

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
SHIRLEY STRANGE
2011-2012

The Appleton League of Women Voters proved itself to be a vibrant, vital organization engaged in the community in 2011-2012!

Lively Issues, the Holiday Brunch, Food for Thought Luncheons, this Annual Meeting, and other events, organized with attention to topics, speakers, and the details of planning and executing were in the hands of *Sara Companik*. Many thanks to Sara for the time and attention given to make this year's Program new, creative and interesting for all of our members. She has bountiful ideas and knows how to execute them.

It was our second celebration of Women's Equality Day in August 2011. It was held at the Gardens of the Fox Cities. We had wine, hors d' oeuvres and a program on the new voter ID law. We are going for our third this year at the History Museum with a program on Women's Suffrage in Appleton. Wine and hors d' oeuvres again. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Appleton League to present itself to other women in the community and for us to gain new members and contacts. An ad hoc committee plans this event.

Voter Service began to crackle and pop when the new voter ID law came to our attention last summer. We worked to inform voters of the implications of the law and to register voters. We visited high schools, Fox Valley Tech, UW Fox Valley and nursing homes. We held informational forums and candidate forums. Many thanks to *Irene Strohbeen* who, in her first year as Voter Service Director, learned and assimilated the information, and organized, managed and directed all of the events. There was no stopping her.

Local Study on the Regional Transit Authority concluded with a consensus meeting on November 10th. Thanks to *Carolyn Mewhorter* for chairing the committee and steering the effort.

We presented statements on local budgets to the Appleton Common Council and the Outagamie County Board. We took issue with the elimination of the Park and Recreation Department making a statement to the council and meeting privately with the Mayor. We presented testimony in favor of a Fox Cities RTA before the Senate Transportation and Elections Committee March 8, 2012 in Madison.

Stephanie Malaney stepped in to take over membership when Winnie Doxsie moved to Eau Claire. Stephanie saved the day for us and brought many new ideas. Our membership list is complete. That is, every member on the list has paid her/his dues. We have lost a few, but also gained. We continue to be a part of the Membership Recruitment Initiative begun at the national level. Appleton is doing fine with recruitments. We will continue our work with our sights on strong numbers. Always, always make the "ask".

We say good-bye to board members, *Marlys Fritzell, Sue Silton, and Jan Quinlan*. They have finished their terms and then some. These three women have been more than board members to me. From the beginning, they supported me with their wisdom, knowledge, and advice. I counted on them for guidance and direction. These women are League Women par excellence. Thank you, thank you.

All of the board members are vital to the operations of the league. Thanks to *Barbara Dorzweiler* for the new Communications schemata, and *Miriam Douglass*, for providing us with the minutes of each meeting along with her wisdom and knowledge. And she's just plain fun. We also say good-bye to *Leslie Taylor*. Our thanks to Leslie for her work on sustainability in our community. And finally, thanks again to *Vicky Olenski* who steps down after several years of publishing the newsletter to make time for her career and studies. Thanks, Vicky and good luck!