

League of Women Voters

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 15, 2021

Zoom meeting 9:00 – 11:00am

Presiding: Jeanne Roberts Recorder: Julie Evers

AGENDA

Call to Order	Jeanne Roberts
Introduction of Parliamentarian	Jeanne Roberts
Remarks from the Parliamentarian	Beth English
Adoption of Agenda	Jeanne Roberts
Adoption of Bylaw Changes	Jeanne Roberts
Acceptance of Minutes (2020 Annual Meeting)	Jeanne Roberts
Appointment of Readers (2021 Annual Meeting Minute)	Jeanne Roberts
President's Report	Jeanne Roberts
Treasurer's Report	Diane Putzer
Budget Presentation & Q&A	Diane Putzer
Membership Report	Cindy Fallona
Adoption of New Position Statements based on Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Study Team	Renee Gralewicz
Presentation of Board-Recommended Program	
Adoption of Recommended Program for 2021-2022	Renee Gralewicz
Adoption of Budget	Jeanne Roberts
Presentation of Slate of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee	Stephany Malaney
Nominations from the Floor	Jeanne Roberts
Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee	Jeanne Roberts
Other Business	Linda Bjella & Marti Hemwell
Advice to the Board	Linda Bjella & Marti Hemwell
Announcements	Linda Bjella & Marti Hemwell
Motion to Adjourn	Linda Bjella & Marti Hemwell

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TO: Local League Leadership

FROM: Ellen Penwell, LWVWI Membership & Events Coordinator

DATE: February 10, 2021

CC: LWVWI Board & Staff, Membership & Leadership Development Program Team

RE: Guidance on LWVWI Recommended and LWVUS Mandated ByLaws Changes for Local Leagues

LWVWI RECOMMENDED BYLAWS CHANGES

Background. In March of last year, as you planned your first virtual Annual Meetings, you faced the challenge of how to bypass voting restrictions by written ballot that appear in your bylaws such as not being able to vote for officers/directors and bylaws amendments by written ballot. You might recall, in response to this challenge, the LWVWI board approved a policy that specifically permitted (but did not require) local Leagues to conduct elections by written ballot. The policy also included language to permit local Leagues to change the month of their Annual Meeting as prescribed in their bylaws just in case you needed additional time to organize.

What's New? We recently obtained new, uniform language for "Written Ballot" and "Written Consent" sections of your bylaws from Scholz Nonprofit Law LLC. The new language abides by state statutes but also permanently removes unnecessary restrictions by striking phrases that limit the use of written ballot and written consent. It also makes the timing of your Annual Meeting more flexible (if this need applies to your League).

What You Need to Do. We recommend that all local Leagues amend their bylaws with the following **new language in red text** and eliminate the language that is stricken through:

Written Ballot

~~Any action that may be taken at an annual, regular or special meeting of the members in special circumstances designated at the discretion of the Board of Directors and not pertaining to the election of officers, directors, or amendment of the bylaws or articles of incorporation, the vote of the members may be taken by written ballot as set forth in section 181.0708 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Consistent with the requirements of section 181.0708, Wis. Stats., any action of members may be taken without a meeting if~~ [Local League] delivers a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. A written ballot shall set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against such action. Approval by written ballot shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot. **Solicitations for votes by written ballot shall: (1) indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements; (2) state the percentage of approvals necessary to approve each matter other than election of directors; and (3) specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the corporation in order to be counted.**

Written Consent

~~Written Consent.~~ **Action without Meeting.**

In accordance with Section 181.0821, Wis. Stats., any action that ~~would~~ **could** be taken at a meeting of the Board, ~~except for filling vacancies on the Board or on committees,~~ may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action to be taken, is signed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Directors, provided all Directors receive notice of the text of the written consent and of its effective date

and time. Any such consent signed by two-thirds (2/3) of all of the Directors has the same effect as a two-thirds (2/3) vote taken at a duly convened meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present and may be stated as such in any document filed with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. For purposes of this section, pursuant to § 181.0821(1r) of the Wisconsin Statutes, “in writing” includes a communication that is transmitted or received by electronic means, including electronic mail (“email”), and “signed” includes an electronic signature, as defined in §181.0103(10p) of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended from time to time.

Timing of Your Annual Meeting of Members

If language in your Bylaws is particularly restrictive on the timing of your Annual Meeting, you can consider adding this phrase, **Unless otherwise determined by [Local League], the Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of [whatever month you define].**

How to Vote on Bylaws Amendments. You might be wondering, when you bring these bylaws amendments before membership for approval, if the vote for approval can be done by written ballot when the ability to do so is the purpose of the recommended change. The spirit of the state League’s 2020 guidance was to allow local Leagues to conduct business during the pandemic without breaking the procedures in their bylaws. The new recommended amendments to local League bylaws are the second step in this process. They allow you to amend your bylaws so that the state guidance will no longer be necessary. In the spirit of last year’s guidance, you may proceed with the amendment changes by written ballot.

Can We Vote Using the Poll Feature in an Online Meeting Platform?

Yes! If you ask your membership to register for your virtual Annual Meeting (or any other membership meeting) thereby creating a restricted audience, a poll vote in that setting is allowable by state statute *provided* you have the ability to download a “written” record of the polling (Zoom provides this feature) to satisfy written ballot requirements. The wording on the poll question will need to include the written ballot requirements: 1) **The number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements** (If a member quorum is not stated in your local League bylaws, you can fall back on the state statute default - 10% of members entitled to vote at the time the ballots are distributed); 2) **The percentage necessary to approve each matter other than the election of officers/directors** (for ballots items other than elections, the written ballot will need to state the percentage approval needed to pass, which is greater than 50%, a majority vote.); and, 3) **The time by which a ballot must be received by the corporation in order to be counted** (date of your virtual Annual Meeting).

What Happens Next? If all 20 local Leagues amend their bylaws as outlined above, the policy adopted by the LWVWI Board in March of 2020 will be rescinded. Please contact the state office when you have made these bylaws changes by emailing Ellen Penwell at epenwell@lwvwi.org.

LWVUS MANDATED CHANGES TO BYLAWS

Background. The first three articles of the [LWVUS Bylaws](#) must appear in all state and local League bylaws. At the June 2020 LWVUS Convention, several amendments to ARTICLE II, Sec. 2 and one amendment to ARTICLE III, Sec. 2 of the LWVUS bylaws were approved and must now be added to your bylaws.

What You Need to Do. Amend your bylaws as follows. The current LWVUS Bylaws, ARTICLES I - III are found below with new language appearing in red text. Where [LWVUS] appears, replace it with the name of your local League. Because these changes are mandated by LWVUS, they do not require a vote of your membership.

In addition, wherever it makes sense in your bylaws to include, it should be made clear that **life members and students** are excused from making a per member payment (PMP) to LWVUS and a per member assessment (PMA) to LWVWI.

LWVUS BYLAWS ARTICLES I - III

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be [League of Women Voters of the United States], hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as [LWVUS].

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policies

Sec. 1. Purpose. The purposes of the [LWVUS] are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. **Policies. The policies of the [LWVUS] are**

1. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with [LWVUS'] Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.**

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the [LWVUS] shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

A. *Voting Members.* Persons at least 16 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 that 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; **(4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.**

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

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Penwell, LWVWI Membership & Events Manager, at epenwell@lwvwi.org or by calling the state League office at 608-256-0827.

MINUTES 20200521
Annual Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2020
Zoom meeting 6:30 pm
Presiding: Jeanne Roberts Recorder: Julie Evers

Call to order

The annual meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by President Jeanne Roberts. There was a quorum sufficient for all action items. Beth English was introduced as the Parliamentarian. Meeting packets and ballots were sent to all members via email.

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of the agenda is assumed unless there are objections in Chat. There was no discussion.

Appointment of Readers Karen Nelson and Miriam Douglass volunteered as readers for the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.

President's Report, p. 8 of meeting packet

President Roberts stated this has been a very busy year for the LWV-Appleton. Local membership has increased and we have continued our partnerships with other organizations to hold programs and celebrate the passage of the 19th amendment. We have learned to do business in an entirely different manner due to Covid 19. Nevertheless, we will persist!

Treasurer's Report, p. 10 of meeting packet

Karen Bachhuber presented the Treasurer's report. Our current account balance are \$39,002.82 in checking and \$5,000.00 in savings. She noted that there were additional expenses this year for 100th anniversary expenses and the Zoom membership that was needed for online meetings.

Budget Presentation and Q & A, pp. 11 & 12 of meeting packet

Karen Bachhuber explained changes to the budget for this year. There were increases to National and State LWV due to our increased membership. Voter Services was split into two categories reflecting the changes being made to that committee. There were also additions for study activities. Marti Hemwall made a motion that the LWV budget and the 19th Amendment Coalition budget be separated. Beth English noted that this should be presented as a direction to the board.

Membership Report, pp. 13 - 17 of meeting packet

Cindy Fallona reported that our membership has increased to 135. The membership committee has worked very hard to recruit and retain members. New member meetings have been successful in finding areas of interest and ways for new members to participate. A membership list is included in the meeting packet.

Local Study Program, pp. 18 – 22 of meeting packet

Jill Mitchler reported on the Climate Change Preparedness Study to date. The recommendation was for a regional plan (Calumet/Outagamie/Winnebago) under the direction of a Climate Resilience Officer. Phase II of the study has just begun with 14 members. They are looking for additional volunteers. Please contact Jill or Ligia Rivera if you can help.

Irene Strobeen gave a report on the Lively Issues discussion. Due to the ongoing Climate Change study, it was decided that a new study would not be undertaken this year and we will use the discussion items for future programs.

Report on Centennial plans, p. 27 – 28 of meeting packet

Linda Bjella gave a report on Centennial plans. We've had great community support, but unfortunately, Covid 19 has required some changes to our plans. The Speakers Bureau has moved to online platforms. Our traveling

exhibit is locked down at the moment, but will hopefully be going to schools in the fall. The Women's Equality Day celebration will be a virtual event on 08/26/2020. Our funders have allowed us to roll over expenses to 2021 due to Covid 19.

Presentation of Slate of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee, p. 23 of meeting packet

Stephanie Malaney presented the slate of officers and nominating committee.

Nominated for 2 year terms:

Vice President Program – Renee Gralewicz

Treasurer – Diane Putzer

Director Voter Registration – Brian Post

Director Communications – Kathy Voigt

2021 Nominating Committee

Chair – Stephanie Malaney

Member-at-Large – Dottie LeClair

Member-at-Large – Nancy Porciau

Board Representative – Cindy Fallona

Nominations from the Floor

There were no nominations from the floor.

Reminder to Vote using printed/emailed ballot

Please contact Irene Strohbeen if you don't have the technology to complete the ballot.

Acceptance of Minutes (2019 Annual Meeting) – Motion to accept was made by Marti Hemwall, seconded by Jacqui Klimaszewski

Adoption of Budget – Motion to accept was made by Renee Gralewicz, seconded by Beth English.

Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee – Motion to accept was made by Gayle Hardt, seconded by Barb Kelly.

Adoption of New Position Statement – Motion to accept was made by Cindy Carter, seconded by Karen Nelson.

Diversity Survey

Jeanne Roberts reported that all members will be receiving an emailed diversity survey. She stressed that it is completely confidential and aggregate data will be used to better serve our communities and to see if our efforts at diversity are working.

Other business

Jeanne Roberts encouraged members to review the Voter Services, Fundraising and Advocacy Reports found in the meeting packet.

Advice to the Board

Ligia Rivera thought the diversity survey was a good idea.

Marti Hemwall recommended that the board consider separating the budgets for LWV Appleton and the 19th Amendment Coalition into two separate budgets.

Irene Strohbeen recommended that the member list in Mail Chimp be reviewed for inaccuracies.

Announcements

Jeanne Roberts made the following announcements:

LWV Appleton will be virtual until further notice.

LWV Wisconsin is participating in litigation proposing that anyone who requests an absentee ballot but doesn't receive it should be able to email their county clerk and vote electronically.

LWV Wisconsin will hold their annual meeting on 06/13/2020. It will be a virtual meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Jeanne Roberts adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Evers

President's Message Report 2021

Jeanne Roberts

This is my fourth year presiding over the LWV Appleton Annual Meeting – two in person and two virtual. We have accomplished a lot over those four years. We grew in many ways. Because of the worldwide pandemic, we were forced to change the ways we do just about everything. It was definitely a challenge, but it was a challenge that also helped us grow.

Since the last Annual Meeting, due in large part to Dave Strange and Barbara Kelly who guided us through our virtual needs, we have been able to reach large numbers of people through programs, voter registration and candidate forums. Thanks to Linda Bjella and Marti Hemwall along with their 19th amendment team and especially the pro bono work of Coalesce Marketing, we were able to celebrate the centennial of the 19th amendment with an exceptional video that highlighted the diversity of our community and the diversity of the people who fought for women's right to vote. Thanks to Jacqui Klimaszewski and Brian Post and their voter services team, we were still able to help people to register to vote, help people who needed a witness for their absentee ballot and conduct many candidate forums, including expanding our reach into Calumet County for the spring judicial race. Thanks to Sue Hopfensperger and her team, we were able to raise needed money to help accomplish our mission and have some fun at the same time. Thanks to Renee Gralewicz, we were able to conduct monthly programs that reached many people, including our first monthly program that was conducted in English simultaneously with Spanish. Thanks to Jill Mitchler, Ligia Rivera and their climate study team, we were able to develop an incredibly comprehensive position on climate change and resilience including several videos that explain the results of their research. Thanks to Cindy Fallona and her team, we have expanded our membership and reached out to new members to match talent with need within our League. Thanks to Shirley Strange and her DEI team, we have conducted two virtual discussion groups on racism, promoted an anti-racism agenda and begun to look at all our work through a DEI lens. Thanks to Diane Putzer we have sorted out and monitored two different budgets, one for strictly League work and one for 19th Amendment work. Thanks to Linda Bjella, we have been able to conduct action, especially in the areas of the census and fair maps redistricting. Thanks to Kathy Voigt, we have had consistent positive media coverage and an exceptional monthly newsletter for the past year. And thanks to all of you for your support in any way that you have been able to provide it. You all make us a stronger League.

You will notice as you look at the budget for this year that there are significant changes primarily due to the need to pay for the on-line technology expenses needed to continue to do our work in a twenty-first century manner. At this point, we don't know how long we will need to conduct our business using the Zoom format and how much of that we want to carry over into our work even after we can meet in-person. One of the major new expenses is to change our website to something called Club Express. Dave Strange and Barbara Kelly have reviewed this and have also reviewed other League's websites that use Club Express. They assure us that the

new format will be very professional and will provide us with a much better product both for our own use and for messaging regarding our mission. The start up will be a one-time cost with annual fees for the website and tech support.

We have a recommended study for this year, and it is very timely. Renee has worked hard to put together the information from Lively Issues so that we can vote on the recommendations at today's meeting. We will need a study committee and chair to begin work after the vote.

We plan to have an action committee this year that meets on a regular basis to do consistent work and education locally, statewide and nationally. This committee will be looking for members who are interested in writing letters or emails, writing letters to the editor, sending postcards, etc. Along with this, we will continue with an Observer Corps that will be working along with other nonpartisan advocacy organizations around the Fox Valley in an "equity network" to assure that all residents in our area get equal treatment in government.

There will be a program committee this year that will work on both organizing programs and finding speakers using a DEI lens. This committee is looking for members.

There will be a membership committee that works to assure that members are feeling included and that we are using people's talents to the extent that they want to be used. This committee is looking for members.

Voter services will continue to look at combining virtual and in-person voter registration and voter education. This committee is looking for members.

Communication and technology will continue to be an ongoing need, even when we are able to meet again in-person. This committee is looking for members.

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) was elevated at the June 2020 national convention to be as important to the League of Women Voters as nonpartisanship. The Appleton League of Women Voters will continue to have a DEI committee that will work to ensure that all our efforts are done through a DEI lens. This committee is looking for members.

And finally, since this will be my last Annual Meeting President's Report, I wanted to thank all of you for the honor of serving as the president of the League of Women Voters of Appleton for the past four years. The LWV has grown so much in those four years. We now have a voter services committee, a climate committee, a DEI committee, a membership committee, a fundraising director and next year we will begin an action committee and a communications committee. We not only celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment but we did it with a bang, despite the pandemic. One of our speakers from New York commented that her state needed to get going to catch up to what Appleton had been doing locally. When we look at our efforts through a DEI lens, we are able to accomplish so much more and our outreach is so much larger. This year we conducted both a local program and a candidate forum on the Zoom format that included a live Spanish language interpreter. We created voter registration videos targeting both the African American and the LGBTQ communities. We began advocacy for Missing & Murdered Women, Children and Two Spirit. We began using a land acknowledgement to start our programs and candidate forums. We developed a strong relationship with a school youth marketing program to reach out to the youth using their communication methods. But there is so much more yet to accomplish and that is where you come in. Each of these committees is only as strong as its members. As voter education director Jacqui Klimaszewski reminded me, the more we do the more we realize how much there is to get done!

Treasurer's Report
Diane Putzer, Treasurer

The 2020-21 financial report and the proposed budget for 2021-22 are included in this annual meeting packet. Thank you to Jeanne Roberts, Sue Hopfensperger, Barb Kelly, Denise Fenton for serving with me on the budget committee.

There were some unexpected savings this year since the 2020-21 budget was developed before the pandemic shutdown resulting in over \$7,000 added to our checking account this year. Funds budgeted for state and national conventions, workshops, and travel were not spent. They are budgeted again for 2021-22 as we are hopeful more activities will be in person rather than virtual this coming year.

Our League continues to serve as the fiscal agent for the 100th Anniversary Coalition. This means that we are holding their funds and pay coalition expenses out of their funds so the group did not need to establish a separate non-profit organization for this limited time celebration. Details of income and expenses of the Coalition are reported elsewhere in the annual meeting packet.

In the budget, we split out Technology Expenses as a separate category. In anticipation of changing our website host from my.lwv.org to Club Express as approved by the board, there are funds budgeted for development of the website as well as for the annual website fees. Zoom fees were paid by the 100th Anniversary Coalition this year, but we will pay them in the future. There is \$2,100 budgeted for three tablets and \$600 for associated Wi-Fi fees to be used by Voters Services for on-line voter registration if Wisconsin continues to allow on-line voter registration.

Sue Hopfensperger organized a fun and highly successful "Fun-raising" on-line auction this year that raised over \$1,400. We plan on continuing that event in the coming fiscal year.

We also received over \$700 in memorial gifts honoring Bev Wieckert, a LWV-Appleton life member (involved in the League of Women Voters for 50 or more years), who passed away in November. We are grateful for Bev's service and dedication to the League and appreciate her family designating our chapter as a memorial option in her obituary.

The amounts designated as "transfer from savings" and "spending from checking" are included for purposes of balancing the budget. We have rarely ever actually needed to use those transfers because income normally covers expenses. The budget proposal includes actual YTD income and expense amounts through the beginning of April. I will have actual YTD through the beginning of May available for the annual meeting and will touch on highlights during my presentation.

I have enjoyed my first year serving as your Treasurer and hope my reports help members understand our income sources and expenses.

League of Women Voters - Appleton Treasurer's Report 5/4/2020 to 4/1/2021

	Checking	CD	Total
Beginning Balances - 5/4/2021	39,002.92	5,000.00	44,002.92
Income			
Membership Dues	8,851.00		
Membership Sponsor	2,400.00		
Contributions (member & non-member)	4,820.00		
Silent Auction	1,408.00		
Grants	550.00		
LWVWI-Meg McClane Award (Jacqui K)	250.00		
CD Interest	41.43		
Total Income	18,320.43		
Expenses			
National & State League Support	6,497.00		
Educational Activities:			
Programs & Voter Services	1,898.14		
Membership & Fundraising Expenses	923.32		
Communications (website, domain names)	591.20		
Making Democracy Work Awards	490.00		
Operating Expenses (PayPal, PO Box, Insurance, postage, filing fees, etc.)	877.02		
Total Expenses	11,276.68		
Net LWV-Appleton cash flow	7,043.75		
 100th Anniversary Coalition Expenses			
Speaker (half of fee 2021 Women's Equality Day)	4,000.00		
Women's Equality Video - 2020	1,500.00		
Voter Registration Videos	2,750.00		
School kits	427.69		
Youth Voter Registration Work	400.00		
Website	459.95		
Operating Expenses (supplies, Zoom, banking, etc)	445.23		
Total 100th Anniversary Expenses	9,982.87		
Net cash flow	(2,939.12)		
 Ending balances 4/1/2021	36,063.80	5,000.00	41,063.80

Submitted by: Diane Putzer, Treasurer

2021-2022 Annual Budget - Expenses

	A	F	G	H	I	U	V	Z
1	League of Women Voters Appleton							Proposed
2		2019-20	2019-20 Actual (100th Anniv on Separate Page)		2020-21	2020-21		2021-2022
3		Budget			Budget	YTD		Budget
34	EXPENSES							
35	Board and Committees							
36	1. Fund Raising	\$ 400.00			\$ 750.00	\$ 245.03		\$ 500.00
37	2. Membership	\$ 400.00	339.94		\$ 500.00	\$ 678.29		\$ 500.00
38	3. President	\$ 200.00	134.50		\$ 350.00	\$ -		\$ 250.00
39	4. Board	\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00	\$ -		\$ 100.00
40	Communication							\$ -
41	1. Newsletter/Publicity	\$ 100.00			\$ 600.00	\$ -		\$ 100.00
42	2. Website	\$ 810.00	952.84		\$ 250.00	\$ 572.21		\$ -
43	Delegates, Travel & Workshop							\$ -
44	1. State Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
45	2. National Convention	\$ 4,500.00			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 4,000.00
46	3. Workshops	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
47	4. Committee Travel	\$ 250.00			\$ 250.00	\$ -		\$ 250.00
48	Educational Activity							\$ -
49	1. Program	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00	\$ 139.48		\$ 500.00
50	2a. Voter's Service (Registration)	\$ 1,050.00	691.86		\$ 2,000.00	\$ -		\$ 3,300.00
51	2b. Voter's Service (Voter Education)				\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,192.74		\$ 1,200.00
52	3. Legislative Action Committee (includes advocacy)	\$ 50.00			\$ 150.00	\$ -		\$ 600.00
53	4. Archive	\$ 200.00			\$ 25.00	\$ -		\$ 25.00
55	5. Study Activities		118.99		\$ 200.00	\$ -		\$ 200.00
56	6. Youth Voter Registration grant		700.00		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
57	Technology Expenses					\$ -		
58	1. Club Express - ongoing					\$ -		\$ 300.00
59	2. Club Express - new LWV website - set up					\$ -		\$ 1,550.00
60	3. Websites (webcitz + domain names)					\$ 18.99		\$ 150.00
61	4. Zoom					\$ -		\$ 275.00
62	5. Event Mangement (website security)					\$ -		\$ 120.00
63	6. WiFi				\$ 600.00	\$ -		\$ 600.00
64	7. Misc technology					\$ -		\$ 75.00
65	Event Expenses					\$ -		\$ -
66	1. Holiday Brunch					\$ -		\$ 1,300.00
67	2. Annual Meeting	\$ 750.00	100.00		\$ 1,200.00	\$ -		\$ 1,200.00
68	3. Women's Equality day					\$ -		\$ -
69	4. Making Democracy Work Award	\$ 200.00	100.00		\$ 200.00	\$ 490.00		\$ 250.00
70	Financial Support for League							
71	1. Lake Michigan Interleague	\$ 25.00			\$ 25.00	\$ -		\$ 25.00
72	2. State PMA	\$ 2,000.00	2,385.00		\$ 3,810.00	\$ 2,865.00		\$ 4,050.00
73	3. National PMP	\$ 2,000.00	2,544.00		\$ 4,064.00	\$ 3,632.00		\$ 4,704.00
74	100th Anniversary Donation	\$ 15,000.00	15,000.00			\$ -		
75	100th Anniversary Expenses					\$ -		
76	Operating Costs					\$ -		
77	1. Corporate Filing Fee (fed + state)	\$ 10.00	210.00		\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00
78	2. General Supplies	\$ 250.00			\$ 250.00	\$ 168.78		\$ 250.00
79	3. Insurance	\$ 250.00	250.00		\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
80	4. PayPal Fees	\$ 100.00	153.75		\$ 200.00	\$ 175.24		\$ 200.00
81	5. Post Office Box	\$ 135.00	154.00		\$ 160.00	\$ 168.00		\$ 175.00
82	6. Postage	\$ 50.00				\$ 55.00		\$ -
83	7. Bank and Service Fees		42.03		\$ 75.00	\$ 12.50		\$ 50.00
84	8. Fundraising Envelopes				\$ 1,500.00	\$ -		\$ 1,500.00
85	9. Youth Marketing (Willems)				\$ 200.00	\$ -		\$ 200.00
86	** In Kind		229.08			\$ -		
87	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 30,830.00	\$ 23,876.91		\$ 24,569.00	\$ 10,710.76		\$ 28,509.00
88								
89		1,600.00	59.09		-	\$ 7,609.67		\$ 12.00

2021-2022 Annual Budget - Income

	A	F	G	H	I	U	V	Y	Z
1	League of Women Voters Appleton								Proposed
2		2019-20	2019-20		2020-21	2020-21			2021-2022
3			Actual (100th						
4		Budget	Anniv on Separate		Budget	YTD			Budget
5	INCOME		Page)						
6	Dues								
7	1. Regular Dues	\$ 5,000.00	8,175.00		\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,250.00			\$ 10,875.00
8	2. Dues open Door		317.50		\$ 200.00	\$ 321.00			\$ 271.00
9	3. Sponsoring (extra only)		2,100.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,400.00			\$ 2,100.00
10	4. Dues Second in Household					\$ 280.00			\$ 245.00
11	Contributions								
12	1. Member Contributions	\$ 2,500.00	5,660.00		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,925.00			\$ 3,500.00
13	2. Non-member Contributions (no designation)	\$ 500.00	1,805.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 895.00			\$ 750.00
14	Event Income								
15	1. HoliBrunch - 100th Kick-off				\$ 1,300.00	\$ -			\$ 1,300.00
16	2. Annual Meeting	\$ 750.00	55.00		\$ 1,200.00	\$ -			\$ 1,200.00
17	3. Women's Equality Day					\$ -			
18	Other Income								
19	1. Interest	\$ 30.00	73.50		\$ 30.00	\$ 41.43			\$ 30.00
20	2. Transfer from Savings	\$ 5,000.00			\$ 5,000.00	\$ -			\$ 5,000.00
21	3. Fundraising	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,408.00			\$ 1,200.00
22	100th Anniversary Revenue	\$ 4,300.00	-			\$ -			
23	Designated - Voter Services		650.00			\$ 250.00			\$ -
24	Designated - Youth MDWork		1,000.00		\$ 100.00	\$ -			\$ -
25	Designated - Website		100.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00			\$ -
26	Designated - DEI					\$ 500.00			\$ -
27	(Spending from Checking)	\$ 13,350.00	4,000.00		\$ 3,739.00	\$ -			\$ 2,050.00
28	In Kind - not in totals		229.08			\$ -			
29	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 32,430.00	\$ 23,936.00		\$ 24,569.00	\$ 18,320.43			\$ 28,521.00

League of Women Voters Appleton
2020 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Cindy Fallona

2020 was an unusual and challenging membership year due to Covid 19. The last in-person gathering we held was in March of 2020. The following nine months required the membership committee to be creative in reaching out to new as well as veteran members.

Despite the pandemic restrictions, the LWV Appleton added 17 new members for a total membership of 146.

The membership committee utilized Zoom technology, email and snail mail to recruit and orient new members.

- The new dues structure was well received by our membership. Several members joined or rejoined at the Sponsor level while additional members were able to join or rejoin at our Open Door level.
- New member orientations were offered via group Zoom or individual meetings.
- Thank you is again in order for the membership committee. They willingly participated in orientation meetings as well as with membership renewal process.

Cindy Fallona
Membership Director

2021 League email list

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League of Women Voters Annual Meeting 2021
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Report
Shirley Strange

Census: Census efforts began in March 2020, outreach to the Latinx community turned from face to face events to electronic ways of communicating in an effort to help members of the Latinx community complete census forms. Karen Nelson and Maiyoua Thao helped with the Hmong community.

MMIW - In March we began tracking legislative efforts initiated by then Rep. Amanda Stuck and Renee Gralewicz, member of the Brothertown Nation, to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit individuals. Two Spirit refer to individuals who do not identify as either male or female. In June 2020, due to the advocacy by members of the 12 tribes of Wisconsin including Renee Gralewicz of the Brothertown Nation and member of the DEI Committee, obtained a commitment from Josh Kaul, WI Attorney General, to create a task force. Renee Gralewicz is a member of the task force.

Threat of Hmong Deportation: Long Cheng Marketplace was the location of a press conference covering the response to the threat of deportation of Hmong Refugees. Many public figures presented statements and several members of the DEI Committee and other community members were present to support the Hmong community.

The DEI Committee is always working to make the League more accessible to diverse communities. In May, Technical Director, Dave Strange, made the website available to the vision impaired as well as ensuring that information on voting was accessible to the Latinx Community. Check out the website: lwvappleton.org

Voting: In June Ligia perused local, state, and national League websites to identify areas that needed improvement for Latinx access.

Voter Registration Assistance: In July Ligia helped the National League with their website to be more accessible to Latinx voters as well as making Vote411 easier to access for Spanish speaking voters.

Summer Social (Distancing) Series - The DEI Committee and League Membership, working with Programming, hosted a **Summer Social (Distancing) Series** in July and August. The first series entitled "Why This Time Is Different" covered topics of Systemic Racism and the intersection of policing and race. The second series, "Say Her Name" covered the issue of Black women dying in police custody along with "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two Spirits focusing on the disappearances and deaths of Indigenous women, girls and two spirits.

Karen Nelson, Committee member and Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator for the City of Appleton, has written several thought-provoking articles for *Appleton Monthly*, including "Racism is a Crisis", "Yes All Lives (Should) Matter," and more. Access the articles here. <http://appletonmonthlymag.com/better-together/>

Voter Registration: In September and October much work was done for voter registration assistance in the Latinx community. Partnering with ESTHER and Voces de la Frontera, Ligia and Jeanne participated in setting up information tables at three Hispanic restaurants. Ligia also set up registration assistance at a Hispanic bakery where she and her colleagues registered voters, provided voter information, and even helped a young woman with information to become a US citizen. Ligia also created summaries in Spanish of political candidates for New London and Beaver Creek.

The DEI Committee has set forth a Mission Statement, Goals and Action items to direct and guide efforts by the League toward becoming an antiracist organization. We must first educate ourselves, individually and as an organization to do the work necessary to create a more just community.

The month of May is Heritage Month for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Sadly, we come upon this month in the midst of national violence against AASPI individuals, another surge of racism by white supremacists. We must not be silent.

The DEI Committee continues to add books, articles, and videos to the League website for League members growth. See those here.

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/appleton/lwv-appleton-diversity>

One of the goals of the DEI Committee for 2021-2022 is to lead in the education of League members to become antiracists. These efforts will include book discussions as well as article and film discussions. Look for monthly newsletter submissions from the DEI Committee.

We will continue to reach out, as allies, to ethnic organizations to join their efforts for equal opportunity in education, the workplace, and housing. We will continue to fight for fair wages and health care for all.

Renee Gralewicz, Kathleen Gribble, Deedee Janssen, Karen Nelson, Ligia Rivera, Jeanne Roberts, Penny Robinson, Irene Strohbeen, Shirley Strange, Chair

LWV Appleton Communications Team Annual Meeting Report

By Kathy Voigt, Director of Communications

The Communications and Technology Team is new this year, and played a pivotal role in getting word of the League's numerous and important programs and messages out to members and the community.

Among the work of the Communications team were news releases, media relations, scheduling of media interviews, writing and editing consulting, and the creation of an updated design for the League's monthly newsletter, The Informed Voter.

Biggest challenge facing the team is the recruitment of experienced or interested individuals to assist with the Technology needs of the League. In 2020, the League's need to find new ways to conduct its programs and events meant that technology played an even more critical role. More than ever, the League turned to Dave Strange, and also to Barbara Kelly, to master virtual programs such as Zoom, and to integrate multiple platforms to deliver Candidate Forums, the first Town Hall meeting, Women's Equality Day, Consensus and other events. The workload associated with these tasks has been equivalent to at least a full-time job! Indeed, we owe Dave and Barb a debt of appreciation. The Board will explore ways to add incentives to the recruitment of technology assistance.

Social media messaging also grew in importance this year, and individuals who are comfortable with the various formats could be helpful to the team.

Questions about the Communication and Technology Team and how to bring your talents to the table may be directed to Kathy Voigt, Director of Communications, by emailing voigtkathy71@gmail.com

Programs 2021 Annual Report

Prepared by Renee Gralewicz, Vice President, Program

2020 was a fun year, right? While there were so many things that went wrong, there were so many things that went right. Our LWV chapter made an enormous effort to reach out to our communities to educate our neighbors as well as ourselves. Throughout our year we had over 70 non-LWV members attend our programming.

Our programming started **September 14th** with Kami Lynch, Appleton City Clerk informing us about “Absentee Ballots and Voting.” We had 44 people attend, 11 of whom were non-League members. Our “Hispanic Heritage Celebration” program on **October 19th** was an amazing event where we collaborated with Kimberly Clark under the guidance of Ligia Rivera. Ligia was also instrumental in encouraging Maria DeLeon to be a Spanish interpreter during the presentations!! That was amazing and we are continuing to build upon this language outreach. There were 55 in attendance: 30 League members, 14 Kimberly Clark employees, and the rest non-League members.

The **November 16th** program on “Social Injustice in Housing” turned out to be very informative. Kristi Clover, Almost Home Program Manager for Habitat for Humanity spoke to our audience of 35 (four of whom were non-League members). Her presentation was so powerful that two people emailed me suggesting that we take on the issue of housing for research. Housing practices were also a major issue during our January Lively Issues discussion.

As is usual with League activities, our **December 12th** “Holiday Gathering” featured Matthew Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign to discuss the complexity of Gerrymandering and its threat to democracy. 55 of us were in attendance.

2021 began for us with our exploration of issues of importance to our members, **January 23rd** “Lively Issues.” Our fruitful conversation where 38 members generated 36 ideas/topics which were narrowed to 25 topics. Housing and anti-racism issues dominated with the top two votes.

Consensus, **February 13th**, was where we listened and learned from the Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience Study Team. They were eager to get feedback from their research videos and draft position statements. 39 of us attended and offered our suggestions.

As was demonstrated by our Consensus meeting, racial issues are important to our members. The **February 15th** presentation “What’s Being Taught About US History in High School?” brought a large crowd: 77 attended, 24 of whom are non-League members. The presentation panel consisted of Kris McDaniel, Social Studies consultant, WI DPI, Tom Clementi retired history and humanities teacher from the Appleton Area School District, and Steve J. Harrison, Assistant Superintendent - Assessment, Curriculum, & Instruction of Appleton Area School District. This offered three levels of perspectives regarding how US history is presented. The discussions were lively enough for us to receive a few emails asking for more information.

During Women’s History Month, we reflected on “Reproductive Health Care,” **March 15th**. Margo DeNuccio, Planned Parenthood of WI, Inc. Community Outreach Coordinator, gave us a short history lesson about Planned Parenthood as well as current services offered. 39 people attended, 14 of whom were non-League members.

As we were closing the year of programming, we thought it best to inform our membership about our LWV Appleton structure and opportunities on **April 19th**.

None of this would have been possible without the diligence and willingness of Dave Strange and Barb Kelly! THANK YOU for stepping up and going far beyond expectations. I learned much working with you both. I am grateful for that.

Climate Resilience Positions

I. Climate Resilience Principles

The League of Women Voters of Appleton recognizes the need to take action across all aspects of climate change preparedness: mitigation, adaptation, resilience and sustainability. The positions have a greater focus on resilience because it is a gap area missing at local and state levels. We studied the various concepts of resilience and focused on the principles developed by the Rockefeller Foundation because it provided the most robust framework based on the experience of hundreds of cities.

Position statements:

- A. Advocate for Socio-Economic Equity & Justice as a core goal and component of all Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience and Sustainability plans for our area, so all residents are uplifted, and no one is left behind.
- B. Assert that one of the core roles of a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) is to engage communities and vulnerable populations impacted by climate disruptions and pollution to build trust, communication flow and implementation of community-driven planning processes. This is a role that is currently undervalued or under-resourced.¹
 - 1. Advocate that the position of CRO should be filled with a qualified professional with credentials in climate change preparedness and resilience including:
 - a. Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university; Master's degree preferred;
 - b. at least four to eight (4-8) years of work-related experience;
 - c. credentials in climate change preparedness and resilience, or be willing to obtain the credential while on the job, from organizations such as the Association of Climate Change Officers ACCO, Certified Climate Change Professional® (CC-P®) or the Resilient Cities Network, etc.;
 - d. strong interpersonal and communication skills to effectively interact and communicate with Emergency Management teams, government departments, public and private entities and communities within the region.
 - 2. Advocate to use communication expertise across all stages of resilience planning & decision-making to increase trust and participation among the public and vulnerable populations.¹
- C. Assert that the function of each County Emergency Management Director and team is critically important for strategic long-term preparedness planning. Therefore, they need to have unencumbered access to the highest level of decision-maker, such as designation as an independent department. The EM Director position needs to be filled with a qualified professional with years of EM experience and Director level certification from FEMA.
- D. Advocate for the establishment of an enabling policy governance framework that addresses barriers (legal, behavioral, financial and institutional) to the implementation of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience interventions. The policy governance shall also provide mechanisms to review existing development plans and policies.²

- E. Advocate for aligning all policies with climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience goals for our region.²
- F. Encourage finding synergies across policy sectors in our region such as those related to water, energy, food, housing security and health.²
- G. Advocate institutionalizing ongoing resilience governance with a process that includes consistent baseline measures, data gathering and progress measurements towards the desired resilience goals.
- H. Collaborate with local government Task Forces and community grassroots groups that are working on Climate Change mitigation, adaptation, resilience and justice in the effort to educate themselves and the public about fast-moving information, science and technology.

Climate Resilience Principles Footnotes:

- (1) "Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning: Framework Version 2.0" lead author Rosa Gonzalez, National Association of Climate Resilience Planners, May 2017. Website link: <https://www.nacrp.org/>
- (2) "Integrating Climate Resilience in Policy and Planning of Low Emission Development Strategies," Sections 3.1.3 and 4.3 by Barbara C.P. Oliveira, et.al., EcoSynergy Working Paper, October, 2015.

II. Financing Climate Resilience

The League of Women Voters of Appleton understands that the urgency of financing climate resilience takes place on the global, national, regional and local level. A paradigm shift is underway that is changing societies' assumptions, values, policies and practices. This is moving forward-thinking communities to higher economic performance and resource efficiency, ultimately creating economically-thriving communities and long-term sustainability. These financial action statements help provide a vital framework for our climate resilient future.

Position statements:

- A. Advocate for funding of the Regional Climate Resilience Officer and their dedicated team, and continue to support their relevance in developing regional and private/public partnerships, facilitating accurate risk and investment assessments, prioritizing needs and identifying funding through traditional and new resources. Climate risk affects the entire interconnected economy and must be considered in all financial decisions.
- B. Advocate that all decision-makers balance transparent financial climate risks with opportunities and return on investment. We support funding assessment/measurement of:
 - 1. the financial risks incurred by failure to transition from fossil fuels and continuing to respond to climate change impacts reactively (e.g., with "bailouts"), as compared to...
 - 2. the opportunities from proactively investing to fund climate resilience and less expensive renewable energy, as well as important added value/returns on investment (e.g., green building and infrastructure are long-term assets in a city's portfolio).
- C. Support and encourage major transitions to net-zero carbon economies and social equity goals. This requires a paradigm shift that has already begun and continues to increase in speed. Corporate profits and losses will be determined by sustainability decisions such as divesting of fossil fuels, investing in

renewables, and fostering social justice and inclusion. This work requires a well-founded sense of urgency and a shared vision across all sectors of our economies at every level.

- D. Advocate for financing organizational and individual climate preparedness and resilience, both with traditional investments and financing plans (i.e., PACE and other private/government grants, tax revenue and tax incentives, issuing government, green and catastrophe bonds, and borrowing and buying reinsurance), as well as with creative, new funding resources (e.g. special reserve funds, value-capture, raising revenue through a carbon tax, performance contracts, pooling purchasing power, aligning shared goals with public utilities).
- E. Support dedicated budget funding for both hazard mitigation and resilience, as called for in the Phase One Position Statement.
- F. Advocate for the funding of more resilient designs for damaged/outdated infrastructure rather than simply replacing existing projects, even though they may initially cost more.
- G. Using the Collective Impact model, encourage private/public partnerships to help fund climate preparedness and resilience initiatives for the benefit of all stakeholders (citizens, employees, leaders, investors, etc.). Relationships between public and private organizations, as investors or philanthropists, are key because 80% of the nation's resources are in the private sector¹ and private companies benefit from a resilient community and workforce.
- H. Encourage financial incentives to support new technology and renewable energy and job creation initiatives for individuals, as well as for local businesses and organizations in the transition to long-term sustainability. This is an investment in social and human capital, as in retaining our young people.
- I. Advocate for government policies that overcome market failures, for example putting a price on carbon.² Place accountability on governments, companies, financial institutions, and other organizations for disclosing/reporting accurate risk assessments, real costs and encouraging action to benefit the greater public good. Support corporations/businesses to advocate for needed regulations that will facilitate the transition to sustainability.
- J. Support education of individuals and organizations as consumers and investors. Make them aware of their decision-making power related to where they bank and where they invest their money. Also, encourage financial choices that support their climate resilience (e.g., purchasing flood insurance, using incentives and grants for upgrades to more efficient energy usage, retrofitting for using more clean energy to reduce their carbon footprint). People and organizations vote with their wallets.

Financing Climate Change Footnotes:

- (1) Patrick O'Connor, Director, Bureau of Response & Recovery, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) – *Partnerships* video link: <https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/wem/resources/videos>
- (2) [Resolution #2018-06](#); passed at the 54th LWVUS National Convention in 2018

III. Vulnerable Populations

We advocate for the rehabilitation and building of a new supply of climate resilient green affordable housing, ensuring equitable access to all and prioritizing the needs of very low-income working families and other vulnerable populations. We encourage the use of collective impact partnerships across public, private and non-profits with common goals related to increasing climate resilience among vulnerable populations and fostering stronger socially-connected neighborhoods, such as Asset-based Neighborhood Organizing, the method of the Abundant Community Initiative in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Position statements:

- A. Advocate to eliminate systemic social/racial barriers and make EQUITY a central principle in making basic need decisions for all residents in our tri-county area such as housing, health care, emergency services, community planning, land use, communication (including broadband).
 1. Support current and promote new legislation at Federal, State and local levels that: enables and guarantees the right to housing for all individuals; strengthens neighborhoods and community resilience; builds public climate resilient housing and invests in private climate resilient affordable housing.
 2. Advocate for:
 - a. Reforming systems, laws, policies and regulations that limit or delay the creation of affordable housing.
 - b. Dismantling racial discriminatory practices, zoning impediments (e.g., redlining) and other barriers to ensure equitable access to rental housing and home ownership.
 - c. Strengthening the protection of tenant and landlord rights including new ways of enforcing social/racial equity such as:
 - i. Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV).
 - ii. Increase numbers and broad acceptance of HUD Section 8, safe ways for tenants to report complaints related to violation of their rights or any harassment by landlords or neighbors.
- B. Advocate for incorporation of climate resilience and green¹ building principles in all urban and rural land use plans.
 1. Press for prioritization of the needs of all vulnerable populations, with special emphasis on rehabilitation and new affordable housing for very low-income (VLI)², extremely low-income (ELI)³ working people, and communities of color. They must be given the opportunity to communicate their own needs during the planning process.
 2. Support legislation such as directives to design, build and operate units using the latest standards of environmental sustainability, stewardship of land and renewable sustainable energy.
 3. Advocate for updating of State and local Building and Zoning Codes to include principles of climate resilience with higher mandatory standards of energy efficiency and minimum green standards.
 4. Advocate for the requirement that a climate/environmental risk assessment of primary and secondary hazards be conducted on proposed sites for new housing and rehabilitation projects

to better inform location selection. This will ensure a more holistic approach to incorporate latest mitigation/resilient, land use and green infrastructure measures.

5. Encourage use and expansion of federal, state tax credits such as the construction of housing developments using the 'Zero Energy Multi-Family' Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).⁴
- C. Advocate for provision of a variety of funding sources, incentives, flexible financing, and educational support across the network of lenders, builders, developers, real estate, landlords, and communities.
1. Advocate for new funding mechanisms, including collective impact partnerships among local, regional public, private and non-profits groups with common missions and goals related to climate change resilience and the intersections with vulnerable populations, housing, and health.
 2. Educate and promote the benefits and long-term value of resilient, green affordable housing and infrastructure projects. Promote using Life-cycle Costing in which both capital and operating costs are considered over the expected life to better reflect the full project economics.⁵
 3. Promote and advocate for state and local grants to incentivize new production and retrofit/rehabilitation of green affordable housing.
 4. Advocate for the LWV-Wisconsin State Housing position⁶ related to support of the Housing and Rehabilitation and Conservation program, which made deferred payment and low-cost loans available for rehabilitation of deteriorating housing; creation of a Migrant Labor Council to regulate employment and housing; group homes, supported under Administration of Justice and Social Policy positions.
 5. Advocate for the urgent need to increase the state minimum wage to provide income sufficient to afford the Fair Market Rent⁷ in the area without exceeding 30% of median income to avoid being in the cost burdened classification.
 6. Support awarding grants to homeless and very/extremely low-income people.
 7. Advocate for, and support creation of, new state and local partnerships to offer small amount mortgage loans (e.g., below \$75,000) at reasonable interest rate to enable more home ownership.
 8. Advocate for a greater number of income supplements (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers, grants) to improve access to safer resilient rental housing for all.
 9. Support Federal and State Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)⁸ programs which serve Very Low Income and Extremely Low Income tenants.
 10. Encourage state and local governments, planners, and builders to reach out to experts in green and climate resilient building (e.g., The Urban Land Institute, New Ecology, Inc., and Green

Home Institute).

11. Educate communities, organizations, lawmakers and all residents about the many benefits of having mixed-income, mixed-use housing developments and diverse neighborhoods. Message repetition will be needed to dispel the negative concepts created by the old-school public housing income segregation of decades past.
- D. Encourage the use of the five-step Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework to identify likely climate impacts in our communities, potential health effects associated with these impacts, and the most at-risk populations and locations so that the health care department, emergency management systems and regional chief resilience officer can develop mitigation, adaptation and resilience plans to address critical gaps.
1. Advocate for establishment and use of location databases of vulnerable people and their relocations.
 2. Advocate for and promote systems and emergency plans that:
 - a. Include key factors affecting communication and evacuation plans across different vulnerable populations such as language (Spanish, Hmong, etc.), hearing, sight or mobility impaired needs.
 - b. Provide information, money and other support when and if relocation is needed.
 3. Advocate for frequent community and neighborhood educational and emergency simulation exercises including vulnerable communities. Foster the opportunity of re-galvanizing neighborhoods around the common need of improved social connectedness, health and climate resilience. Among recommended strategies are the following:
 - a. Create partnerships among community-driven groups, local government health programs, emergency response programs and private organizations with common goals (for-profit and non-profit).
 - b. Increase education about poor air quality and what can be done to minimize health impacts from hot weather air pollution days.
 - c. Develop procedures to identify, communicate and provide cooling services to heat-stressed vulnerable populations.
 - d. Reduce the number of mosquito breeding sites found in urban and rural communities and at individual homes, while also protecting and expanding wetlands. Provide pest and disease education to recreational land users. Monitor tick and mosquito populations.
 - e. Restrict building and chemical storage on floodplains.
 - f. Identify and test wells that are at risk of contamination from natural runoff and flooding.

Vulnerable Populations Footnotes:

- (1) Green building practices have been established after several decades of practice around five principles:
 - Sustainable Site—this approach optimizes land use and development to reduce adverse impacts and minimize the building’s ecological footprint.

- Energy Efficiency—this technique focuses on the establishment of performance targets that account for intended use, occupancy and other energy operations for new construction and renovation projects.
 - Water efficiency— this technique emphasizes the value of decreasing demands for fresh water and reducing the generation of wastewater through optimized landscaping, integrated rainwater catchments, gray water recycling, and wastewater treatment systems.
 - Building Materials—by using sustainable construction materials and resources, green building materials have aided the reduction of volatile gases, extraction, processing, transportation, solid waste, and consumption.
 - Healthy Indoor Environmental Quality—these processes have enhanced the sustainable communities through ventilation and thermal comfort, moisture control, daylighting, environmental tobacco smoke control, and protecting indoor air quality during construction.
- (2) Very Low Income (VLI) is defined by HUD *1998 Public Housing/Section 8 Income Limits* as 50 percent of the median family income for the area, subject to specified adjustments for family size and areas with unusually high or low incomes.
 - (3) Extremely Low Income (ELI) definition was modified by HUD in 2014 to cover families whose incomes do not exceed the higher of: Federal Poverty Level or 30 percent of Area Median Income.
 - (4) A recent study from Myers-Lawson School of Construction, Virginia Tech, USA, demonstrated the feasibility of Affordable Housing Developments using Zero Energy Multi-Family Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
 - (5) 2005 “The Cost & Benefit of Green Affordable Housing” by Bradshaw, et.al., New Ecology, Inc.
 - (6) League of Women Voters of Wisconsin – Position Papers Updated 2016, Housing Section under Equal Rights, page 61.
 - (7) National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach (OOR) Wisconsin report which is issued annually.
 - (8) Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program is administered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Pursuant to an IRS revenue ruling, participating properties base their rents on the income limits that HUD is mandated to publish. However, HUD has no control over how LIHTC rents are set and has not required or suggested rent increases.

IV. Water Quality

The League of Women Voters of Appleton supports actions including education, personal and collective, and budget decisions and legislation that support protection or improvement of water quality now and into the future. These actions will recognize water as an interconnected hydrologic system and common resource essential to life and all facets of wellbeing.

Position statements:

- A. Advocate to reduce Lake Winnebago levels further in the winter and delay fill by several weeks to account for increased rainfall and runoff, especially on frozen ground in the spring. This will not only prevent high flows and flooding in the lower Fox, but will also enhance beneficial wetlands in lakes Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan.
- B. Advocate for development of a new control plan for the Lake Winnebago system which prioritizes water quality, in addition to addressing flooding and navigation. To address declining water quality, the Linde Plan, which prominently emphasizes the importance of wetlands as nutrient and sediment filters, should be an important component, as well as climate change factors, in developing a replacement for the

currently used 1886 Marshall Order. Enhanced wetlands will serve as filters for sediment and nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus), which are reducing the lakes' water quality to an unsustainable state.¹ The new plan should include the following:

1. Safeguard drinking water by reinvigorating water quality protections and the healthy ecosystems that provide it.
 2. Increase testing and treatment of drinking water supplies to detect and treat naturally occurring and human-made pollutants such as nitrates, cyanotoxins, and other harmful pollutants such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)² and other endocrine disruptors.
 3. Regulate land-based and surface-water sources of pollution in sensitive aquifers, such as karst regions.
- C. Encourage and support adequate funding to monitor recreational bodies of water for cyanotoxins produced by blue-green algae. If safe levels are exceeded, warning signs must be posted at public access points.
- D. Encourage and support funding for training programs for farmers to implement sustainable and eco-agriculture³ farming practices.
- E. Advocate for training and funding assistance to secondary schools and institutions of higher learning within Wisconsin to integrate sustainable and eco-agricultural principles into curricula.
- F. Encourage collaboration among municipal, regional, and state planners to promote the protection and improvement of water quality.
- G. Advocate for public education campaigns on the following:
1. Sources of our drinking water.
 2. Personal actions that can be taken to protect and improve water quality.
- H. Advocate for adequate funding for expedited removal of lead pipes in the water supply infrastructure in support of LWV-WI water position related to eliminating contaminated sources of water for humans and wildlife.⁴
- I. Support planning and funding for control structure improvements in the Fox-Wolf River watershed, reflecting a wetter climate regime.
- J. Advocate for improved farming and urban practices that reduce chemical, sediment and nutrient loadings into water resources, as well as:
1. Provision of increased and adequate funding to enhance advising, participation, and compliance with sustainable agricultural practices that improve conservation and reduce water and sediment runoff.

2. Facilitation of cost-sharing and equipment loan programs to expand the number of farms utilizing conservation tillage and regenerative cropping practices.
- K. Advocate for use of renewable sources to become the dominant resources for both transportation and energy production in order to lower pollutant levels, mitigate climate change acceleration, and lower airborne nutrient inputs.
 - L. Develop legislative support for regional community policies that promote better land use planning and zoning processes that protect and improve water quality.

Water Quality Footnotes:

- (1) Winnebago Waterways Recovery Plan, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (fwwa.org)
- (2) Basic information on PFAS, www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas
- (3) McNeely, Jeffrey A.. **Farming with Nature: The Science and Practice of Ecoagriculture**. United States: Island Press, 2007
- (4) League of Women Voters of Wisconsin – Position Papers Updated 2016, Water Section page 54.

V. Resilient Infrastructure

The League of Women Voters Appleton supports efforts by communities and individuals to make conservation and resource protection changes in infrastructure projects in order to support climate resilience.

Position statements:

- A. Support efforts by communities and all units of local and state government to plan and implement changes to community infrastructure that will move municipalities toward climate resilience.
- B. Encourage and ask all communities and units of government to complete baseline performance assessments of energy use, vulnerability assessments and assessments of the risk of energy loss in governmental buildings followed by continual and regular reassessment and implementation of conservation and sustainability plans.
- C. Encourage all communities and units of government to utilize a public health and climate resilience lens when developing all policies.
- D. Support plans and efforts to make the following examples of community infrastructure systems more resilient and sustainable:
 1. Transportation, including support for public transportation, alternative modes of transportation and limits to expanding highways
 2. Water treatment systems, water conservation efforts and storm water control systems
 3. Energy generation and transport systems and energy conservation efforts
 - a. Including the development and implementation of a coordinated energy delivery system

- b. including promotion of creating sustainable energy systems in individual homes and businesses
- 4. Housing and industrial development, land use and wetland planning and zoning processes
- 5. Communication systems, including broadband, that are accessible and affordable to all
- E. Advocate for accelerating the pace of actions that can be taken now to enhance energy security, reliability and resilience using the latest climate science to anticipate future extreme weather in our region and plan for it.² Actions should include:
 - 1. Improvement of data collection, modeling, and analysis to support resilience planning.²
 - 2. Private and public-private partnerships supporting coordinated action.²
 - 3. Both development and deployment of new, innovative energy technologies for adapting energy assets to extreme weather hazards.²
 - 4. Ensuring energy security and reliability for all area hospitals and emergency shelters such as renewable energy battery back-up power and the capability/flexibility of receiving power from near-by external source(s).
- F. Advocate for a broader overhaul plan of all components of the energy systems to improve overall climate resilience, security and reliability to withstand a variety of severe hazard events (such as heat waves, droughts, heavy rains, strong winds, and prolong deep freeze/ice)³ and build greater flexibility on both energy supply and demand sides.⁴ Build flexibility in three areas:
 - 1. Power Generation – from a variety of resilient, sustainable sources including micro-grids, renewable technologies such as solar and wind which are now less costly than fossil fuel.
 - 2. Power Distribution – develop an open system capable of distributing and receiving energy within and outside our area.
 - 3. Power Demand – e.g., implementing data collection and smart control systems to detect and moderate increasing energy demand, especially of large buildings that represent a large proportion of energy consumption.⁴
- G. Support sustainable use of community resources.
- H. Encourage conservation and sustainability by individuals, families and industries, as well as by the community as a whole.

Resilient Infrastructure Footnotes:

- (1) New York Times: “**A Glimpse of America’s Future: Climate Change Means Trouble for Power Grids**” by Brad Plummer Published Feb. 16, 2021 and Updated Feb. 18, 2021.

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/16/climate/texas-power-grid-failures.html?searchResultPosition=1>

- (2) U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), **2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II: Report-in-Brief - Section 4 Energy Supply, Delivery and Demand**, pages 70-72 [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. Washington, DC, USA, 186 pp. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.RiB Link: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/>
 - (3) Scientific American: **"Texas Power Outage Underscores Looming Climate Tests"** by Benjamin Storrow, Chelsea Harvey, E&E News Feb 17, 2021.
 - (4) Applied Energy Journal Vol. 281. **"Using Collective Intelligence to Enhance Demand Flexibility and Climate Resilience in Urban Areas"** by Vahid m. Nik, et.al. January, 2021, 116106. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2020.116106>
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RECOMMENDED/NON-RECOMMENDED STUDY FROM LIVELY ISSUES 2020

March 1, 2021

Renee Gralewicz, VP-Programs

TOPICS FROM January 23, 2021 LIVELY ISSUES MEETING

Based on members' expressing their interests using dots, the following seven topics surfaced as priorities:

1. Safe, affordable, and available housing: eviction levels and homelessness (19 votes)
2. Racial disparities: (16 votes)
 - a. Establishment of a WI Task Force to explore multiple categories and issues
 - b. Assess local policies under DEI lens
 - c. Assess justice system under DEI lens
 - d. Health care accessibility/disparities
 - e. Local white privilege
 - f. Policing
3. Civil discourse/Individual skills to address misinformation and bad faith assertions in our own relationships (15 votes)

Topics receiving votes which will probably make good monthly program topics

4. Appleton Area School District
 - a. Appleton area curriculum, assess K-12 curriculum for truth in history, including contributions of marginalized groups.
 - b. need broader representation in schools
 - c. Promote Diversity in School Board members: need a better mix of ages, parents, people of color, special needs, refugees/immigrants
 - d. Effects of police in schools
5. Inequalities in our justice system: how marginalized & poor people are treated
6. Information access and access to the internet: especially in disadvantaged households & rural areas. Not just school kids. Local access to accurate information: libraries, schools, etc. ---respect for facts, high speed internet
7. Truth in Media: 1st amendment rights, not inciting violence. Social media accountability
8. Food insecurities: understanding local agencies interconnection & collaboration

9. Proportional representation as a potential solution to Gerrymandering
10. Fair pay to caretakers in senior care facilities/communities: worst pay, worst service
11. Engaging younger people in the process and developing younger candidates: they rely on peers for information sources
12. Respect for facts and evidence in addressing public policies: conspiracy theories & how many people believe them
13. Adult and senior care communities: how to ensure protections of the population while communicating with families.
14. Early childhood positions need updating (eg, screening at birth-6 ages)
15. Living wage for community
16. Have an Indigenous peoples' Week: celebration at APL, City Park, parade, pow-wow, etc. Educational.
17. FAIRNESS DOCTRINE! should be reinstated (Penny Robinson provided some information)
18. Education Forum on growth mindset, resilience during pandemic & returning to classroom
19. Strengthen and empower public health locally: physical, mental, social well-being. Especially during pandemic. Public health lens.
20. Navigating through ACA marketplace system: providing help to those who need to find insurance
21. Community Emergency Response: Winnebago and other counties need ground-level CER team. Only Outagamie county has one.... FEMA model and local neighbors helping neighbors, non-government response facilitated by local government

MOTION ON RECOMMENDED STUDY

Based on research of local and state positions on housing, including those presented by the Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience positions, **I do not recommend another study.** (See page 4 of this document for some existing policies on housing.)

Based on the research into existing positions (see page 2 below for details), **I move that:**

- We study racial disparity issues in the Appleton Area for 2021 - 2022 for LWV-Appleton. The Study team will be able to select the scope of the study will, of course, be decided on the Team.

As for the other topics with high interest, we can consider them as Action items and provide education and information to our members as appropriate. **I recommend that Civil Discourse become the theme** for 2021 monthly programs. This can include information literacy and accountability (social media and library systems).

League Positions on Race

LWV APPLETON - DETAILS ON EXISTING POSITIONS RELATED TO RACE ISSUES

Social Policies

II. YOUTH ADVOCACY AND SERVICES (1996 and 1997, revised 2019)

A. Goals (LWV WI)

The goal of the juvenile justice system should be to protect society through deterrence, incapacitation, and reform, as well as to protect the child whose development and welfare are in jeopardy. Punishment applied to the juvenile, like the adult, should be humane, seek to avoid criminalization, promote the juvenile's potential for responsible behavior in relation to family and community and be applied equally regardless of race, religion, sex, economic or social status. However, the age and level of responsibility of the child should be taken into consideration.

XI. EDUCATION (1983 and 1993, revised 2006 and 2019)

A. Diversity, equity, and inclusion

Diversity enriches our schools and is an invaluable asset in preparing all students to succeed in an increasingly complex and globally interconnected society. With a diverse student population, equitable practices are essential in providing all students the opportunity to achieve their potential regardless of race, nationality, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, or ability. Educational equity implies that resources may be provided equitably rather than equally in order to adequately meet the needs of all students. The League of Women Voters of Appleton supports addressing educational equity in the following areas:

1. Adequate administrative and support staff to meet specific needs of all students
2. Ongoing staff development to increase awareness of biases and promote culturally and linguistically sensitive practices
3. Initiatives to close achievement and opportunity gaps
4. Continuous examination of curriculum and materials to reduce cultural bias
5. Outreach to diverse communities to increase school-parent involvement
6. Ongoing efforts to provide equity in all co-curricular and scholarship opportunities
7. Subsidies or fee waivers to provide equal access to all appropriate programs district-wide

LWV WI - DETAILS ON EXISTING POSITIONS RELATED TO RACE ISSUES

Note that there are no statements addressing continued negative effects of colonization as well as no statements advocating for elimination of racial disparities.

Administration of Justice

Justice: Specific punishments should be applied equally regardless of race, religion, sex, economic or social status. This includes more minority group representation on correctional staff.

Juvenile Justice

Support of:

Goals

The goal of the juvenile justice system should be to protect society through deterrence, incapacitation, and reform, as well as to protect the child whose development and welfare are in jeopardy. Punishment applied to the juvenile, like the adult, should be humane, seek to avoid criminalization, promote the juvenile's potential for responsible behavior in relation to family and community and be applied equally regardless of race, religion, sex, economic or social status. However, the age and level of responsibility of the child should be taken into consideration.

Equality

Support for equal rights, sex equity, marital property reform, and divorce reform.

Position In Brief: Support for equality for all regardless of race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, religion, disability, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by applicable state or federal laws.

Divorce Reform

Support of divorce laws which:

1. Prohibit discrimination based on sex in any consideration or decision related to divorce.
2. Provide financial settlement (maintenance payments and/or property division) with just consideration given to:
 - Length of marriage;
 - Contribution of each party to the marriage, including appropriate economic value to each party's contribution in homemaking and child care;
 - The earning capacity of each party;
 - The contribution of one party to the other's increased earning power;
 - The terms agreed to regarding child support.

Award child custody on the basis of the best welfare of the child(ren), without bias based on gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race or disability.

LWV US - DETAILS ON EXISTING POSITIONS RELATED TO RACE ISSUES = general statements of equal opportunities throughout. I did not see anything related to law enforcement, criminal justice, or policing.

For a list of social policies, see page 8: SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

In education, see specific statements on page 73: FURTHER GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR USING THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY POSITIONS

In housing, see specific statements on page 74: Fair Housing Criteria

In health, see specific statements on page 78: Health Care, The League's Position

League Positions on Housing

LWV APPLETON - DETAILS ON EXISTING HOUSING POSITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- IX. LAND USE PLANNING IN APPLETON** Updated 2016/ C. Downtown Development:
5. Providing more housing options downtown.

SOCIAL POLICY

V. HOUSING (1995)

- A. Advocate feasible programs for low income and special needs housing, to relieve the housing shortage.
- B. Support feasible transitional housing and related programs which encourage economic independence.
- C. Support regional coordination/collaboration of agencies addressing issues related to affordable, adequate housing.
- D. Encourage local and regional governments to actively pursue the development of adequate and affordable housing through regulation and comprehensive planning.
- E. Educate the community regarding the need for adequate, affordable housing.
- F. Support a housing ombudsman (independent, unbiased, well-informed and well-regarded member of the community), who would provide information on housing and investigate citizen housing complaints and recommend appropriate action.

Proposed Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience positions

III. Vulnerable Populations

We advocate for the rehabilitation and building of a new supply of climate resilient green affordable housing, ensuring equitable access to all and prioritizing the needs of very low-income working families and other vulnerable populations. We encourage the use of collective impact partnerships across public, private and non-profits with common goals related to increasing climate resilience among vulnerable populations and fostering stronger socially-connected neighborhoods, such as the Asset-based Neighborhood Organizing – the method of the Abundant Community Initiative in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

- E. Remove systemic social/racial barriers and make EQUITY a central principle in making basic need decisions for all residents in our tri-county area such as housing, health care, emergency services, community planning, land use, etc.
 - 1. Support current and promote new legislation at Federal, State and local levels that: enable and guarantee the right to housing for all individuals; strengthen neighborhoods and community resilience; build public climate resilient housing and invest in private climate resilient affordable housing.
 - 2. Advocate for:
 - a. Reforming systems, laws, policies and regulations that limit or delay the creation of affordable housing.
 - b. Dismantling racial discriminatory practices, zoning impediments (e.g., redlining) and other barriers to ensure equitable access to rental housing and home ownership.
 - c. Strengthening the protection of tenant and landlord rights including new ways of enforcing social/racial equity such as:
 - Increase number and broad acceptance of HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV).
 - Safe ways for tenants to report complaints related to violation of their rights or any harassment by landlords or neighbors.
- F. Incorporate climate resilience and green¹ building principles in all urban and rural land use plans.
 - 1. Prioritize the needs of all vulnerable populations with special emphasis on rehabilitation and new affordable housing for very low-income (VLI) extremely low-income (ELI) working people, and communities of color. They must be given the opportunity to communicate their own needs during the planning process.
 - 2. Support legislation such as directives to design, build and operate units using the latest standards of environmental sustainability, stewardship of land and renewable sustainable energy.
 - 3. Update State and local Building and Zoning Codes to include principles of climate resilience with higher mandatory standards of energy efficiency and minimum green standards.
 - 4. Advocate for the requirement that a climate/environmental risk assessment of primary and secondary hazards be conducted on proposed sites for new housing and rehabilitation projects to better inform location selection. This will ensure a more holistic approach to incorporate latest mitigation/resilient, land use and green infrastructure measures.
 - 5. Encourage federal, state tax credits such as the construction of housing developments using the ‘Zero Energy Multi-Family’ Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
- G. Provide a variety of funding sources, incentives, flexible financing, and educational support across the network of lenders, builders, developers, real estate, landlords, and communities.

1. Advocate for new funding mechanisms, including collective impact partnerships among local, regional public, private and non-profits groups with common missions and goals related to climate change resilience and the intersections with vulnerable populations, housing, and health.
 2. Educate and promote the benefits and long-term value of resilient, green affordable housing and infrastructure projects. Promote using Life-cycle Costing in which both capital and operating costs are considered over the expected life to better reflect the full project economics.
 3. Promote and advocate for state and local grants to incentivize new production and retrofit/rehabilitation of green affordable housing.
 4. Advocate for the LWV-Wisconsin State Housing position related to support of the Housing and Rehabilitation and Conservation program, which made deferred payment and low-cost loans available for rehabilitation of deteriorating housing; creation of a Migrant Labor Council to regulate employment and housing; group homes, supported under Administration of Justice and Social Policy positions.
 5. Advocate for the urgent need to increase the state minimum wage to provide income sufficient to afford the Fair Market Rent in the area without exceeding 30% of median income to avoid being in the cost burdened classification.
 6. Support awarding grants to homeless and very/extremely low-income people.
 7. Advocate for and support creation of new state and local partnerships to offer small amount mortgage loans (e.g., below \$75,000) at reasonable interest rate to enable more home ownership.
 8. Advocate for more income supplements (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers, grants) to improve access to safer resilient rental housing.
 9. Support Federal and State Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) programs which serve Very Low Income and Extremely Low Income tenants.
 10. Encourage state and local governments, planners, and builders to reach out to experts in green and climate resilient building (e.g., The Urban Land Institute, New Ecology, Inc., and Green Home Institute).
 11. Educate communities, organizations, lawmakers and all residents about the many benefits of having mixed-income, mixed-use housing developments and diverse neighborhoods. Message repetition will be needed to dispel the negative concepts created by the old-school public housing income segregation of decades past.
- H. Encourage the use of the five-step Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework to identify likely climate impacts in our communities, potential health effects associated with these impacts, and the most at-risk populations and locations so that the health care department, emergency management systems and regional chief resilience officer can develop mitigation, adaptation and resilience plans to address critical gaps.

1. Identify the locations of vulnerable people and maintain a database of their locations and relocation.
2. Advocate and promote systems and emergency plans that:
 - c. Include key factors affecting communication and evacuation plans across different vulnerable populations such as language (Spanish, Hmong, etc.), hearing, sight or mobility impaired needs.
 - d. Provide information, money and other support when and if relocation is needed.
3. Encourage frequent community, neighborhood educational and emergency simulation exercises including vulnerable communities. Foster the opportunity of re-galvanizing neighborhoods around the common need of improved social connectedness, health and climate resilience.
 - g. Create partnerships among community-driven groups, local government health programs, emergency response programs and private organizations with common goals (for-profit and non-profit).
 - h. Increase education about poor air quality and what can be done to minimize health impacts from hot weather air pollution days.
 - i. Develop procedures to identify, communicate and provide cooling services to heat-stressed vulnerable populations.
 - j. Reduce the number of mosquito breeding sites found in urban and rural communities and at individual homes, while also protecting wetlands. Provide pest and disease education to recreational land users. Monitor tick and mosquito populations.
 - k. Restrict building and chemical storage on floodplains.
 - l. Identify and test wells that are at risk of contamination from natural runoff and flooding.

LWV WI - DETAILS ON EXISTING HOUSING POSITIONS

Air & Land Policies Support preservation and redevelopment of existing urban lands through zoning and other regulatory incentives and tax breaks. Encourage brownfield restoration as a priority in urban areas. Encourage neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation and lifestyle choices including affordable housing and a range of densities.

Equality Support for equal rights for all regardless of race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, religion, disability, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by applicable state or federal laws, with recognition of the special needs of Native Americans; action to combat poverty and discrimination and to provide equal opportunity for employment, housing, quality education, and access to public accommodations.

Heath Care & Mental Health Mental Health: Community-based care when it meets the treatment needs of the client as a cost-effective alternative to institutional care. We believe treatment should be eligible for federal funding in addition to current state and local funding. The need to expand existent community based services—especially in the area of case management service to meet consumer needs and with an emphasis on specialized housing.

Community Policy State, county and local governments should develop complementary policies to improve fiscal and growth management through such means as:

- “smart growth” practices that encourage sustainability, green space, population density and equitable development. These practices should consider the future service needs of aging community members, while also addressing the needs of young workers;
- consolidated governmental services;
- investments to increase the tax base;
- subsidies that enable and expand affordable housing near community centers, workplaces and public transit for low- and middle-income and senior populations, as well as persons with disabilities and persons experiencing homelessness;
- investments to secure and maintain infrastructural integrity and modernization, including wired and wireless communication networks;
- sustainable practices for meeting energy needs, food security and recreation;
- planning and programs that promote inclusive, multi-modal transit, including bicycle-friendly and pedestrian-friendly passage;
- programs in housing, education, recreation, job training, energy efficiency, child and elder care should be available to complement measures intended to enhance the economic base and to further the quality of life for all residents.

LWV US - DETAILS ON EXISTING HOUSING POSITIONS = general statements of equal opportunities throughout.

For a list of social policies, see page 8: SOCIAL POLICY

Housing. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

(page 69): The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

2021 Nominating Committee Report
Submitted by Stephanie Malaney, Chair

Nominating Committee: Stephanie Malaney (Chair) Dottie LeClair, Cindy Fallona (board member), Jeanne Roberts (board member), Jacqui Klimaszewski (board member), Linda Bjella (board member), Diane Putzer (board member), Kathy Voigt (board member)

Nominating Committee is pleased to present this slate of officer and director candidates to the Board for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting.

Nomination Slate 2021-22

President	Linda Bjella & Marti Hemwell	2021-2023 (1 st term)
VP Action	Jan Quinlin	2021-2023 (1 st term)
VP Program	Renee Gralewicz	2020-2022 (1 st term)
Treasurer	Diane Putzer	2020-2022 (1 st term)
Secretary	Julie Evers	2021-2023 (2 nd term)
Director Voter Ed. & Turnout	Jacqui Klimaszewski	2021-2023 (1 st term)
Director Membership	Cindy Fallona	2021-2023 (2 nd term)
Director of Voter Registration	Brian Post	2020-2022 (1 st term)
Director Communications	Kathy Voigt	2020-2022 (1 st term)
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Jeanne Roberts	2020-2022 (1 st term)

To be elected to two-year term:

Co- Presidents - Linda Bjella & Marti Hemwell

Vice President Action - Jan Quinlin

Secretary - Julie Evers

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Jeanne Roberts

Director Voter Education and Turnout - Jacqui Klimaszewski

Director Membership - Cindy Fallona

For information only

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

Vice President of Program - Renee Gralewicz

Treasurer - Diane Putzer

Director of Voter Registration – Brian Post

Director of Communication – Kathy Voigt

2022 Nominating Committee -To be elected to one year term:

Chair – Stephanie Malaney

Member-at large – Gayle Hardt

Member-at-large –

Member-at-large -

Board Representative – Cindy Fallona

Board Representative – Linda Bjella

Respectively Submitted,
Stephanie Malaney, Chair

Voter Services Report- May 2021

Compiled by Brian Post – Director of Voter Services & J. Klimaszewski, Director of Voter Education & Turnout

- Used a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion grant to produce short online videos featuring diverse citizens explaining voter education basics. These videos were recognized by LWV US as an example of adapting our methods to meet needs during the pandemic.
- Established an “Ambassador” network program with college freshmen broadcasting nonpartisan voter information to their peers.
- Distributed 30 “Vote From Home” yard signs. Designed and deployed sandwich board and other signs at outdoor events.
- Engaged with 2 high school seniors via Appleton Area School District Marketing Program internship. These young women created their own brand and social media accounts to help spread nonpartisan voting information to their peers. “Voice Your Vote” produced the following exposure:
 - Social Media (Instagram, Twitter, YouTube) – reached 20197 people
 - News Outlets (TV, Radio, Newsletters) – reached 9329 people
- Awarded the Appleton Area School District Marketing Program the Making Democracy Work Award.
- Awarded the 2 AASD Marketing Program Interns the Youth Making Democracy Work Award.
- Transitioned to an online and media outreach to inform potential voters on how to register. Conducted 4 radio interviews. Our high school interns appeared on local WFRV TV news to encourage voting.
- Produced 3 State Assembly district forums online. Assisted in production of District 8 Congressional forum. The online State Assembly forums resulted in hundreds of people viewing and were extremely successful in technical execution.
- Produced 8 local candidate forums online for Spring 2021 General election. Involved 4 Appleton high school students in asking questions at the Appleton Area School Board candidate forum.
- Voter Guides were uploaded for all of these races – 17 of the 18 candidates responded.

Many thanks to our Voter Services Team Members: Julie Evers, Jeanne Roberts, Gayle Hardt, Nancy Pourciau, Sandi Rhode, Sara McDonald, Sara Companik, April Savage, Joyann Eggert, Catherine McKenzie and Kristy DeChamps.

Candidate Forum Viewing Data-March through April 6, 2021

Forum	Attendees -Live	Peak View FaceBook	YouTube Views
District #11-March 1	18	8	77
AASD School Board-March 2	42	30	202
District #1-March 4	32	17	58
District #13-March 9	19	18	63
District #15-March 10	25	16	42
District #3-March 11	15	9	71
District #5-March 15	23	23	34
Calumet Co. Circuit Ct.-Branch 2 – March 18	39	14	168
Totals	213	135	715

ADVOCACY / ACTION REPORT

Linda Bjella, Action Vice-President

A year ago, I never would have believed that so much could be accomplished and so many meetings held without ever leaving home. The Covid 19 Pandemic has forced us all to learn how to function in a virtual space and our League has continued to empower voters and defend democracy effectively in a political year when both were threatened as never before.

Census

I served on the Outagamie County Complete Count Committee for the 2020 census. The deadline was extended nationally due to the pandemic, and Outagamie County achieved an 82.4% self-response rate, better than the 80.5% response rate in 2011.

Redistricting

I served on the 8th Congressional District Fair Maps Team which has been very busy throughout the year.

In July we sponsored two events:

- On July 9, we assembled a car caravan for a “Honk for Fair Maps” rally led by the Vote Mobile through downtown Appleton.
- On July 23, a “Stand for Fair Maps” rally was held at Houdini Plaza.

Both Outagamie County and the City of Appleton issued nonpartisan redistricting proclamations in July.

I conducted two Zoom interviews on nonpartisan redistricting with Outagamie County Board members Jeff Nooyan and Jerry Iverson, and another with Penny Bernard Schaber, Mayor Woodford, and Karen Nelson. Both videos were widely circulated through social media.

I followed and submitted testimony to the People’s Maps Commission throughout its 8 hearings in each congressional district.

In response to a petition to allow any redistricting court challenges to go directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, a statewide effort was initiated in opposition. The Court has yet to render a decision. If allowed, challenges to gerrymandered maps would be lacking testimony from citizens groups and transparency in the process would be compromised. The responses submitted by citizens opposed to this rule change far outnumbered those in favor of it.

In November, fair maps referendums were passed in Brown and Door Counties, and the Shawano County Board passed a resolution in favor of nonpartisan redistricting. In March, I was successful in getting the Grand Chute Town Board to unanimously support a nonpartisan redistricting resolution.

In April election, the City of Appleton passed a referendum in favor of nonpartisan redistricting by over 75%. With the delay in the release of the census numbers this year, the redistricting process will be truncated which may result in less transparency and a similar gerrymandered map for Wisconsin, but with the overwhelming statewide grassroots support in favor of nonpartisan redistricting and the alternative nonpartisan maps that will be created by the People’s Maps Commission, the legislature may be unable to replicate the partisan

gerrymandered maps that were created in 2011. And unlike 2011, we have a Democratic governor who is sure to veto partisan maps.

Pack the Polls

October 24 was designated as National Vote Early Day. We held a “Pack the Polls” car parade through Appleton beginning and ending at East High School. Lamers Bus Company donated their trolley to lead the parade of cars with everyone staying safe and socially distant while showing support for the right to vote.

Observer Corps and Equity Network

We have continued to follow the Appleton Common Council, the Outagamie County Board, and the Appleton Area Board of Education through their virtual meetings.

A new regional Equity Network led by Nancy Jones which will bring together a coalition of local organizations which will work together to monitor local government and hold our elected officials responsible for more equitable policies. This promises to allow our League to greatly expand our observer network to monitor boards and commissions throughout the Fox Cities.

Fox Cities Legislative Town Hall

Due to the unresponsiveness of our legislators to their constituents because of the “safe” legislative districts, we decided to begin scheduling town halls with Fox Cities area legislators. This will give local citizens an opportunity to submit questions and exchange views with their representatives on a regular basis.

The first Town Hall was held on March 30. We invited Senator Roger Roth (District 19) and Representatives Rachael Cabral-Guevara (District 55), Dave Murphy (District 56), and Lee Snodgrass (District 57). Representatives Cabral-Guevara and Snodgrass participated. Representative Murphy declined our invitation, and Senator Roth did not respond to numerous email and phone contacts.

There were 55 participants on the webinar and the event was also live-streamed on our Facebook page. League moderators posed the questions submitted by participants to our legislators and the discussion was informative and respectful.

We hope to schedule another Town Hall for Senate District 2 (Cowles) and Assembly Districts 4 (Steffens), 5 (Steineke), and 6 (Tauchen), and continue this practice whenever the legislature is in session.

Legislation and the 2020 Election

Much of the legislation proposed and passed during 2020 addressed the health crisis of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the economic fallout it created. In a presidential election year there is typically little bi-partisan cooperation, but the pandemic demanded it, and Congress responded with two massive Covid relief bills, one for \$3 trillion and one for \$800 billion.

In Wisconsin, there was a remarkable lack of bi-partisan cooperation. Response to the pandemic provoked continued controversy between Governor Evers and the Republican-led Legislature and the conservative majority in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Wisconsin citizens found themselves frequently contacting legislators to sustain emergency orders issued by the governor. The Wisconsin Legislature spent fewer days in session in 2020 than any other legislature in the country. The Wisconsin Supreme Court’s struck down the governor’s

“Safer at Home” restrictions, forced the state to conduct the spring, 2020 election in-person rather than allowing for mail-in ballots, and has recently struck down the statewide mask mandate.

The 2020 presidential election was profoundly impacted by the pandemic and yet had the highest turnout in recent history largely due to new rules and procedures allowing people to vote by mail. The foreign influence during the 2016 and 2020 elections caused many Americans to become skeptical of the legitimacy of the vote, and that skepticism only increased in the 2020 election with the large increase in new absentee and mail-in voting. There are other factors that contribute to this distrust in our electoral system such as partisan and social media. As a result, many Americans question the legitimacy of the electoral system.

This has led to a wave of voter suppression legislation introduced in 47 states including Wisconsin, despite the fact that allegations of widespread voter fraud have no basis in fact. The LWV staunchly opposes any attempt to limit access to the ballot and will continue to lobby against any infringement on voting. The LWV WI has filed briefs in support of court challenges to voter suppression legislation.

At the national level, some landmark bills have been proposed that align with historic LWV principles and positions.

1. HR1, the “For the People Act” expands voting rights, changes campaign finance laws to reduce the influence of big money in politics, and limits partisan gerrymandering.
2. HR 4, the “John Lewis Voting Rights Act” would reinstate the provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that were nullified by the Supreme Court in the *Shelby v. Holder* decision.
3. President Biden has also proposed a massive infrastructure plan with provisions to address climate change and, reducing US consumption of fossil fuels and transition to a green economy.
4. There has also been renewed energy to finally certify the Equal Rights Amendment now that 38 states have ratified it. Legislation to rescind previous ratification deadlines has passed in the House but has not yet been taken up in the Senate. Congressional representation for Washington D.C. residents has also surfaced again.
5. Another LWV priority is the Interstate National Popular Vote. It would pledge all the electors of a state to the candidate who wins the popular vote nationwide, regardless of the vote in that particular state. To date, enough states have joined this compact to equal 196 electoral votes. Once the threshold of the 270 electoral votes needed to elect a president is achieved, the electoral college would be rendered moot. Wisconsin has not yet approved this legislation, but it has been introduced again in the current legislative session.

Action Committee

This is a summary of what I have personally been able to follow and respond to throughout the past year, but there is so much more that needs to be done. I believe that the scope of the responsibilities of the Action Vice-President position go far beyond sending out action alerts and overseeing the Observer Corps. I think a committee is required to effectively track and respond to a vast spectrum public policy. It is my recommendation a standing Action Committee be created comprised of LWV volunteers who have a passion for particular issues and commit to meet monthly to inform one another about how we can best advocate for those issues and inspire others to become involved. Ideally, such a committee could work more proactively on LWV priorities rather than simply responding to what our elected representatives propose.

19th Amendment Centennial Celebration
Annual Report
Submitted by Linda Bjella and Marti Hemwall

"In 1920, the 19th amendment was enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. As we celebrate the centennial of this landmark, let's honor the extraordinary women who led the struggle to secure this right, let's raise the voices of the women who were left behind, and let's inspire the next generation to take up the cause for women's rights not yet won."

This is the vision statement of the 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Coalition, a collaborative effort by major women's organizations in the Fox Valley: the League of Women's Voters, the American Association of University Women, the Mid-Day Women's Alliance, the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, and the Northeast Wisconsin Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

December 2019- March 2020

The 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration kicked off with the sold-out holiday brunch held in the Kimberly-Clark Theatre at the Fox Valley PAC in December of 2019 (led by the League). The energizing event with keynote by Sally Roesch Wagner added excitement about our planned events throughout 2020. The energy and great attendance continued in the ERA events in February (led by partner Mid-Day Women's Alliance) and the welcoming of Michelle Duster, great granddaughter of suffragist and civil rights leader Ida B. Wells, in March (led by the NE Wisconsin Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority).

As we all know, life did not go as planned in 2020. After the March 6 Duster event the pandemic closed down the world. Our year of activities, to be capped off by the 100th Anniversary Celebration on August 29 and then the November 2020 election, were interrupted, cancelled, or adapted. The pandemic delayed the roll out our elementary and secondary educational curriculum, an extensive outreach through with our speakers bureau, wide circulation of our traveling exhibit *We Stand on Their Shoulders*, and the need to rethink our celebration of the 100th anniversary of day the 19th Amendment became part of the Constitution, August 26, 2020. We also had to rethink how to successfully encourage voter registration and turnout, particularly among groups with lower participation.

March 2020 – August 2021

By May of 2020 we had started adapting our project activities to the pandemic challenges. Our website, www.hervoicehervoteourvictory.com served an important role as the location for important materials and information.

- Thanks to Coalesce Marketing for helping us re-envision our Women's Equality Day 2020 to an online celebration of music and inspiration. This online event was viewed by more than 1000 people.
- Our Speakers Bureau went online as well and surprisingly we provided speakers not only locally but to groups around the country including New York and Florida.
- Our secondary curriculum was posted on our website, and our elementary curriculum finally rolled out in the fall 2020 as schools eased back into a virtual and in-person routine.
- Our traveling exhibit was posted online, then remounted in the History Museum, and eventually started to circulate by the fall.

--AAUW was able to offer the postponed program featuring a reenactment of a local woman suffragist.

Finally, by the fall, voter registration moved from in-person to online outreach. Culturally appropriate materials were developed and posted online and distributed when possible. Videos in Hmong and Spanish languages about voting registration and process were developed. With the help of Coalesce Marketing we created videos featuring members of under-represented voting groups urging family and friends to vote, including Latinx, Hmong, African-American and Native American, student, and LGBTQ communities.

As a celebratory finale, we are planning in-person celebration of the 101st anniversary of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 2021. Elaine Weiss, highly acclaimed author of the *Women's Hour*, will join us at UW – O/Fox Valley Campus for a reception, book signing and discussion of the last-minute emotional drama surrounding the passage of the 19th Amendment. Stay posted and we hope to see you there!

Addendum

Our League members chaired the project, served as budget and financial stewards, and raised almost \$46,000 to cover most if not all of our estimated expenses. All our partner organizations contributed to the effort. We are so grateful to live in a community which can come together to not only celebrate but encourage participation in our democracy.

Our project has been possible only because people in the community were excited about the project. The 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition has successfully attracted major grant funding from many sponsors:

- our presenting sponsor – the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region,
- our lead sponsor - Kimberly Clark Cares
- significant donations from three individuals
- membership and non-membership donations from individuals
- the League of Women Voters
- each of the five partner organizations contributing enough to be a major sponsor.

This in-kind funding shows the breadth of our community support:

- Coalesce Marketing – all social media, media, and print publicity
- Fox Valley Technical College – all printing of posters and other materials
- History Museum at the Castle – arranging and scheduling our traveling exhibit
- Andee Vosters, Vision Navigator – helping us clarify our vision and priorities
- Fox Cities Performing Arts Center – greatly discounted use of its facility and staff

Fundraising committee, May 2021 Annual Report

Prepared by Sue Hopfensperger

Fundraising activities and responsible spending determine the future of our organization. With strong fundraising we ensure there are adequate resources to support the League's mission of Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.

What we do

- Tiered membership is designed for inclusion and diversification in our local League! The plan offers opportunities for both members to help grow our membership and allows affordable fees for creative, passionate people to join; making us strong and resourceful to meet our goals.

Membership Levels:

- \$150 Sponsoring - Help support membership & critical services
 - \$75 Regular Annual Membership - Dues to National \$32, State \$30, Local League \$13
 - \$35 2nd Member of Household
 - \$10 Student Membership - High school, post-secondary, part time, or returning
 - Open Door Membership - Dues you are comfortable paying
-
- Our annual fundraising letter has been, and is, an essential source of income. Through the generosity of our members and friends we provide opportunities to learn and educate others about government, take action on public policy, and register voters.
-
- Finally, our Holiday Brunch silent auction engages people, have some fun and raises funds that help defray costs!

Making Democracy Work Award-2020-21

Submitted by Jacqueline Klimaszewski

Due to the extraordinary year, the League made an adjustment in the process of determining the Making Democracy Work Award. The board decided to recognize an organization that has been working with the Voter Services Committee for the last four years to promote voter information and registration of 18-20 year-olds—the Appleton Area School District Student Marketing Team lead by Cynthia Pavelski, the Internship Facilitator and Coach—and originator of the program. The AASD Student Marketing Team is all about blending academic knowledge with real-life experience. It offered services such as focus group and market research, social media content creation and production, photography and video production, graphic design services and “Passion-Project” planning. The goal has been to find ways to promote voting with our younger citizens—always a challenge to get out the youth vote. Cyndi has been critical in matching us with students who have the interest in voting and citizen participation in government to take us on as their Passion Project. She accepted the award on behalf of the AASD Student Marketing Team

The 2020 Making Democracy Work Youth Award was presented to Elaina Anderson and Grace Demetrician, members of the AASD Student Marketing Team attending Appleton North High School. It was awarded in recognition of exemplary citizenship in their community to promote voting and provide voter education through the “Voice Your Vote” social media campaign. Grace and Elaina designed, produced and distributed a unique and engaging mix of media to their peers describing the basic voting process and highlighting the efforts of the dedicated local citizens who conduct and ensure our elections are free, fair and secure. Through their efforts, they serve as an inspiration and provide testimony to the value of the mission of the League of Women Voters.