improve the functioning of the organization. She also indicated that someone needs to step forward to do the newsletter in the upcoming year.

A number of items arose in **Advice to the Board**:

- Cathy Thompson suggested a study to look at best practices of working with juveniles/truancy; look at successful programs.
- Marti agreed with Cathy and thought we should look into how county money is being used in courts.
- Jan Quinlan felt we need to educate ourselves regarding alternative courts.
- Helen Nagler reminded us that truancy is a status offense as juveniles are under 18; they are not criminals. She also shared that the County Board passed a resolution on non-partisan redistricting and a separate resolution that local municipalities would go first in redistricting. The second resolution is supporting by County Clerks state-wide.
- Sarah Leet felt that more needs to be done on voter education in general and encouraged everyone to get involved in the Observer Corps. She suggested a general forum on what

various elements of local government do and how they function (county, council, etc.) as well as a forum on open-meeting laws.

- Cathy Thompson endorsed the Observer Corps and suggested that we encourage new members to get involved this way and attend in tandems with a partner.
- Penny Robinson reminded us that process and relationships are important along the way as we work toward our mission.
- Debra Cronmiller encouraged us to take the adopted Human Trafficking study/positon to the state for concurrence and to provide information.

Jacqui Klimaszewski asked for volunteers to help with voter registration assistance and voter ID information for the Juneteenth Celebration – Sunday, June 14 from Noon to 6:00. There will also be voter registration tables at each of the high schools in August during the high school registration time. Also, September 22 is National Voter Registration Day and a number of volunteers will be needed in various locations. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to be added to the Voter Registration list and would like training (or re-training).

Amy Oberg made a motion to adjourn and Nadine Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Klimaszewski

League of Women Voters of Appleton
Lively Issues
January 23, 2016
Appleton Public Library
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Present: Marcia Hittle, Penny Robinson, Gayle Hardt, Jan Quinlan, Stephanie Malaney, Cathy Thompson, Miriam Douglass, Debra Cronmiller, Barbara Kelly, Irene Strohbeen, Janine Knapp, Marcia Engen, Richard Schoenbohm, Cindy Fallona, Shirley Strange, Jeanne Roberts, Jackie Klimaszewski, Elizabeth Laux, Penny Bernard-Schaber, Karen Bachhuber and Colleen Rortvedt.

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Stephanie Malaney called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed members. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. LWVUS 2014 – 2016 Biennium – Irene Strohbeen

Money in Politics: At the 2014 national convention, the delegates approved a study to update the long-time League position on campaign finance due to recent court rulings, especially Citizens United. The national committee conducted an in-depth study, providing much information and reports that LWV-Appleton's ad hoc committee presented to members over three weeks in January. Based on the information provided, our members provided answers to consensus questions that fell into three broad categories:

1. Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns
 2. First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns
 3. Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process
- Our league has held meetings to discuss the first two questions with a third meeting to be held next week.

III. State Program for 2016 – Irene Strohbeen

- LWV-Appleton agreed to recommended updates to the existing position on urban policy.
- LWV-Appleton agreed to LWVWI's recommended programs for 2016-17 which will focus on the following:
 - 2016 Election: LWVWI will assist local Leagues in focusing on voter education and voter registration efforts (July-November 2016);
 - 2017 Budget: LWVWI will coordinate stronger public education and lobbying effort on the state budget, focusing on areas which are priorities for the League and may be targeted in the state budget (January-June 2017);

- Storm Water Runoff: Depending on funding, LWVWI will develop a presentation to be hosted by local Leagues around the state to educate people about problems related to storm water runoff and actions that citizens, communities and regions can take to prevent and alleviate flooding. This would be a follow-up to the State Water Position Update.
- Ongoing: LWVWI will continue to advocate for voting rights, redistricting reform, and campaign finance reform.

IV. Local Program

A. Update on Land Use Planning and Urban Development Study

Shirley Strange updated the group on the progress of this study. It will definitely continue into 2017 due to the breadth and scope of the study. The study group has gathered information for and studied a variety of topics associated with the issue. Following Shirley's comments and discussion, those present reached consensus that the study should concentrate on the City of Appleton's downtown to include area neighborhoods.

B. Review of Criteria for Lively Issues Discussion – Gayle Hardt

The purpose of the Lively Issues meeting is to plan for the 2016-2017 program year. Criteria for discussion of proposed issues:

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

The recommendations from the meeting will be sent to the board for review and clarification and will then be voted on by members at the annual meeting scheduled for May 19th.

C. Open Discussion of Local Issues

Gayle Hardt, VP Program led the discussion. Members were asked to address position areas according to our position statements: local government, natural resources, and social policy. Suggestions may include ideas for a new study or updating any of our current positions. Suggestions may also include any current positions where action may be needed.

1. Local Government

The question of how do we educate, encourage and train citizens to run for political office was raised.

(Recommendation: Refer to strategic planning and board as programming.)

2. Natural Resources

The issue of ground water runoff and protection of water quality was raised. At this time in the state legislature, changes to environmental protections are being voted on. The process is happening as quickly as within a week. This makes it difficult for the league to get information out to members. LWVWI is seeking a grant to be able to hire a temporary director to study and direct the league's efforts.

Many changes are going on along the Fox River corridor. Richard Schoenbohm will keep our board updated on water issues as he has been appointed to the Wisconsin River Alliance state group. The point was made that state legislation can be very important to a local league because the impact on local issues might be significant.

It was suggested that we update our position on PCBs. The original study and position was a regional effort. It would need to be a regional collaboration. One league involved in that effort no longer exists. It was suggested that we explore the possibility of updating the existing position.

(Recommendation: Identify any needed action and recommend to board to assign a board member to oversee the area of Natural Resources.)

3. Social Policy

It was suggested that the issue of immigration and refugees are important in our area.

(Recommendation: Education through programming.)

Alternative Court System was suggested for study.

(Recommendation: Education through programming.)

Mental health delivery system. The league studied this issue in 2008. Specific topics of adverse childhood and trauma experiences, and the practice of mindfulness were discussed.

(Recommendation: Education through programming.)

Education was offered as a timely topic due to drastic changes by the state government to our public education system in the last few years. Our current position is 10 years old.

(Recommendation: Consensus was reached to update position.)

It was suggested that the board review all local position statements and identify where updates to any positions are necessary.

V. Action Discussion

The study group on land use planning and urban development is overwhelmed with the scope and information available on this topic. The group has requested a narrowing of the focus of the study. It was discussed and consensus was reached to narrow the focus of the current local study to downtown Appleton and adjoining neighborhoods.

VI. Update on League

Our position statement on sex trafficking needs to be submitted to the LWVWI Board in order for it to be put on the agenda for the state 2016 Annual Meeting. This is the only way state leagues can vote on the issue. Irene Strohbeen will forward our position statement to the state board.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Submitted by: Cindy Fallona, Secretary

League of Women Voters of Appleton

Recommended Action 2015 – 2016

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Appleton approved the following motion at their meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. The motion concerns the recommendation developed during the Lively Issues meeting on January 23, 2016 to update the League's current position on education which was last revised in 2006.

Board Motion

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Appleton recommends that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the League's current position statement on education in order to identify portions of the statement that need to be updated through study in 2017 – 2018. It is further recommended that the League undertake programming in 2016 – 2017 on the status of public education.

League of Women Voters Appleton 4/7/2016					Proposed Budget 2016-17 Income
INCOME	2015-16 Budget	Actual YTD	In Kind	Total	
A. Dues	\$ 4,440.00	\$ 3,541.95			\$ 4,000.00
B. Contributions					
1. Member Contributions	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 272.64		\$ 2,000.00
2. Non-member Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 4,270.00		\$ 1,000.00
C. Event Income					
1. Holiday Brunch	\$ 650.00	919.00			\$ 1,000.00
2. Annual Meeting	\$ 650.00	\$ 20.00			\$ 650.00
3. Women's Equality Day	\$ 700.00	\$ 840.00			\$ 700.00
					\$ -
D. Other Income					
1. Interest	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.08			\$ 25.00
2. Transfer from Savings	\$ 2,900.00				\$ 1,515.00
3. Grants					\$ -
4. Merchandise Sold					\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,365.00	\$ 5,936.03			\$ 10,890.00

League of Women Voters Appleton 4/7/2016					Proposed Budget 2016-17 Expenses
EXPENSES	2015-16 Budget	Actual YTD	In Kind	Total	
Board and Committees					
1. Fund Raising	\$ 400.00			\$ -	\$ 400.00
2. Membership	\$ 100.00			\$ -	\$ 100.00
3. President	\$ 250.00			\$ -	\$ 250.00
4. Board				\$ -	\$ 150.00
Communication					
1. Website	\$ 100.00			\$ -	\$ 100.00
Delegates, Travel & Workshop					
1. State Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00			\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
2. National Convention	\$ 2,000.00			\$ -	
3. Workshops	\$ 500.00		\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 500.00
4. Committee Travel	\$ 250.00			\$ -	\$ 250.00
Educational Activity					
1. Program (Local,State,Nat.)	\$ 200.00	\$ 285.94		\$ 285.94	\$ 200.00
2. Voter's Service	\$ 750.00	\$ 172.64		\$ 172.64	\$ 750.00
3. Observer corps	\$ 50.00			\$ -	\$ 50.00
4. Archive	\$ 50.00			\$ -	\$ 25.00
5. Voter video grant	\$ 200.00			\$ -	\$ 200.00
Event Expenses					
1. Holiday Brunch	\$ 650.00	1,010.47		\$ 1,010.47	\$ 1,000.00
2. Annual Meeting	\$ 650.00			\$ -	\$ 650.00
3. Women's Equality day	\$ 700.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 4,472.64	\$ 4,652.64	\$ 700.00
6. Making Democracy Work Award	\$ 200.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
Financial Support for League					
1. Lake Michigan Interleague	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
2. State PMA	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,785.00		\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,650.00
3. National PMP	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,856.00		\$ 1,856.00	\$ 1,700.00
Operating Costs					
1. Corporate Filing Fee	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
2. General Supplies	\$ 250.00			\$ -	\$ 250.00
3. Insurance	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
4. PayPal Fees	\$ 50.00	\$ 48.58		\$ 48.58	\$ 50.00
5. Post Office Box	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00		\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00
6. Postage	\$ 50.00	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 50.00
7. Telephone Answering Svc	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
8. Scholarship	\$ 150.00			\$ -	\$ 150.00
Position Advocacy	\$ 100.00			\$ -	\$ 100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,365.00	\$ 5,833.63	\$ 4,612.64	\$ 10,446.27	\$ 10,890.00

President's Report
Stephanie Malaney

I want to thank members for the time and effort you have given to the league for another busy year. This year we focused on educating voters through forums, assisting with voter registration, Women's Equality Day, and speakers. We also focused on matching our current goals, needs, and membership through strategic planning. Finally but not least we focused on our position statements through our studies and Lively Issues. Although we accomplished many things, our focuses show us there is still room for more work. Thank you again to all your efforts.

Congratulations to those who ran for office and those who won. I know you will be good leaders.

Treasurer's Report
Barbara Kelly

The 2015-16 financial report and the proposed budget for 2016-17 are included in this annual meeting packet. Thanks to Stephanie Malaney, Shirley Strange, Miriam Douglass, Sara Companik and Sue Kinde for serving on the budget committee, and to Miriam for chairing it. We continue to work to make the budget more nearly reflect likely expenditures. The amount designated "transfer from savings" is included for purpose of balancing the budget. We have rarely ever actually needed to use it. As of this writing, there has not been a fund raising mailing yet this year, so the contribution amounts are a bit low. The reason Non-member in-kind donations are high has to do with an in-kind contribution of advertising on Radio 91.1 The Avenue.

We still believe that our budget should fully cover costs without depending on members to make as many in-kind contributions. The budget proposal document includes actual YTD (through early April) expenses including in-kind for each line item. I will have a printout of the actual YTD costs through the week before the Annual Meeting if anyone would like to see that.

Account Balances as of 5/02/2015

CD 18955	\$5,000.00
Checking Account	\$9534.85
Total	\$14,534.85

I continue to enjoy serving as your Treasurer, and hope that my reports are helpful to all of our understanding of LWV Appleton operations.

Membership Report
Elizabeth Laux

We currently have 60 members with the addition of seven new members this year; we are down by 7 members from last year. Four of the 60 members are Life members, each having been involved in the League of Women voters 50 years or more. We have 48 Primary members, and 8 Additional members secondary to households.

All members had paid their dues accordingly by January 31, 2016.

The life members are Mary Cronmiller, Joy Povolny, Donna Weis, and Beverly Weichert.

Local Study Report Shirley Strange

The 2015 Local Study recommended by the Board and sanctioned by the Membership at the 2015 Annual Meeting was to look at the positions of Land Use Planning and Urban Policy. The overall position on this topic was last updated in 1976, although sections specific to downtown development and growth were amended in 1980 and 2001.

The local study committee convened its first meeting, October 2, 2015 with two objectives: 1. Review our existing positions on the topic and 2. Provide the League with recommendations for updating those positions.

Our first task, then, was to extrapolate all of the positions that had relevancy to the topic. Positions were found throughout the existing document under such headings as Parks and Recreation, Land Use Planning, Fox River Corridor and a reference to Smart Growth. We decided to gather information on Smart Growth, (Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law), East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Agency, Appleton's City Structure and Comprehensive Plan as well as zoning.

We soon found it imperative to refine our study. We narrowed the focus to Downtown Appleton and Neighborhoods. Neighborhoods appeared to be integral to the study of Downtown Appleton. We updated the membership of this new direction at the 2016 Lively Issues meeting. As we pursued the study, we soon realized that the study of neighborhoods was more far reaching than our scope could accommodate. The study then became simply, Downtown Appleton.

Little did we know at the time that our focus on Downtown Appleton would afford us a front row seat. The City of Appleton was embarking on a five-year update of the Appleton Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030. At the same time, they were completing a mobility study to review not only car traffic, but also pedestrian and bicycle traffic. These two studies appeared to go hand in hand. We were at the first Steering Committee meeting on February 23, 2016. From that point on, we were informed of all meetings and our local study committee was represented at each including mobility study meetings. This vantage point also allowed us to observe process for updating the comprehensive plan. We also determined that recommendations on process might well be a part of our position making.

The Downtown Appleton study includes attention to economic development, transportation, parking, green space, access to the river, development of the riverfront, mixed use development, housing and traffic patterns (car, pedestrian and bicycle). A parking study was completed in February 2015 giving the city additional information for Downtown planning.

Committee Members: Jeanne Roberts, Jan Quinlan, Nadine Miller, Penny Robinson, Irene Strohbeen, Shirley Strange

**Nominating Committee Report
Marti Hemwall**

The Nominating Committee presents this slate of candidates to the Board for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee: Marti Hemwall (Chair), Marge Koepke, Shirley Strange, Elizabeth Laux (Board Representative), and Irene Strohbeen (Board Representative).

Nomination Slate 2016 – 2017

To be elected to two year term:

VP Voter Services – Jacqui Klimaszewski
Treasurer – Barb Kelly
Director – Jeanne Roberts
Director – Penny Robinson

To be elected to one year term

Director – Joan Schneider
Director – Vacant

Nominating Committee - To be elected to one year term

Chair – Shirley Strange
Member-at-large – Irene Strohbeen
Member-at-large – Sue Eich

For information only

Continuing Board Members (year two of two year term)

President – Stephanie Malaney
VP Program – Gayle Hardt
Secretary – Cindy Fallona
Director – Elizabeth Laux

Making Democracy Work Award

Chair – Marcia Engen

Voter Service Report
Jacqueline Klimaszewski

Dear LWV-Appleton members,

Voter Services had a busy year for LWV-Appleton with providing registration assistance and offering Candidate Forums for the April 5th election. Voter registration activities included providing information on bringing proper government issued identification to the polls and information to individuals on how to procure the proper identification through the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Wisconsin State League of Women Voters has provided us with a quantity of flyers that explain Wisconsin Voter ID rules and procedures. There is a general flyer, one for College Students and one for Seniors. There is a version in Spanish. We will continue to disseminate these at upcoming events.

See below for a summary of Voter Service action.

SUMMARY OF ACTION 2015-16

Voter Registration:

- Held two training and review sessions for helping citizens register to vote in September.
- Printed posters to advertise voter registration events.
- Participated in National Voter Registration Day.
- Connected with the City Clerk, Kami Lynch, to discuss the role League members can play in promoting voter registration and encouraging citizens to work the polls.
- Voter registration assistance offered at FVTC, UW Fox Valley, B.A.B.E.S. Juneteenth, United for a Better Future community group, three Appleton high schools, Appleton Public Library, Community Health Center and Community Dental Clinic

Registration Sessions-June to May: 30 sessions

- 276 Voter Registrations (new voters, name change and address change)
- Provided forms for 88 other individuals with registration instructions and provided voting information for 33 others.
- A thank you to all who assisted with registration:
Anne Ahrens, Diane Ostrand, Judy Gaines, Cindy Fallona, Renee Gralawicz, Ellie Olson, Gayle Hardt, Shirley Strange, Martha Swanson, Jeanne Roberts, Irene Strohbeen, Jon Huard, Sara Companik, Carol Lenz, Joanne Roush, Connie Kanitz, Matthew Van Grinsven, William Busching, Judy Christiansen and Ann Muenster.

Candidate Forums:

We participated in setting up and running candidate/information forums on March 15.

- The City Council candidates for the District 4 and District 8 contested positions were there. There were 55 in attendance.
- 109 attended the Mayoral forum that followed.

- The Voter Guides from the questions generated at the forum were posted a week before the last election.
- Thanks to Stephanie Malaney, Deb Werth, Gayle Hardt, Cindy Fallona, Jeanne Roberts, Lois Bressette and Elizabeth Laux for their assistance during the forum.

Other activities:

- There was also a presentation for Soar Fox Cities on the importance of voting.
- Look for LWV “Bring It” signs on Valley Transit busses and in waiting areas! These were developed with the Appleton and Winnebago County Leagues.
- We have connected with a community group called Unidos Por Un Futuro Mejor (United for a Better Future) that is very interested in helping Hispanic citizens to register and vote, as well as receive training to provide that assistance on their own.

Program Report Gayle Hardt

During the 2015-2016 year, in addition to the local study on Land Use Planning and Urban Development, the League of Women Voters of Appleton held a total of 9 program events including the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2016. Highlights include:

- *“Rebuild America’s Infrastructure and Economy”* was held on September 23rd at UW – Oshkosh. Our League partnered with the LWV of Winnebago County to sponsor this League education and advocacy campaign program created by the LWV of Milwaukee County.
- In October, our League study group on human trafficking coordinated a forum to update the community on this local issue. *“Human Trafficking in the Fox Valley – What’s Being Done About It”* highlighted the work of the Outagamie County Human Sex Trafficking Steering Committee formed to address the issue in our community. Our League was a co-sponsor along with the Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region and the Wisconsin Women’s Council.
- *“The Voting Process – Behind the Scenes”* provided insights into all the checks, balances and processes currently in place to ensure fair, impartial and unbiased elections. Presenters were Lori O’Bright, Outagamie County Clerk and Karen Weinschrott, Grand Chute Town Clerk. The program was coordinated by Jacqui Klimaszewki.
- The Annual Holiday Brunch was held at the Holiday Inn and featured keynote speaker, Jay Heck, Executive Director of Common Cause in Wisconsin. Forty-eight members and friends of the League attended.
- Lively Issues was held in January and the discussion was energetic on various issues facing our community. Following a report on the current study on Land Use Planning and Urban Development by Shirley Strange, time was allotted to discuss the scope of the study. Consensus was reached by those present to narrow the focus of the study to downtown Appleton and adjoining neighborhoods. Consensus was also reached in recommending that we update our position on Education. The current position is now 10 years old, and much has happened at the state level to impact our public education system.
- Also in January, our League undertook review of the LWVUS study on *“Money in Politics.”* Penny Bernard Schaber, Miriam Douglass and Irene Strohbeen presented portions of the national study over three weeks in order for our membership to address consensus questions prepared by LWVUS. The material was enlightening and over a dozen members attended all three meetings. Our responses to the questions were forwarded on to national. In addition, the League board reviewed and agreed to recommended updates to the LWVWI existing position on Urban Policy.
- An aldermanic and mayoral candidate forum was coordinated by Jacqui Klimaszewki and held on March, 15th. Over 100 residents attended the mayoral portion of the forum.
- On May 5th, our League sponsored Circuit Court Judge John Des Jardins and Bernie Vetrone, Director of Outagamie County Criminal Justice Treatment Services presenting *“Getting Smart on Justice: Building a System-Wide Framework Using Evidence-Based Decision Making in the Justice System.”* They reported on the work of a broad-based group of citizens planning to change the way persons are processed, evaluated, and incarcerated in Outagamie County.

The League counts on the Appleton Public Library as a venue for many of our programs and for partnership in programming from time to time. Library staff often assist us in various ways, and we are most grateful for use of the facility as well as help from staff members. In addition, the following members need to be acknowledged for their guidance and help. Throughout the year, they have led and/or assisted in the coordination and publication of our programs. They are Stephanie Malaney, Jacqui Klimaszewski, Irene Strohbeen, Kim Wetzel, Barbara Kelly, Shirley and Dave Strange.

MONEY IN POLITICS: LWVUS STUDY
Irene Strohbeen

Every two years at the national convention, delegates have a chance to identify a topic for study in order for LWVUS to formulate a new or revised position. In 2014, the topic of campaign finance reform (Money in Politics, MIP) was selected, because the existing position did not sufficiently address Supreme Court decisions that have affected campaign finance law, such as Citizens United as well as other cases. The key issue being addressed deals with how the First Amendment applies to political campaigns: should the rights of individuals and organizations to express their freedom of speech through campaign financing be protected? Under what circumstances?

The LWVUS MIP study committee conducted a thorough study and created numerous reports on topics such as “Hard, Soft and Dark Money,” “The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,” and “Options for Reforming Money in Politics,” among many others. The full set of reports can be found at: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review> .

After studying the topic, the next step in the LWV study process is to collect consensus answers from each local League to questions posed by the LWVUS committee. In order to answer the questions, some understanding of the topic is necessary, so study of the reports written by the committee is critical. An ad hoc committee of the Appleton League composed of Penny Bernard-Schaber, Miriam Douglass, and Irene Strohbeen presented portions of the national study to members over three Wednesday evenings in January, resulting in consensus answers to almost all of the questions posed by the LWVUS committee. Thanks to all who attended the consensus meetings—over a dozen of our members attended all three meetings!

To see the combined PowerPoint slides used to present the information, see the LWV-Appleton website.

State Program for 2016
Irene Strohbeen

Rather than conduct a state study, LWVWI pursued updating the state position on urban planning and recommended a 3-pronged program for 2016-17 due to this being the presidential election year and biennial state budget in early 2017.

- LWV-Appleton agreed to recommended updates to the existing position on urban policy.
- LWV-Appleton agreed to LWVWI’s recommended programs for 2016-17 which will focus on the following:
 - 2016 Election: LWVWI will assist local Leagues in focusing on voter education and voter registration efforts (July-November 2016);
 - 2017 Budget: LWVWI will coordinate stronger public education and lobbying effort on the state budget, focusing on areas which are priorities for the League and may be targeted in the state budget (January-June 2017);
 - Storm Water Runoff: Depending on funding, LWVWI will develop a presentation to be hosted by local Leagues around the state to educate people about problems related to storm water runoff and actions that citizens, communities and regions can take to

- prevent and alleviate flooding. This would be a follow-up to the State Water Position Update.
- Ongoing: LWVWI will continue to advocate for voting rights, redistricting reform, and campaign finance reform.

Legislative Report Penny Robinson

As Legislative Director, I see my responsibility as mainly to help keep the board and members informed and call them to action about relevant legislation, government procedures, and budgetary issues locally, at the state level, and occasionally at the federal level. So much happened this past year, and LWVWI has been very helpful by sending out emails and calls to action relevant to voter registration, Voter ID, the Government Accountability Board, public education and other issues of interest locally.

I particularly focused on public transit and expanded my portfolio to include all of public transportation, including budgetary and legislative issues that would affect the possibility of a future Regional Transit Authority. In this regard, LWVWI agreed, at my proposal, on a successful call to action (in collaboration with other organizations), to defeat AB 210, which would have negatively affected the possibility of a future RTA.

To inform myself, I have attended meetings of the LWVWI Legislative Committee, either in person or by phone. Although this is generally not necessary, it is very interesting. Other sources include www.thewheelerreport.com, www.wispollitics.com, www.wiseye.org, and www.legis.wi.gov.

Women's Equality Day Shirley Strange

Women's Equality Day is a celebration of women-our accomplishments, the struggle for our right to vote, our struggle for equality, our joy of working and celebrating together.

We thought it would be fun to share the history of the Appleton League's celebration of Women's Equality Day. It all began for us in 2010 with a few women exchanging ideas for an event to celebrate the 90th year of women's right to vote and to highlight the Appleton League of Women Voters in the community.

That first committee, Barb Dorzweiler, Marlys Fritzell, Carolyn Mewhorter, Jan Quinlan, Pat Schinabeck and Shirley Strange set the stage for what was to become an annual event. Our goal for the first celebration of WE Day (as it became known for brevity in communicating) was to solicit "networking partners". We contacted numerous organizations to help us get the word out about our event to their membership and encourage attendance. Our next goal was to get keynote speaker. We had our sights set on Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton. We also planned to invite women who had held an elected office in Outagamie County and the City of Appleton. Barb Dorzweiler took on the (what became formidable) task. She searched through directories at the county clerk's office of elected women officials and found information dating back to 1928. We made the decision to go back to 1975. It was still a huge task. Since the directories could not be taken out of the office, Barb spent many hours at the clerk's office copying names and addresses.

That first year, we designed and sent invitations by snail mail. The committee spent the summer attending to all of the details for the big gala. The event would be a luncheon at the Radisson Inn where we would honor all of the women elected officials who could attend. Irene Strohbeen gave a rousing speech, and we presented each woman with a flower and brought them up front to receive a round of applause from the audience of over 200 attendees. Lt. Governor Lawton impressed us with a strong speech on the need for women in public office. What a success we had that day!

That first year we felt the strong bond of women united and knew we wanted it to continue. We were committed to celebrating Women's Equality Day each year. However, we knew we needed to simplify the planning to make it sustainable. Giving up a whole summer every year to plan a big gala was impractical.

Now, each year, a committee is formed to plan the celebration of Women's Equality Day. It is a smaller venue, but not small in our feeling of camaraderie. We continue to have interesting speakers, recognize our elected officials who are able to attend the event, enjoy hors d' oeuvres and beverages, but above all, celebrate that we are women, women united.

Looking Back

2010 Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, shared the compelling need for women to run for office.

2011 Gardens of the Fox Cities, Carolyn Castore of the Wisconsin State League of Women Voters Legislative Committee presented information on the new Voter ID Law and its implications.

2012 The History Museum (At the Castle), Curator Nick Hoffman was scheduled, but due to a death in the family, Nick was not able to present his program. Shirley Strange shared some information and

statistics on women in politics. Terry Bergan shared slides of historical downtown Appleton to the delight of long term Appleton residents.

2013 The History Museum (At the Castle), Curator Nick Hoffman presented “Progressive Appleton and the Women’s Rights Movement”

2014 Riverview Gardens, Dr. Ivy A.M. Cargile, Associate Professor at St. Norbert College presented “American Politics and Public Policy”

2015 Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (formerly Monte Alverno), Denise Valenti-Hein, PhD, Clinical Psychology, presented “You’ve Come a Long Way Baby...(but then why are you still calling me “baby”?)”

August 26 of each year is designated in the U.S. as Women’s Equality Day. Instituted by Rep. Bella Abzug and first established in 1971, the date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920. On February 14, 1920, suffragists met to transform the movement into the League of Women Voters to help educate women to be responsible, informed voters.

Making Democracy Work Award Marti Hemwall

The Appleton League of Women’s Voters’ Making Democracy Work Award recognizes 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.

IN 2015, the Making Democracy Work Award was given to Ann Muenster. As her nominator said, “She knows everyone, is a champion networker, and she has the ability to get people to speak up. She understands that even though sometimes it’s easier to do something yourself than to involve others, involving others is the only way to make true change happen.” Ann surely embodied the characteristics of the Making Democracy Work Award.

The award was given during the at the Women’s Equality celebration on August 26, 2015. A committee of League and community members reviewed the nominations and made the selection based on these criteria. **A big thanks to committee members: Marcia Engen, Marcia Hittle, Deb Werth and Dan Flannery** for their commitment to this process and identifying the best recipient for this award which encompasses the core values of the League of Women Voters.

Presentation of Delegates

LWVWI Annual Meeting (June 3-5, 2016, Egg Harbor, WI) – Stephanie Malaney, Penny Robinson, Sara Companik, Shirley Strange, Jeannie Roberts.

LWVUS National Convention (June 16-19, 2016, Washington, D.C.) – Stephanie Malaney and Sara Companik

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of APPLETON
ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 19, 2016**



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**League of Women Voters of Appleton
Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2016**

Fox Banquets & Rivertyme Catering

Social Hour: 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m., Business Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Presiding: Stephanie Malaney Recorder: Cindy Fallona

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Stephanie Malaney |
| 2. Introduction of Parliamentarian | Stephanie Malaney |
| 3. Remarks from the Parliamentarian | Beth English |
| 4. Adoption of Agenda | Stephanie Malaney |
| 5. Acceptance of Minutes (2015 Annual Meeting) | Stephanie Malaney |
| 6. Appointment of Readers (2016 Annual Meeting Minutes) | Stephanie Malaney |
| 7. President's Report | Stephanie Malaney |
| 8. Treasurer's Report | Barbara Kelly |
| 9. Membership Report | Elizabeth Laux |
| 10. Budget Presentation | Barbara Kelly |
| 11. Re-adoption of Local Positions | Stephanie Malaney |
| 12. Local Program | |
| ➤ Report on 2015 - 2016 Local Study | Shirley Strange |
| ➤ Presentation of Board Recommended Action 2016 - 2017 | Gayle Hardt |
| 13. Adoption of Board Recommended Action for 2016 – 2017 | Stephanie Malaney |
| 14. Adoption of Budget | Stephanie Malaney |
| 15. Presentation of Slate of Officers, Directors,
Nominating Committee | Marti Hemwall |
| 16. Nominations from the Floor | Stephanie Malaney |
| 17. Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee | Stephanie Malaney |
| 18. Report on Strategic Planning | Jacqueline Klimaszewski |
| 19. Other Business | Stephanie Malaney |
| 20. Advice to the Board | Stephanie Malaney |
| 21. Announcements | Stephanie Malaney |
| 22. Motion to Adjourn | Stephanie Malaney |