

It has been my distinct honor to serve as President of the League of Women Voters of Appleton this past year. It has been an amazing year!

It began with our involvement in the 2010 Census. Several events took place to get the word out and to educate the public on the importance of the census. We began by meeting with the Post Crescent Executive Editor to encourage the promotion and education of the census in the newspaper. This resulted in several articles. We worked with nonprofit organizations to encourage participation. Our website provided up-to-date information as the year unfolded. We handed out census promotional materials at the Farmer's Market on several Saturdays and promoted it at a Boys and Girls Club after-school event. We sponsored advertising in the Post Crescent made possible by a \$1,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation and solicited radio stations to encourage listeners to respond to the census. At our urging, Valley Transit displayed posters in twenty of their buses.

We culminated our efforts with an educational forum at the library. The panel consisted of five members, two from the census bureau, two from local government and one from academia. We invited individuals representing business, the school district, and nonprofits to give testimony to the importance of an accurate census count. Appleton ranked first in Wisconsin and fourth in the nation for participation with 85% of households responding to the 2010 count!

In December we hosted a forum, Advancing Voting Rights, at the public library. Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director LWVWI and Renee Crawford, Associate Director of ACLU of Wisconsin presented information and facilitated the discussion. There was a respectable turnout.

Program -The League's 90th anniversary year could not have been in better hands than Barb Dorzweiler's. She planned or sparked events from the birthday cake in the mall to the coming celebration of Women's Equality Day, August 26. Her enthusiasm, commitment, and organizational skills make things happen!

Action – Nadine kept us informed on important pending legislation, urged us to advocate, and kept us posted on the outcome of the bills. Good news with the passage of the Mental Health Parity Bill. Sadly this year, the Senate did not vote on the Clean Energy Jobs Act, Regional Transit Authorities, or the Election Reform bill. It is important that we remain vigilant in getting the message to our legislators. Success makes us celebrate. Failure makes us work harder!

Observer Corps – Many thanks to Marlys Fritzell for reporting on local government and school issues. My personal thanks to Marlys for her guidance on the budget presentation to the City Council and the County Board .

Local Study – Study to determine how to reduce energy consumption and costs in local government operations (schools, government buildings) The local study committee under the direction of Leslie Taylor concluded that in order to approach this study, we would have to take a broad view. League positions are often stripped of their usefulness due to the ever-widening scope of knowledge and changing legislative policies. The study committee concluded that recommending a framework within which local governments, schools and building owners could use to continually reduce energy consumption and cost would be the best approach. The new position is broad and timely and will give our League many opportunities to advocate in this area.

League positions were summarized for the first time this year. Our gratitude goes to Megan Kuehl and Bree Madison for their work on this. The summaries offer a way to share our positions with the public and perspective members without overwhelming them with details. The board took this opportunity to review and scrutinize the positions as they were being condensed for the summaries.

Membership - We see membership as an integrated part of the whole. When we are active and visible, new members will be drawn to the League. Each one of us can do our part by taking opportunities to invite new people to join our efforts. The Appleton League brochure was updated. We are now offering a student membership. Thanks to Winnie for her continued work as Membership Director.

The success of the finance drive on this 90th anniversary year speaks directly to the continued strong support of the members of the LWV Appleton. Thanks to Jan Quinlan and her committee for their efforts.

The newsletter, "The Informed Voter" is in the hands of Vicky Olenski. We appreciate her computer skills, her creativity, and her time in producing a monthly publication. Vicky cares for her family, works full time, and attends the UW in Oshkosh. And she still gives of her time to the league!

The League website continues to be current and useful. Thanks to Barb Dorzweiler and Vickly Olenski for their vigilant updating. Our goal should be to start using our Facebook page. This is a powerful social networking website that could offer growth in membership.

Webinars came into vogue this year. They are the present-day seminars that you can attend without leaving your home. Board members participated in several webinars on the census and one on league program planning this year. The state league annual meeting is being broadcast in the same manner for the first time at an Oshkosh site.

Voter Service...an election year is before us and we have work to do! Let's join Beth English and help her make it a great year. On this 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, Voter Service needs to be at the forefront of our efforts. It is, after all, our hallmark!

My sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for their work, support, and enthusiasm over the past year, and thanks to the members for continued loyalty to and support of the League.

Shirley Strange

2010

If the League is visible they will join

If the League is active they will join

If the League is vibrant they will join

If the League is welcoming they will join