

LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 23, 2024
The Hillside at Plamann Park

Presiding: President Linda Bjella
Parliamentarian: Nadine Miller
Recording Secretary: Karin Alvarez

Welcome: Linda Bjella
Land Acknowledgment: Cindy Carter

Agenda

1. Call to order
 - A. Introduction and remarks from parliamentarian
 - B. Adoption of the agenda
 - C. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting minutes
 - D. Appointment of readers of 2024 Annual Meeting minutes
2. Action items
 - A. Bylaw changes presentation and adoption
 - i. Article IV
 - ii. Article VIII
 - B. Budget presentation and adoption
 - C. Adoption: Consensus: Preamble
 - D. Adoption: Consensus Positions Review
 - E. Adoption: Proposed New Study
 - F. Nominating Committee report and election of new board members and officers
 - G. Recognition of retiring Board Members
3. Reports
 - B. Action / Advocacy
 - C. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - D. Events
 - E. Financial Report for fiscal year ending 6/30/2024
 - F. Finance Drive
 - G. Membership
 - F. Programs
4. Advice to the board
5. Announcements
 - A. Upcoming events
 - B. Voter Service volunteer opportunities
6. Adjournment

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2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities Annual Meeting Saturday, May 20, 2023, Scheig Center, Memorial Park, Appleton

Presiding: Co-Presidents Linda Bjella and Marti Hemwall

Parliamentarian: Nadine Miller

Recording Secretary: Julie Evers

Land Acknowledgement. The Land Acknowledgment was presented by Cindy Fallona. Cindy introduced a summer book club that will be led by Renee Gralewicz starting 06/20/2023 in Alicia Park. The discussion will be about "An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States". Email invitations will go out next week.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Marti Hemwall at 10:15 am.

Introduction and remarks from parliamentarian: Nadine Miller was introduced as the Parliamentarian.

- A. Adoption of the agenda: Cindy Carter made a motion to adopt the agenda. Emily Voight seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.
- B. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting minutes Cindy Carter made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. Renee Gralewicz seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.
- C. Appointment of readers: Cindy Carter, Miriam Douglass, and Sara Companik volunteered to be readers of the minutes.

2023 Board Reports

Presidents' report: Our League in the 21st century

- There is a long list of items that the League has advocated for over the years.
- We will start working on Archives in the fall.
- The League is a learning organization. Members push us in new directions.
- We made investments in office space and technology last year.
- Our League has been awarded First Place in the LWVWI for the Membership and Leadership Development Award.

Membership: We added 23 members in 2022, total membership in December 2022 was 146. Summer Potluck picnic coming up in July. 14 townships and municipalities are represented in our membership.

Financial Report for fiscal year ending 6/30/2023: The Annual Fund drive was moved to Spring. New expenses for the year were Coalesce website maintenance, online store development, and office rental. The current cash reserve is \$30,000.

Action: Activities included a Legislative Town Hall, Observer Corps/Equity Network, Climate/Sustainability, Housing, Executive Action Team. Watch for Action items.

Voter Services: We participated in many Voter Registration Assistance Events. We are doing more candidate interviews instead of forums. The interviews are easier to set up and when they are posted online, are available to a wider audience. We increased our participation in Vote 411. We are looking for help from membership to provide questions that are applicable to each particular region for the interviews. We want to increase our reach with more voter registration events and more representation in Vote 411. Several voter registration events are coming up this summer, Juneteenth, Celebrate Diversity and Gay Pride events.

Programs: We presented 10 programs, reaching over 300 participants. The programs all stem from Lively Issues discussions. Programs are available on our Youtube Channel.

DEI: We participated in a community discussion at Long Cheng Marketplace. We are Improving DEI section of the webpage and developing partnerships with other organizations. Possible future activities include book studies and a trip to Milwaukee to visit the Black Holocaust museum.

Communications and Technology: Our visibility has increased due to Kathy's hard work connecting to the news media. We are updating our materials and website. We're represented on the State Communications team.

2023 Action items

Bylaw changes presentation and adoption:

- Article IV Dottie LeClair made a motion to accept the changes. Jan Quinlan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

- Article VIII Dottie LeClair made a motion to accept the changes, Ronna Swift seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Budget presentation and adoption: \$11,000 was transferred to expense as a precaution against possible expenses next year. In past years we have not had to use this budgeted item. The cost of being in State and National Leagues have gone up. State is no longer covering local leagues for Liability Insurance, so we have budgeted to purchase on our own. What part of the budget is from fund raising, and do we look for grants or other sources of income? We are looking at grants, etc. Cindy Carter made a motion to accept the budget. Dottie LeClair seconded. No discussion. One abstention, no opposed, the rest were in favor. Motion carried.

Record Retention Policy adoption: Cindy Carter made a motion to adopt the Record Retention Policy. Jan Quinlan seconded the motion. Discussion: do we have to allocate budget money for this? At his point there is minimum cost for archiving, but we may incur costs in the future. Do we need to store hard copies? We may need to amend the policy. Encouraged to do backup of documents. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Healthcare Equity Position Discussion: Do we need to get specific enough to specify Tribal Health Clinics under accessibility? Although they are public, they are not accessible to the public. Culturally, linguistic translators are most required in emergency rooms. Hospitals are required to get translators by phone if needed. Rona made a motion to accept the Healthcare Equity Position, Karen Jansen seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2023-2024 comprehensive assessment of all local positions with a Fox Cities regional perspective and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens: Cindy Carter made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 assessment of local positions. Emily Voight seconded the motion. Discussion: Positions that need to be revised for reasons other than DEI will also be flagged. We are also looking at positions from Fox Cities regional point of view. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee report and election of new board members and officers: Dottie LeClair made a motion to accept the new board members and officers. Denise Fenton seconded. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried. Budget committee: Emily Voight made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget Committee. Dottie LeClair seconded. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried. 2024 Nominating committee: Denise Fenton made a motion to accept the 2024 Nominating Committee. Cindy Carter seconded. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Recognition of retiring Board Members: Marti Hemwall and Julie Evers are retiring.

Advice to the board: With changes coming from National regarding tiered membership, we need a committee to plan for changes to our budget. National will now be keeping any excess from sponsoring memberships. We need to reach out to more diverse communities in our membership and in everything we do as League members. We need to forge relationships where the biggest gaps are. Remember we're all volunteers, ask for help if you need it. We need more "family friendly" events.

Announcements

- A. "Show Your Pride" promotional items program
- B. LWV WI Annual Meeting in La Crosse
- C. Summer gathering
- D. Women's Action Coalition emerged from 19th Amendment Coalition. Advocating for Women's Equality. August 26, Houdini Plaza, event to present Women's Action Coalition to the community.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm.

Submitted by Julie Evers, Secretary

2024 By-laws changes needed due to change in membership structure (as required by LWV US):

Article III Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

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

Eliminate the following:

C. Second member in household. A second (or third) adult member at least sixteen years of age living in the same household as a voting member shall pay a reduced membership fee as determined by the membership committee with Board approval, and shall be a voting member.

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

Article IX Financial Administration

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

Eliminate the following:

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

Replace with the following:

Section 2: Annual dues shall be payable one year after the date of joining or renewal.

Submitted by Linda Bjella and Gayle Hardt

2024-2025 Annual Budget - Income

	A	AO	BB	BE	BV	BX	BY
1	League of Women Voters Appleton					Proposed	
2		2022-2023	2022-23	2023-2024	2023-24	2024-25	
3		Budget	Actual	Budget	through 3/2024	Budget	
4	INCOME						
5	Dues						
6	1. Regular Dues	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 7,875.00	\$ 8,250.00	110 regular members
7	2. Dues open Door	\$ 300.00	\$ 335.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 250.00	estimate
8	3. Sponsoring (extra only)	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,400.00	est 32 members being sponsors
9	4. Dues Second in Household	\$ 350.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00	Same as actual current yr
10	5. Student	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	
11	Donations						
12	1. Member Donations	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,737.50	\$ 7,500.00	generous members & more asks
13	2. Non-member Donations/Grants (no designation)		\$ 675.14	\$ 500.00	\$ 304.06	\$ 500.00	Estimate
14	Event Income						
15	1. HoliBrunch	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 2,000.00	Based on actual current yr
16	2. Annual Meeting	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	estimate
17	3. Women's Equality Day	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
18	Other Income						
19	1. Interest	\$ 30.00	\$ 10.85	\$ 150.00	\$ 316.34	\$ 400.00	higher int rates (12.5K principal)
20	2. Transfer from Savings/to Savings (CD)		\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 7,500.00	from 1/2 prior year 5K donation + CD
21	3. Fundraising	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,408.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,660.00	\$ 1,500.00	Silent Auction
22	4. Merchandise Sales	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 521.00	\$ 300.00	estimate
23	5. Transfer from 100th Anniver	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 5,649.76	\$ -	\$ -		
24	100th Anniversary Revenue (reclassify as WAC)		\$ 400.00		\$ -		
25	Designated - Voter Services		\$ 34.00		\$ -		
26	Award - LWV-WI MENTOR		\$ 250.00		\$ -		
27	Designated - Website/Technology		\$ -		\$ -		
28	Designated - DEI		\$ -		\$ -		
29	(Spending from Checking)	\$ 7,415.00	\$ -	\$ 11,460.00	\$ -	\$ 4,025.00	Needed to balance - from cash reserves
30	In Kind - not in totals		\$ -		\$ -		
31	TOTAL INCOME	35,955.00	22,527.75	39,320.00	21,858.90	36,410.00	

2024-2025 Annual Budget - Expenses

	A	AO	BB	B	BE	BV	BX	BY
1	League of Women Voters Appleton						Proposed	
2								
3		2022-2023	2022-23		2023-2024	2023-24	2024-25	
36		Budget	Actual		Budget	through 3/2024	Budget	
37		Budget	YTD		Budget	YTD	Budget	
37	EXPENSES							
38	Board and Committees							
39	1. Fund Raising	\$ 500.00	\$ 332.39		\$ 500.00	\$ 163.76	\$ 500.00	
40	2. Membership	\$ 500.00	\$ 410.31		\$ 600.00	\$ 500.05	\$ 600.00	
41	3. President	\$ 250.00	\$ -		\$ 250.00	\$ 147.11	\$ 250.00	
42	4. Board	\$ 100.00	\$ -		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
43	5. Merchandise		\$ 933.32			\$ -		
44	Communication							
45	1. Newsletter/Publicity	\$ 200.00	\$ -		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	FB increase priority
46	2. Website (moved to Technology)		\$ -			\$ -		
47	Delegates, Travel & Workshop							
48	1. State Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 473.32		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	Jun-24
49	2. National Convention	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	No Nat'l Conference in 6/2025
50	3. Workshops	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
51	4. Committee Travel	\$ 250.00	\$ -		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
52	Educational Activity							
53	1. Programs	\$ 500.00	\$ 48.82		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 90.95	\$ 1,000.00	
54	2a. Voter's Service (Registration)	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 60.87		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 291.51	\$ 3,000.00	
55	2b. Voter's Service (Voter Education)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 125.00			\$ -		combined with Voter Registration
56	3. Legislative Action Committee (includes advocacy)	\$ 600.00	\$ -		\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	reduced per Jan Quinlan
57	4. Archive	\$ 25.00	\$ -		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
59	5. Study Activities	\$ 200.00	\$ -		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
61	Technology Expenses							
62	1. Club Express - ongoing	\$ 325.00	\$ 349.00		\$ 385.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 400.00	\$30/mo +\$25 for add'l email addresses
63	2. Club Express - new LWV website - set up & maintenance	\$ -	\$ 79.50			\$ -		see Club Express webmaster
64	3. Websites (webcitz + domain names)	\$ 150.00	\$ 238.55		\$ 175.00	\$ 114.63	\$ 200.00	
65	4. Zoom	\$ 300.00	\$ 309.70		\$ 300.00	\$ 189.00	\$ 300.00	now \$21/mo; possible
66	5. Event Management (website security)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	increase Hybrid
67	6. WiFi	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 600.00	meeting/social media Hot
68	7. Club Express webmaster	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 6,000.00	spot
69	8. Misc technology	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,060.26		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	Coalesce - Amt based on 5 hrs/month
70	Event Expenses							
71	1. Holiday Brunch	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,860.61		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,400.27	\$ 2,000.00	
72	2. Annual Meeting	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,065.60		\$ 1,400.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 1,400.00	breakeven goal
74	3. Making Democracy Work Award	\$ 250.00	\$ 340.00		\$ 300.00	\$ 489.00	\$ 500.00	breakeven goal
75	4. Summer Picnic						\$ 300.00	
76	Financial Support for League							removed from membership
77	1. Lake Michigan Interleague	\$ 60.00	\$ -		\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00	
78	2. State PMA	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,075.00		\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,225.00	\$ 3,400.00	
79	3. National PMP	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,664.00		\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,680.00	\$ 3,700.00	based on 1/31/2024 counts
80	100th Anniversary Donation/Women's Action Coalition		\$ -		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	based on 1/31/2024 counts
81	100th Anniversary Expenses/Women's Action Coalition		\$ 1,500.00			\$ -		LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities dues to WAC
82	Operating Costs							
83	1. Corporate Filing Fee (fed + state)	\$ 10.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	
84	2. General Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 324.36		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
85	3. Insurance	\$ 275.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,401.00	\$ 1,500.00	
86	4. PayPal/Square Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 365.98		\$ 400.00	\$ 263.47	\$ 400.00	Liability for officers, members & volunteers
87	5. Post Office Box	\$ 210.00	\$ 232.00		\$ 275.00	\$ 248.00	\$ 275.00	
88	6. Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ -		\$ 200.00	\$ 366.00	\$ 500.00	annual increase
89	7. Bank and Service Fees	\$ 50.00	\$ -		\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	incl postage for membership & fundraising
90	8. Fundraising Envelopes/Name change expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,280.63		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
91	9. Merchandise Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 21.97		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 339.31	\$ 300.00	
92	10. Youth Marketing (Willems)	\$ 200.00	\$ -			\$ -		
93	11. Rent	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00		\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 4,200.00	12 months @ \$350/mo
94	12. DEI Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 447.15		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	subsidies, translations
95	13. Donation - World Relief & Fox Valley Literacy		\$ 200.00			\$ -		
96	** In Kind		\$ -			\$ -		
97	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 35,955.00	\$ 27,873.34		\$ 39,320.00	\$ 25,314.06	\$ 36,410.00	
98								
99		-	(5,345.59)		-	(3,455.16)	-	

**Consensus Packet for Annual Meeting
Lens Study of Local Support Positions**

Submitted by Janice Quinlan, chair Committee members: Jeanne Roberts, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Linda Bjella, Nancy Jones, Karen Jansen, Barb Kelly, Ron Jones, and Joy Perry, April Savage, Renee Gralewicz, Sara Companik, Deb Otteson, Stephanie Maleny, Lois Bressette

Study Charge: to assess all our local support positions with a Fox Cities regional perspective and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens.

Question 1: Should we adopt a preamble to our positions document? Would the proposed preamble reflect our dedication to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as our newly expanded local region?

Consensus from March 18, 2024 for Question 1: Adopt the following preamble and begin using it immediately with our current local support positions to address DEI and regional issues:

Our local League chapter was founded in 1939. Over many decades, we focused on Appleton and Outagamie County, conducting studies to develop our local positions. Our League has grown along with the increasingly diverse Fox Cities region, and in 2021, officially became the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities. In order to expand our outreach and influence and to maintain current and future relevancy, we hereby adopt this preamble to our positions document.

The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities is committed to strengthening our communities by empowering individuals and groups to better engage with their government. Whether explicitly stated or not, the League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities affirms that our local governments, commissions, and advisory committees must reflect the diversity of our communities and uphold the right of every individual to live a healthy and authentic life with a sense of belonging, respect, and acceptance. We intentionally advocate with, and for all to be treated with dignity, including those who are marginalized, stereotyped, misunderstood, or intentionally ignored.

Question 2: What are our recommendations for new studies, language changes, cross-referencing, and archiving or deleting positions in Local Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy — and what are the rationales for these recommendations?

Consensus from March 18, 2024 for Question 2 – Accept the assessment for recommended changes as indicated in the grid below. A task force will follow up to implement these changes before the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Local Government		
Note: Some of these sections would benefit from being moved and/or cross-referenced.		
Current Position	Recommendation	Rationale
City Governmental Structure (1965, 1967, 1969, 1980, 1991)	New Study recommended (Municipalities) to be combined with Town and Village Government and Annexation	Very obsolete and sometimes confusing language; only applies to Appleton; DEI representation concerns are not addressed
Town Government (1991)	New Study recommended combined with City and village Govt and Annexation	Recent Grand Chute issues are not covered by these statements. Towns that house urban populations need to be restudied.
Outagamie County Financial Planning (1974)	New Study recommended Update language to include DEI lens	Very old study. DEI representation issues are not addressed. Section is limited to one county.
Outagamie County Government: Organization and Function (1975)	New Study recommended Update language to include DEI lens	Very old study. DEI representation as stakeholders not included here. Section is limited to one county.
Local Police Protection (1973)	New 2024-25 Public Safety Study recommended combined with Regional Law Enforcement	Very Outdated and does not reflect changes that have happened over 50 years.
Regional Law Enforcement (1994)	New 2024-25 Public Safety Study recommended combined with Local Police Protection	Needs to view Law Enforcement from both sides not only police morale but also equity issues
Parks and Recreation (1982)	Update language	DEI concerns such as ADA, socioeconomic levels, and welcoming parks, are not addressed
Appleton Public Library (2014)	Update language	DEI concerns such as instruction in languages other than English, space for special user groups, are not included
Land Use Planning in Appleton (includes Downtown Appleton and Fox Cities PAC)	Update language Some cross-referencing Fox Cities PAC section can be archived	Needs to include DEI representation on committees, welcoming neighborhoods, regional focus, and walkability in downtown

		design; PAC section has been achieved and no longer represents a government entity
Criteria to be Applied in Annexation Decisions (1989)	New Study recommended combined with City & Town (and Village) Government Action at the state level can be deleted	This position predates the Appleton/Grand Chute border agreements and other regional agreements
Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (1974)	Update language Change title to Fox Cities Regionalization or Fox Cities Intergovernmental Cooperation	DEI representation concerns are not included. SMSA is an unfamiliar term, but the position covers regional concepts that are still valid.
Regional Planning Agency (1971) [East Central Regional Planning which started in 1972 & is still very active]	Mostly archive this section Change title to Fox Cities Regionalization and merge with SMSA position	Very obsolete and too detailed to be useful any longer.
Regionalization (2004)	Change title to Fox Cities Regionalization or Intergovernmental Cooperation and merge with Regional Planning Agency	Very short section that needs no language changes but can be merged with the sections around it (SMSA, Regional Planning Agency)
Smart Growth (2003)	Delete this section	Addendum is about how state LWV positions apply to Appleton growth.

Natural Resources		
Current Position	Recommendation	Rationale
Energy Conservation (1981) w/ 2001 Correction to B.3.a)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing	
Solid Waste Disposal (1969)	Archive 1969 Position/Obsolete or inactive Archive NEW STUDY NOTE: The 1969 position already included in the LWV AFC Archive	- Very outdated. New study needed for any advocacy including criteria for siting new landfills, expanding existing sites, managing PFAS-contaminated waste. - Current system is between Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties (BOW)
Criteria to be applied in Recycling Positions (1990)	No changes needed. Action taken needs to be done with a DEI Lens.	
Billboard Control	No changes needed. Action taken needs to be done with a DEI Lens.	NOTE: We cannot change a concurrence

(Concurrence based on LWV-Oshkosh study, 1995)		
Fox River Corridor (1992 with 2002 revisions)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing Example - A.3. e) only addresses tree removal, but not tree planting and species selection Action taken needs to be done with a DEI Lens.	There are several references to encourage, promote, regulate, and/or support zoning ordinances, regulations, master plan, and Waterfront Advisory Committee. All should be done with a DEI lens.
PCB Study (2001)	Archive/ Obsolete or inactive	The PCB clean-up was completed in 2020. This position can be archived.
Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience (2020)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing	
Climate Resilience Principle (2021)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing	
Financing Climate Resilience (2021)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing	
Vulnerable Populations (2021)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing. May want to consider merging with overlapping social policy positions	
Water Quality (2021)	Consider Revisions [There are no boundaries with waterways; they are all interconnected. Work with climate committee members on this.]	This position could be enhanced and made more relevant within the Fox Cities with more explicit addressing of the negative environmental impacts of lawns on biodiversity, chemical pollutants, runoff, energy use and noise pollution.
Resilient Infrastructure (2021)	May be improved with minor editing, footnotes, and/or cross-referencing	

Social Policy		
Current Position	Recommendation	Rationale
JUVENILE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND	Archive/ Obsolete Archive	issues are addressed in following position statements

CORRECTION SYSTEM (1973)		
YOUTH ADVOCACY AND SERVICES (1996 and 1997, revised 2019)	1) Delete all the LWV WI items from this document 2) Editorial changes	1) We don't have control over changes. 2) Use key phrases, maintain broad flexibility but specific enough to be actionable
Human Trafficking (2015) Our positions adopted as the State League by concurrence.	Editorial Changes- both DEI and Regionally specific	Specifically lists Outagamie County (versus our region), specific need for all gender sensitivity. We need to make sure that AFC positions are in line with LWV WI.
Alternatives to Incarceration (2002)	1) Delete all the LWV WI items 2) Editorial changes- both DEI and Regionally specific	1) We don't have control over changes. 2) Change community to communities, Add Key phrases, including "Satisfy justice for the perpetrator, victim and community"
Housing (1995)	1) Editorial Change: cross-reference the Natural Resources "Climate resilience Vulnerable Populations (2021) 2) Further discussion on housing authority	1) Make it easier for League Advocate(s) to comprehensively craft statements 2) Can be clearly (but broadly) more encompassing/ coordinated across the region, as well as more attuned to all needs
County Department of Health & Human Services (1984)	Editorial change: move to Local Government section	May be impacted by this Lens study's review of the Local Gov section, not tied to specific Social Policy, just the organization
Public Health Services (1986)	Editorial Changes: 1) Move to Local Government Section 2) Cross-reference with DEI Health Study	1) See County DHHS rational above 2) Remove reference to study in Section D, #4- doesn't help craft an advocacy statement
DEI in Healthcare Study (2023)	No changes	
Mental Health (2008)	1) Cross reference with DEI Health Study 2) Editorial changes to incorporate DEI phrases	1) Help craft advocacy statements 2) From general list, and specifically: include a trusted, culturally appropriate patient-advocate, to ensure treatment/ care plans are understood, actionable, and financial resources/ options are well understood
Transportation (1998)	Substantive editorial changes	Many missed opportunities for improvement in terms of climate, cultural and economic impact to our region, given current market (Uber, etc.)- and Regional Transit Authority referenced in sec. D (2012) does not exist in a way that serves the community (no bus to the airport, parole office, etc.)

Education (1983 and 1993, revised 2006 and 2019)	1) Editorial changes to incorporate DEI phrases and ACT 31 2) Cross-reference Mental Health	1) Ensure monitoring/ enforcement 2) Help craft advocacy statements
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Definition of terms:

- New Studies — sections which would benefit from a new local study in the near future
- Language and editorial changes — may include DEI language, rewrites for clarification and consistency
- Cross-referencing — providing mention of and links to other areas of LWV positions which inform
- Archives — moving positions to archives where they can be found for reference but are no longer needed for advocacy purposes
- Delete — removing from our current local positions any mention of state LWV positions. Our League does not control nor update state positions and current state positions are readily available as needed for advocacy

Proposed New Study
Submitted by Renee Gralewicz, Program Director

The study recommendation for 2024-2025:

A new study titled “Public Safety” to update existing positions on Local Police Protection (1973) and Regional Law Enforcement (1994) positions. The scope of the study ***may include*** law enforcement in relation to the following:

- Use of technology and surveillance
- Community interaction (e.g. mental health, school liaison, culture and diversity)
- Regional agency coordination
- Fire departments and emergency services
- Drug enforcement
- Equipment and weapons
- Data collection and public dissemination

Nominating Committee Report
Submitted by Jim Bowman, Chair
Renee Gralewicz, Sara Companik, Cindy Fallona, Miriam Douglass

The Nominating Committee submits the following recommendations:

- VP of Voter Service: Jacqui Klimaszewski to continue for one more two-year term. (2024-2026)
- Director of Communication and Technology: Kathy Voigt to continue for one more year.*(2024-2025)
- Program Director: Jan Smith for a two-year term (2024-2026)
- Treasurer: Miriam Douglass for a two-year term (2024-2026)

*Because of the complexity of the position Director of Communication and Technology, the Committee recommends that the position be separated into two components: communication and technology. This separation might take place in one year.

Board members continuing:

President Linda Bjella (2023-2025)
Vice-President (Action): Jan Quinlan (2023-2025)
Secretary: Karin Alvarez (2023-2025)
Membership Director: Cindy Fallona (2023-2025)
DEI Director: April Savage (2023-2025)

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President's 2023-2024 Report: Our League in Transition Submitted by Linda Bjella, President

The League of Women Voters of Appleton-Fox Cities is working hard to meet the challenges of this most consequential 2024 election, but we have also been reflecting back on our League's history.

Our study team this year did a deep dive into all of our local positions through a DEI lens and expanding the scope of our positions from Appleton to the greater Fox Cities area. Our goal is to keep our positions relevant now and into the future and to identify positions that merit a new study. The exercise was very instructive and gave us great appreciation for all the work our predecessors have done over the past 85 years.

A testament to our well-established and growing Observer Corps, we were honored to receive special recognition from the City of Appleton for the League's advocacy work to help bring about passage of Act 12 that dramatically increased shared revenue for local governments.

Our voter service work has greatly expanded into the Fox Cities. We recently began a project at the Outagamie County DMV following the model of the Dane County League. During the first three weeks, we assisted nearly 150 voters from all walks of life. This was more than double the number from all our tabling events in 2023. We plan to repeat this project prior to the August primary and the November general election. As always, we will continue our tabling at all major community events and the summer farmer's market. Our colorful spinning wheel with civics questions continues to invite a lot more people to engage with us and learn about voting and important issues.

We are also greatly expanding our efforts to sponsor candidate forums, interviews, and Vote411 questionnaires throughout our tri-county area. For the spring election, we contacted over 90 different candidates. We work constantly to make sure our website is a one-stop-shop for voter information, recorded candidate forums, and current legislative initiatives, and now have regular quarterly interviews on our local radio station, WHBY.

We sponsored educational programs on local law enforcement, open government and transparency, and affordable senior housing. Our Holiday Brunch featured a panel of librarians who discussed the freedom to read. In addition, we joined forces with the Leagues in Winnebago County and Greater Green Bay to sponsor two virtual Town Halls with Fox Valley legislators.

Our DEI Committee started a monthly book share exploring a variety of books, podcasts, and documentaries. They have also worked hard to update the DEI page of our website and bring the passion they share throughout all of our League's work.

As we look to the coming year, the presidential election will be front and center in all of our activities. Helping voters navigate new voting districts and reaching out to the greater Fox Cities area will call for increasing volunteer hour and engagement. In January, we will make the transition to a new membership system with dues collected by LWV US. The expectation is that League membership will grow nationally in number and diversity, strengthening and renewing our respected organization that continues to empower voters and defend democracy.

Action/Advocacy Report 2023-2024

Submitted by Janice Quinlan, Action VP

Legislative Town Halls

We organized and held two virtual Legislative Town Halls this year. The first on October 2, 2023 included Senator Andre Jacque, and Representatives Lee Snodgrass and Ron Tusler. For the first time, the Leagues of Greater Green Bay, Winnebago County, and Door County partnered with us in outreach and composing questions. At our second virtual Town Hall on February 5, 2024 we invited legislators from the greater Fox Valley including Oshkosh and Green Bay metro areas. Legislators who participated in this Town Hall were Representatives Lori Palmeri, Kristina Shelton, Lee Snodgrass and Ron Tusler. The Town Halls give us the chance to ask questions on important issues facing the State of Wisconsin. Our next planned Town Hall will likely be in February 2025 due to this fall being an election year. Special thanks to Barbara Kelly, Mike Goodnight, Renee Gralewicz, Kathy Voigt, and Linda Bjella who have given yeomen service to our Legislative Town Halls over the years.

Executive Action Committee

The Executive Action Committee includes 16 League members who were selected because of their vast experience in county, city, town, or school district advocacy. Our bimonthly Zoom meetings are held September through May with the majority of the committee participating. At these meetings we share updates on advocacy opportunities, events, and other pertinent information. Thank you to Linda Bjella, Cindy Fallona, Marcia Engen, Carol Lenz, April Savage, Karen Pfefferle, Joy Perry, Denise Fenton, Ligia Rivera, Sara Companik, Jill Mitchler, Cathy Thompson, Nancy Jones, and Connie Raether who are serving on this year's committee.

Fair Maps

Fair Maps became a reality in Wisconsin when Governor Evers signed the new maps into law on February 19, 2024. This came after more than a decade of work by Fair Maps advocates including the Fair Maps coalition of which our League is a member. It would be impossible to list all our League members who have been active on this important issue but leaders include Linda Bjella, Penny Bernard-Schaber, and Ann Muenster.

Action-Oriented Meetings

This year we hosted three panel discussions on "action-oriented" topics. These meetings informed our work on Observer Corps and brought us up to date on other important issues facing our local community. November 20, 2023 our **Open Government — Your Right to Know** meeting focused on questions about Open Meetings and Open Records statutes with Assistant City Attorney Amanda Abshire and Post-Crescent Editor Larry Gallup. Our Holiday Brunch **Freedom to Read** panel on December 16, 2023 included librarians Colleen Rortvedt, Appleton Public Library, Bradley Schipps, OWLS, Alison Krause, Hortonville Public Library, and Nick Ross, Friends of APL and AASD Board of Education. **Senior Affordable Housing** on April 15, 2024 included City of Appleton Director of Community Development Kara Homan, Outagamie County ADRC's Emily Murphy, and Green Pasture Living' Founder Anne Michels.

Observer Corps

In partnership with the Equity Network, our observers continue to cover a wide variety of public governmental meetings. This year we observed Outagamie County's Budget meetings, Appleton's Budget meetings, and many Town of Grand Chute meetings.

Action in Your Name — Public Statements, Letters to the Editors, and other Letters of Support

- Letter of Support: Federal Transit Administration on behalf of Valley Transit's Whitman Facility renovation 4/6/2024
- Letter of Support: US Department of Transportation in support of Valley Transit's multimodal development 2/21/2024
- Letter to the Editor: Wisconsin Constitutional Amendments on the ballot 3/30/2024
- Statement to Grand Chute Board on Campaign Finance 12/05/2023
- LWV Grand Chute Budget Statement 2023
- LWV Statement to Outagamie County Board 10/24/2023 on budget process and the public's accessibility to meetings
- LWV Statement to Appleton: Budget October 2023
- Statement to Grand Chute Town Board June 20, 2023 on sanitary district rate adjustments
- LWV June 2023 Outagamie County Statement in support of their EDI efforts

Local "Lens" Study 2023-2024 Report

Submitted by Janice Quinlan, chair

Our Local Study this year was an ambitious undertaking: to assess ALL of our local support positions with a regional and a diversity, equity, inclusion lens — to make recommendations for changes. We began by recruiting 16 committee members to help with this task which we divided into the three sections of the support positions: local government, natural resources, and social policy. Local government team was chaired by Jan Quinlan, with Linda Bjella, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, and Jeanne Roberts. Natural Resources team was chaired by Nancy Jones, with Joy Perry, Karen Jansen, Barbara Kelly, and Ron Jones. Social Policy was chaired by April Savage with Renee Gralewicz, Stephanie Malaney, Sara Companik, Lois Bressette, and Debra Otteson. These team members dug deep into our current positions and archives as they developed recommendations.

A "Core Group" included the chairs of the teams along with Linda Bjella and Renee Gralewicz. They led the overall activities of the teams and met numerous times between August and March to discuss issues and determine the best framework to present our recommendations for new studies, cross-referencing, archiving, and language changes.

Our recommendations are included elsewhere in this Annual Meeting packet and include a recommendation for next year's study on Public Safety. Thanks to all of our members who helped with this, one of our most ambitious studies ever.

COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY REPORT 2023-2024

Submitted by Kathy Voigt, Director

Communications products and messaging are reflective of the volume and quality of work by the Board and all volunteers during the course of the year.

Goals: to elevate profile, resources, and reputation of the League in the community and among media outlets; inform and educate members and the community on important issues and the work of the League at all levels; feature the "face of the League" through photos, graphics and shared social media content.

- Provided communications and technology strategy and leadership to the President and Board, expanding League awareness in the community through relationships with news media and League colleagues in the region and state.
- Secured 6 scheduled interviews on WHBY radio throughout the coming election year.
- Reviewed Letters to the Editor, interviews, etc.
- Presented "How to Get Your News Used" tips to the LWV WI Voter Services conversation group.
- Participated on the LWV WI Communications conversation committee.
- Produced 9 monthly issues of *The Informed Voter* newsletter. Created albums of photos of League members at programs and events for use in the newsletter, website and other uses.
- Lead website strategy and design team, including President Linda Bjella, Treasurer Diane Putzer, the Board, website administrators at Coalesce Marketing, and representatives from ClubExpress. These efforts resulted in improved content and functionality on the website, including creation of a Merchant Account to facilitate donations, swag sales and event and program registrations and payments.
- Produced invitations, programs, newsletter, and Facebook promos for the Summer Picnic, Holiday Brunch, Silent Auction, Valentine's Day Thank-You, Lively Issues, Consensus and Annual meeting.
- Assisted with communications strategies, materials, website, etc. on the Women's Action Coalition committee, including re-design of the final grant report to the Community Foundation and other funders of the Coalition and its first project for Women's Equality Day.
- Planned and hosted a monthly program, "Local News Matters," with regional print editors.
- Co-chaired swag committee; coordinated creation of new seasonal merchandise.
- Assisted in recruiting, describing and providing items for the Silent Auction, which contributed to the auction surpassing its fundraising goal.
- As an offshoot of the silent auction, developed a new partnership with the Performing Arts Center to co-host "Truth Evolution," a race, class and community awareness workshop created and presented by former Wisconsin Poet Laureate Dasha Kelly Hamilton which attracted an audience of about 50 people.
- Secured media coverage of the Voter Services pilot project at the Appleton DMV to assist people in registering to vote. Many volunteers assisted with the project, resulting in serving more than 150 individuals to register or update their voting registrations.
- Worked with Membership, Action, and Voter Services Board members to create full-color brochures better reflecting the status and impact of the League. Coordinated all design and printing with Fox Valley Technical College, First Signs, and InstPrint-Plus.

Website Monthly Visits July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Web Visits</u>	<u>Logged-In Visits</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Web Visits</u>	<u>Logged-In Visits</u>
July	291	41	November	451	92
August	281	29	December	410	125
September	361	51	January 2024	511	152
October	473	52	February 2024	470	86
			March 2024	418	93

Total Website Visits = 3,666 and Total Logged-in Visits = 721

Facebook (As of March 31, 2024)

Followers **1,356**

Post Reach **5,666**

Engagement **899**

Audience: 81.3% Women 18.7% Men

Audience By Age Group: 35-44 65+ 45-54

YouTube Subscribers: 58

YouTube Recordings	Views
Legislative Town Hall February 2, 2024	29
Appleton Council District 4 Candidate Forum	115
Appleton Council District 14 Candidate Forum	31
Town of Buchanan Candidate Forum	189

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee 2023-2024 Report

Submitted by April Savage, Director

Over the past year, we have welcomed several new members to the DEI committee, strengthened our commitment and presence to many community events, established a monthly BookShare, and invested energy and effort in redesigning our DEI webpages. Interest and energy in the work of the DEI committee remains very high- amongst both a committed group of longstanding members, as well as with new League members.

There is consensus amongst those most active in the DEI committee that our work is governed by the belief that DEI is essential to Defending Democracy:

- 1). Democracy includes everyone
- 2). Our greatest impact is engaging with those least likely to vote or connect with government
- 3). Not diversity for diversity's sake- it's how we ensure all voices are heard
- 4). More voices/viewpoints bring better outcomes

Our accomplishments over the past year include beginning a Book Share that addresses various aspects of DEI. The group remains open and flexible on meeting times, topics, and medium (books, podcasts, movies, etc.). The resources, learnings and rich discussions then inform the work of the committee and chapter. Ideally, we will use our web pages to reflect these resources and learnings to an even broader audience.

We additionally spent many hours reflecting on our needs, organizing our offerings and producing a draft of updates to our webpages that will serve to better reflect who we are today and who we are working to be. Although the full the scope of updates has yet to come to fruition, we have made meaningful changes to the website to make it more accessible. The process has also been an important step in defining our mission, scope and measures of success.

Going forward, for this election cycle and those in the future, we aim to identify and eliminate barriers to voting for the specific groups that tend to be disenfranchised or marginalized. We will strive to work with decision makers, stakeholders and influencers throughout the process, with the aim of making governmental decision makers and stakeholders more accessible to those most affected by their decisions. We also will Investigate barriers to voting through direct conversations with those who have experienced them, in order to alleviate or mitigate barriers to full voting participation.

Our work requires us to be introspective as well as boldly connected and curious. We must remain clear-eyed on who we are as individuals and an organization in order to achieve our goals in a meaningful way. There will be missteps and learnings. It is important to be focused inward, ensuring our organization and our work is reflective of our principals and creates space for the work and leadership of new perspectives. In our community, we do not exist alone, rather we are at our best when we are collaborating with and amplifying the work of others- especially those living on the margins.

Events Committee Report 2023-2024

The Events Committee members this year were Dottie LeClair, chair, Connie Radtke, Sue Silton, Denise Fenton, Cindy Fallona, Kathy Voigt, and Linda Bjella.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH:

We began meeting in June 2023. We focused first on the Holiday Brunch which was held on Saturday, December 16 at Bubolz Nature Preserve. The theme was "Freedom to Read" and Jan Quinlan and Denise Fenton worked on putting together a panel of librarians which included Colleen Rortvadt, Director of the Appleton Public Library, Bradley Shipp, Director of OWLS, Allie Krause, Director of the Hortonville Public Library, and Nick Ross who serves on the Appleton Area Board of Education.

Michiel's Catering was again engaged to provide the brunch. The cost was \$25 per person. Kathy Voigt managed the invitation, registration, and publicity. In addition to the hot brunch, rolls, and pastries, Michiel's provided water, orange juice, and coffee. We provided hot pots and tea. We paid extra for china and cloth table linens (rather than disposables). Red and green napkins added a lot to the decor. The table decorations were evergreen boughs with Christmas ribbons. We used our sound system and microphones. We also brought in our sandwich board sign and other directional signs. Cindy brought member nametags and swag items. Dottie handled the registration at the door.

There were about 90 attendees at the event which was held in the Black Bear Den (lower level) at Bubolz. We had access to the space from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The brunch was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. with doors opening at 9:00. The rental cost this year was \$412.

The Making Democracy Work Award was presented at the brunch. Recipients were Maiyoua Thao, and Fox Valley Advocates for Public Education. There was no youth award recipient this year despite circulating letters to most area school districts. Maiyoua was presented with a lovely glass commemorative plaque and Fox Cities Advocates was given a check for \$100. The Awards Committee members were Nadine Miller (chair), Beth English, Sara Companik, and Laura Kemps. The committee recommends increasing the amount allocated for the awards next year.

We have already reserved the upper room at Bubolz for December 14, 2024. The cost will be \$512.50.

SILENT AUCTION:

In conjunction with the brunch, we held our on-line Silent Auction managed by Connie Radtke. We used the 23Auction platform as in the past. Baskets and items were all built around the idea of books. Some local authors (Connie and Peter Roop, Marcia Bjornerud, and Eloisa Gomez) donated books and were recognized at the brunch. There were more donations than ever before, and Connie did a great job of staging and photographing the baskets. Kathy Voigt added excellent descriptions to entice buyers to bid. The auction was held for a month. We suggest that next year we hold the auction for 2-2 1/2 weeks. Start with half the items then keep adding more every few days. Identify 2-3 items that are advertised by bid on only at the brunch. If the auction starts early enough, we can promote items for Christmas gifts. Choose a theme early and try to recruit a few people to put baskets together. Some specific items should be limited in number to keep a nice variety. The delivery system worked quite well. Most items were picked up at Connie's house and a few were brought to the brunch for pick-up there. We exceeded our goal of \$1500 this year which enabled us to break even on the brunch.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting is on Thursday, May 23 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at The Hillside pavilion at Plamann Park.

We have reserved Room A (capacity of 75):	\$240
Kitchen fee:	\$200
Alcohol permit:	\$ 5*
TOTAL:	\$445

Refundable damage deposit: \$190 (returned by check to us)

TOTAL CHARGE: \$635

*This allows alcohol to be served but NOT sold. If sold, someone with a bartender's license is required (costly and complicated). It was decided to ask for donations of wine, beer, soda, and sparkling water to be provided free by the glass.

Our reservation is from 4:00-10:00 p.m., but we will probably have access to the building around noon that day for set up. There are 16 round tables that seat 6-7 people each. There are also long tables for the buffet. 10 round tables would be feasible for up to 70 people plus buffet tables. Not included is garbage fee (an extra \$75) or set-up fee (an extra \$150). Garbage bags are provided, but we will have to take them off site.

Social Time and Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a buffet dinner scheduled for 5:45 p.m. and our meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. During the social time, attendees can circulate around the room to chat informally with board members who will have display boards highlighting their work. This will take the place of reports given orally during the business meeting. We will provide wine, beer, and soda at no charge. There has been a discussion of a type of "punch card" to encourage people to visit with all the board members. A drawing of the punch cards with some sort of prize could be awarded at the end of the meeting.

The buffet dinner will be catered by Michiel's Catering and feature Chicken Florentine, Beef Tips with Gravy, Baby Red Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans with almonds, House Salad, Dinner rolls, and a variety of homemade dessert bars along with beverages. We will also have one vegetarian option. Pricing includes delivery, set-up and staff, china and flatware, and linen napkins. (We asked for pastel colors.) There will be an additional cost \$8.00 per table for linen. Since Michiel's charges extra for tea, we once again will be doing that. Our center pieces will be pussy willows and spring flowers in small vases thanks to Kathy Voigt's artistic talent. Kathy asked that those of us who have vases to get them to her by the first week of May. We will need approximately 11 – 12 vases.

Registration will be \$25.00 per person and needs to be in no later than Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Kathy Voigt and Linda Bjella will be working with Coalesce to set up the event and online registration. Kathy will also do the printed program and email invite.

SUMMER PICNIC

Our Annual Summer Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024 and will run from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Cindy Fallona has secured the Thousand Island Environmental Center, Kaukauna for this event. The cost for the evening is \$200, part of which is a cleaning/damage deposit which will be returned if things are left in an orderly manner. This is a social event with our members being asked to bring a friend (prospective member). The display boards that will be used at our annual meeting will also be present at our picnic. There will be a welcome from Linda and a few ice breaker questions asked to open the evening and get to know those present. We will furnish brats, hamburgers, buns, condiments, and beverages. Our members attending will be asked to bring a dish to pass.

Treasurer's Report 2023-2024

Diane Putzer, Treasurer

The 2023-2024 financial report through March 29, 2024 and the proposed budget for 2024-2025 are included in this annual meeting packet. Thank you to Sue Siltan for serving with Linda Bjella and me on the budget committee. In addition to providing input on next year's budget, Sue and her husband reviewed the past year's transactions to verify the financial documentation tied back to our bank statements. They found no irregularities.

Financial Statement Comments:

- For fiscal YTD through March 29, 2024, we spent \$3,455.16 more than our income for the same period. This is primarily due to the timing of our annual fundraising campaign. The spring 2024 fundraising letter was mailed April 15th, so the results of the campaign are not reflected in the financial report.
- The League is the fiscal sponsor for the Women's Action Coalition (WAC). Along with our League, members include American Association of University Women - Fox Valley (AAUW), Delta Sigma Theta (NE Alumnae Chapter), the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley and the Mid Day Women's Alliance. The WAC will be organizing the Women's Equality Day event.
- We have contracted with Coalesce for ongoing maintenance of our Club Express website and establishment of an online store for selling our merchandise. We anticipate using their services about five hours per month to keep the website up to date.
- Our office expense is \$350 per month (\$4,200 annually). Having a one-room office in a co-working space allows us to have a central location for our supplies and equipment, access to a conference room for meetings and a presence in downtown Appleton.

Budget Comments:

- Membership is expected to stay the same or increase slightly next year. We expect this budget to be the last budget showing gross membership dues as income and per member assessments as expenses paid to LWV-WI and LWVUS.
- In future years, LWVUS will collect member dues and then transmit a portion of the total dues to LWV-WI and our local chapter. Next year, members who have been renewing at the sponsoring level will need to initiate two transactions – JOIN for \$75 (will take you to LWVUS and will need to indicate local chapter is LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities) and DONATE \$75 at our website so these additional funds stay 100% within our chapter rather than being allocated to the LWVUS (33%) and LWV-WI (47%) and only 20% coming back to us.
- Budgeted Member donations of \$7,500 for next year look low compared to the \$8,737.50 already received in this fiscal year. We received a generous \$5,000 donation this year. The fundraising team determined that it would be fiscally responsible to save half of the donation to apply towards next year's expenses. To accomplish this, \$2,500 was transferred to a short-term CD from our checking account. The CD matures in the next fiscal year. Then the funds will be transferred into our checking account. With a \$10,000 total fundraising goal, \$2,500 is in hand so only \$7,500 in new funds will need to be raised next year.
- A separate expense line has been set up for summer picnic expenses (\$300) rather than being covered by the membership budget.
- Because there is no LWVUS convention held in 2025, nothing has been budgeted for convention expenses. The \$4,000 usually budgeted to assist members with travel and other conference expenses for attendees will return to the 2025-2026 budget.
- Our liability insurance covers officers, members, and volunteers.
- We anticipate breaking even on the swag items products next year.
- The rent on our office space is \$4,200 annually (\$350/month).
- Technology expenses include \$6,000 (\$500/month) for Coalesce Marketing & Design to manage our website, \$1,000 for assistance with hybrid meetings, \$600 annually for a hot spot to support Voter Registration events, and \$200 for unanticipated technical needs.
- The "spending from checking" is the amount expected to be needed from the cash reserves to support the budget. We rarely used transfers in the past. With current cash reserves of nearly \$24,000, a possible transfer of \$4,000 would still leave about \$20,000 in reserves.

If you have any questions regarding the financial reports or budget, please contact me at treasurer@lwvappletonfoxcities.org. It has been a pleasure serving as treasurer for the past four years. I truly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about the League, how it operates, and the passion our members have for the League's mission.

LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Financial Report 7/1/2023-3/29/2024

Submitted by Diane Putzer, Treasurer

	Checking	CDs	Total
Ending balances 6/30/2023	22,724.63	10,000.00	32,724.63

Income

Interest Income		316.34	
Membership dues - regular	7,875.00		
Membership dues - open door	235.00		
Membership dues - sponsoring (extra only)	2,300.00		
Membership dues - 2nd in household	385.00		
Member Donation Unrestricted	8,737.50		
Non-Member Donation/Grants	304.06		
Holiday Brunch registration fees	2,025.00		
Annual Meeting	0.00		
Fundraising (Silent Auction)	1,660.00		
Merchandise Sales	521.00		
Transfer to New CD	(2,500.00)	2,500.00	
Transfer Interest from CD account	<u>316.34</u>	<u>(316.34)</u>	

Total Income 7/1/2023-3/29/2024	21,858.90	2,500.00	
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Expenses

Fundraising	163.76
President	147.11
Membership	500.05
Voter Services	291.51
Programs	90.95
Merchandise	339.31
State Annual Meeting	0.00
Holiday Brunch	3,400.27
Annual Meeting	635.00
Making Democracy Work Award	489.00
Paypal/Square Fees	263.47
Zoom Fees	189.00
LWV Lake Michigan - member fee	50.00
LWV WI - membership fees	3,225.00
LWV US - membership fees	3,680.00
Women's Action Coalition	0.00
Domain Name renewal	114.63
WiFi	420.00
Club Express Monthly Fees	375.00
Club Express Webmaster (Coalesce)	5,750.00
Liability Insurance	1,401.00
PO Box annual fee	248.00
Non-profit Registration Fee - State of WI	25.00
Rent	3,150.00
Postage	<u>366.00</u>

Total Expenses 7/1/2023-3/29/2024	25,314.06
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7/1/2023-3/29/2024 net cash flow - League	(3,455.16)	2,500.00	-
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Women's Action Coalition (Beg Bal = \$5,191.00)

Dues from Mid Day Women's Alliance	200.00
Dues from NEW Delta Sigma	200.00
Donations	3,357.00
Women's Equality Day Expenses	(4,269.10)
Website/logo expenses (Coalesce)	<u>(2,750.00)</u>

Women's Action Coalition YTD net cash flow	(3,262.10)
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YTD combined net cash flow	<u>(6,717.26)</u>
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Ending balances 3/29/2024	16,007.37	12,500.00	28,507.37
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	Checking	CDs	Total
LWV of Appleton-Fox Cities	14,079.47	12,500.00	26,579.47
Women's Action Coalition (WAC)	<u>1,927.90</u>		<u>1,927.90</u>
	16,007.37	12,500.00	28,507.37

Finance Drive Report 2023-2024

Submitted by Linda Bjella, chair

Committee members: Sue Siltan, Barb Kelly, Rick Bjella, Marti Hemwall, Cindy Fallona, Patti Clark-Stojke, and Deb Otteson

The Finance Drive Committee met monthly beginning in January to plan our annual finance appeal. Much of our work began with focusing our Club Express website to set up a finance drive separate from money received from membership. This was required due to the restructuring of the membership system by LWV US scheduled for implementation in January, 2025. Thereafter, dues money will be collected at the national level then distributed as follows: 33% for national, 47% for states, and 20% for local leagues. In order for our local League to receive 100% of money donated, it must be submitted through the DONATE button on our website.

We established a merchant account through Club Express that enables payment by major credit cards as well as through PayPal. Members have the option to make donations recurring, either monthly or quarterly. At this time, the recurring donation feature is not available for non-members, but that may be something Club Express builds in the future.

We unexpectedly received a \$5000 donation in February from *The Mark Scheffler Fund for a Sustainable Society*. The committee decided to promote this as a matching fund during the Finance Drive, and deposited \$2500 immediately for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024. A CD was purchased for the remaining \$2500 to be applied to the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024.

We set a goal of \$10,000 which is the amount we are spending above our reserves at this point. We receive about \$3500 from membership dues annually so we will need to raise about \$6500 each year through our Finance Drive. Our greatest expense is for technology: website subscriptions, professional management, and security cost over \$7000 per year. We pay \$300 for our professional Zoom subscription. PayPal and Square Space charge us about \$400 for on-line payments. Rent for our office adds up to \$4200 annually. We have budgeted \$1000 for monthly programs (room rental, honorariums) and \$3000 for voter service. All local Leagues must now pay for their own liability insurance which was previously provided by the state League. Our policy costs about \$1500 per year.

Two appeal letters were composed by Linda Bjella, then revised by committee members and formatted by Kathy Voigt. One letter was mailed to members on April 15, 2024. A slightly different version was mailed to a small list of non-member donors on April 22, 2024. Committee members with a connection to those potential donors will follow up with a personal phone call. The non-member letter was also emailed to our external contact list through Club Express. The Finance Drive was set up to run through May 15. Kathy Voigt created several follow-up graphics featuring quotes from board members about why they support our League. These were posted on Facebook. Kathy also created a graphic and strong message for the homepage of our website. The President's message for the April newsletter focused on the Finance Drive. Diane Putzer tracked donations and Linda Bjella wrote personal thank-you notes to all who donated. Donors will be recognized in our newsletter and possibly on our website and social media.

This committee will need a chairperson next year and start an organized stewarding program, carefully creating relationships with potential donors by inviting them for coffee, asking for input on how to accomplish some of our goals, or soliciting feedback. We should personally invite potential donors to our meetings and

events. We should solicit some with a specific request such as underwriting MDW award program, sponsoring Women's Equality Day, support a specific voter service campaign, etc.

Membership Report 2023-2024

Submitted by Cindy Fallona, Membership Director

The membership of the LWV Appleton-Fox Cities continues to flourish and make a statement in our communities. The membership count at the end of 2023 was 132. Although this number is down from the previous year, the accomplishments of the League were at an all time high. This was the second year of our name change from Appleton to Appleton-Fox Cities. The list of cities and towns represented in our membership continues to grow.

Appleton, Freedom, Kimberly, Little Chute, Grand Chute, Menasha, Neenah, Hortonville, Harrison, Shiocton, Kaukauna, Larson, Ogdensburg, Clintonville, Greenville.

New communities added this year are **Waupaca, Larson and New London.**

The second annual summer social in July was held again at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna. An enthusiastic group of members, spouses and non members attended. A big shout out to the membership and summer social committee members who made this a success.

Membership List: For the up-to-date list of League of Women Voters AFC who have approved sharing of their information, visit the League website: www.lwvappletonfoxcities.org. This information is available to members only on the website. After logging in click on the Member Only icon at the top of the page, then select Membership Directory.

Forgot your login information? You can easily reset by clicking on “forgot username/login”.

If you have not yet created a member profile on the website, please consider doing so. Contact Cindy Fallona, www.membershiplwvappletonfoxcities.org She will help you get registered.

Program Report 2023-2024

Prepared by Renee Gralewicz, Program Director

Programming in 2023 – 2024 began on **October 2, 2023** with a Legislative Town Hall meeting. Over 50 people attended this event. Click [HERE](#) to view the recording.

Our League wanted to meet and get to know the new Appleton Police Chief Polly Olson and learn her perspective regarding important local issues. On **October 16, 2023** “Local Law Enforcement: People and Issues” was held in the Lower-Level Training Room of the Appleton Police Department (APD) (222 S. Walnut Street). Over 20 people attended the program where Chief Olson spoke followed by presentations from Lt. Eric Holdorf who discussed APD’s Special Investigation Unit partnership with US Marshal Service, and Special Agent Jeremiah Winter who spoke of the Division of Criminal Investigation’s (DCI) partnerships with APD’s Special Investigation Unit, the Lake Winnebago MEG Unit, and the Lake Winnebago Area Multijurisdictional Task Force which includes 15 agencies. Over 20 people attended this program. Click [HERE](#) for more details from that program.

November 20, 2023, we turned our attention to “Government Accountability/Transparency” at Grand Chute Town Center Park (1900 Grand Chute Blvd, Appleton). We listened to presentations from Appleton’s City Attorney Chris Behrens who discussed Open Meetings Laws and Post Crescent’s Larry Gallup who discussed how news media uses the Freedom of Information Act. Over 20 participated via zoom and 15 people attended in person. Click [HERE](#) to view the recording.

The Events Committee organized our annual holiday brunch which was **December 16, 2023** held at Bubolz Nature Preserve (4815 N Lynndale Dr, Appleton) with the theme of “The Freedom to Read.” Over 90 people attended the event which featured a panel presentation by Colleen Rortvedt, Appleton Public Library Director; Bradley Shipps, OWLS; Nick Ross, AASD School Board; and Allie Krause, Hortonville Public Library. The event included the distribution of the goodies from the online raffle.

February 2, 2024 was another League Legislative Town Hall. This was a virtual only event where over 50 people attended. Click [HERE](#) to view the video.

The new year started with a wonderful snowstorm forcing us to move our Lively Issues program to **February 3, 2024**. This was our first in-person only event where over 30 people gathered at Menasha Public Library (440 1st Street Menasha) to discuss important Appleton-Fox Cities issues. One main portion of this event was the presentation of the 2023-2024 Review Study Team’s progress and recommendation for new studies. The recommendation to revisit of our Local Police Protection (1973) and our Regional Law Enforcement (1994) positions was approved by those gathered with the strong recommendation that the positions be titled “Public Safety” to include other agencies (e.g. fire department, Gold Cross ambulance services, and public education) in the study. There were many other issues presented and discussed. These issues will be kept helping inform our 2024 – 2025 programs and future study efforts. Click [HERE](#) to view the report.

February was a busy month for programs as we decided to cosponsor the **February 13, 2024** Virtual “Environmental Justice: Systemic Problems. Collaborative Solutions. What does it look like for communities across the state - urban and rural areas” with LWV La Crosse Area organizing and hosting. Speakers include Julie Majerus (WI DNR Environmental Justice Coordinator) and Meleesa Johnson (Wisconsin’s Green Fire organization). Click [HERE](#) to watch the program.

Our 2023-2024 Study Positions Review Team chaired by Janice Quinlan conducted the Consensus program at Van Zeeland Nursery & Landscape Community Room (2600 N Casaloma Drive, Appleton) on **March 12, 2024**. This was an in-person only event which was attended by over 30 people. We are pleased to announce that the recommendations were approved by the gathering and will be presented to the Board and the membership at the **May 23, 2024** Annual Meeting at The Hillside at Plamann Park (1375 E Broadway Drive, Appleton).

April 15, 2024 we once again visited the Appleton Fox Cities area housing problem. This time we focused on “Affordable Senior Housing” which was to be held at Brewster Village (3300 W Brewster Street, Appleton). Due to a COVID outbreak at the Village, the program was 100% virtual. The panel included Emily Murphy, Outagamie County Aging and Disability Resource Center, Anne Michels, Founder, Green Pastures Living, and Kara Homan, Director, Community & Economic Development, City of Appleton. Forty seven people registered for the event and 42 attended.

As of April 16, 2024, there are only 58 subscribers to the LWV Appleton - Fox Cities YouTube channel. You can access all of our recordings which include the vast number of candidate interviews hosted by our League’s Voter Services committee. Click [HERE](#) to view our LWV Appleton-Fox Cities channel and please subscribe.

Voter Services Report 2023-2024

Compiled by J. Klimaszewski – VP Voter Services

Voter Registration In- person Events (DMV events listed in separate report)

- Juneteenth event in Jones Park
- You Belong Block Party – Jefferson Park
- Pride Event – Jones Park
- July and August- Appleton Farm Market
- LatinoFest – Pierce Park
- Lawrence University - collaboration for community engagement
- NEW Dragon Board Festival – Leach Amphitheater, Oshkosh
- Community Health Care
- Community Dental
- Fox Valley Tech
- Rhythms of the World – Houdini Plaza
- Hmong New Year Celebration – East High School
- Hortonville High School
- UWO Fox Cities
- John Fisher Manor

We helped 11 individuals to register and provided information to over 155. This is significant because many people could register with the MyVote.wi.us information that we provided after the event itself. Given the online avenue for registering, paper registration forms are no longer being used. Over 200 Future Voters stickers were passed out as well as membership information to 27 individuals. Connections with voters increased with the implementation of the Civics game with spinner. This was motivating and interesting for both children and adults.

These events entailed over 190 volunteer hours; special thanks to Linda Bjella, Brian Post, April Savage, Sara Companik, Sandi Rohde, Nancy Pourciau, Helene Pohl, Denise Fenton, Renee Gralewicz, Jan Quinlan, Jackie Nider, Deb Otteson, Sandi Rohde, Cindy Fallona, Ligia Rivera, Jeanne Roberts, Miriam Douglass, Irene Strobeen, Al Larreau, David Haas, Linda Scheffler, Connie Radtke, Kristy DeChamps, Diane Putzer, Penny Bernard Schaber, Lois Brezette and Gordon Lind. Brian Post trained 9 Voter Registration Volunteers who were added to our list.

Voter Registration Reminder Project:

Materials are still available for distribution to business and other community locations. There are plans for expansion of this project for the fall.

Candidate Forums/Interviews

Appleton City Council - District #4 Primary Forum (111 hits) and District #14 Interviews (31 hits) on website.

Town of Buchanan Primary Forum – Posted on website—189 hits.

Candidates in a variety of other Fox Cities races were contacted, but at least one candidate either did not reply or did not choose to participate.

VOTE411 With the enormous help of Julie Evers, 97 races and 120 candidates have been entered. Many new Fox Cities locations were added. Data from January 1 through April 2nd:

Location	Total Users	New Users	Engaged
Appleton	723	649	523
Kaukauna	79	72	57
Little Chute	33	31	20
Kimberly	20	18	18

Sherwood	15	15	9
Combined Locks	7	6	3

Since so many races have now been entered, the task will be easier next time around. Updated goals:

- Send more reminder emails
- Do more follow-up with those who did not list an email address
- More promotion throughout the Fox Cities

We have grown to the point of considering some restructuring in order to fulfill our remit. Most of our work clusters around election days--so it's overwhelmingly intense--and some will pull from the same set of volunteers (unless we can organize otherwise). We need key people to take a co-leadership role in certain projects and empower them to do so without losing communication with the entire team. Please consider being a co-leader in one of the facets of Voter Services below. It's a great way to learn the ropes and you will have guidance and a co-leader to work with!

- DMV Project (with Brian Post)
- VOTE411--at least 2 people to manage this (Julie Evers)
- Working with the schools--this could be more year-round
- Other VRA Events as they arise--distinguish between Voter Registration Assistance and "tabling" at events for communication purposes.
- Candidate Forums/Interviews with J. Klimaszewski
- Coordination of voting information/resources to community organizations/businesses
- Senior Living apartments (The Heritage, Touchmark, John Fisher Manor, Lindwood Community, Eagle Point...)

DMV Voter Registration Pilot Program Report

compiled by Brian Post

Plan

- Use MyVote kiosks available at the Appleton DMV to assist eligible individuals to register to vote following completion of their DMV business. Only online registrations using Kiosk available at each DMV; no paper registration forms.

Roles

- One volunteer ("greeter") greeted people as they entered the DMV
- Another volunteer ("lead") helped people use the MyVote kiosk and kept a record of how many individuals registered.

Volunteers

Three shifts per weekday and one shift on Saturday mornings.

- 8:30-11am
- 11am-1:30pm
- 1:30-4:30pm
- Saturday - 8:30-Noon

Pilot dates--February 27 – March 13, 2024 (12 full days, 2 half days)

Volunteers required

38 shifts, 2 people per shift (12 days @ 16 volunteer hours/day; 2 days @ 5 volunteer hours/day – 202 volunteer hours total)

Goal

263 voter registrations (based on estimated Dane County experience of 1.3 registrations per volunteer hour guesstimated)

Results

- 147 voter registrations over 13 days – 11.3 registrations per day
- 194.5 volunteer hours filled (out of 202 possible) 96.4% of volunteer hours filled
- .75 registrations per volunteer hour (147 registrations/194.5 volunteer hours)
- Only had 1 shift with zero voter registrations
- 77 My Vote.gov cards handed out (8 of them in Spanish language version)
- One person checked “Interest in being a Poll Worker”
- 2 people interested in joining LWV Appleton/Fox Cities
- We received airtime from a local radio station and have coverage from Channel 26. <https://www.nbc26.com/news/local-news/league-of-women-voters-and-dmv-team-up-to-empower-voters>

Shift Analysis

Day/Date	8:30 – 11:00	11:00 – 1:30	1:30 – 4:30	Total
Tues 2/27	1	7	7	15
Wed 2/28	3	1	2	6
Thurs 2/29	3	7	2	10
Fri 3/1	11	7	2	20
Sat 3/2	6			6
Mon 3/4	4	3	4	11
Tues 3/5	7	9	2	18
Wed 3/6	4	5	4	13
Thurs 3/7	9	1	1	11
Fri 3/8	6	1	2	9
Sat 3/9	1			1
Mon 3/11	5	3	1	9
Tues 3/12	4	0	2	6
Wed 3/13	1	3	8	12
Total/Average	65, 4.6/shift	48, 4/shift	37, 3/shift	147/11.3 day

Comments

Comments recorded by volunteers indicated an overwhelmingly positive response. Sample responses:

- “Oh, we’re so glad you’re here, we were wondering how we would register to vote.”
- “I can do DMV and register to vote? 2 for 1 – yea!”
- “Thanks so much for being here – I hope you keep coming here.”

- “I was having problems with the Kiosk, if you weren’t here, I would’ve given up and gone home”.

The negative responses seemed to come from people who very much wanted to express their views regarding mis/disinformation. One recommendation going forward will be to include guidance to not engage with individuals looking to confront. Sample of responses:

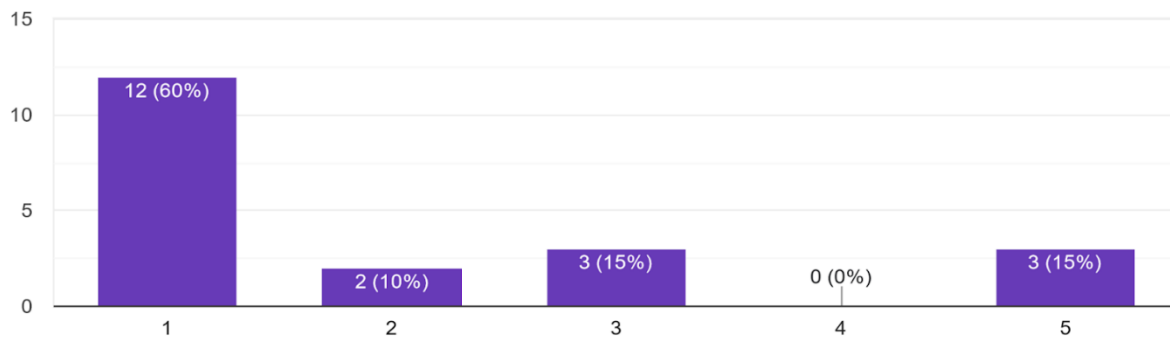
- “Are you registering illegals?” (2 comments to this effect)
- “It’s not how many votes are counted, it’s who does the counting”.
- Individuals recounting misinformation regarding security of voting.
- Surprised at how many say they don’t vote.

DMV Survey Results

20 responses (out of 31 invitations)

How would you rate your overall experience?

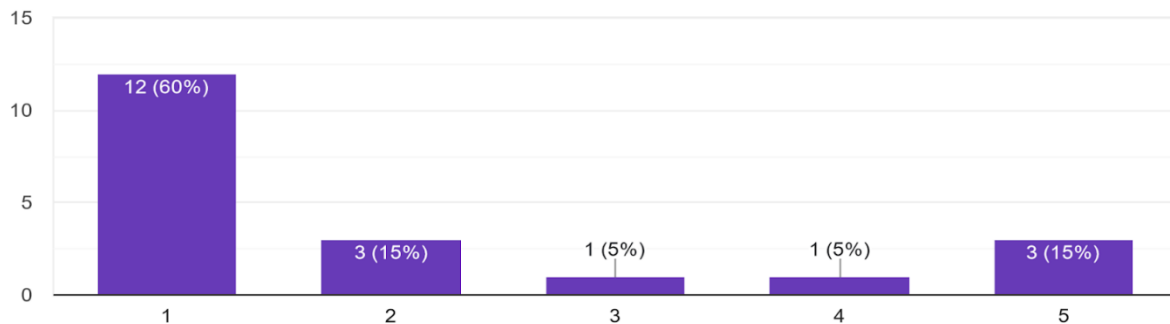
20 responses



(I think the 3 ratings in # 5 were a mistake: 1 = Very Good, 5 = wouldn’t do this again)

How useful was the volunteer training?

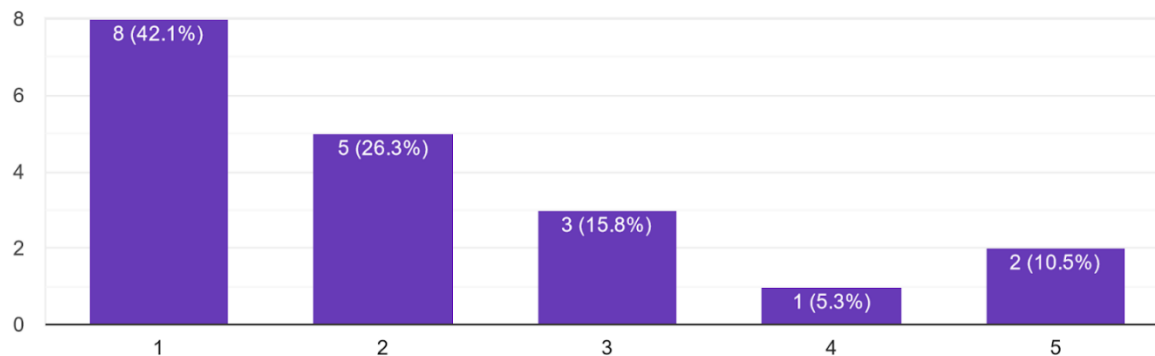
20 responses



(Same thing here. I think the 3 ratings in # 5 were a mistake: 1 = Very Good, 5 = wouldn’t do this again)

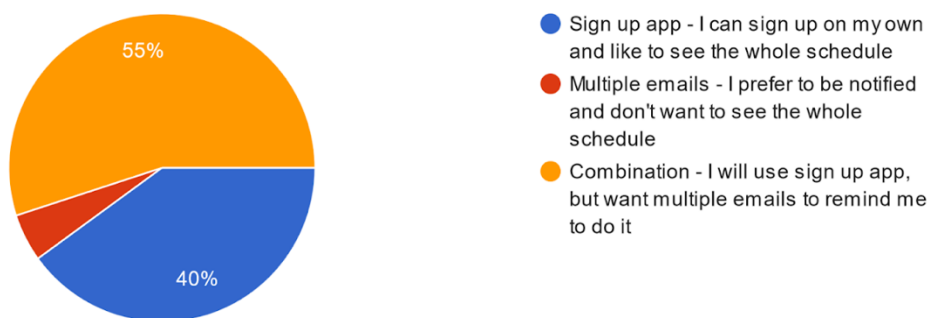
How confident/prepared did you feel?

19 responses



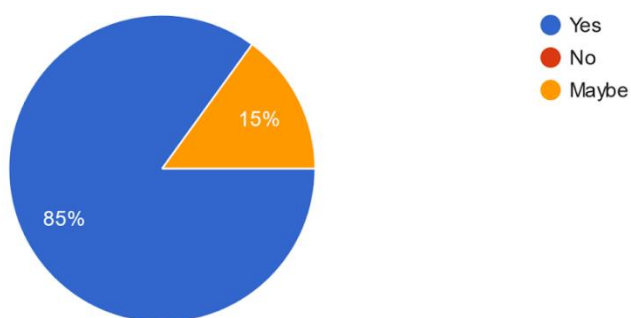
Would you use a sign up app or do you prefer multiple email notifications for available shifts?

20 responses



Would you be willing to support this as an ongoing effort before every election (2-3 times/year)?

20 responses



Volunteers were also asked for recommendations for improving the project and general comments. These were considered in the recommendations listed below. Here is a sample of the comments:

My participation is limited by my own schedule!

It was a great experience. So many people thanked us even if they did not need help.

Extremely gratifying experience. As well as very positive registration results, there was additionally (and somewhat unexpectedly) a warm and welcoming reaction from many of the potential "customers" whether they intended to register or not.

We have been searching for a way to reach voters from all walks of life, and I think we have found it.

This is the most effective use of LWV time for registering new voters. Many thanks!

I think this is a worthwhile effort and should be continued.

Thank you for compiling the stats. Terrific to review!

It was a rewarding experience. I feel confident that there were young people who were interested in the LWV vote.gov Info Card and took those to utilize the info to access their info on their phones as they waited at the DMV. 99% of the people who came in were kind and about 50% of the people were thankful we were there.

This was a great pilot, and I am glad Jacqui and Brian are pleased with the results. I know they both devoted a great deal of time to the effort.

Recommendations

This program was well-received and effective. We should adopt this as a primary Voter Services Team registration effort going forward.

Training should be modified to include guidance on avoiding engagement with people who want/need to spread disinformation.

Training should include guidance that it is effective and necessary to engage with people as they come in and that the overwhelming response will be positive - people generally are happy to see the effort.

We should see what can be done at DMV re: signage for the kiosk; having DMV people who service people who've changed names/addresses to suggest using the kiosk.

We should advertise this as an ongoing volunteer opportunity not limited to LWV members - this is an effort people are looking for.

We need an "owner" for this program - duties to include: (note: B Post is a willing set of hands - but prefers a female to be the face of the organization)

- contacting DMV with proposed dates,
- setting up sign up (method to be determined),
- maintaining volunteer email list,
- emailing volunteers for sign up,
- coordinating having the kit delivered and picked up
- Collecting tally sheets and producing program results

Due to the overall agreement that this is an effective project, we have rescheduled for **July 9-24**