

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of APPLETON
ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 2017



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A special “thank you” to Sue and Larry Silton
for their contribution of printing the Annual Meeting Packets

League of Women Voters of Appleton – Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2017
Grand Meridian

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 (2016 Annual Meeting) | Stephanie Malaney |
| 6. Appointment of Readers (2017 Annual Meeting Minutes) | Stephanie Malaney |
| 7. President's Report | Stephanie Malaney |
| 8. Treasurer's Report | Barbara Kelly |
| 9. Membership Report | Cindy Fallona |
| 10. Proposed Revisions of Bylaws | Jeanne Roberts |
| 11. Budget Presentation | Barbara Kelly |
| 12. Re-adoption of Local Positions | Stephanie Malaney |
| 13. Local Program | |
| ➤ Report on 2016 - 2017 Review of Education Position | Marti Hemwall |
| ➤ Consideration of Non-Recommended Programs | Gayle Hardt |
| ➤ Presentation of Recommended Program | Gayle Hardt |
| ➤ Presentation of Non-Recommended Programs | Gayle Hardt |
| ➤ Adoption of Recommended Program for 2017-2018 | Stephanie Malaney |
| ➤ Adoption of Non-Recommended Programs | Stephanie Malaney |
| 14. Adoption of Local Program – Land Use Planning | Shirley Strange |
| 15. Adoption of Bylaws | Stephanie Malaney |
| 16. Adoption of Budget | Stephanie Malaney |
| 17. Presentation of Slate of Officers, Directors,
Nominating Committee | Shirley Strange |
| 18. Nominations from the Floor | Stephanie Malaney |
| 19. Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee | Stephanie Malaney |
| 20. Other Business | President |
| 21. Advice to the Board | President |
| 22. Announcements | President |
| 23. Motion to Adjourn | President |

League of Women Voters of Appleton Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Members present (19 + 2 guests): Jim Bowman, Sara Companik, Miriam Douglas, Beth English, Cindy Fallona, Marlys Fritzell, Renee Gralewicz, Gayle Hardt, Marti Hemwall, Barbara Kelly, Jackie Klimaszewski, Elizabeth Laux, Stephanie Malaney, Ligia Rivera, Jeanne Roberts, Penny Robinson, Gayle Schultz, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Ronna Swift, Muriel Krogman.

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Malaney at 6:48pm. There was a quorum present for all action items.

Beth English was introduced as our **Parliamentarian**. She indicated that we would be following Roberts' Rules of Order.

Marti Hemwall moved and Elizabeth Laux seconded the **adoption of the agenda** as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the May 21, 2015 annual meeting were read by a committee and filed. Marlys Fritzell moved and Jackie Klimaszewski seconded the approval of the 2015 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. President Malaney appointed Miriam Douglas, Elizabeth Laux and Shirley Strange as Readers for the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes.

In the **President's Report**, Stephanie Malaney thanked the following committees for their work this past year: Irene Strohbeen chair for state and national studies, Shirley and Dave Strange for LWV website, Gayle Hardt for programs, Marti Hemwall for nominating committee, Jackie Klimaszewski for voter services and writing the strategic plan draft, Jan Quinlan for leading strategic planning, , Barb Kelly for budget committee, Elizabeth Laux for membership and Shirley Strange and Sarah Companik for Women's Equality Day. This was a busy year and next year we will continue the work on the strategic plan and reviewing by-laws. We will also be very busy with Voter Education and Assistance.

Barbara Kelly presented the **Treasurer's Report** which was accepted. This year's budget committee attempted to make the budget more reflective of actual income. The goal is to lessen our dependence on our membership paying for expenses not covered by the budget. The general request we send to our membership seeking donations has not been yet been mailed. Barb noted that the non-member in-kind donations were exceptionally high this past year. The \$4000 was due to donated radio ads. We did not actually pay for them but needed to record the value of the ads. It was also noted that to balance the budget \$1515 will be transferred from savings to the budget. In the past we have never actually had to use this money.

Elizabeth Laux presented the **Membership Report**. We currently have 64 members - 7 new this past year with a loss of 3.

Stephanie Malaney presented the re-adoption of **Local Positions** (copies were available on the table). Renee Gralewicz moved and Shirley Strange seconded re-adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

Shirley Strange reported on the 2015-2016 study on **Land Use and Urban Planning**. At our 2016 Lively Issues meeting it was agreed that the scope of this study was too broad. The study of Appleton neighborhoods was made into a separate program. That leaves the study of downtown Appleton. This coincides with the updating of the Appleton Comprehensive Plan of 2010-2030. Shirley explained why Appleton has a plan. In 1999 Wisconsin mandated that each city develop a comprehensive plan to manage city growth and avoid overdevelopment. The Land Use and Urban Planning study committee will be ready to share updates of their work this summer. In late September they will give a revised position to the Board. The study committee consists of Irene Strohbeen, Jan Quinlan, Shirley Strange, Jeanne Roberts, Karen Jansen, Nadine Miller.

Gayle Hardt presented the **Recommended Program** from the Lively Issues discussion on January 23, 2016 with 21 members in attendance. The Recommended Program: update LWV education position. At the April 6, 2016 Board meeting a motion was approved to form an ad hoc committee with the charge to review the education position statement and identify portions of the education position that need to be updated through study in 2017-2018. Gayle Hardt moved and Marti Hemwall seconded the motion to approve the recommended action by the board. It passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Laux moved and Jackie Klimaszewski seconded the adoption of the budget as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

Marti Hemwall, chair of the **Nominating Committee**, presented the slate of officers, directors and nominating committee for 2016-2017 (pg.16):

Nominated for 2 year terms—
VP Voter Services – Jackie Klimaszewski
Treasurer – Barb Kelly
Director – Jeanne Roberts
Director – Penny Robinson

Nominated for 1 year terms—
Director – Joan Schneider
Director – Vacant

Nominating Committee (1 year term)
Chair – Shirley Strange
Member-at-large – Irene Strohbeen
Member-at-large – Sue Eich

Continuing Board Members (year 2 of 2 year term)
President – Stephanie Malaney
VP Program – Gayle Hardt
Secretary – Cindy Fallona
Director – Elizabeth Laux

Making Democracy Work Award
Chair – Marcia Engen

Stephanie Malaney asked for nominations from the floor: hearing none, the Nominating Committee motion passed unanimously.

Jackie Klimaszewski presented the report on the **Strategic Planning Session** that was held on January 28, 2016(pg 24-27). Strategic planning is essential for the Appleton LWV to remain a vibrant organization. The results of the January first session were reviewed by 4 members. The information was organized into three goals:

1. Address organizational needs to better accomplish the mission of the League
2. Strengthen membership to better accomplish the mission of the League
3. Address League essentials to better accomplish the mission of the League

Barbara Kelly made a motion to adjourn and Marlys Fritzell seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Fallona

League of Women Voters of Appleton
Lively Issues
January 28, 2017
Appleton Public Library
10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Members present: William Kelly, Miriam Douglass, Beth English, Sara Companik, Elizabeth Laux, Helen Nagler, Sharon Fenlon, Jeanne Roberts, Jacqui Klimaszewski, Penny Robinson, Marti Hemwall, Cheryl Reissmann, Sandy Hubert, Marcia Hittle, Sue Waltman, Karen Bachhuber, Barb Kelly and Gayle Hardt

Guest: Patrick Casey

I. Welcome & Introductions

President Stephanie Malaney called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. and welcomed members and guest. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Overview of State Program – Stephanie Malaney

Stephanie referred to the LWVWI website and the information available to members including the state's position statements and the various issues the state is working on. Currently the state league is active with the roll out of online voter registration and natural resources – water quality.

III. Local Program – Gayle Hardt

Gayle Hardt, Vice President Programs reminded members that the recommendation coming out of the Lively Issues meeting last year was to update the education position statement. The board of directors reviewed that recommendation, and instead recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the League's current position in order to identify portions of the position statement that need to be updated through study in 2017-2018. Their decision was based on the following reasoning: a review of the current position on education would provide focus for the study, the current study on land use planning and downtown Appleton was not completed, engagement by members was not at a level to carry out all that we needed to accomplish, strategic planning was underway, and the remainder of 2016 would require extensive efforts to register voters and turn out the vote.

A. Report and Recommendations by Education Review Committee – Marti Hemwall

Marti Hemwall presented the findings of the ad hoc committee. Committee members included Marti Hemwall (chair), Jim Bowman, Miriam Douglass, Sharon Fenlon, Jeanne Roberts and Gayle Hardt. The committee found the current positions to be dated and were frustrated by the absence of background materials from previous studies and updates to the current position.

Highlights of the report shared by Marti follow:

The gaps were:

- School funding – review LWVWI position on this topic

- School choice – tied to local control and school funding
- Local control – consider incorporating LWVWI position
- Early childhood education – can be addressed by expanding K-12 references to include, for example, “Birth to Grade 12”, or it could be a separate study if a more specific position is desired.

Suggested changes were:

- First section on definition - doesn't require full study but clarification of “equity”
- Curriculum portion of statement is largest and contains gaps as well as need for clarification in some places.
 - Alternative school choices – Greater depth of information needed.
 - Common Core – We don't have a position on this and it would require a study to determine if we need a position and if so, what? Addition of common core could affect entire section.
 - Education for students with exceptional needs – Clarification and consistency with federal legislation is needed. This section needs to be expanded.
 - Gifted and Talented – Review with local district and update rather than study.
 - Family Growth and Development – Revisions are being made by the school district to this program and this section needs updating.
- Staffing – Needs clarification in many places. Do we want to support mentoring of new teachers?
- Administration Quality – Needs clarification specifically in evaluation portion of this statement.

Discussion:

- Significant conversation about the study being focused on the Appleton school district followed the presentation by the committee. It was suggested that focusing on Appleton makes sense because our league is based in Appleton and we need to be respectful of other districts and other leagues. The position could be written in general terms to allow advocacy for effective public education by members living in other districts.
- Use LWVWI and LWVUS positions in our position statement.
- To address suggestions and recommendations offered by the committee, perhaps one group could undertake the editing, clarifying and including state positions, and a second could conduct a study.

B. Criteria for Lively Issues Discussion – Gayle Hardt

The purpose of Lively Issues is to plan for the 2017 – 2018 program year.

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 18th.

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

C. Open Discussion of Local Issues

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

1. Local Government

Helen Nagler suggested that the state should go back to county plans for redistricting. Stephanie commented that LWVWI has been involved in the redistricting effort and is supporting a plan, in partnership with other non-partisan organizations, for how it could be done.

2. Natural Resources

There were no suggestions. Stephanie commented that LWVWI is active in this area.

3. Social Policy

- Immigrants and refugee resettlement was suggested for study by Jeanne Roberts. Our league doesn't have a position statement on this issue.
- Helen Nagler recommended that we undertake a review of our position on the local juvenile system. Helen commented that best practices of the past are no longer working. Funding for the system and moving to regional centers for housing should be looked at. This could be an opportunity to work with other leagues.
- Members agreed that updating our education position based on recommendations of the review committee should be added to the list for consideration.

IV. **Overview of National Program 2016 – 2018 Biennium – Sara Companik**

Sara attended the LWVUS 52nd National Convention in Washington D.C. this past June and provided a report.

- Chris Carson of California is the newly elected president.
- "Campaign for Making Democracy Work" is the national program for the next two years and includes action on the following: supporting voter protection and voter rights in states and local communities, restoration of the Voting Rights Act, online voter registration, expansion of early voting, money in politics, and redistricting.
- Sara reviewed other items acted on during the convention.
- The convention will be held in Chicago in 2018.

Members expressed their appreciation to Sara for her contribution to the league by attending the national convention.

V. **Apply Criteria and Vote for Recommended Study**

Motion by Marcia Hittle that the league adopt a study to update the education position as necessary based on the recommendations of the review committee and to be done at the discretion of the board. Second by Barb Kelly. Motion passed.

Motion by Helen Nagler that the league review our position on the local juvenile system. Second by Penny Robinson. Motion passed.

Motion by Jeanne Roberts that the league study refugee and immigrant resettlement in the Fox Valley. Second by Elizabeth Laux. Motion passed.

It was consensus by members present at the meeting that we should move forward with study and updates to our education position. This information will be forwarded to the board.

Concern was expressed by Helen Nagler that it seemed as though decisions on the outcome of the Lively Issues meeting had been made before the meeting. Members were reminded by Gayle Hardt that the recommendation from last year's Lively Issues meeting – to update and study our education position - was taken under consideration by the board. The board then developed a recommendation to first conduct a review of the current position in 2017 with study and update to follow in 2017 – 2018. This was approved by membership at the 2016 annual meeting.

VI. Action Discussion – Stephanie Malaney & Penny Robinson

Stephanie talked about the importance of taking action on issues as individuals. There are many forms of taking action such as letters to the editor, calling and writing legislators. The national and state leagues provide email alerts to the membership when action is required. Penny shared information on how to sign up on the national website for legislative updates.

As part of the strategic plan, Stephanie and Penny are forming an Advocacy Committee. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st at 6:00 p.m., at the College Avenue Copper Rock. All members are invited to attend. Public hearings by the Joint Finance Committee will be scheduled this spring, and the league would like to have a voice. One priority is the need for transparency in government. Helen Nagler commented on the need to monitor resolutions at the state level. Sara Companik stated that the Wheeler Report is another way to keep informed and one can sign-up on line. Stephanie reminded everyone that we are a non-partisan organization.

Jacqui Klimaszewski shared information about an upcoming WILD training - a leadership training - that will be available in Kaukauna in February. The training will provide extensive education on the process of public hearings. She will be sending information on the training via Mail Chimp.

VII. Adjournment

President Stephanie Malaney adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

**League of Women Voters of Appleton
2017 – 2018 Program**

The following recommendation for local study resulted from the Lively Issues meeting held on January 28, 2017.

**Recommended Study
Update of Local Position on Education
Local Position: Social Policy, XI. Education**

Education: The current position was adopted in 1983 and 1993 and revised in 2006. A committee to review the current position was approved at the 2016 annual meeting. The committee reported on their work at the Lively Issues meeting in January 2017. Recommendations resulting from their review included identified gaps in the position, portions that require edits, clarification and updating, and topics for potential study. The committee encourages reference of LWVWI positions on education and feels the following topics would assist the League in advocating for effective public education: school funding, local control, school choice, and early childhood education. The League board reviewed the consensus recommendation from the January 2017 Lively Issues meeting and approved forwarding the recommendation on to membership at the May 18, 2017 Annual Meeting.

**Non-Recommended Item for Study
Review of Position on Local Juvenile System
Local Positions: Social Policy: I. Juvenile Law Enforcement & Correction System (1973),
II. Juveniles at Risk (1996 & 1997)**

Concern was expressed that best practices of the past no longer work. Funding for the system and moving to regional centers for housing should be looked at. This could present an opportunity for us to work with other leagues.

**Non-Recommended Item for Study
Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement
Social Policy: Currently the League does not have a position
on refugee and immigrant resettlement.**

Concern was shared about the potential banning of refugees at the federal level. An educational forum on the topic was coordinated by the League in February with Tami McLaughlin of World Relief Fox Valley as speaker.

(A 2/3 vote is required to bring a non-recommended item to the floor for consideration.)

League of Women Voters Appleton				Budget Proposal
2/20/2017				2017-18
INCOME	2016-17 Budget	Actual YTD 1617	In Kind	
A. Dues	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,455.00		\$ 4,500.00
B. Contributions				
1. Member Contributions	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,879.00	387.59	\$ 2,000.00
2. Non-member Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 730.00	4,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
C. Event Income				
1. Holiday Brunch	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,368.00		\$ 1,300.00
2. Annual Meeting	\$ 650.00	\$ 20.00		\$ 650.00
3. Women's Equality Day	\$ 700.00	\$ 950.00		\$ 700.00
4. Lunch and Learn				
D. Other Income				
1. Interest	\$ 25.00	\$ 23.02		\$ 25.00
2. Transfer from Savings	\$ 1,515.00			\$ 3,395.00
3. Grants				\$ 600.00
4. Merchandise Sold				
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,890.00	\$ 9,425.02		\$ 14,170.00

League of Women Voters Appleton					Budget Proposal
2/20/2017					
EXPENSES	2016-17 Budget	Actual YTD 1617	In Kind	Total	2017-18
Board and Committees					
1. Fund Raising	\$ 400.00	\$ 150.53	\$ 13.99	\$ 164.52	\$ 400.00
2. Membership	\$ 100.00			\$ -	\$ 100.00
3. President	\$ 250.00			\$ -	\$ 250.00
4. Board	\$ 150.00			\$ -	\$ 150.00
				\$ -	
Communication				\$ -	
1. Newsletter				\$ -	
2. 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			\$ -	\$ 500.00
4. Committee Travel	\$ 250.00			\$ -	\$ 250.00
Educational Activity				\$ -	
1. Program	\$ 200.00			\$ -	\$ 200.00
2. Voter's Service	\$ 750.00	\$ 553.87	\$ 43.58	\$ 597.45	\$ 750.00
3. Observer corps	\$ 50.00			\$ -	\$ 50.00
4. Archive	\$ 25.00			\$ -	\$ 25.00
5. Voter video grant	\$ 200.00			\$ -	\$ 200.00
6. Youth Voter Registration grant				\$ -	\$ 600.00
Event Expenses				\$ -	
1. Holiday Brunch	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,354.00		\$ 1,354.00	\$ 1,300.00
2. Annual Meeting	\$ 650.00			\$ -	\$ 650.00
3. Women's Equality day	\$ 700.00	\$ 150.00	\$4,530.02	\$ 4,680.02	\$ 700.00
6. Making Democracy Work Award	\$ 200.00	\$ 90.00			\$ 200.00
Financial Support for League				\$ -	
1. Lake Michigan Interleague	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
2. State PMA	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,496.25		\$ 1,496.25	\$ 1,800.00
3. National PMP	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,128.00		\$ 2,128.00	\$ 1,920.00
				\$ -	
Operating Costs				\$ -	
1. Corporate Filing Fee	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
2. General Supplies	\$ 250.00	\$ 7.50		\$ 7.50	\$ 250.00
3. Insurance	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
4. PayPal Fees	\$ 50.00	\$ 59.87		\$ 59.87	\$ 60.00
5. Post Office Box	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00		\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00
6. Postage	\$ 50.00			\$ -	\$ 50.00
8. Scholarship	\$ 150.00			\$ -	\$ 150.00
Position Advocacy	\$ 100.00			\$ -	\$ 100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,890.00	\$ 6,405.02	\$4,587.59	\$10,902.61	\$ 14,170.00

President's Report
Stephanie Malaney, President

Reflecting on the events of this past year, the work of the League of Women Voters took on a renewed effort. We saw an increase in attendance at our events and more collaboration with other organizations who have similar missions. Some of our more visible events were the Get Out the Vote van during the Mile of Music, Women's Equality Day, the musical performance Voice Your Vote: Power of One by the newVoices, and the Holiday Brunch with the presentation of the Making Democracy Award. The League provided a variety of education programming from candidate forums, information on elections, sex trafficking, refugees, and fair maps to name just a few. In addition to these events members finished our Land Use Study and reviewed our Education position. Members provided opportunities to register voters in numerous sites. All this work could not have happened without the dedication of our members.

The board and committees have continued to work on our strategic plan through the following three committees: membership, communication, and advocacy. Membership is exploring ways to increase the membership and engage current members. The communication committee reviewed how we communicate with members and have set guidelines on how specific information will be sent to members which includes use of emails. Working with the communication committee the advocacy committee has looked at how to engage members in advocacy.

Looking ahead to next year, we have a new board eager to carry on the mission of League of Women Voters. I challenge members to actively engage with the activities and programming developed by the board.

Treasurer's Report
Barbara Kelly, Treasurer

The 2016-17 financial report and the proposed budget for 2017-18 are included in this annual meeting packet. Thanks to Stephanie Malaney, Shirley Strange, Miriam Douglass, myself, and Karen Bachhuber 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. This year it is higher than last year due to the need to plan for costs associated with attendance at the National Convention. Once again this year, 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 also raised the amount for some events to more fully represent the actual costs. The income is budgeted to cover all expenses, so it is really not a budget increase. There is also a new line of restricted funds that are from a grant by National for Student Voter Registration efforts. We have received \$450 of the total \$600 possible, but have not spent any of that yet.

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 4/10/2015

CD 18955	\$ 5,000.00
Checking Account	\$13,550.64
Total	\$18,550.64

I have very much enjoyed serving as your Treasurer, and hope that my reports have been helpful to all of our understanding of LWV Appleton operations.

Membership Report
Elizabeth Laux, Director

We currently have sixty-nine members with the addition of seven new members this year; we are up by 9 members from last year. We have three new members and five returning members. Three of the sixty-nine members are Life members, each having been involved in the League of Women voters 50 years or more. We have sixty primary members, and six additional members secondary to households.

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

The life members are Joy Povolny, Donna Weis, and Beverly Wieckert.

Sue Waltman	(920) 364-9224	waltmansa@gmail.com	2417 E Sienna Way	Appleton	WI	54913
Donna Weis	(920) 733-4790		120 N Green Bay Road	Appleton	WI	54911
Deborah Werth	(920) 954-1936	dwerth@new.rr.com	4836 N. Sourapple Dr.	Appleton	WI	54913
Deborah Wetter	(920) 832-2291	deborahswetter@gmail.com	800 E. Woodcrest Dr.	Appleton	WI	54915
Beverly Wieckert	(920) 739-2773	bfwiec@yahoo.com	8 Fiesta Court Unit 13	Appleton	WI	54911

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON, WISCONSIN BYLAWS

Article I Name

Section 1. Name.

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Appleton, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV Appleton, or as the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc., **hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVWI.**

Article II Purposes and Policy

Section 1. Purposes.

The purposes of LWV Appleton shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, and to act on selected government issues

Section 2. Political Policy.

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Section 3. Non-profit Status

~~[H.3]~~ LWV of Appleton shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law (the "Code").

Section 4. Lobbying

~~[H.4]~~ No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the organization. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be ~~carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and~~ **lobbying.** The organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or dist

tribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Code, or by (b) an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Code.

Article III Membership

Section 1. Eligibility.

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

~~A. Voting Members. Citizens at least eighteen years of age who join LWV Appleton shall be voting members of the local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS;~~

A. Voting Members – Persons at least sixteen years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS: (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join the League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at -large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

C. Second member in household. A second (or third) member at least sixteen years of age living in the same household as a voting member shall pay a reduced membership fee as determined by the membership committee with Board approval, and shall be a voting member. Student members are not eligible to vote.

D. Student members. A high school or post secondary student shall pay a reduced membership fee as determined by the membership committee with Board approval.

Article IV Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of LWV Appleton shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the annual Meeting. All officers, except the treasurer shall take office immediately following the annual Meeting. The treasurer shall take office on July 1. The President, First Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Treasurer and Second Vice President shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 2. The President.

The President shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Board, or designate another person to do so; **shall appoint chairs for all committees**; shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes in the absence of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the board may direct. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, the vice-presidents, in order of their rank, shall assume the office. If no vice-president is able to serve as president, the Board shall fill the vacancy from among the elected directors.

Section 3. The Vice-Presidents. **In addition to any incoming portfolio**, the vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the president and Board shall direct.

Section 4. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the membership and of the Board; shall notify all officers and directors of their election; shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board; and shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board shall direct.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due; shall be the custodian of these monies; shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors; shall disburse the same in accordance with the budget or, in the case of extraordinary expense, upon the order of the Board; **shall suggest changes or strategic direction about financial policy to the Board**; and shall present statements to the Board at the regular meetings and an annual report to the annual Meetings. The books of the Treasurer shall ~~may be audited~~ **reviewed** annually ~~prior to the annual Meeting~~ **every three to five years by a CPA.**

Section 6. Terms.

Officers of LWV Appleton may be elected to the same office no more than two consecutive terms. **The filling of a partial or vacant term shall not count against this limit.**

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the ~~five (5)~~ officers of the League **and up to** ~~six (6) or more~~ elected directors **elected by the membership or interim directors appointed by the Board** ~~and appointed directors~~ not to exceed the number of elected directors. ~~Three (3) or more of the~~ Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members **of the Board** shall appoint such additional directors not exceeding the number of elected directors, as they deem necessary to carry on the work

of the League. The terms of office for the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next annual Meeting. ~~All State Board members, who are members of the LWV Appleton, may be invited by the local board to be additional members of the Board of Directors by virtue of their State offices.~~

Section 2. Qualifications.

No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer, director or representative of this organization unless currently enrolled in LWV Appleton as a voting member. **Elected officials and partisan campaign committee members may not serve on the Board.**

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the LWVUS Convention, LWVWI Annual Meeting, and the LWV Appleton Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. Executive Committee. ~~The board shall appoint four (4) elected members from its own body who, together with the President, shall act as the Executive Committee for the board between regular meetings, provided that the action taken shall be presented to the board for ratification at its next meeting.~~ **The executive committee shall be comprised of the elected officers.**

Section 6. Meetings. There shall be at least nine (9) meetings of the Board of Directors. The President also may call a special meeting upon the written request of ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** members of the Board.

Section 7. Quorum.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** meetings of the membership each year. **The Annual Meeting shall count as one of these meetings. A membership meeting is one in which members vote on issues. Special meetings**

may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference call, video conferencing or e-mail. The use of electronic meetings shall be reserved for those issues needing a decision before an in-person meeting is scheduled.

Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be the regular spring membership meeting. The Annual Meeting shall:

- A. elect officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee;
- B. adopt a budget;
- C. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- D. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum. Fifteen percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of LWV Appleton. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Article VII Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected by the Annual Meeting. Immediately after the Annual Meeting the Board shall appoint two of its members to the committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Board. This committee shall serve for one year and shall make suggestions to the Board for filling vacancies when necessary. Suggestions for nominations for officers and Board members may be sent to this committee by any voting member. Nominating committee members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, **shall be sent to the members one month before the annual meeting either electronically or in writing.** The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. Election. Election shall be by ballot except that if there is only one nominee for an office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute an election.

Article VIII Principles and Program

Section 1. Principles. The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the LWVUS Convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state and local program.

Section 2. Program.

The program of LWV Appleton shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those local governmental issues chosen by the Annual Meeting for concerted study and action as follows:

A. Voting members may make recommendations to the Board at least two months before the Annual Meeting.

B. The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program which shall be sent to the members at least one month before the Annual Meeting.

C. The Annual Meeting shall adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations submitted to the Board at least two months before the **state and/or local**

convention but not proposed by the Board may be considered by the Annual Meeting, provided that the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

~~Section 3. Changes in Program. Changes in the program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks before a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and that final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.~~

The program approved at the annual meeting may be changed in the case of altered conditions. The Board shall provide information concerning the proposed changes either electronically or in writing at least two weeks before the next Board meeting for comments and input. At that meeting, the Board shall review the input and decide whether or not to approve the proposed changes or call a general meeting.

Section 4. Program Action. Members may act in the name of the LWV Appleton only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by LWV Appleton, LWWI, and LWVUS.

Article IX Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of LWV Appleton shall be from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues approved by the membership as part of the budget shall be payable the first day of October. Any member who fails to pay the dues by **January 15**

shall ~~may~~ be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3. Budget.

The budget shall include support for all financial obligations approved by the Board of Directors and assumed by the local League for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee which shall be appointed for that purpose at least two months before the Annual meeting.

The President (may vote), the Treasurer, the Finance Drive Chair~~man~~ and two other members from the membership shall serve on the committee. One from membership shall be the chair~~man~~. The proposed budget shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, and shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual meeting.

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of LWV Appleton all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWV Appleton shall be paid to the LWV Wisconsin, Inc. after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other properties of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed which may at the time be owned or under the control of LWV Appleton shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the board in its absolute discretion may designate.

**Article X
National Convention and State Annual Meetings**

Section 1. National Convention. At the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years, the Board of Directors shall present a slate of delegates to the LWVUS Convention up to the number allotted LWV Appleton under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. State Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors shall present a slate of delegates to the LWVWI Annual Meeting up to the number allotted LWV Appleton under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVWI.

**Article XI
Parliamentary Authority**

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

**Article XII
Amendments**

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members at

the Annual Meeting provided that the proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Article XIII Dissolution

Section 1. Upon the dissolution of the organization, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets by distributing the assets to the LWVWI or, if the LWVWI no longer exists or declines to accept the assets, to the League of Women Voters Education Fund, provided that either organization continues to be recognized as an organization that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. If neither organization can accept the assets, the distribution shall be made to such organization or organizations that are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws, or to a State or a political subdivision of a State as defined in section 170(c)(1) of the Code.

Articled XIV Group Exemption

Section 1. LWVAppleton agrees to be included in the group ruling of the LWVWI (the "central organization"). We also agree that we must accept and adhere to all of the following as a part of being a subordinate/chapter

- a. We agree to accept the purpose of and abide by the policies and principles of LWVWI, including Bylaws, Policies, and Handbook.
- b. We agree to report our activities to LWVWI as requested and to provide the requested reports on our activities and financials.
- c. We agree that we are under the general control and supervision of our central organization, as that term is applied for purposes of a group ruling under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.
- d. We understand that if we ever leave the group ruling or it ceases to exist, we will need to reapply for individual exemption and pay the user fee should we wish to be exempt.

AMENDED May 18, 2017

AMENDED April 1, 2015 to comply with state and national

Amended May 12, 2011

(Board is to review Article V for next year 2016)

LAND USE PLANNING IN APPLETON

A. Planning process

1. Citizen involvement throughout the planning process including:
 - a. Adequate and timely notification to the public in order to ensure participation.
 - b. Utilization of designated neighborhood leaders to increase representation from various areas of the community.
 - c. Balanced representation on planning committees of city employees, government officials, business owners, city residents, nonprofits and other stakeholders.
2. Comprehensive planning based on community goals and objectives as outlined in the city's Comprehensive Plan. Comprehensive planning at all levels of government regardless of state support.
3. A strong, coordinating role for the City Planning Commission.
4. A strong, centralized City Planning Department.
5. Economic development needs to be balanced with sound planning practices which take into consideration the broad needs of the community.
6. Communication and cooperation in planning functions between the city, counties, surrounding towns, municipalities and the region.
7. Ensure that the infrastructure required to support any proposed development is adequate to meet the goals of the community. Communicate any estimated impact of specific developments to the neighborhoods affected and the community at large.
8. City staff should use their expertise to provide context to the planning process, lead ongoing communication and ensure the understanding of goals between/among all consultants engaged in the Comprehensive Plan.
9. Final accountability for the planning process to rest with elected officials.

B. Priorities Goals for the City's Future Design

1. A balance of economic development and quality of life.
2. A viable and diversified economic base.
3. The central business district as a viable center (Refer to Downtown section in the Appleton LWV Archives for more details).
4. Availability of choices including mixed-use buildings, repurposing of existing buildings and other current and/or future urban planning practices.
5. Encourage a wide range of housing options.
6. Accessibility for people of varying abilities and needs.
7. Consideration of unique features and aesthetics when planning for development.
8. Anticipate the impacts of proposed programs and projects to prevent irretrievable damage to natural, human-made resources or damage to the community itself.
9. Conservation of energy.
10. Support of economic, recreation, social and environmental goals. Strive for long-range government economic policies which lead to the fulfillment of the goals of the community.
11. Ample parks, recreation sites and trails, particularly in unique areas like ravines and the riverfront.
12. A balance of public and private uses for the riverfront area. (Refer to the Fox River Corridor position in the Appleton LWV Archives for more details).
13. Support ample greenspace throughout the city.
14. Support of transportation measures: (Refer to the Local Transportation study in the Appleton LWV Archives for details)
 - a. Transit system.
 - b. Energy efficient vehicles for government use.

c. Safe and convenient routes and conditions for bicyclists, walkers and people of varying abilities and needs.

C. Downtown Development

Downtown development should strive to create a vibrant and dynamic city center by:

1. Encouraging the gathering of people.
2. Fully embracing and leveraging the diverse arts, cultural and educational assets of the community.
3. Supporting an environment which encourages employers to locate downtown.
3. Supporting businesses that serve downtown neighborhoods.
4. Providing more housing options downtown.
5. Increasing connectivity between downtown, the river and the region.
6. Going beyond the linear definitions of College Avenue to include side streets and areas north and south of College Avenue.
7. Promoting quality development along the Fox River by embracing the region's natural heritage.
8. Supporting public, private and non-profit partnerships which make downtown more attractive for residents and visitors.
9. Promoting a safe, welcoming downtown.
10. Embracing diversity while fostering inclusiveness and accessibility for all.

Study materials include:

Envisionappleton.org

Books recommended by consulting firm SEH (both are available at the Appleton Public Library):

Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time – Jeff Speck

Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design - Charles Montgomery

Nominating Committee 2017

Nominating Committee: Shirley Strange, chair, Sue Eich, Irene Strohbeen, Elizabeth Laux, Jeanne Roberts

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers and directors.

Officers:

President	Jeanne Roberts
Second Vice President (Program VP)	Irene Strohbeen, 1 year*
First Vice President (Voter Servicer VP)	Jacqueline Klimaszewski, re-election*
Secretary	LuAnn Graff
Treasurer	Karen Bachhuber, 1 year*

Directors

Director, 2-year	Elizabeth Laux
Director, 2-year	Maren Peterson
Director, 2-year	Cindy Fallona
Director, 1-year	Barbara Dorzweiler

2018 Nominating Committee (One year term)

Chair, Shirley Strange
Committee Members: Sue Eich, Sara Companik

Continuing Board Members (Year two of two-year term)

Director, Membership	Elizabeth Laux
Director, Legislative Services	Penny Robinson

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Strange, Chairperson 2017 Nominating Committee

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***Explanation**

Bylaws: Article IV, Section 1 The President, First Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Treasurer and Second Vice President shall be elected in even-numbered years.

According to the Bylaws, this year, 2017, an odd numbered year, we should be electing President, First Vice President and Secretary.

However the First Vice President's term is not up until next year, even year.

We have solved this issue by asking the First Vice President to be re-elected this year, (odd year) and put this position back on track. The First Vice President position would be open in 2019.

Therefore, in accordance with the bylaws, in this odd numbered year, we will be electing : President, First Vice President and Secretary.

Next hurdle: We should not be electing Second Vice President and Treasurer in an odd year. However, the positions need to be filled this year (2017, odd year).

We have solved this issue by asking the candidates for Treasurer and Second Vice President to accept these positions for a one-year term. Next year, then, it will be possible to fill the positions of Second Vice President and Treasurer in an even-numbered year for two-year terms.

Voter Services Report
Jacqueline Klimaszewski, V.P. Voter Services

This chart is a summary of the voter registration and outreach activities for the year, June, 2016 to May, 2017
 The Volunteer total is comprised of 44 individuals, 27 of which were trained this year.

Location	# of Visits	Volunteers	Mail-in Reg.	*On-line Reg.	Name/ Address Change	Reg. Forms	General Information	Absentee Form
Appleton Central HS	1	1	2	2			2	
Appleton East HS	6	16	15	2		7	1	
Appleton North HS	5	20	38	11		25	4	4
Appleton Public Library	3	6	16			15	9	
Appleton West HS	6	22	26			33	7	1
B.A.B.E.S.	1	2				6	1	
Black Lives Matter	1	2	3					
C.O.T.S.	1	1				4		
Celebrate Diversity	1	2	1			5	1	
Family First Ministries	1	3	8			6		1
Fox Valley Tech. Col.	1	2	4		1	3		
Home Visit	1	2	4			1		
Juneteenth	1	7	4		9	3		
Latino Fest	1	6	2			1		
AAUW Book Sale- Northland Mall	3	3	1			3	8	
Mile of Music	1	5						
NAMI	1	2						
Partnership Comm. Dental	1	2	4			4		
Partnership Comm. Health	1	2	3				5	
St. Therese Picnic	1	4				3		
UW Fox Valley	4	9	22	6		6	4	
Totals	42	119	153	21	10	125	42	6

*On-Line Registration began in February. It is much easier for those who have a current Driver's License or state issued ID and are 18 before registering; for others, the paper mail-in registration form is still needed.

The Appleton Branch received a \$600.00 grant from the national organization for the promotion of registration and voting among young adults. Contacts have been made with UW Fox Valley and Fox Valley Technical College to connect with their student governance groups. Further outreach is being done at the Appleton Area School District high schools. The goal is to work with them to develop materials that will encourage voter registration, advertise up-coming elections, and explain the importance of local and state mid-term elections.

Program Report
Gayle Hardt, V.P. Programs

During 2016-2017, in addition to the review of our position statement on education, the League of Women Voters of Appleton held a total of 13 program events including the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2017.

- *“Public Schools & Privatization: What’s at Stake?”* was held on September 13th. Dr. Julie Mead of U.W. Madison was the featured speaker. Our League partnered with AAUW and Advocates for Public Education for the event which attracted over 100 attendees.
- A consensus meeting was held on September 23rd to hear from the study group that had worked for over a year to update our position on Land Use Planning and Downtown Development.
- *“Iron Jawed Angels”* was shown at the Appleton Public Library on National Voter Registration Day, September 27th. The League partnered with AAUW for the showing.
- With the approaching presidential election, Dr. Arnold Shober of Lawrence University spoke on *“Elections: Candidates, Substance and Personality”* on October 12th.
- A new and different effort for the League resulted from an invitation by *newvoices*, Northeast Wisconsin’s Vocal Artists, to collaborate on a concert entitled *“Voice Your Vote: the power of one.”* The concert was held at the Lawrence University Memorial Chapel on October 22nd with League member, Jacqui Klimaszewski delivering a pre-concert talk on voting rights. In November, the League hosted an information session with Stephanie Vrabec, Board Chair of Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust entitled *“The Who, What and Why of the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust.”*
- The Annual Holiday Brunch was held on December 10th at Fox Banquets and Rivertyme Catering with featured keynote speaker, Matthew Rothschild, Executive Director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Marcia Engen presented the Making Democracy Work Award to Kathy Groat, Outagamie County Board Supervisor and mentor to many seeking public office. Seventy-four members and friends of the League attended.
- Lively Issues was held in January with discussion on various issues facing our community. A report was provided by Marti Hemwall on the work of the committee charged with review of our current position on education. She highlighted areas of the statement where there were gaps, potential need for future study and need for updating. The position was last revised in 2006. Consensus was reached that the League conduct a study to update our position on education based on the recommendations of the review committee. Non-recommended programs were 1) to undertake a review of our position on the local juvenile system, and 2) to study refugee and immigrant resettlement in the Fox Valley.
- *“Refugee Resettlement in the Fox Valley”* was held on February 15th. Tami McLaughlin, Director of World Relief Fox Valley spoke about the resettlement process including the vetting process and the struggles refugees face in their new country. League member and retired licensed counselor, Jeanne Roberts talked about refugee trauma and mental health needs to a standing room only crowd.
- Follow-up to the League’s 2015 study on Human Trafficking brought Jonathan Cloud, Planning and Management Consultant to the Outagamie County Sex Trafficking Partnership to present *“Confronting Sex Trafficking in Outagamie County: A Progress Report to the Community”* on March 8th.
- Sister Mary Barbieur and Sister Mary Jo Selinsky of ROC Wisconsin presented *“Restoring our Communities: A Presentation on Prison Reform”* on April 5th to a group of thirty-five attendees. The League partnered with ESTHER Treatment Instead of Prison Task Force for this event.
- LWV Appleton in partnership with Organizing for Action Wisconsin, Citizen Action Organizing Cooperative, and the Fair Elections Project coordinated *“A Town Hall: Wisconsin Deserves Fair Maps”* which was held on April 25th. The forum featured a bipartisan panel of speakers who highlighted the

issue of gerrymandering: Sachin Chheda, Fair Elections Project and representing the plaintiff in case before the U.S. Supreme Court; Dave Hansen, Democratic State Senator – Green Bay; Dan Theno, former Republican State Senator – Ashland; and Richard Schoenbohm, LWV Appleton and attorney. The panel discussion was moderated by Jacqui Klimaszewski. Over 100 people attended this forum.

The League counts on the Appleton Public Library as a venue for many of our programs. 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. The Program Committee this past year consisted of Irene Strohbeen, Sara Companik and Gayle Hardt. In addition, others have led and/or assisted in the coordination and publication of our programs. They are Shirley and Dave Strange, Jeanne Roberts, Barbara Kelly, Stephanie Malaney, Jacqui Klimaszewski, Kim and Bill Wetzel (Acoca), Elizabeth Laux and Sue and Larry Silton.

Legislative Report Penny Robinson, Director

Role of the Legislative Director

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.

Advocacy Committee

According to the new strategic plan, we created the Advocacy Committee, which met several times, once to plan participation in a news conference, and especially for several members to testify on behalf of the LWV at Joint Finance Committee Hearings. Some of the testimony can be found in the May/June 2017 *The Informed Voter* on the LWV Appleton website: <http://www.lwvappleton.org>

LWVWI Legislative Committee and State Budget

As a member of the LWVWI Legislative Committee, I particularly focused on public transit and expanded my portfolio to include all of public transportation. The Legislative Committee agreed, at my proposal, to support the following:

Since in 2013 the governor's own bipartisan Transportation Finance and Policy Commission recommended an increase of \$34.3 million each year over a period of ten years for public transit, I recommend the following:

- 1) Less funding should be used on major highway expansion (unless an urgent and critical need is determined),*
- 2) An increase of \$34.3 million should be invested in public transit annually over the next biennium.*
- 3) No money from the general fund should be transferred to the segregated transportation fund resulting in cuts to necessary programs such as education and healthcare.*

Joint Finance Committee Hearings

When the Joint Finance Committee took the Transportation Fund “off base”, essentially starting the new budget from zero, the LWVWI sent out an action alert through the new VOICES app asking members to call their legislators with the following message (paraphrased): *Support robust transit systems and keep public transit funding within the Segregated Transportation Fund in the state budget.*

2016 Women's Equality Day **Jeanne Roberts, Chair**

Women's Equality Day was held for the second year in a row at the Refuge and was a big success, with 99 people in attendance. The social hour included a women's history timeline and display of women's suffrage memorabilia. Food was provided by LaClare Farms, the Breadsmith, Sue Silton and Gayle Schultz. Shirley Strange provided wine and water.

For the program, Helen Boyd-Kramer spoke on "Feminism's Present" and followed that up by a question and answer period. Jan Quinlan introduced Helen Nagler who was honored for her many years of public service to Appleton and Outagamie County. The WE Day committee included Stephanie Malaney, Shirley Strange, Sara Companik, Irene Strohbeen, Cheryl Reissman, Gayle Schultz, Lou Ann Graf and Jeanne Roberts.

Jeanne and Shirley were interviewed on the Channel 5 morning news show, and Channel 5 also did a live interview with Jeanne and Stephanie Malaney prior to the event.

We are looking for a different venue for the 2017 Women's Equality Day and planning meetings have recently begun.

2016 Making Democracy Work Award **Marcia Engen, Chair**

The League of Women Voters of Appleton's *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 effect change.

In 2016, the Making Democracy Work Award was given to Kathy Groat. As her nominators stated...

- *Kathy's recruitment efforts for local offices have created an exponential multiplier effect in our community. Much of Kathy's work goes unheralded, but she made a significant impact improving the quality of life and civic involvement in the Fox Cities.*
- *Kathy is passionate about helping people move up in life (and) is an articulate advocate for all families who have difficulty speaking for themselves.*

Kathy has certainly embodied the characteristics of the making Democracy Work Award.

The award was given during the League of Women Voters of Appleton Holiday Brunch on December 10, 2016. A committee of League and community members reviewed the nominations and made the selection based on these criteria.

A special thank you goes to the committee members: Dan Flannery, Marcia Hittle and Deb Werth 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.