

**President's Report
2014-2015 Fiscal Year
Sara Companik**

The League of Women Voters of Appleton has been active, visible, and vibrant this year with programs, advocacy, and action. Thank you to members for your support through membership dues, donations, and participation. The league is a valuable and respected civic organization in our community.

We welcomed new members to the Appleton League this year: Karen Bachhuber, James Bowman, Bruce Companik, William Kelly, Elizabeth Laux, Sarah Leet, Becky O'Conner, Maren Peterson, Jeanne Roberts, Joan Schneider, and Dave Strange.

The Appleton League culminated its 75th Anniversary celebration, with a variety of events in May of 2014. At the May 19th City Council meeting, Mayor Hanna proclaimed May 26-31 as League of Women Voters of Appleton Week in the city. On May 26, league members and husbands marched in the Appleton Memorial Day Parade. During the month, WHBY interviewed league members Deb Cronmiller and Marlys Fritzell and the Post crescent featured the league's history. Our league hosted the 2014 LWV Wisconsin State Annual Meeting at the Radisson Hotel on May 30-31. Along with state delegates, the league invited the community to our 75th Celebration Dinner to share in an evening of remembering our history. Mayor Hanna and Editor of the Post Crescent Dan Flannery presented the first LWV of Appleton Making Democracy Work Award to Kathy Flores. A huge thank you to the 75th Anniversary Committee

(Shirley Strange, Gayle Hardt, Irene Strohbeen, Sue Eich, Marcia Hittle, Sara Companik) and the Making Democracy Work Award Committee (Gayle Hardt, Marti Hemwall, Marcia Engen, Beth English). These dedicated volunteers orchestrated an effective, enjoyable, and memorable anniversary year.

Women's Equality Day has become an annual event for the Appleton League. On August 26, 2014, the Appleton League hosted community members at Riverview Gardens for a social gathering to hear Dr Ivy Cargile share research on "The Leadership Gap". Much appreciation to the 2014 WE Day Committee (Sue Siltan, Cheryl Reissmann, Shirley Strange, Amy Oberg, Stephanie Malaney, Barb Kelly, and Sara Companik) for a well attended, successful event.

Thank you to the League Board Directors for their creative ideas, their talents, knowledge, vision, and dedication to making democracy work in our community. I was privileged to work with these impressive and strong board members. Each one is involved in different community organizations, which benefit others, and have shared their valuable time with the league. When you read their reports, you will see how each one has contributed to the visibly and energy of the league program.

Thank you to Shirley and Dave Strange for managing the league website, and adding Paypal options to move us forward with technology. The addition of a Communications Team would reduce the responsibilities from one or two people to a team effort in our high tech world.

The league has had a busy year with timely forums on Public Education, Human Trafficking, Downtown Appleton Updates, two Water Education presentations, and fall and spring Candidate Forums.

As I conclude my league office as president, I think of the significance of the League of Women Voters in our community. The initial principles and issues of registering, educating, protecting, and engaging voters, has grown from its many national, state, and local studies to advocating for diverse and vital issues of concern to members and the public. This year's Human Trafficking Study, co-chaired by Irene Strohbeen and Cathy Thompson has highlighted this issue to our community for advocacy and action. I am proud to be involved with LWV of Appleton and its vision for the common good.