

Annual Meeting – President's Speeches

1948

1960, 1963

1971, 1972, 1973, 1975

1992, 1993, 1999

2002, 2004

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

March 31, 1948

The business of the League, as you all know, is to "promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government". Let's keep that purpose in mind as we take stock of the Appleton League this 31st of March, 1948.

What have we done during the past year, what are we now equipped to do, in what ways can we do a better job next year of "promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government"? What have we learned this year about working together toward accomplishing the purpose of the League?

Let's begin at the end of this list of questions. What have we learned this year? I can answer only for myself. When I first joined the League, I became a member for just one reason--to become better informed on public affairs. I wanted a point of view, and felt the need of guidance toward one. It did not occur to me then that membership in the League would mean an obligation to help disseminate, as well as an opportunity to try to assimilate, information. And it certainly did not occur to me that I could or ever would be the local president. I want to tell you tonight what you learn from being president. There's too much prejudice against this job. It's a fine job, and I recommend it highly. The reason it's a fine job is that the group of women who work with the president--your board--know, and are constantly growing in that knowledge, what is meant by the phrase "democratic action". They don't talk about it much. But I wish every League member could watch them work, at close range, as I have. At every meeting of this remarkable group I have been impressed, and often thrilled to the core, by the realization that I was in the very midst of the living, vital force that is the democratic process. I appreciate more deeply than I can tell you the privilege you have given me of being a part of that process in the miniature, ideal democracy which is the League of Women Voters. I often wonder whether there is, anywhere, another such group of people--intelligent, individualistic, each one full of ideas, and eager to exchange them, to adjust, and modify, and arrive together at a conclusion in the best interest of the group and of the League's purpose.

In a way I hate to see this very special group dissolve, and a new group form. Can there again be a board that will tackle a problem as this one does? Bombard each other with ideas, many of them conflicting, argue and shout, and then come up, beaming at one another, with a unanimous decision? And yet, of course, I'm glad that in the League there's a big turn-over every year, old members of the board going back into the general membership to be leaders, new members coming in to gain the very special and precious privilege of arguing and shouting and coming up beaming with good group decisions--practice in democratic action.

I think I could put into a few words the great lesson I have learned this year. This is it--group decisions are the heart of League. The sum-total of individual opinions, separately expressed, are not the same thing--not at all. No matter how urgent a problem may seem, take action only after group discussion. Democracy is a living process, like growing. It takes time, and short-cuts are no good.

To every member of the Board and of the League--my deepest thanks for your marvelous cooperation.

Now to take stock of our position. First--membership. About 80 of us-- good, of course not enough. But our chairman, Marian King, leaves to her successor an accurate file, the momentum of sound, year-long planning, and a memo with suggestions for an even better job next year. Start thinking now--what friends and acquaintances of yours are disturbed by local and world events and wish they could do something about them? Get them into the League.

Next, the telephone committee, at first headed by Mrs. King, then taken over by Peggy Rowe. A routine job, not always convenient, but very important, and done most conscientiously. Marian suggests an entirely new committee from time to time, and many new Leaguers serving on it to get acquainted.

Next, orientation of new members, helping them find out early about League's purpose and how League works. We have had some experience this year, with Addie Van den Akker in charge--enough to form a good basis for more thorough work next year. Addie feels a little guilty that the second orientation meeting didn't materialize. She needn't. She's worked like four people on a dozen valuable projects, and filled in as if she were the Appleton member at large rather than the State Board member at large.

Third, Finances. We're solvent. Our experience this year in working with a budget resulted in our coming out a little ahead--and has given the new committee a good basis for a more specific budget for the new fiscal year. You'll hear about that at the April meeting. We all owe Peg Gilbert a vote of thanks for a perfect job as treasurer.

The Finance Committee faced an entirely new problem, in approaching a much larger number of citizens for contributions than in former years. It was a tough assignment. They came out ahead of their goal, and the chairman, Joan Hoffmann, leaves to her successor an extensive file, a complete report on methods used, and recommendations for doing an even better job next year with less effort.

Members--and money. Next, what have we done, what are we equipped to do, in informing our own members so that they will be better prepared to participate actively in government? Our special means toward that end are--League publications, programs and legislative reports at meetings, our bulletin, study groups, and the Local Affairs committee.

League publications--condensed reports of groups of League experts to make it comparatively easy for us to be reasonably well informed. What do we do about them? How can the League hope to work effectively unless the members have the common, solid background of information that National and State carefully prepare for us? How can we persuade our members that it is important for them to read at least Trends? More of them to subscribe to the Publications Service? Lillian Mackesy has struggled with that problem all year, and considers it still unsolved. Would it be better to have a League magazine and up the dues to pay for it? If so, how would we get up-to-the-minute information, for instance about bills as they progress through Congress? Have you, any of you, any suggestions?--a problem for the new board.

Next, League programs--think for a moment about the past year's meetings--in June, a panel on Labor-Management problems by League members; September, Mrs. Freeman on International Trade; then the meeting with the Mayor on local taxes; in November, Mr. Bober and Mr. Dushane on Foreign Policy; then Dr. Hill on Propaganda Analysis. In January, Clifton Utley; last month a panel of our own members on Economic Steps toward Peace.

Do you like the idea of a big public lecture each year, with paid admissions? Did you note the expert work of Mrs. Dan Steinberg in organizing and promoting the Utley lecture? She's a thoroughly reliable program chairman. Will you be thinking about a speaker for next year? Would you help push if we undertook to bring another good speaker? Or Utley again?

Considering our purpose--to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government--do you think the League purpose is best served by having mostly outside speakers at our meetings, or do you favor about half programs by panels of our own members?

Consider now our bulletin/ This year, the only handicap was financial. We'd all like to have seen Erna McIntyre's concise, well-worded sheet printed in good type. Do you think we ought to spend the extra money that would cost? Do you know anyone who would subsidize the bulletin?

The Legislative Committee this year began its meetings with the opening of Congress, and has been competently prepared with reports at League meetings. Mrs. Wise suggests that the committee might start functioning earlier, preparing the members with background for legislation presently to become current.

Study Groups on Foreign Affairs and on Taxation have been working this year, with Mrs. Easton, Mrs. McIntyre, and Mrs. Gilbert taking the brunt of the responsibility. Through these groups we have learned and are learning much about special subjects. I am sure the leaders and groups feel that we all have much more to learn about forming and planning such groups. We are all still groping for the best ways. The way has been left open for a possible conference of all the Leagues in this area to work on the problem. If it materializes, we would exchange ideas, and perhaps have an expert to instruct us and conduct a workshop in group study and discussion. All of you--come into the groups if you can, help us learn more about this kind of work, which many Leagues consider the backbone of League work. And our thanks to this year's leaders, who have worked very hard and capably.

Hallie Mussbaker has been this year's chairman of the Local Affairs Committee, and members who served with her are certainly better equipped, through following the activities of the Council, School Board, and County Board, to take an active part in future local projects. More about that later.

So far we've been surveying our work in helping our own members to become informed.

But the League purpose speaks of "citizens", not just "members".

What do we do about promoting political responsibility and active participation in government beyond our own group? Our special means to this end are newspaper publicity, panel speakers, radio, personal contacts, local projects, and miscellaneous promotion and publicity ideas.

Part way through the year, we found ourselves unclear as to the functioning and relationships between some of the departments, including the Legislative committee. We were not quite sure whose job was which. Here is my statement to the Board at that time-- "In two areas we seem to me to be lagging, unclear, not as well set up as we might be. The first is in keeping up with issues through study and discussion. The second is in disseminating information--educating the public. The two become one when it is a question of a request for action for the national or state League. It seems to me we are not as well organized as we should be either in having a background of legislation readily available for making decisions, or in being ready to stimulate public opinion. Nor have we prepared the public to accept League recommendation as well as we might".

We then put our heads together and after considerable work came up with a statement which seems to have been helpful in clarifying this particular organizational problem--a tentative statement, to serve as a guide. May I read it, even though it is now old stuff to the board? It isn't long.

I. The function of the legislative committee is to follow the progress through Congress of legislation on items on League's current agenda (each member keeps up in one field), and to keep League members informed through reports at general meetings, and through the bulletin.

At meetings of the Legislative Committee members report and discuss current issues; and the group decides what the next report to the membership should cover, and who should make it.

II. The function of a study group is to inform the members of the group, and may be to inform the League membership and the community--through panels, radio, and other means worked out with the Public Relations Committee or appropriate members of it.

Study groups may be started independently, with Board approval, by a few enthusiastic League members.

Each study group might choose a representative, perhaps the leader, to serve on the Legislative Committee as the one to follow and report on that study group's specialty.

III. The function of the Panels chairman is to act as booking agent for panels and speakers, and to stimulate and encourage such activity.

IV. The function of the Public Relations Committee is to plan and coordinate publicity (in a broad sense) for League program and projects.

Continuing members of this committee should include "publicity" people, and "resources" people. Probably some or all of these chairmen: Newspaper publicity, Radio, Panels, Bulletin, Publications, Legislative. A "personal contacts" person might be included, chairman of the membership or telephone committees. A Leaguer in charge of any activity would serve on the Public Relations Committee during the time that publicity for her project is being planned and carried out.

And so the Public Relations Committee was formed, has met several times, and I think has saved the board much time by thinking certain problems through in a small group and presenting re-

commendations. The functions and usefulness of the group will no doubt become clearer with more experience.

Newspaper publicity this year has been Betty Murphy's responsibility, with Lillian Mackesy taking her place when she was unable to serve, and Addie VandenAkker and Mary Kellogg also helping out. I think you'll agree we've had good coverage and some excellent stories. Mary Agnes Trutschel has done a super-job of organizing the new radio committee, and members are acquiring the experience necessary to gain facility in writing scripts and in broadcasting. We hope to have almost complete membership participation at one time or another in radio activities. Suggestions and criticisms are not only welcome--we beg for them.

The League has reached a number of groups in the community by way of panel discussions on Economic Steps toward Peace. These panels have grown out of the study groups, and the members and leaders deserve great credit. Panels are hard work, as well as fun to do. We need more members who will make the necessary preparation, and be dependable in the pinches.

I have yet to mention the work of the Corresponding Secretary, Martha Shattuck, who at the instigation of the board has carried on a lively exchange of opinion and ideas between the Appleton League and our members of Congress.

We've done so much, learned so much, and have so much more to learn and to do, that I've only hit the high spots in even this rather lengthy report. I hope I've not omitted anything of primary importance--I know I've come nowhere near giving credit to all to whom credit is due.

Thank you for listening so patiently. This would be a good time for suggestions, questions, discussion. Have you anything you'd like to bring up about the way League works?

*Presidents' Speech - Mrs. Leonard Weiss
Local Convention LNU of Appleton - March, 1960*

Our local league has shown great vitality this past year. So much so, that I think some of our members are ready for a vacation. We have seen the successful conclusion of two years of study in depth on State Finances and County Government. Our consensus taking meeting was one of our best in recent years. The results ^{of State} consensus on County government an editorial in the A P-C last week. Our study is very timely as legislation has been introduced by our State Assemblyman and others regarding county government. Now, we are ready and well prepared for action in this field.

As a result of our local study of Outagamie County our newest publication "This is Outagamie County" will soon be going to press. "This is Appleton" and "Health Facilities of Appleton" are being updated and hopefully we will find a way of financing them. Many League members ^{have} spent many hours ^{finding} ferreting-out the facts, or at times ferreting out the facts, ^{then} writing, reading, rewriting the draft copy of the booklets.

Voters Service--the backbone of League---tests our ingenuity and perserverance. How do you make the people care ~~to be~~ informed? This is a question which ^{challenges and} stimulates us to discuss, to plan, to think creatively and to ~~work~~ hard in the face of discouraging results. Then we are elated when success appears as it did with our "Issues in Education" program sponsored cooperatively with AAUW and City-Side PTA. It demonstrated the great value in being able to see and hear ^{the candidates} ~~the~~ present their views and discuss the issues. I, for one, am looking forward to a very successful candidates rally next Monday evening.

This demonstrated, too, the value of cooperating with other groups in areas of common concern. This can and does promote a

groups greater understanding between groups of each ones areas of concern and of knowledge.

We ^{have} have several excellent public meetings, the first one centered around ULN. Day with a guest speaker from the Food and Agriculture Organization. Then a week ago we sponsored a fine panel discussion on the subject "How can the United States promote participation in world trade and at the same time maintain a sound U.S. economy?". It was discouraging to have such a small number of people attend ^{both} these meetings.

In Feb. we began our first study units of a two year program on U.S. foreign economic policy.

We also had a set of study units on our local program the city-county health study. No conclusions were reached.

For the second year in a row our finance drive went over the top. We exceeded our goal of \$4850 by \$228. Many thanks to Peggy Rowe and her committee and ^{the} solicitors.

This is a brief summary of our main activities of the year. I hope you will take a look at the wonderful displays arranged by Marian Haag

We are encouraged by the increase in our membership and we extend a very warm welcome to our 16 new members. These new members have already shown a vital interest in and have attended unit meetings, general programs and served on committees. Almost 50% of our members ^{have} worked on committees. Many people worked on several committees.

Being an active League member is not easy but we hope at times it is fun. We do not expect you to participate in all aspects of our program but to choose one or two areas for concentrated effort of study and discussion. To assume ones role as a citizen, as a League member, one needs self discipline. With so many responsibilities facing us as mothers, homemakers, wives, members of other organizations, one needs to make choices as to which areas are most important and ^{which} will receive our concentrated effort.

"To live is not merely to breathe, it is to act"---
Rousseau

We as citizens do not assume responsibility in a self-governing country without making decisions and taking action. The League is geared to provide practice in making decisions and for translating these decisions into action. Political education and experience is a continual learning process in the development of citizen responsibility. We are all learning as we study, discuss and reach consensus. I would modify ~~the~~ ^{the} Rousseau¹⁰ statement and add that against the tremendous demand to act we must first engage in the process of inquiry and education, and then what we do will make sense.

This is your organization. Will you devote some of your time, effort, talent to promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government?

Now from ~~our~~ ^{the} serious part of our program we will proceed to the "I quote a Board member" free-play period. Entertain a motion to recess for dinner.

Annual Meeting
March 18, 1963

[Handwritten signature]

This is the time of year when we look back in League to see where we have been, and look ahead hopefully to see where we are going. First, I wish to take this opportunity to express my warmest thanks to my officers and board for their cooperation, support, and dedication to the purposes of League. In League we talk much about the satisfactions that come ~~from informing~~ when we inform ourselves, our community, and when we act in support of our position. However, the greatest joy of League to me has been the opportunity of serving with some very wonderful women and for this I am very grateful.

You have heard the chairmen of our various programs report on the activities of the past year. *I hope you have a few minutes now* I ~~hope~~ will try not to *be not* repeat what has already been said. *for day* I ~~would like to devote~~ my ~~remarks to what lies ahead~~. *to carefully read details reports to the A.C.* I have learned much during the past year and hope that the experience I have gained will help us toward an even better year. I would like to look at some of the areas where we have done well, and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ look critically at the areas where we might *hope to* improve during the coming year.

Because League is an organization devoted to promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, I would like to see ^{more} ~~XXXXXX~~ League members in attendance at official meetings of our city council, county board and board of education. Seeing government in action and having government see us, is a vital part of this active participation. *Knowing that your representatives are in the hall we wish to have* Can you take the time to attend a meeting of your City Council, *on* County Board or School Board during the coming year. *League program*

During the past year we have been happy to welcome to our ranks ¹²~~thirteen~~ very fine new members. We are pleased with this fact. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ However, when I think of the opportunities League offers to women to learn ~~and~~ about government and gain an understanding of the ~~legislative~~ process, ^{at the national, state & local levels} and because of the many satisfactions to be gained from working in League, I cannot help but wonder why women from all ~~xxxxx~~ walks of life are not flocking to join us. There must be many women in Appleton who would enjoy and benefit from membership in League. I would like to see every member a Membership Chairman (~~without portfolio~~) telling the League story to her friends and neighbors, and inviting them to be guests at our meetings. Our membership Chairman has many fine publications available to help you talk about League.

Our Unit discussions were very well organized this year. ^{like} Our resource chairmen and their committees, despite frustrations in obtaining ~~background~~ ^{study} materials, and meeting consensus deadlines, did their jobs extremely well. Members came to meetings well prepared. Discussion was ably handled, but the attendance left much to be desired. Unit meetings are the heart of the learning process in League. We need you, we need your opinions, and we need an informed membership. ^{who will be prepared to act.} Actually, when we reach a consensus at a unit meeting with only a small percentage of members in attendance, you are abdicating your responsibility. The consensus that is reached becomes the position of League. If you are not there and do not participate in study and consensus, League is speaking in your name without hearing your voice. At board meetings, we have tried to analyze your reasons for not attending units - if you have any suggestions,

~~pssths~~ perhaps we can hear them later in the evening. Do you forget? Do you wish to be called? Do you find it difficult to get material? Tell us, because we need more of you at Unit meetings.

Our Candidates meetings have been extremely successful. Candidates and voters alike are increasing~~//~~aware of their importance, ^{we} we can be proud of the service we are performing to the voters of the community. ^{During the coming months} ~~However, perhaps the time we will be considering ways to~~ ~~has come~~ to widen our scope of activity in the field of Voters Service. Should we work for increased voter registration, ^{? Should we} provide registration information and voting information to new voters, and increase our efforts to encourage high caliber candidates to seek public office?

I think we can be very proud of the democratic process in League. Attendance at any of our many consensus meetings during the past year ~~would have~~ ^{has} shown that people in League do not all think alike, and every divergent opinion is heard, respected, and even recorded and reported. When we reach a Consensus in League, everyone has a chance to be heard. This is truly the democratic process.

I think this year we took a giant ~~xx~~ step forward in the program-making process when we appointed a Lively Issues Committee to assist us in the selection ^{of} a local current program. Because we ~~felt~~ ^{feel} that choosing a local program is one of the most important decisions we ~~make~~ as a local league, it deserved much careful thought and planning. To accomplish this, the Lively Issues Committee was formed. It was their responsibility to help members understand the various proposals submitted, investigate the sources of information available, weigh ~~h~~ proposals against

One of the hard and sometimes unpleasant facts of life is the ~~fact~~ that organizations ~~and~~ as well as individuals require ~~finan~~ money to survive. ~~XXX XXXXXXXX~~ All of the projects that League undertakes and services we perform in the community - whether it is a candidates meeting, or a questionnaire - ~~all~~ ^{back} require ~~an~~ operating capital. Our budget is outlined in the front of this kit. Look at it carefully and when our Finance Chairman approaches you and ask your help in ~~making~~ contacting contributors, make her difficult job less difficult by saying yes. Our dues alone are not sufficient to provide the services ~~we wish to offer the community.~~ contributions from interested individuals in the community. We must seek ~~help~~ from the ~~community~~ Our finance chairman needs your help in obtaining the necessary ~~contributions.~~ ^{into} ~~contributions.~~ ^{on Finance Chairman} I am only briefly mentioning Finance because I know ~~she~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXX~~ plans to discuss this matter ~~at~~ later in the program. Financing League is not ~~the responsibility of the~~ the responsibility of the Finance committee alone - it is ~~the~~ a responsibility that must be shared by membership at large.

outlined criteria, and attempt to tell us what we might hope to accomplish upon completion of the study. The committee reported its findings at a Lively Issues membership meeting on January 29th and members were given opportunity to question and discuss the various proposals. I think the committee should be commended for a job well done.

~~_____~~ ^{Fanned} No report of League activity would be complete without mention of "health". As you know for a long, long time Gerry Johnston gave endless hours of her time to League as our Health Chairman - first when it was a local agenda and later as a local continuing responsibility. When it became necessary for Gerry to resign from our board, it was urgent that we find a replacement if we were to continue our efforts ~~in behalf of~~ to obtain a county health department. Because Gerry had done such a magnificent job, it was almost impossible to find anyone willing to step into her shoes and accept chairmanship of our local C.R. I peddled this job for a long, long time. I searched high and low, and when despair was finally closing in, and I had visions of all of our efforts in support of a county health department coming to naught, Betty Breunig came to my rescue. She relinquished the fairly comfortable job of secretary to assume a job that nobody would take. Since assuming her duties, the health committee has been working and Betty has been meeting with the Public Health Services Committee of the United Community Services (under the chairmanship of Donna Weis). This committee has been organized to set up structure and formulate proposed cost structure of a county health department. When the ~~task~~ ^{task} completes its task, Betty Breunig and her committee will proceed with the task of convincing our county supervisors of the

JMC

need and desirability of such a unit. *Department*

Since many people think all League work begins and ends with health, this might be a logical place for me to end.

I have not intended to sing to you of the noblest of
 special recognition

~~XXX~~ In conclusion, to each of you who willingly accepted a commitment whether it was to moderate a meeting, head a committee, talk to a public official, contact a contributor during our finance drive, pound a typewriter, roll a mimeograph machine, telephone our membership, or served as a hostess at any League function - for any and all of these, my thanks.

[Handwritten signature]

Traditionally this is the time when the President evaluates the year and looks forward to the coming year's events. Not being the President I have no intention of giving a formal report, but I do feel that some attention should be drawn to the past year's activities, hence the following "briefs":

1. We left last year's annual meeting with the intent to go out and do our part in drawing attention to the needs for concern about the environment. A week later about 25 women distributed 5,000 leaflets urging the use of non-phosphate detergents and also including other tips that the homemaker could follow.
2. League members gathered support from other organizations and again pushed for a Shelter Care Home for Outagamie County. The Home was reopened this winter.
3. League members met with Dr. Gibson of the County Board, discussing with him our mutual interest in a County Health Dept. Representatives from League have served on the special committee to investigate the need for such a service. This committee is now taking a survey to investigate the health needs of the people of the county.
4. League members participated in more go-and-see trips this year than in any other year I would guess! Our environmental studies took us to the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant, the Foremost Foods Plant, and to the Neenah Foundry.
5. The general meeting planned by the Human Resources committee on Welfare and Its Alternatives wins the prize for best-attended meeting; open to the public, approximately 200 people attended.
6. Statements were made at public hearings concerning the city budget, the school budget, and the Kaukauna Landfill Problem.
7. Voters Service tried some new ideas this year ranging from "Quickie" voting forums to outdoor wall painting.
8. Leaguers took to the airways with their information on such topics as voter registration, county executive, area planning, and environmental studies. The Speaker's Bureau provided talks to the Girl Scouts, student groups, the WIN program, and a Women In Construction Group.
9. A series of meetings were held with the COM to discuss voting procedures and organization of local, state, and national government.
10. Three League members ran for public office in the Spring election. Contrary to what their opponents may have thought, the League was not backing them, but I would like to think that their past League experience did contribute to their decisions to run.

But, the above mentioned "Briefs" paint too rosy a picture. During the past year there have been feelings shared by all that League wasn't doing what it should be doing, or that it could be doing much more. Maybe this feeling was caused by the general "cooling of America" phase the entire country has experienced, perhaps it was caused by lack of Board direction, or perhaps by a lack of enthusiasm shown by members. What ever the cause, and I'm sure it is a combination of many factors, we are AWARE that the feeling exists and whatever it is, needs immediate attention. Our action program which we were all so excited about a year ago has been disappointing, the Speaker's Bureau needs to be evaluated, our Observer Program is on the critical list and slipping quickly, and finally our member parti-

cipation has not been - well let's face it - has not been all that terrific. So the problems exist and need to be met. A new year with a new program will help in solving the problems, a new Board with new ideas will help in solving the problems, but most important, a new commitment by all members will help in solving the problems.

REPORT FROM WHATSHERNAME

1972

Corinne
Gaidger

The President's Report to the Annual Meeting should be an evaluation of the year that is coming to a close. It should include the strengths and weaknesses of the Appleton League of Women Voters in the past year and some suggestions on how we can improve in the coming year. I am calling my little speech "Report from WhatsHERname" because I feel that the individual filling the presidency is less important than the organization she heads. No president can be any better than her members working together. I say all of this, which should be perfectly obvious, because I am about to launch into a song of praise and I want you to understand that I am bragging about us -- about the whole League. Towards the end, I will have two or three pitifully small suggestions for improvement. I'm not sure how one makes a thing "more superlative."

As I was preparing this report and making lists of our activities in program, action, and ~~semmunity~~ service, I came across the notes which Pattee LaFountain took at the Board Training session last summer. Barbara Hoffman conducted the session and, according to Pattee, she concluded by saying that we had "the makings of a good League." This has almost got to be the understatement of the past year. At the risk of contradicting my good friend Barbara, I would say this is a great League and getting greater all the time. Never, within my memory, has the community held us in such high regard. This is not just the result of the things we have done this year, but rather it is the result of this year following the things we have done in preceeding years. Having achieved a position of some influence, we do, of course, have a greater responsibility to continue to be thorough in our studies, accurate in our statements, and courageous in our positions. We must continue to seek the ideal, but we must be realistic enough to recognize when we must compromise for the attainable.

On the Board, we think of League work as falling into three categories: program, action, and organization. There probably should be a fourth category called "service." The list of items coming under the categories of program, action, and service, which I compiled by scrambling through the bulletins and minutes for the year, became so formidable that I decided to have it mimeographed

and included in your Annual Meeting Kit. When you read it over, I feel sure that your reaction, like mine when I compiled it, will be "Good gracious, did we really do all of that?" Well, yes, indeed, we did -- and some of the items that are stated in three or four words on the list took hours and hours of womanpower -- energy and ingenuity and organizational ability in quantities that I have no idea how to measure. Obviously, we have had a good year in program, action, and service.

Organization is a harder item to show on a page. You can add up contributions and workers in a Finance Drive (which Jan will do for us in a few minutes) and you can introduce bright, energetic women added to the Membership (which Stevie is waiting to do). Measuring the work of the secretary, the treasurer, the bulletin editor, the chairmen of publications, PR, and units -- well, that's harder. It's like housekeeping. If you come to my house and it is clean and picked up, you think nothing about it. But, if you find dust on the tables and socks and orange peels under the sofa, you notice that I haven't been doing what I am supposed to do. Let it suffice to say that there are no dirty socks or orange peels under our organizational sofas.

Now, I would like to say some things about some items which do not fit neatly into an outline of the year, but which were, in their individual ways, mountain peaks. The first is Cynthia Johnson's appointment to the Draft Board on our recommendation. This came about not because of the virtue of the Appleton League alone, but rather because the State Director of Selective Service recognized the virtue of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, of which we are a part. But the Appleton League did seize the opportunity to recommend when it was presented to us, and we did have women, among others -- Cynthia, who could be recommended in glowing terms. Now that Cynthia is on the Draft Board, she serves as an individual and not as a representative of League; however, as we see her act in a perceptive and judicious way, we can feel that we have affected the life of the community for the better.

A second mountain peak and a somewhat similar appointment was that of Jane LaPin as a stockholder in the Appleton Industrial Development Corporation. Jane also serves as an individual, but her tenure in ~~the~~ position is contingent on her being a member of the Appleton League and a resident of the community. The individuals who are affected by the decisions in which she participates may not be so aware of her influence, but those of us who keep track of the community's economic health will be aware of Jane's contribution.

Another mountain peak was the change in the implementation of the nonpartisanship policy which we were able to make because of a ruling on procedures by the National Board. It is now possible for Board members to work on behalf of candidates and parties so long as they make it clear when they are speaking for League and when they are speaking for themselves. It means educating the public to the fact that even Board members have some life and thoughts that do not belong to the League. I hope it is going to work. Already I have seen our Board as more stable and its members as happier in this election year -- free from some of the doubts and frustrations with which we used to contend, managing their League portfolios with one hand and participating in election campaigns with the other.

A kind of foothill was the incorporation of the League of Women Voters of Appleton. Incorporating our local League is an idea that has been kicked around for quite a while. As far as the day-to-day operation of the League, it hasn't made a great deal of difference; as far as the peace of mind and confidence of me (or any other gutless president), it makes a world of difference. The incorporation does not relieve the president or any other individual from responsibility for her own statements, but it does relieve the president from the responsibility for statements made by other members in the name of the League.

At this point, I would like to direct your attention to a Mount Everest, the copy of the new "This Is Appleton," which you found at your place tonight; and I would like to direct your appreciation to Ann Crowley and her committee

who produced it. I believe that each edition of our city booklet has been bigger and better than its predecessor, but the fourth edition is the "Great Leap Forward." We are really known to the community at large by our Voters Service activities and by our publications, so it is important that this booklet continues to improve. As the chairman of two League booklets, I know about the blood, sweat, and tears -- the sleepless nights and the days of planning, worry, and work through which a booklet chairman suffers. Being a booklet chairman is a lot harder than being president. Ann, I am so proud of you and your book that I could almost burst.

INSERT Now, having sung praises and patted heads, where are my niggling complaints? First, I think that participation has been good but not great. However, I would not be like the preacher who lectures his congregation on Sunday about those who are not in church. Obviously, those of you who are here are the members who do attend and who do participate. Perhaps those of us who are active could take a hand in bringing along those who are less active.

Second, I think that, as a League, we have given insufficient attention to implementing our human resources position -- especially in the light of the National's having given "welfare reform" the number one priority. Responsibility for this "insufficient attention" begins with me and goes all the way down. In the coming year, I hope that we will have an increased emphasis in this area.

Third, I think that the experiment of having permanent observers at the city council, county board, and school board has worked so magnificently that almost no other League members have attended these local legislative meetings. The reports that have come back to the Action Vice-President have been informed and accurate and have served to focus our action locally. However, as we would not have the community think I am the League, we would not have the city council think Barb Hussin is the League, the county board think Jan Minardi is the League, or the school board think Ann Dostal is the League. Because having permanent observers has worked so well, I would not abandon the program; but because I feel that it is important that many League members be visible to local

Before I leave the subject of the booklet, I want to introduce to you one of the key people in its production -- Mrs. Fred Meissner. Peggy is not a League member nor is she a resident of Appleton, but her speciality seems to be providing beauty for Appleton. Not only is she the mother of the current Miss Appleton, but she also did all of the artwork and the lay-out design on our beautiful new THIS IS APPLETON. Peggy, for all of us, I say "Thank you."

lawmakers and because I feel that it is **valuable** for League members to see government in action, I hope that we can combine this year's system with having other members accompany the permanent observers to a meeting or two.

Finally, I would like to close my report with some words of appreciation. I thank the members of the Board of Directors for a job well done. This year's Board is as fine a group of women as can be found anywhere. They are intelligent, energetic, hardworking, congenial -- and as stubborn as mules. I love them all -- individually and collectively. And really finally, to Barbara Hoffman and Marlys Fritzell, I have no words that can adequately thank them for their service to the League or their assistance to me personally. If I have managed to give you any leadership, it is because I have had daily (and even hourly) the advice, sympathy, encouragement, and just plain hard work of Marlys and Barbara.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT ** 1973

The President's Report to the Annual Meeting should be a summary of the year that is ending. It should include an account of the strengths and weaknesses of the Appleton League of Women Voters in the past year and some suggestions for improvements. It is the president's opportunity to "have her say" to the membership.

Well, all that sounds pretty easy -- pretty cut and dried -- but the fact of the matter is that we have a time consideration. If I stood up here and recited what we have done in the past year, we would be in this room a good bit longer than would be acceptable to the County Bank. In an effort to shorten my talking time, I have again this year, as I did last year, included in your Annual Meeting kit a list of our accomplishments in the areas of Program, Action, and Community Service. It is really a remarkable list. All set down in black and white, it amazes me -- but then the League of Women Voters often amazes me.

At the end of the list, I have added two new categories: "Governmental Bodies on which Members of the League of Women Voters of Appleton Have Served in '72-'73" and "Non-Governmental Community Groups which include League Representatives." I added these categories to show the areas of power and influence where the League is present either as an organization or as individual women, who are League members, in addition to other titles they may hold. I think this impressive list says a great deal about the position of our organization in the community, about the kind of women we develop, and about the possibilities that are open to us. I hope you hear it coming through loud and clear. The League of Women Voters is a very powerful group in this community -- and with power comes responsibility. When you know that someone is listening and is likely to act on what you say, it is necessary to be sure that you really want what you are asking for. Heaven knows, I do not recommend timidity; neither do I suggest caution. I would simply point out that we must not under-rate our ability

to move mountains or the problems of replacing a mountain moved by mistake.

If you were tuned in, if you read the newspaper and the League Bulletin, it is more than likely that you were aware of the items on the list in your kit and the women working on those items. Tonight I want to talk about the "Hidden Heroines," the women who keep the League wheels turning but who receive little fuss or fanfare for their efforts. Mainly, I am speaking of the women who fill the organizational portfolios on the Board of Directors and the women who work with them. Which portfolios are they? Units, public relations, membership, bulletin, publications, and finance. Their chores are continuous and, in general, their best results constitute a smoothly running League rather than the high drama that may come from Action. Just have one or two of them fall down on the job and all the brilliant studies that the program people produce will come to very little.

Let's look at these jobs one by one. Units -- so what's to units? You set up some units. Try telling that to Anna Faye and her unit chairmen after the hours that they spent on the telephone last summer to get everyone settled and happy...or trying to cope with the discussion problems that occur in a unit made up entirely of very recent members and women who rode a dinosaur to their first meeting...or how to deal with a unit that insists on expanding and contracting like an accordion. To say nothing of more routine matters like getting hostesses and discussion leaders. Anna Faye also has a telephone committee, but we have tried to be sparing in our use of it.

PR -- this year we have been all over the newspaper and the airwaves. How does it happen? Well, Marge keeps up a steady barrage of press releases that say "Look what the League is doing that is newsworthy." She is alert for public relations possibilities, and she gets the word to the media. And I know Marge won't mind sharing her bit of limelight with the Women's Department at the Post-Crescent. Alice Huck, Carol Hanson, and Sandra

Shackelford are among our very best friends. They receive our material, pass our news stories along to the city desk, and run our Women's Page stories themselves. They shower us with publicity and, when we try to say "Thank you," they get very "I cover the waterfront"-ish and deny that they deserve any gratitude. Nevertheless, we are very grateful indeed.

Membership -- Bonnie's job is mainly one of inviting, explaining, and making new and prospective members feel at home in League. Every now and again she has a coffee, but mostly it's a one-to-one contact on the telephone. I wonder if the earpiece on Bonnie's phone ever cools off. Why this big effort to attract new members? Three reasons: First, in the natural course of things some members leave the League. They die; they move away; they decide to spend their time and energy in some other area. Second, more members means more womanpower means more study, activity, and action. Third, League is much too good a thing not to be shared with every woman who is at all willing to give it a try. Just incidently, Bonnie is the person responsible for recruiting volunteers for projects that require large numbers of women.

Bulletin -- the editor of the League Bulletin has the same pains as the editor of the New York Times -- and a good bit less ^{staff} ~~help~~. Collecting material, setting the right tone, being sure her writers are literate, meeting deadlines, coping with printers, distribution. Marcia and the Bulletin are the communication line between the Board and the membership. Her feat with the March Bulletin was truly heroic -- having it ready to go, then holding it for the Police Protection consensus so that we could be strictly legal tonight, and then zapping it into the mail to reach you on schedule.

Publications -- Kathy has the job of ordering and distributing League publications. How many of what does the study chairman want and by when? How to get it to you at the least cost? And then there is that lovely publications table that crops up like a mushroom at our public meetings.

And the booth we had in Prange's doorway before the fall primary -- Kathy organized that.

Finance -- you've been involved for three weeks. Joan has, to my knowledge, been at it since October when she sent national Voters Service material to all the contributors. Then there was the drive to organize. What do you need for a finance drive? An advance letter, a troop of captains and a battalion of solicitors, a cheer leader-trainer and a hostess for the coffee, thank-you note writers, some League material (home-produced or purchased) to hand out, kits,...and the record keeping, and the record keeping, and the record keeping. It really takes a field general to run a League finance drive. Of course, Joan had a lot of help -- but so did Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon.

I suspect you know what a treasurer and a secretary do. Ann and Pattee have done it awfully well. I've been especially thankful for Ann. I think I could do Pattee's work if I had to; I could not do Ann's.

And a couple of other "hidden heroines" -- one is Elinore Burdett who, as distribution chairman for THIS IS APPLETON, continues quietly and diligently to sell our city booklet. Her work reaps two benefits for the League: it gets our beautiful publication out into the community, and it recovers our investment so that we will have money for future publications.

The other is Jane LaPin. Jane~~s~~ serves as our Reading Committee, a job so hidden that you may not have known of its existence. Because it is so important that all locally published study material have the proper League tone -- clearly written and completely impartial -- Jane has the job of reading and approving our local material before publication. Her qualifications are unbeatable: she is a former English teacher who writes easily and well, and, prior to coming to Appleton, she served as president of, not one, but two local Leagues and as a member of the state Board of the Kentucky League. Jane handles the study material; the Bulletin editor does the same job on Bulletin material; and big publications, such as THIS

IS APPLETON, get their own reading committees -- mostly because of the size of the job. State and National publications have been through reading committees before they ever get to us.

So, now we come to where were we weak? and where can we improve? We weren't weak anywhere, but we learned some things from projects that were less than successful. For instance, for quite a few years we have thought that Kaukauna was a fertile place to plant a unit. A lot of effort and a small amount of money went into the Kaukauna unit, but nothing sprouted. We found quite a few women with an initial interest but too few with the staying quality necessary to keep a unit going. So, we learned that we were wrong about a unit in Kaukauna -- at least for now.

I think we learned that we need a new format for Voters Service meetings. Stevie did everything right by the old tried-and-true formula, but the public just did not turn out. The candidates came; the public did not. The meeting on the local referenda, where we did try something new, was more successful. I think we have simply used up the old format, and it is now time for some kind of Voters Service innovation.

I think the one All-Member Time-for-Action drew a disappointing response from the membership. We are at our strongest when we act as individuals, but together as individuals. In other words, we are our own best weapon -- and Action is too important a part of League to be left solely to the First Vice-President, the President, and the Board. ----- Perhaps you are out of the habit; perhaps we haven't asked you to act often enough.

Finally, I think our greatest possible weakness may be over-confidence. We're good -- and we know we're good. But the better we get, the more effort is required to maintain that level of excellence. We cannot support today's reputation with yesterday's performance.

To bring this ramble to a close, I want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to Dolly and Sue. They have put up with my nonsense with unfailing good

humor. They have conferred with and advised me on the telephone from before breakfast in the morning until near midnight. They have worked like dogs, and their standards are so high as to be unattainable -- and yet they have managed time-after-time to attain them. I couldn't have got along without either one of them.

And, really finally, I thank you for the privilege that you have given me. Next to teaching my children to read (which really was the great experience of my life), I think I have enjoyed being president of the Appleton League more than anything I have ever done. The office simply cannot be beat for sheer hard work that pays off with immeasurable rewards. There are no words to express the pleasure I have gotten from leading such a splendid group of women.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1975

For those of you who attended last year's Annual Meeting - I have a sad announcement to make. You're not going to be so lucky this year - I don't have a terrible cold, so I do plan to do some talking in my "Report." Oh, it won't be too long, but as you know it's that time of year when we do some bragging. If there is one thing I dislike about political dinners it is the unending back-patting which runs through every speech. But now I find it necessary to do some of the same. At least I don't have any "loyal opposition" to downgrade.

As everyone knows, it takes more than one person to keep an organization such as ours afloat. Just as an engine is only as good as its transmission, a League is only as good as the support and cooperation given by its members. One person cannot and should not be expected to do the job alone. If such was the case there would be no need for a League of Women Voters. The executive's task of delegating jobs and pulling things together is impossible without many people willing to do those jobs. Whatever success we have had has come about because we have pulled together. ^{Let me introduce} Those people who this year have given their time for that purpose - your Board of Directors for 1974-75:

Heading that list are the officers:

Cynthia Johnson, First Vice President
Marcia Hittle, Second Vice President
Jean Radford, Secretary and Publications
Barbara Hussin, Treasurer

The organizations portfolios:

Jeanie Trigg, Membership
Phyllis Dintenfass, Units
Marge Koepke, Public Relations
Maxine O'Toole, Bulletin
Lila Cornell, Finance
Linda Hartz, Voters Service

The Studies this year:

Ann Marden, Library
Donna Weis, County Government
Cathy Boardman, County Government Action
Sharon Wood, Administration of Justice (Berta Churchill, Nusi Ward)
Sue Kinde, Land Use
Ann Crowley, Representative Government, Voting Rights.

Other portfolios:

Jo LaMarca, Human Resources
Judy Winzenz, Environmental Quality
Ruth Seager, International Relations

State Board Members:

Dolly Butler
Barbara Tank

Thanks, to each one of them!

So what have these women done? Included in this kit is the list of League activities for the year which we prepared for the Finance Drive. It tells (unfortunately in a very cut and dry way) what we have been doing all year. It makes no sense for me to repeat it tonight - you have been involved in most of the activities, AND you have read about

them in your Bulletin and in the newspaper.

I do believe it has been a successful year. The three factors I judge its success on are : 1.) the high level of involvement of individual members. You have turned out in great numbers for unit meetings, general meetings, and have jumped into committee work in a wide variety of ways. This is vital to the continued strength of our organization. 2.) The excellent coverage of our activities in the press. This doesn't come just because we have several good friends of the League down there. It is rather a result of doing exciting things which newspeople perceive as being interesting to their readers. Not only are our activities being covered, but also what we are saying in public is being reported. We are saying things which merit attention! And 3.) The final factor I've used for measuring our success is the long list of governmental and advisory bodies on which League members serve. This list is a strong testimony for the caliber of person belonging to the League of Women Voters. We might have to admit that a few of these people were elected or appointed in spite of their League membership, but I know for a fact that most of them achieved these positions because they were League members. A citizen organization such as the League can do a great deal, but let's not kid ourselves, to make a substantial impact we must get to the decision makers and the best way to do that is to be a decision maker.

So, if I think we have been so successful, what challenges can I throw out to us for next year.

First, the challenge of membership. Yesterday I received a memo from the National League stating that membership in the league was down by 6000 (140,000) from last year. Our local membership continues to inch upward. We must be doing something right. Whatever that is let's not lose track of it - it needs constant attention.

Second, the challenge of the Observer Program. The past two years have seen more League members at County Board meetings than ever before. Coverage of committee meetings has been great despite the difficulty of knowing meeting times and places. We must maintain that interest. And our observer program for city government has got to be improved. Let's face it, most city council meetings are dull, boring affairs. The fact of the matter is we could probably better spend our time observing committee meetings. That is where the discussion takes place and the decisions are made. The difficulty here is that most committees meet at 4 p.m. Not the best time for any of us whether we work outside the home or have children. I don't have any answers, but we must start making inroads.

And finally, the challenge of discovering the potential of our present support positions. Ladies and gentlemen we are sitting on a treasure chest of possibilities for action which we seldom touch. Yes, some positions are best kept hidden away in a far corner, but others deserve to be aired. We started this year with day care, housing, and hot lunch programs. Let us continue what we have started.

And now it is time to bring this rambling of mine to a close. For me, the past two years have been an exhilarating experience. When I accepted the job two years ago I knew that I lacked the knowledge necessary (but it was available from many other sources) and I lacked the experience (but that ~~can only~~ ^{could} be gained by jumping in). The opportunity was there, I accepted it, and I've gained immeasurably from it. I thank each one of you for that opportunity.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON
PROGRAM, ACTION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN 1974-1975

PROGRAM

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Administration of Justice - Panel of speakers (County judge and two Parole and Probation officers) discussing "Guilty - Where do we go from here?"

Guest speaker, Marge Engelman. Topic: Women - This Country's Greatest Wasted Resource.

Guest speaker, Chong-Do Hah. Topic: Role of the Presidency.

Guest speakers, Robert Stadel, Robert Miller, and Kenneth Hartz. Topic: The Solid Waste Shredder in Outagamie County.

Mini-meeting - The role of the citizen in the budget-making procedure for city, county, and schools.

United Nations' Day Luncheon.

Brown bag luncheon. Speaker, Peter LaMere. Topic: Public Health Programs in the city and the county.

Library Open House - tour and panel discussion.

County Government Structure - Eugene Higgins, County Board Chairman, speaker.

Land Use Party. Panel of speakers discussing Appleton's future.

State and Local Lively Issues Meeting.

Human Resources - Panel of experts speaking on "Why Day Care?"

UNIT MEETINGS:

International Relations - 1 unit.

Administration of Justice - (consensus) - 2 sets of Units.

Wisconsin's Correctional System.

Land Use - (consensus) - 2 sets of Units.

County Government - (consensus) - 2 sets of Units.

Public Library - (consensus) - 2 sets of Units.

Units planned for the remainder of the year:

Local Administration of Justice - 1 set of Units.

Representative Government (the Executive Branch) - 2 sets of Units.

ACTIVITY:

Trade Survey completed and distributed to the community.

Tour of the Fox Lake and Waupun Correctional facilities.

Delegate sent to the National Convention in San Francisco.

Two delegates and 5 visitors attended the State Council in Ripon.

Letters sent to elected officials describing League publications.

Precinct Reporting for UPI and ABC.

0. sponsored a dinner for kick-off of International Women's Year.
Speaker, Ruth Clusen, president of League of Women Voters of the U.S.
Investigation of possible hot lunch program for Appleton schools.
Planned for spring - Legislative Day Bus Trip to Madison.

Attendance at State League Workshops:

1. Media Workshop - 2 members.
2. Program Workshop (Land Use, United Nations, Revenue Sharing, Corrections) - 10 members.
3. Membership & Action Workshop - 5 members.

Two members on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. Another member on the State Budget committee and another on the Nominating committee.

ACTION

LOCAL:

Permanent observers at the City Council, County Board, and School Board meetings.

Periodic attendance at committee meetings of governmental bodies.

Attendance at hearing on the Family Court.

Letter to County Board urging administrator to be hired for Guidance Clinic.

Statements:

to the County Board urging the creation of a countywide Health Dept.

to the County Board urging the creation of a countywide Assessor system.

to the County Board concerning the 1975 budget.

to the City Council concerning the 1975 budget.

to the Public Service Commission concerning continued bus service for Kaukauna.

to the Appleton Redevelopment Authority urging the use of Housing and Community Development funds to meet the housing needs of low income groups in the community.

STATE:

Times for Action answered on:
State campaign financing reform.
Equal rights legislation.

Letter to Governor urging adequate funding for 51.42 Boards.

Statement at Criminal Justice hearing on juvenile justice.

Interview with Assemblyman Roth.

NATIONAL:

Campaign Financing Reform petition drive.

Letters to Senators and Congressman regarding:
Campaign financing reform,

Housing and Urban Development Act.

Congressional reform.

Trade Legislation.

Interview with Congressman Cornell

COMMUNITY SERVICE

VOTERS SERVICE:

Candidates meeting featuring candidates for Eighth Congressional District, State Assemblyman, County Clerk, and District Attorney.

Candidate questionnaire.

Participation in candidate interview on Channel 38.

Distribution of flyer "Voting in Wisconsin"

Planned for Spring Election: Candidates Meeting and Questionnaire.

OTHER:

Participation in Lawrence University New-Student Week program.

Radio message explaining tax bills.

Observation of voting procedures at the polls.

LIST OF GOVERNMENTAL OR ADVISORY BODIES ON WHICH LEAGUE MEMBERS SERVE:

Appleton Common Council

City Plan Commission

Parks and Recreation Commission

Appleton Library Board

Federated Library Board for Outagamie County

Appleton Board of Health

Appleton Transit Commission

51.42 Unified Health Board

Manpower Planning Council

Board of Social Services

County Commission on Aging

Board of Directors of the Outagamie Public Defender System

Selective Service Board

Citizen Advisory Committee on the Airport Master Plan

Special Revenue Sharing Committee

Special Waste Water Study Committee

Open Space Technical Advisory Committee

Youth Service Bureau

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LWV-Appleton Annual Meeting, April, 1992

I would like to thank you all for coming this evening. It is wonderful to feel the strength of this organization when we all come together like this once a year. Appleton League of Women Voters has had a good year. I can't remember a year when we have been active on so many of our positions--from reducing the size of the county board--to opposing a parental consent bill, from annexation and recycling--to supporting a strong downtown Appleton.

None of this would have been possible without the work of all of us in the organization. Years of well researched study of the issues contributed to our ability to raise our voices in well informed support or opposition. We think the community is a better place to live because of our involvement. Our high profile in the community is one of our strongest membership tools. Local action is a key factor in attracting and keeping members. Our name is visible, our positions are clear, and our politics affect local policy.

The other element in keeping our enthusiasm high is the selection of an active, willing board of directors. Their commitment to League's agenda is infectious. It contributes to the willingness of the rest of us to give our time and talents when asked. I can't overstate the need for new members enough, however. New members provide us direction, scope, and inovative leadership. We will go the way of the ailing League without new members.

I bring up action and membership now, at our annual meeting, because League is changing. Our national leaders are concerned about the direction we are headed. League's traditional emphasis on voter's service, research and study, and advocacy are in jeopardy. The national and state Leagues are asking tough questions. Can League continue to do all these things? or do we have to make choices? The problems are not just affecting small Leagues. The problems are affecting all of us. Volunteerism isn't what it once was. We are being forced to pay for services we once could find a member to do.

If League is to continue its programs to encourage participative democracy, where does League's job end? Should we begin to pay lobbyists to carry our message to our legislators? Do we form alliances with professional research services to do our studies for us? National will again be asking for an increase in dues. I imagine that state League will follow suit. How do you feel about the level of services you get from the state and national League? *What would you change?*

I can't imagine a local League without a national or a state branch. ^{H32}What good is a position without the study and consensus used to derive the position? Where would we go with a position if there was no advocacy? It is the collective voice of League that carries impact! Well, you know the dilemma. This League is fortunate to have many members who are willing to lend their time and talents to causes they believe in. All Leagues aren't so fortunate.

You will be sending delegates this spring to the State Council and the National Convention. Make sure they represent your views on League's future direction. Make sure we have the kind of League you want to belong to.

Annual Meeting
LWV-Appleton
April 27, 1993

President's Address:

I am just like everyone else. I get a kick out of counting our successes as a measure of our vitality and worth. This League has had its successes as an organization and as a force in the community.

Organizationally we have revitalized our membership. Due to an earlier filing date with National and further pushed by increasing Bulletin printing costs, the board made an effort to clean up the membership lists. As risky as that felt when our membership hit only 80, I feel it was a good move. We are no longer using a bulk rate postage permit. The money saved in printing 200 Bulletins to qualify for a bulk rate has ~~been~~ more than offset the savings in postage. This became a real challenge to membership. Last spring we received a professionally produced membership video and membership brochure from National. We used it at our gatherings. Inclusion of the brochure in our finance drive letters netted 5 new members. Our YTD membership stands at 88. While we can't claim to have broken any records, I think we have gained some terrific new members. Those who embrace League's mission and are genuinely interested in the community.

This was a big year for voters service, as are all presidential election years. Election night reporting has enriched our coffers by \$975.00. League speakers brought information on candidates and election protocol to community groups. Tel Sec answered 115 League calls in one month this fall. We registered voters at various locations throughout the year. Brought the voting process to school age children through Kid's Vote. Sponsored candidate interviews, aldermanic forum, and an issues forum on the future of the Fox River Locks. These programs were chosen not only for the service to voters they provide, but to keep League as a high profile organization. More than 85% of the registered voters went to the polls nationally in November. We can't help but take some of the credit for that response.

There have been plenty of opportunities for action on local issues. The most recent being support for a library expansion. Our library update last year positions us so that we can actively advocate completion of the library's 2nd floor. Total checkouts, number of reference desk questions, and children registered for the summer reading program are all up dramatically (to say the least). The Appleton League ardently worked for the current building 13 years ago. A grassroots community based support is need for completion of the current expansion--League support.

Although education has been a League program it has for many years

The education committee used current League positions to lobby for the building of a 3rd high school and against year round school. ~~Lobbying~~ was difficult due to the specific and ~~limited~~ ~~narrow~~ focus of our education positions. Approval tonight of the education consensus should give better direction to any future League lobbying. The education committee is to be commended for putting together 4 areas of consensus on the purpose of education, evaluation, curriculum, and educational equity.

So now its time to plan our future activities. You have the opportunity tonight to vote on a study item that is timely, requires action, and has the potential to attract new members. As we approach our future plans I think its important to consider that we now have members living in Greenville, G. Chute, L. Chute, Kimberly, and Town of Buchanan. More and more we are attracting members living outside the city limits. How do we want to maintain their interest in the organization and how do we want to adjust our lobbying efforts to address their local concerns?

You might find the final agenda item tonight useful in addressing just such planning issues. The April Bulletin contained a copy of the survey sent out by the LWV-US Crossroads Committee. It is meant to be thought provoking. The board would like you to return the forms to them before passing the responses back to Nat'l. We would also like to do a little brainstorming on what each of you feel are our strong points and weak points. League has ~~not~~ ^{had to} ~~always~~ changed along with the societal changes. League members cannot be all things to all causes--much as we try. But this League

has remained healthy. Through this process we may come to some consensus about what keeps us going so strong. *Plan on doing some*
to determine the

Finally, I would really like to thank the board of directors *the*
 and everyone else who has helped make this such a successful *Board has*
 year. You are amazing and lend truth to the statement that *Completed*
 if you want to get something done you ask a busy person. Because *the*
 you are all very busy people and very willing to tackle one more *leadership*
 project. *action*

Thank you.

There are
loads of great
ideas out there
waiting for
us to
try.

Thank you for a fun 2 yrs as a co-gen president.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Report on the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Appleton.
Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1281

As I look back on the activities of the 1998/1999 year, I am pleased with the accomplishments of this League. We were able to integrate the areas of program, study and action, resulting in voter education (and turnout), public education and League education.

In the area of Voter Service, numerous debates and forums were held. In the Fall election, a full 75% of the registered voters turned out in Appleton. Good Work Sue Streblow. I must also give credit to Cheryl Barnes, who with great efficiency and completeness, notified all radio and print media in advance of all our debates. Her efforts resulted in numerous reporters and broadcasters present at these events, and the opportunity for those not present to hear or read about the debate over the next days.

This League, under the expert direction of Terry Noto, was able to bring to the Fox Valley the single most informative PCB Meeting of the year. Terry assembled a group of panelist who truly represented all sides of the issue. This single event, broadcast live on network television and rebroadcast on Cable television, for many in our area, represented the starting point of the public input into this very complex issue. I am hopeful, that in May, 1999, the information presented at this forum will enable our League to create a consensus position on the topic which can be used in next year's budget statements.

On the study front, this League performed at all levels:

Local Program:

- Performing Arts Center Consensus
- PCB's consensus pending

State Mini-Program:

- Campaign Finance
- Children and Families/ W-2
- Land Use

National Program:

- Making Democracy Work
- Voter Service
- PCB Forum
- Letters to legislators
- Presentations to County Board and City Council
- Presentations to Local Service Clubs

All of this activity was a coordinated effort between our program chair, Karon Sandberg, the action vice president, Sue Eich and the study chairs, Pat Shinabeck, Jane Garton, Terry Noto, Barb Hoffman and the numerous individuals she recruited to make the state study meetings all interesting, productive and successful.

In 1998/1999 numerous new members were recruited, informed and welcomed by Membership chair Pat Shinabeck.

Secretary Ann LeMieux, Treasurer Bev Wieckert, Bulletin Editor Gayle Hardt and Observer Liz Cronmiller every month contributed to the ongoing success of this League. Their successful internal and external communication contributed to the overall effectiveness of all the League activities in the area of voter service, study and education.

Jodie Kacer, Finance Drive Chair, will embark soon on what is in all likelihood the single most important act of service to the League in 1998/1999. She will coordinate the fund raising effort for next year. The successfulness of the drive will determine just how ambitious we can be next year in our work. Please take the time to read Jodie's letter and contribute with the knowledge that all proceeds will result in the continuation of the good work demonstrated this year in our community.

I would be remiss if I did not specifically mention the good work of our study chairs in engaging many ad hoc members to this year's study groups. This support, from community members outside our League, is an excellent indication that as a League, we are involved in topics and issues important in our community. Not only does this non-League participation create opportunities for new membership, it allows a greater understanding of the League of Women Voters.

I'm also in the honored position of not just looking back on the accomplishments, but being able to look forward to the 1999/2000 year with the anticipation of a new board both willing and wanting to accomplish the study, action and service of next year. Personally, I feel far more comfortable embarking on the next two years being able to look back on the accomplishments of the last two years. I seek your guidance and input in the future and thank all those who have taken the time to teach and mentor me over the last two years.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2002 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Appleton.

Although this is my first year as League President, I realize looking back that I have been a member for thirteen years already. It can not be possible that that much time has gone by while I haven't changed in the least! I guess that must make me one of the "old" members now.

I look back at the last year and take heart that we continue to study, observe, and take action. In the area of study our League has participated at all levels.

- Local Study- Fox River development along the downtown Appleton area.

Thank you especially to Sue Sifton for chairing this committee. This has proved a very interesting and timely study with the committee made up of members and non-members alike. As a result of interviews, committee meetings, and unit meetings the committee has made revisions to our local position and is asking for its adoption tonight.

- State Study-Study and evaluate the funding mechanisms to address issues of water quality around the state. To that end we have had discussion with a watershed DNR local expert and have compiled information from various sources to begin evaluating the possibilities. Other Leagues around the state have been involved in this effort also. Special thanks to Deb Cronmiller for taking a co-chair position.

- National Study- Review of the Leagues position on the United Nations. This has been National's most active study this year. Our local league held a discussion meeting to review material presented in the National Voter over the past several months. It was then up to us individually to send in our own consensus form.

After several years of being "off schedule" we have finally managed to get the finance drive back to springtime. Karen DeYoung was excellent at sending out material in the fall in which non-members contributed approximately \$1,100. At present we are just sending out the spring finance drive letter. If you can give a little extra it would be appreciated!

Voter Service was active when possible. Time Warner Cable again allowed us to invite candidates to answer questions for the aldermanic election. Turnout by the candidates was low however, and it remains disappointing not to have had more involvement from all involved. Our Lunch with League has also been a disappointment this year. Deb Cronmiller has done an excellent job of finding interesting and knowledgeable speakers, however our membership turned out in too few numbers to make this a continuing event.

Observer Corps has quietly and efficiently done its job this year too. Marlys Fritzell has covered many meetings and reported back to the Board on issues of concern, particularly meetings which involve the riverfront or planning issues. Thank you for the job well done.

Program-Sue Eich and Membership-Gretchen Barnbrick have joined together and hosted a membership tea and a very successful Holiday Brunch tying in the Fox River Study with John Forrester as the guest speaker. It was one of the largest turnouts in several years. Membership has been trying valiantly to get member biographies into a format which members might be able to access on our website.

Secretary Deb Dillenberg, Treasurer Bev Wieckert, and Bulletin Editor Connine Kanitz have done remarkable jobs keeping the organization running. The Bulletin remains a beautiful and informative piece of work and I appreciate the effort it takes to do these jobs every month.

This spring has shown me that while we may not always be as active as we would like, we are a well-respected name in the community. Valley Packaging has contacted us in hopes of pursuing an ongoing citizenship event. The American Muslim Association would like to do a candidate forum in the fall which we would co-sponsor, and just recently, Shewano County Extension asked about the League helping with a leadership class. I feel honored and excited that the League as an organization is so well regarded. It is an indication that as a League we are involved in issues important to our community.

All of these activities happen because of the volunteer efforts of all our members. I look forward to the new Board and will look to their guidance in my second year as President. Next year's schedule is already looking exciting and varied, with new opportunities for our League. Please stay involved and ask a friend to join. We need each and every one of you.

Water Quality State Study:

The state water quality study committee has spent the first year of this two year study collecting information from each basin in Wisconsin to help us better understand the nature and extent of current opportunities and threats to our water system. There are twenty basins around the state and many local leagues have participated in this educational process. (Appleton, for instance, has a Lunch with League with a local DNR representative and will submit reports and the Wolf and Lower Fox Basins.)

At Council, a meeting to present the results our work will be held. Then, a plan of action for next year will be established. Given the content in these basin reports, we will be able to better assess whether quality of water is an issue and if a dedicated source of funding is necessary to preserve and protect this resource. In all likelihood, we will tackle such questions as: For what purpose would the funds be used?, Who would administer the funds?, What criteria would be used to prioritize requests/needs for funds?, What issues are of the greatest concern statewide?

Voter Service:

The State League of Women Voters has organized numerous debates in advance of the November election. Candidates for Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor and Governor will have opportunities to face off before the September primary and the November general election in debates either sponsored or co-sponsored by the State League.

Locally, the Appleton League with our partner Time Warner Cable, sponsored forums for all the contested races for Appleton Common Council and Outagamie County Board during the recent spring election. Over 20 candidates participated! Additionally, with the recent redistricting, more calls than ever were received by our phone line and voters were directed accordingly to their proper polling places.

Also at the local level, we are working to encourage the local school districts to participate this year in KIDS VOTE. The materials are available to local school districts at no cost due to the generosity of numerous underwriters. This year, Elizabeth Burmaster is the honorary chairperson for the event. Creating awareness of the democratic process at all levels in our community is fundamental to better overall participation.

Finally, the Appleton League is working in concert with the American Muslim Association to sponsor an early-fall civics program open to the whole community. Elected officials and national members will address the how-to's of civic participation and being part of government at all levels. Invited guests include the Governor, Mayor, Federal Congressional representatives and numerous local representatives.

Local Study - Riverfront Development

The 2001-2002 Riverfront Development Committee convened in early September to map out our plans for the year. We had a very strong committee consisting of up to 14 members at the beginning. By the end of the year the committee consisted of the following: Bonnie Buchanan, Alan Button, Sharon Fenlon, Judy Hanson, Carolyn Mewhorter, Holly Park, Stevie Schmidt, Sue Sifton, Susan Toussaint, and Len Weis. Sue Kinde as our consultant assisted us.

Committee members read a myriad of study materials, attended many meetings at City Hall, and interviewed many of the key players currently involved in various capacities concerning the Riverfront and its development. They interviewed politicians, government employees, heads of professional agencies, historians and volunteers.

Four river walks were attempted and one was completed. Two Unit Meetings, one in February and one in March, facilitated by Pat McConnell were lively and focused. We ended the year with an updated position statement that reflects consensus reached after much hard work.

OBSERVER CORPS ANNUAL REPORT

This year the Observer Corps focused on gathering information relevant to the local study on Riverfront Development. To this end, members attended meetings of the Appleton Redevelopment Authority, the Appleton Plan Commission, and the Community Development Committee and reported back on these issues to the study committee and the League Board. In addition League members, on occasion, observed the Appleton City Council, the School Board, and the County Board. Several articles on meeting dates, voting districts, and League statements appeared in the League Bulletin.

-Submitted by Marlys Fritzell-

April, 2002

Finance Drive Report 2000-01

Total Contributions through 7-101 \$1,900

\$860 from members

\$1040 from non-members

Request letters were sent to 61 individual & household members
102 non-members

Contributions received from 17 members and 14 non-members

2002 Finance Drive:

April 30, 2002 Request Letters mailed out to all members.

Request Letters mailed to non-members by May 1-2, 2002

2nd Mailing to non-members planned for May 20, 2002

LWV Membership Annual Report

The membership committee consisted of Gretchen Bambrick, Chair, Marcia Hittle, Pat McConnell, and Jan Quinlan.

Fall Tea

We hosted a membership tea at Lawrence University in October where approximately 10 prospective members attended. Our members provided elegant snacks and refreshments and acted as informative hosts.

Membership BIO

A membership Biography was mailed to all existing members in December in an attempt to update our membership files. The Board made follow-up calls to encourage our members to complete the survey. Carmen Schipper then created a database to store the information so when we are looking for volunteers to serve in specific capacities, we can more easily identify prospects. The database has already proven helpful this year. We currently have 17 member profiles in the database. This represents approximately 30% of the membership and will work to achieve 100%.

Holiday Brunch

We had very high attendance at our Annual Holiday Brunch. We had 39 guests, including seven men. Sue Siltan arranged our speaker, John Forster, President, of the Friends of the Fox. He spoke about the future development of our riverfront.

Mentoring of Membership Prospects.

Each committee member was responsible for five or six prospective members to call and invite to League units and events throughout the year.

Final Membership Numbers.

2000-01	2001-02	
Local members	59	53
Household members	6	8
National members	4	2
TOTAL	69	63

In conclusion, while we saw a net loss in membership, we picked up five new members and we think we observed higher levels of participation in unit meetings (particularly the river units) and at the Holiday Brunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Bambrick
Membership Chair

APPLETON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2002-2003

	ACTUAL 00-01	PROPOSED 01-02	ACTUAL TO 2/28/02	PROPOSED 02-03
INCOME				
A. Dues	2,183.00	2,400.00	2,280.00	*2,160.00
B. Contributions				
1. Member	1,966.00	1,477.50	679.00	1,560.00
2. Member Ed. Fund	75.00	400.00	1,000.00	227.00
3. Non-Member	740.00	1,700.00	330.00	800.00
4. Non-Member Ed. Fund	750.00	1,000.00	500.00	850.00
C. Other				
1. Community Service				
a. Election Night Reporting	670.00	200.00		200.00
b. Speaker's Bureau				
2. Memorials				
3. Interest Earned	759.00	675.00	385.00	500.00
D. Miscellaneous				
1. Fall Event-Octoberfest	286.00	300.00	342.00	300.00
2. Holiday Brunch	463.00	500.00	575.00	500.00
3. Decision Makers Lunch	234.00	400.00		300.00
4. Annual Meeting Dinner	310.00	500.00		500.00
5. Transfer from LWV Ed. Fund		1,000.00		1,000.00
6. LWVUS	15.00			
7. PCB Meeting	90.00			
TOTAL INCOME	8,541.00	10,552.50	6,091.00	8,897.00

* Based on \$40.00 basic, \$56.00 sustaining and \$60.00 Family (current dues)

	ACTUAL 00-01	PROPOSED 01-02	ACTUAL TO 2/28/02	PROPOSED 02-03
EXPENDITURES				
A. Operating Costs				
1. General Supplies	317.00	200.00	270.00	200.00
2. Telephone	270.00	250.00	163.00	250.00
3. P.O. Box Fee	64.00	64.00	80.00	80.00
4. Phone Answering Service				
5. Audit				
6. Insurance	302.00	310.00	302.00	302.00
B. Board & Administrative Committees				
1. President	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
2. Secretary		50.00		50.00
3. Treasurer	33.00	50.00	20.00	50.00
4. Board Tools	150.00	100.00		100.00
5. Admin. Committees				
a. Finance	507.00	275.00		275.00
b. Membership	234.00	75.00	36.00	150.00
c. Public Relations		46.00		50.00
d. Membership Grant		80.00	40.00	80.00

APPLETON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2002-2003

	ACTUAL 00-01	PROPOSED 01-02	ACTUAL TO 2/28/02	PROPOSED 02-03
C. Delegates, Travel & Workshops				
1. State Council		350.00		
2. State Convention	204.00			500.00
3. National Convention		1,500.00		
4. Annual Meeting	69.00	120.00		120.00
5. Workshops	266.00	100.00	140.00	100.00
D. Financial Support for League				
1. Lake Michigan interleague	25.00	25.00		25.00
2. State PMA	1,572.00	1,452.00	1,107.00	*1,296.00
3. Nat'l PMP (75%)	1,032.00	952.50	646.00	*850.50
4. LWV Ed Fund (25%)	344.00	318.00	323.00	*283.50
E. Bulletin				
1. Supplies	206.00	300.00	21.00	25.00
2. Postage	277.00	325.00	204.00	325.00
3. Printing		25.00	147.00	300.00
F. Educational Activity				
1. Member Directory	83.00	100.00	114.00	100.00
2. Program				
a. National		50.00	25.00	50.00
b. State		50.00	25.00	50.00
c. Local	230.00	75.00	50.00	75.00
3. Voters Service	1,173.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
4. Promotional Public Event				
5. Website	1,494.00	300.00		300.00
G. Position Support				
1. Action		100.00	50.00	100.00
H. Miscellaneous				
1. Corporation Filing Fee	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
2. Fall Event-Octoberfest	250.00	300.00	199.00	300.00
3. Holiday Brunch	431.00	500.00	529.00	500.00
4. Annual Meeting Dinner	355.00	500.00		500.00
5. Decision Makers Lunch	299.00	400.00		300.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,397.00	10,552.50	4,701.00	8,897.00

***Based on 12/31/01 membership of 52 regular and 4 family memberships
National dues of \$21.00 and state dues of \$24.00.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:
Pat Schinabeck - Chairman
Beth English
Debra Dillenberg
Holly Park
Beverly Wieckert

APPLETON LWV – LOCAL SUPPORT POSITIONS: 2002 revision

NATURAL RESOURCES

V. FOX RIVER CORRIDOR (1992, 2002)

A. Environmental Goals.

1. Water Quality.
 - a. Continue improvement of water quality.
 - b. [Ensure that the] U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remain[s] in charge of water [level] regulation through maintenance and operation of the dam system.
2. Natural Areas Protection.
 - a. Protect unique places like Thousand Islands Conservancy Area.
~~and regulate harmful boating activities.~~
 - b. Promote wetland and shore land restoration.
 - c. Encourage native vegetation and wildlife; discourage harmful non-native vegetation and wildlife.
3. Riverbank Protection.
 - a. ~~Strive to persuade the~~ City of Appleton ~~should to~~ adopt a shore land-zoning ordinance.
 - b. Prevent soil erosion.
 - c. Protect scenic qualities. ~~by restricted tree cutting.~~
 - d. [Regulate harmful boating activities].
 - e. [Use natural landscaping principles to guide selection of trees to be cut].
4. Public Access
 - a. ~~Encourage~~ [Expand] hiking and biking trails near the river.
 - b. Provide public boat access, while protecting important natural areas.
 - c. Promote city parks along the river.
 - d. [Promote alternatives to automobile traffic along the riverfront area].

B. Economic Goals.

1. The Lower Fox River remains a working river, and requires water level management by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist its multiple uses.
2. Restore the navigation system; with the repair and ongoing maintenance of the historic locks, since a through navigation system could not be recreated if it were lost.
3. [Provide soil testing analyses to enable appropriate economic development].
4. 3. Encourage private and public development in the river corridor.
 - a. Promote historic buildings, museums, the locks, and excursion boats.
 - b. Avoid a "Dells" effect.
 - c. Discourage gambling.
5. 4. Coordinate emergency rescue preparedness.
6. [Plan safe and cost effective public access].

C. Historic Goals.

1. Promote the Fox-Wisconsin National Heritage [River] Corridor.
2. Repair and continue operation of the historic locks navigation system.
3. Support a ~~Landmarks Commission in the City of Appleton~~ historic preservation along the Fox River Corridor.
4. Preserve the visual fabric of the river through adaptive reuse of historic structures.

D. [Implementation Goals].

1. [Establish a Waterfront Advisory Committee in order to ensure continuous citizen input].
2. [Encourage establishment of a master plan with specified goals to be implemented by the City Planning Department with input from the City Plan Commission and the Waterfront Advisory Committee].
3. [Create a comprehensive zoning district which allows for a variety of uses as well as continuity among building design and site layout].
4. [Encourage a cooperative regional effort].
5. [Require public access to the water as part of new developments].
6. [Encourage coordination among public/private funding sources].



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

P.O. Box 1281
Appleton, Wisconsin 54912-1281

2004

May 6, 2004

Welcome to the 2003/2004 League of Women Voters of Appleton's Annual Meeting.

As always, it is with great pleasure we celebrate the successes of this past year. In August of 2003, the Board met to begin the process of planning for the year. We set an agenda that we felt could be managed by the board and by the members of the League.

The business of League was the first priority. The state study for this year was on Civil Liberties. Locally, we had our kick off of this study at the Holiday Brunch where Terry Dawson and John Peterson shared their insights into the impact of the Patriot Act, the potential impact of another similar piece of legislation, and what communities around the state and nation are doing in response to these new threats to individual liberties. League study and consensus ensued.

Locally, the study of regionalizing services was conducted in true League fashion. Unit meetings were followed by a general meeting that was attended by committee members, community members and even our elected Mayor. Tonight we will have the opportunity to adopt the recommended position.

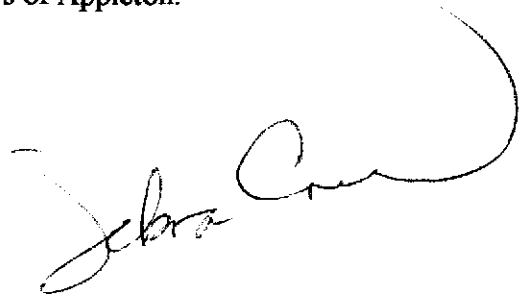
In addition to study, this year the League undertook the task of reviewing our positions and bylaws. Throughout the year, a diligent workgroup continued the ambitious archiving project begun last year. The dedicated members of the League that are working on this project are helping to preserve our history and will, no doubt, help us to celebrate our many community successes.

The League sponsored a number of programs this year including the Holiday Brunch and this Annual Meeting. As always, we were involved in voter service activities including candidate debates and forums. As a result of these works, the League was instrumental factor in moving the city assessor from an elected position to an appointed one. For 35 years, the League has advocated this position, and now it is a reality. Promoting this League position through the media – print, audio and visual, contributed in large part. Being asked to provide 'expert' opinions both in the Post Crescent and on WHBY are just examples of the respect that the community has for the League's ability to understand issues and advocate for our positions.

We continued our work of observing government meetings at both the City and County level. We worked to increase our membership by 10% as the State League had recommended and we, of course, answered many calls to action on both statewide legislative issues as well as a few federal issues.

But one goal really stood out for me this year. We set out to build new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships in an effort to promote League. Collaborative meetings were held between natural partners like NOW and AAUW. One of the first results of being purposeful in reaching out to other advocacy organizations will be the Voter Service Event held this summer in concert with AAUW. Leaders of minority organization from around the state will converge on Appleton to learn more about issues, getting out the vote and educating their members on the importance of participation in the political process.

These activities, singularly and collectively, represent the essence of the League. It has been my pleasure to serve as President. I have learned much from this community's leaders – the Members of the League of Women Voters of Appleton.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeana C. [unclear]", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.