

**League of Women Voters
State Convention in Appleton
2003**

Forward



League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Inc.

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Convention 2003 Special Edition Fox Valley Leagues Host State Convention in Appleton

We thank the League member volunteers in the Fox Valley region for hosting this year's biennial statewide convention in Appleton, where League delegates and visitors convened at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel on May 30-31. The two-day average attendance for plenary sessions was 50 delegates representing 18 of 21 Leagues from around the state. Notably, state convention was hosted in Appleton 20 years ago with 15 of those delegates in attendance this year!

We appreciate the efforts of local League volunteers who worked convention as greeters, plenary ushers, and registrar's assistant, as well as with final preparations, silent auction, and convention toolkit assemblage. We are particularly appreciative of the contributions from Marcia Hittle (pictured middle Helen Nagler and Susie Alger), Registrar from Appleton, and Luann Bird, Parliamentarian from Oshkosh; Deb Cronmiller and Holly Park, Appleton League event coordinators; and state board and off-board member volunteers who led many of the informative workshops.

The state board of directors met the evening before convention and made final preparations for Friday and Saturday plenary sessions. Plenary sessions formally adopt the 2003-2004 state League budget, elect a new board of directors, set new study topics for the 2003-2005 program cycle, and approve new positions for League advocacy. Convention activity and delegate participation exemplified the theme, "Leading the way in the 21st Century - Democracy at work in Wisconsin."



New Board of Directors Elected

Kudos to Kathy Johnson and her nominating committee who created an excellent slate of nominees for our 2003-2004 governing body. Julie Armeth of Greater Green Bay and Marion Ruelle of Wisconsin Rapids will continue for another two-year term respectively as President and 2nd Vice President/Program. Continuing for another 2-year term as director will be Marilyn Boeldt of Milwaukee and Clare McArdle of Madison/Dane County. Four nominees were newly elected to the board. Our new Vice President for Membership, filling the second of a vacant two-year term, will be Nancy Stabb of Janesville; Secretary is Nancy Moore of Stevens Point; and new directors are Ellen Rosborough of LaCrosse County and Sharon Schwab of Wisconsin Rapids. Sharon will take the

Natural Resources portfolio, and Ellen will continue her duties as website manager. See page 2 for brief biographies on newly elected board members.

The 2003-2004 Nominating Committee will include Lori Kay of Dane County, Peggy Cox of Neenah/Menasha, and Carolyn Folke of Whitewater (remaining 2 committee members will be appointed from the board). We are pleased that non-nominated League member, Luann Bird, noted interest in potential board appointment to a director vacancy -- LWVWI Bylaws state that, in addition to officers, we can have as many as 16 board directors, of whom 8 are to be elected to 2-year terms and up to 8 appointed for 1-year terms. Appointments will be considered at the next board meeting. Additional details on the 2003-2004 Board of Directors, including contact information and board portfolios and goals, will follow the July 18-19 new board meeting and training in Madison.

Table of Contents

<u>Fox Valley Leagues Host State Convention in Appleton</u>	1
<u>New Board of Directors Elected</u>	2
<u>State League Addresses Fiscal Challenge: 2003-2004 Budget Adopted</u>	2
<u>Membership Increase</u>	2
<u>Increased Donations</u>	3
<u>Other Revenues</u>	3
<u>Expenditure Changes</u>	3
<u>Consensus and New Positions Approved</u>	3
<u>New Studies for 2003-2005 Program Adopted</u>	3
<u>Education Study</u>	3
<u>Civil Liberties Study</u>	3
<u>Silent Auction and Member Challenge A Success</u>	4
<u>Speakers and Presenters Provide Informative Sessions</u>	4
<u>LWVUS Update</u>	4
<u>Innovative Fundraising</u>	4
<u>Increasing League Communication Through Computer Technology</u>	5
<u>Volunteer Recruitment & Retention</u>	5
<u>Voter Forums</u>	5
<u>Taking Action with League</u>	5
<u>Help America Vote Act and Other Election Related Issues</u>	6
<u>Regionalization Topic of Friday Luncheon Address</u>	6
<u>Saturday Luncheon Addresses Alternative Forms of Education in Wisconsin</u>	6
<u>Tribute To Excellence Awards Presented to League and Community Leaders</u>	7
<u>Where we go from here</u>	7

Tribute To Excellence Awards Presented to League and Community Leaders

We honored League members and community leaders at a Friday evening awards banquet. The *Tribute to Excellence* award recognizes individuals and organizations noted for their contributions to community, the League of Women Voters, and the state of Wisconsin through education, community service or voter education.

We invited League members in Wisconsin who have been members for 50 or more years to attend convention and the dinner. In Wisconsin, we have 29 "life" members who no longer have to pay dues given their many years of dedication to the organization. Two of these members were able to attend convention, **Meg McLane of Fond du Lac and Lucille Bowen of Milwaukee (pictured respectively at bottom with Julie Arneith, State League President)**; each 50+ year member was honored with a certificate of appreciation. [See list of members on page 6.]



This year we acknowledged four League members and two individual community leaders. League members **Cynthia Benevenga of Dane County, Diane Beres of Ripon Area, Kit Keller of Ozaukee County, and Corrine Goldgar of Appleton (pictured top/right)** received well-earned recognition for years of commitment to League as volunteer leaders.

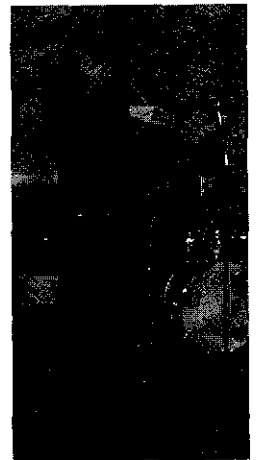


The Fox Cities Greenway, Inc., heavily influenced by Appleton and Neenah/Menash League members over the years, was honored for fostering development of a regional network of trails and greenways, linking 65 miles of trails. League members Linda Stoll and Sue Kinde (pictured top left with Appleton League member Karon Sandberg) were present to accept the award on behalf of the organization.

(pictured top left with Appleton League member Karon Sandberg)



Door County League was very pleased to honor **Carla and Ellsworth Peterson (pictured left with Karen Ebbeson, President LWV Door County)** for their extensive commitment to their community and to a strong local League presence through financial support of numerous voter education projects, such as publications and the distribution of about 500 "birthday cards" to 18 year-old new voters each year.



High school sophomore, Garth Neustadter (pictured right), a 17 year-old violinist from Manitowoc, provided excellent music entertainment. He presented a repertoire that demonstrated his diverse talents and career potential.

Where we go from here...

State League annual **Issues Briefing** will be in **Madison on October 25, 2003**. We look forward to hearing presentations on our two new study topics and on other issues of interest to League members around the state, including universal health care for Wisconsin and election reforms. If you have suggestions for additional topics and/or speakers please contact the state League office. The next issue of *Forward* will have more details and registration information on this statewide event.

We look forward to **State Council the first weekend in June in 2004**. The Wisconsin Rapids Area and Stevens Point Area Leagues will host the event at the Mead Hotel in Wisconsin Rapids. We invite any local League interested in hosting State Convention in 2005 to contact the state League office for additional information.

