

LWV



The *informed* Voter

League of Women Voters ® of Appleton, Wisconsin



<http://www.lwvappleton.org/>

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January-February 2018

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Dwyer-Hallquist to speak on climate change

Barb Dorzweiler, Director—Natural Resources

At the LWV Appleton monthly event on Monday, February 19th, Patricia Dwyer-Hallquist, PhD, will speak on *Evidence for Climate Change*, addressing people’s misconceptions. Please join LWV members and friends for this interesting and informative program at the Copper Rock coffee shop, 210 W College Avenue, Appleton, 5:00 pm. Audience questions and discussion are encouraged. The public is invited.

Ms. Hallquist states, “My goal is to help people understand how scientific evidence supports the idea that human activity is changing our climate with adverse consequences for all living things. I feel it is important that people understand that the evidence is overwhelming and not under dispute by scientists who study climate. I believe that decisions about what to do should be based on an understanding of what is actually happening, and that there are many decisions

individuals and governments make that require an understanding of climate change.” Her presentation will include slides provided by the American Chemical Society.

LWV Appleton February meeting

WHEN Monday, February 19
TIME 5 pm—mingle, order food/drinks
5:30-6:30 pm—program
WHERE Copper Rock coffee house
210 W College Ave, Appleton

Professor Hallquist and her husband, Tom, moved to Wisconsin in 1981. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Hope College in Michigan and received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the

University of Chicago. She worked for a summer at Brookhaven National Laboratory, a United States Department of Energy national laboratory in New York, on extracting hydrogen from water. She has taught college chemistry and worked at Appleton Papers as a research chemist. Later, she taught chemistry and physics at Oshkosh Lourdes Academy and retired in 2016.

She became interested in climate change when advising students on the Lourdes High School Solar



Patricia Dwyer-Hallquist

Evidence is overwhelming

Olympics team from 2002 - 2016. Solar Olympics and the accompanying *Solar Wise* curriculum are sponsored by Wisconsin Public Service. Its main purpose is to help high school students learn

about renewable energy with an emphasis on solar energy. She learned more about climate change by reading and taking courses and workshops. She and her husband are members of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. **Participants will be encouraged to write provided postcards to legislators.**

Let the people vote! Presentation coming near you

Some citizens are having difficulty getting the appropriate ID for voting. On Thursday, February 1, Molly McGrath, an attorney and the ACLU-Voting Rights Project Coordinator from Madison, will present on this issue and answer questions.

The next day, Fri., Feb. 2, there will be a follow up, more in-depth specific one-hour training session for those interested in assisting individuals needing assistance working through the system. The Appleton and Winnebago County Leagues are

collaborating with the ACLU of Wisconsin Fox Valley Chapter to co-sponsor both sessions. The Appleton Branch of AAUW will be joining us in the co-sponsorship, as well as other non-partisan

Mark your calendar!
Thurs, Feb 1, 2018, 6-7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 2, Time TBD
Menasha Public Library

community groups. Please contact J. Klimaszewski (JKlim@new.rr.com) if you are interested in participating.

LWV Appleton is growing! Welcome to new and rejoining members

Elizabeth Laux, Director –Membership

Appleton League of Women Voters finished the 2017 year with 74 members. January 31, 2018, is the date the LWVUS Database membership roster must be up to date for the Per Membership Payments (PMP). From the \$75 each LWV Appleton member pays for dues, the per member assessment (PMA) for the state is \$30 (\$15 for students or “household members”) and PMP to LWV US is \$32/\$16.



New member
Ronna Swift

to his wife, Denise. Nancy Jones and Janet Porter have rejoined. Welcome to all!

2017 was an energetic year for the Appleton LWV Membership Committee. We began by inviting new members to informal get-togethers of small groups of three or four, at a coffee shop or deli, to chat about the League.

So far, in addition to our regular membership, we have several new and rejoining members for the 2018 year. They are Linda Gardner, Julie Evers, Ronna Swift, Jeanette Bayer, Donna Cook and Jean Hoehn. Charles Valenti-Hein gifted a membership

Shirley and Dave Strange graciously opened their home as hosts for two larger social gatherings of 10 to 15 new and longstanding members for drinks and hors d’oeuvres. These social gatherings were introductory meetings to familiarize the new members with the league, to see what programs they might be interested in

and to answer any questions.

In the fall of 2017, the Programs Committee started a new program of monthly social events at the Copper Rock, on the third Monday of every month except for months that have scheduled annual events. These programs have grown in



Rejoining members Nancy Jones (I) & Janet Porter

popularity. They started out at about 50-60

participants and have grown to over 90 at one event.

We hope to include photos of the other new members in the next issue. Our emails apparently went to spam. Could you please email a digital photo to the editor at pennyrobinson1@gmail.com

From President Jeanne Roberts—Lively Issues is ...well...lively Education and Youth Advocacy to proceed

Over 35 people participated in our 2018 *Lively Issues*, including several non-members. The day began with a review of the National Biennium, which consists of a League-wide focus on core democracy issues, including

In addition, there is a focus on registering voters in underserved communities and organizations, high schools, community colleges, and at naturalization ceremonies.

The final two areas of focus are non-partisan



voter service and protection, money in politics and redistricting. This includes a push for restoration of the Voting Rights Act by supporting the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), support for reforms like on-line voter registration and expansion of early voting and working together with community partners and using our 95 years of election experience to protect voters in the next election.

redistricting and campaign finance reform including disclosure, stopping Super PACs, and public financing of congressional and presidential elections.

The group also reviewed the state program, including three basic areas.:

1. The first of these is to continue our work at protecting our basic voting rights in Wisconsin by increasing voter registration and reducing voter suppression.

Should we abolish the electoral college?

2. The second area for the state program is the study of poverty. There will be three parts to the poverty issue –

A. a resource page on the state website within the next month,

B. a guideline for local leagues who want to do a local poverty study, and

C. a national league website to post the study results on. The state will be sending local leagues information regarding what the LWVUS has said about the minimum wage advocacy.

3. The LWV WI State Program Committee is also considering whether to recommend to the State Board “Enhanced Diversity Through Community Alliances” at the June 2018 LWV WI Annual Meeting as a State Program for 2018-2019. (More information on this is elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Both the Education Study Committee as well as the Juvenile Justice Review Committee presented their findings. The Education Committee has spent much time organizing the many areas of study into categories in hopes that this may make it less difficult. There was some concern about taking on such a large study, and the Education Committee confirmed that it will need another year to complete the study.

The Juvenile Justice Committee indicated that after review, they had determined that much has changed in dealing with juveniles since the

last study was done in the 1990s, so there is definitely a need for a new study. There is some concern about the naming of the study and *Youth Advocacy* was a recommended as a better choice for title of study and position.

In addition to the two study committees, there was much discussion about other possible areas of study, with topics varying from aging to water quality to immigration as well as many more. The Education Committee will continue its two-year study, and the Youth Advocacy Committee will begin a full study, subject to a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, The League of Illinois is proposing the LWVUS support abolishing the Electoral College. An ad hoc committee was formed to research this subject, **and a presentation will be given on Wednesday Feb 21st from 6 – 8 p.m., at the Appleton Library, Room C.** Irene Strohbeen, Sandy Rohde, and Barb Dorzweiler will be on this ad hoc committee. We look forward to a good turnout for this timely issue.

Presentation on Electoral College

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Appleton Library, Room C

Voter Services—Let’s meet for coffee

J. Klimaszewski, Vice President—Voter Services

Voter Services is involved in a wide range of very important activities: voter registration assistance, candidate forums, candidate information on VOTE411, as well as new initiatives such as assisting citizens who are having difficulty working through the process for acquiring an ID for voting.

There is even more that could be done! To

continue to grow our Voter Services efforts, I would like to meet with a few people to help set goals and plan to actualize those goals. If you would like to work with me on this, please let me know: JJKlim@new.rr.com

Thank you for considering this invitation!



Voter Services—please share your skills

J. Klimaszewski, Vice President—Voter Services

Here are a number of ways that you can get involved and contribute:

VOTE411.org

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on a variety of aspects of the election process including absentee ballots, election dates, ID requirements, registration deadlines, etc. An important component of VOTE411 is providing factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races.

While the state LWV sends out surveys and adds the candidate information for federal and state positions, there is a need for a team of people to

learn the program, collect the information and add it to the program for local races in a variety of municipalities surrounding Appleton. If you are interested in working with me on this project, please contact J. Klimaszewski.

JJKlim@new.rr.com

Voter Registration Assistance

Voter Registration Assistance events will be set up for late February through early March for the April 3 election. Dates will be sent out through Mail Chimp when they are confirmed. We are setting up for the three high schools, FVTC and UW Fox Valley.

Candidate Forums

Look for upcoming information on City Council and School Board forums in late March for the April 3 election!

Please let me know if you can help with any of these:

JJKlim@new.rr.com This is NOT a life-time commitment.

League celebrates at Holiday Brunch

Irene Stroben, Vice-President—Program

A roomful of League members and friends crowded into the Grand Meridian to celebrate the holidays together this past December. We recognized Connie Raether with our *Making*

Democracy Work award for all of her hard work with WISDOM/ESTHER, the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, and numerous other agencies working on social justice issues to benefit our community.





Becky Boulanger (left) and Connie Raether

Connie’s words are shared elsewhere in the newsletter.

Becky Boulanger, executive director of the Women’s Fund for the Fox Valley Region, then spoke to us about poverty in Northeast Wisconsin based on updated findings from the Status of Women Report. Surprisingly, even though the

economy has rebounded since the Great Recession, the poverty status of women has not improved since 2009: over half (59%) of all households below the poverty level are female-headed households, a 2% increase. Among households with children, 64% are single mothers with children (no change since 2009).

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2017 in review, according to LWV

Jeanne Roberts—President

What a year! From voter services to increase in membership to youth voter registration to incredible programs, the LWV of Appleton has been very busy and productive. This is especially important in the upcoming year of local and state, as well as midterm elections. I wanted to review with all of you some of the work that has been done by the League, not only on the local, but also on the state and national levels, in order to remind you why the League of Women Voters is the trusted and honored organization that it is.

The LWV of Appleton has continued assisting people with voter registration at numerous sites when many other local leagues have discontinued this work. We have helped people at the three Appleton public high schools and reached out to the private schools. We have assisted students at both UW-Fox as well as Fox Valley Technical College. We have helped at Juneteenth, Celebrating Diversity Picnic, the Emergency Shelter, BABES, Partnership Community Health Center – both medical and dental- as well as many

other places. In addition, we have applied for assistance from the Willems Marketing student team for help in developing a campaign aimed at high school and college students to get out the vote, not only for presidential elections, but local, state and midterm elections.

This year we have had a wonderful turnout at all of our programs, including *Who is the League of Women Voters*, *Health Care in the Fox Valley*, *TIFs and Downtown Appleton Development* and the *State of Poverty in the Fox Valley*. We have heard great things from attendees about our programs. I suspect that next year’s programs will be just as well received.

The LWV of Appleton once again put on a spectacular *Women’s Equality Day* program with a great speaker, great food and great overall program. We are already preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment in 2020.

Continued on next page

In addition, I and other members spoke at Appleton Common Council meetings, as well as the safety committee. Issues included resolutions on climate change, sanctuary, and public health.

As a result of all of this hard work, our membership is increasing. One of our goals for the next year is to continue working at increasing not only the number, but also the diversity of our membership. In addition, we will be offering more opportunities for our current members to become more involved.

Finally, at the state and national levels: In January, thousands of League supporters were among the marchers in Washington, D.C. and cities and towns across the country — sending a powerful message that women’s rights are human rights.

For the sixth year in a row, the LWV was the largest on-the-ground participant in National Voter Registration Day, registering more than 11,000 voters. More than one million people used the League’s VOTE411.org website to find election information and search on nearly 13,000 candidates in over 7,000 races. In October, the League rallied outside the Supreme Court as it heard oral arguments in *Gill v. Whitford*, a landmark case challenging Wisconsin’s congressional redistricting process on fair voter maps. Finally LWVWI was instrumental in filing amicus briefs regarding the drawing of the current maps and its effect on voter suppression. The League mobilized thousands to rally against the president’s so-called “Election Integrity” Commission’s voter suppression efforts — from calling on state leaders to oppose the voter data requested by this Commission, to getting over 9,000 signatures on our online petition.

The League collected over 12,000 petition signatures asking the FEC to require online campaign ads to include disclaimers about who is paying for them. All year long, the League mobilized our networks to defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and ensure those in need of health insurance were informed about the ACA’s open enrollment period.

Thanks to all of you, we will continue our work to assure that democracy continues to survive in our city, state and country. I look forward to meeting with or working with all of you during our next year.



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lwwappleton

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The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for informed and active participation in government. LWV is a vibrant, visible, respected advocate for sustaining our democratic society.

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

EDUCATES AND INFORMS CITIZENS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

MONITORS GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AT ALL LEVELS

PROTECTS CITIZENS’ RIGHTS

CALLS OUT FOR

- **Transparency in government**
- **Campaign finance reform**
- **Redistricting reform**
- **Responsible environmental legislation**
- **Healthcare for all citizens**

The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers. The League is nonpartisan. It neither supports nor opposes political candidates or parties

More information is at
www.lwwappleton.org

Contributions are gratefully accepted online at
<http://www.lwwappleton.org/donate/>

League speaks up at council...again

Health in All Policies Ordinance approved

In December, 2017, the City of Appleton Common Council approved the *Health in All Policies* Ordinance, which includes requirements to address how socioeconomic issues — such as income level, education level and employment — contribute to an individual's overall health. Based on the League's position on equity in health care, the LWV of Appleton endorsed the ordinance. The World Health Organization, in addition to several local health care agencies, has also endorsed this.



The ordinance requires city staff to publish a report every three years "on the status of health and health equity in the city of Appleton and progress of (health in all policies) implementation."

Those measures would then be used for future decision making as well as how community health fits into other goals of the city, like building a new Erb Park pool or a new Appleton Public Library, or working to create healthier grocery store options in the downtown area.

League working locally & nationally on climate change

Barb Dorzweiler, Director—Natural Resources

The LWVUS supports putting a price on carbon emissions and is working at state levels to influence legislation to hold polluters accountable. An informal coalition is being led by LWV California, Illinois, Massachusetts and Delaware. If effective, the fossil fuel industry will transition to alternatives. Growth in alternative sources will create jobs and replace those lost in the fossil fuel industry. Furthermore, the cost to our economy from more intense weather events, more intense wild fires and other effects will be even bigger if we don't take aggressive action to reduce emissions, the LWV believes. For more information on what the League endorses: PriceonCarbon.org. Visit the FAQ page for discussion of colder winters, the seemingly minor changes in average temperatures, and more. Please write your congressional representatives to support climate change mitigation legislation. And of course our most powerful weapon is our vote.

NOTES

Did you know of the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus? It formed in February 2016 and recently added two more members, bringing the total to 62 Representatives. The requirement to join is to bring along one individual from the opposite political party. They join in pairs. Representative Mike Gallagher of the 8th District is a member.

The November issue of the Oxford Academic Journal BioScience warns that human health and safety will be severely impacted by negative trends such as changing climate, deforestation, loss of access to fresh water, species extinctions and human population growth. The article titled "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice" — was signed by more than 15,000 scientists in 184 countries. You can read the article online.

"Our Wisconsin: The Climate Change Effect" is a 55-minute documentary produced in Madison and aired September 2017. This very interesting and well-done program clearly outlines the effects of

climate change we are already seeing right here in Wisconsin. Here is the YouTube video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3NWbhYpQZU>

The tax bills that were recently approved by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives each contain a provision allowing drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

A documentary by Jamie Redford called “Happening: A clean energy revolution” shows growing public support of alternative energy and citizen leadership in the US. It shows that crucial support comes from the people and a groundswell of public action. It premiered on HBO and is available on demand.

THE SNOW IS HERE!

A reminder from the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance: Did you know that proper snow management can help protect our waters? Seasonal management of snow and ice on large, impervious parking surfaces (and sidewalks) are contributing to salt and sediment pollution to freshwater resources.

Once applied, snow and ice melting compounds become a permanent pollutant. They pollute nearby soils and, when dissolved in water through runoff or infiltration, contaminate surface and groundwater resources. Sand and other abrasives end up in storm drains and cause sedimentation of storm water ponds, lakes and rivers. Excess salt in soils causes vegetation die offs, soil erosion, and soil compaction.

You can be part of the solution!

Best Management Practices include:

- Storing snow away from storm drains, ditches, ponds, creeks, and wetlands
- Storing salt and sands indoors on an impervious surface
- Utilizing proper equipment and inspect to ensure it is functioning as expected
- Removing snow early and often to reduce the amount of compaction and need for ice removal
- Understanding the products you are using: sand provides traction—it does not melt ice salt—only effective when the air temperature is warmer than the pavement temperature.
- Understanding a little goes a long way under the right conditions.

Following manufacturer application rates

A HAPPY STORY FROM THE FOX WOLF WATERSHED ALLIANCE:

In the Forest Junction area of northern Calumet County lying within the Plum Creek watershed, a landowner was having an issue with a reoccurring gully running through his property. A gully is an erosion issue created by running water, eroding sharply into soil. Gullies can resemble large ditches or small valleys. When a gully is formed the water flow rate can be substantial, causing a significant deep cutting action. In this particular case, five acres of cropland was flowing onto his property causing a 450 linear foot gully. Both the landowner and land operator were aware of the issue occurring in this location and decided to reach out for help from Calumet and Outagamie County Land and Water Conservation Departments for solutions in this field as well as in other owned fields throughout the Plum Creek watershed.

With months of surveying, planning and design, as well as ongoing communication with the landowners and operator, a solution was agreed upon, which involved the construction of a Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB). A WASCOB is a small earthen embankment built across a small watercourse or area of concentrated flow within a field, such as gully erosion in this case. They are designed to slow the water while trapping agricultural runoff and sediment as it flows down the watercourse or flow path; this keeps the watercourse from eroding and reduces the amount of runoff and sediment from leaving the field. Trapping sediment within the field helps improve water quality by preventing it from reaching downstream water bodies such as Plum Creek. In addition, this helps keep nutrient rich topsoil where it most benefits the farmer and the crops that he plants. This is just one of the many examples of farmers and landowners installing conservation practices in the area to help reduce sediment and nutrients from entering our waterbodies and making strides in improving the water quality in the Fox River as well as the bay of Green Bay.

You may ask “what exactly is a watershed?” A watershed is any area of land where rain falls and

water drains by natural absorption into the soil and beneath the soil. A watershed can also be called a drainage basin. It is an area of land where all water drains to a central point like a lake, river, or stream. Do you know of a small stream on your property? The water from it likely drains into a larger stream, then into a small river, then a larger river, then onward to larger bodies of water. It combines with other watersheds to form a network of rivers and streams that progressively drain into larger water areas. Our water is not isolated. It moves and flows and affects water quality everywhere.

EVENTS

5 – 6:30 pm, Feb 19th, Climate Change speaker for LWV-Appleton at Copper Rock coffee shop.

19th ANNUAL WATERSHED CONFERENCE

- March 6-7, 2018 @ Lambeau Field, Green Bay
- 2 day, 3 Track Conference, Social & Evening Watershed Celebration

Earth Hour 2018 8:30 pm-9:30 pm, Saturday, March 31, 2018. Global Climate Action Demonstrations in Your Community: local time. *Earth Hour* is a global environmental movement sponsored by WWF (World Wildlife Foundation). It was started with teams and other partners in Sydney, Australia in 2007.

Earth Day on April 22, 2018.

League to vote on joining child poverty coalition

(Note: Parts of this article were copied from different places on a website, causing changes in the font).

Penny Robinson, Director—Legislative

At the next meeting (Wednesday, February 7, LWV Appleton board members will vote on whether to join a local coalition to *End Child*

goal of eliminating child poverty, by holding itself accountable for reducing both child poverty and racial disparities by half in the next decade. The



campaign is a product of three years of intensive policy discussions and moral reflection at 24 churches and other religious institutions throughout Wisconsin.

By joining the local coalition, we would be taking a step towards fulfilling one of the league’s priorities – reducing poverty. Particularly, we would *ask everyone (but you don’t have to wait to do this as an individual) to go*

to: www.endchildpovertywi.org and add their names to the list of people

who endorse the three-part goal:

Poverty. Currently the local Fox Cities coalition includes ESTHER, Citizen Action NEW, and Stronger Together Fox Valley’s Good Early Start Team. The lead statewide coalition partners are four organizations: WISDOM, Wisconsin Council of Churches, Kids Forward, and Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund.

1. For Wisconsin to reduce child poverty by half in 10 years
2. To reduce racial disparities in child poverty by half in those same 10 years
3. To establish a reliable, nonpartisan mechanism to measure our progress toward those goals, and to report on it annually.

The campaign seeks to inspire Wisconsin to set a

Shall LWV Appleton join child poverty coalition?

If we vote to join the local coalition, the League would sign on as a coalition member. We would help get the word out by scheduling presentations (20-minute PowerPoint) in our various groups and congregations. Eventually, we would advocate with our local legislators to work to reach these goals.

The conclusion that emerged from three years of statewide discussions is that we should flip the script by holding ourselves and our elected leaders mutually accountable to outcomes, rather than support for any particular set of policies. Tracking progress towards our goals can become the

organizing principle for our poverty and racial equity work going forward. This will put us in a position to invest more

in policies that are working, abandon those that are not, and initiate new evidence-based policies in real time. This outcome-based approach makes it possible to include the private sector (corporations, charities, faith-based institutions, and foundations) as well as governments at all levels (federal, state and local) in the plan as contributing to measurable parts of the outcome. This approach can also make it possible for other policies not usually associated with anti-poverty efforts, like state and local economic development and tax policies, to be part of the plan with measurable contributions to the outcomes.

We have reviewed a number of poverty reduction plans that span the political spectrum, including: 1) American Enterprise Institute/ Brookings – Consensus Plan to Reduce Poverty and Restore the American Dream; 2) Community Advocates – Pathways to Ending Poverty; 3) Paul

Ryan's A Better Way: Our Vision for a Confident America; 4) the UK Child Poverty Reduction target, and others. From these plans a number of common themes emerged, and based on those themes, we propose that four main strategies be adopted in Wisconsin:

1. Set child poverty reduction goals, equity goals, and timelines.
2. Develop accountability mechanisms: A robust and independent tracking and evaluation capacity, trusted by all sides, which will make clear assessments of what is working, and what needs to change. (e.g. the creation of a

Legislative Child Poverty Bureau)

3. Implement multi-sector, evidence based strategies at the scale capable of achieving the poverty reduction goal, including:

- Employment and Income: help people get well-paying jobs;

- High quality education: Increase public investment in underfunded stages of education, particularly in the early years;
- Strengthening families: deepening relationships and building social capital.

4. Measure progress and adjust strategies as necessary.

The first major step of our public campaign will be a faith-led effort to inspire policymakers, elected officials, and other opinion leaders and stakeholders to publicly commit to a concrete ten-year goal of cutting childhood poverty and racial disparities in half. We need to hold all components of Wisconsin society collectively responsible to achieving these goals. It is the moral, just, and economically sound action to take. More information at:

http://www.endchildpovertywi.org/poverty_reduction_goal



LWV WI launches new initiative

Enhancing League Diversity Through Community Alliances

This year during the LWV WI Board Strategic planning meeting in July, the board launched the state committee *Enhancing League Diversity Through Community Alliances*. Under the guidance of board member Consuelo López Springfield who is the chair, the committee developed four initial objectives:

- 1) stimulate leadership growth in Latinx communities,
- 2) expand voter enfranchisement,
- 3) enhance services and communication to Latinx communities, and
- 4) strengthen the League of Women Voters statewide.

Currently, three local leagues are involved with the launch of this initiative. LWV Beloit, Milwaukee County, and Sheboygan County all agreed to provide the committee with updates on the initiatives each of their leagues will take up in the Latinx communities in their areas.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is thrilled with the enthusiastic response to these projects. What we are learning from this initial work of creating effective community alliances within Latinx communities is that these strategies can be used in strengthening relationships with other groups, such as Southeast Asian Americans, Native Americans, and African Americans. We are well aware that our organizational strength depends on our being fully welcoming, integrated, and lacking in condescension. As one participant wrote, “our goal is to help our Leagues look like our communities in age/race/economic status.”

At Issues Briefing in October, López Springfield and LWV WI staff Ellen Penwell presented the work of this state committee in a breakout session. The focus of the work includes a commitment to connecting with families, listening to the

community at large, and building personal relationships that grow over time.

From the dynamic discussion at the session, here are the top takeaways:

1. By an overwhelming margin, local leagues identified the need to know where diverse cultures gather (*community mapping*) and where to interact with them. Frequently mentioned strategies were variations of: attend their meetings (“cross the bridge”); target publicity where they will see it (commercial, community center, school, interfaith groups, etc.); and hold meetings in their spaces.
2. Tied for second, local leagues identified the need for Spanish-language (and Southeast Asian) documents and forms on their websites and translators at their meetings, forums, etc.

Tied for second, local leagues expressed the need for cultural sensitivity (organizational and self reflection awareness) in their communications with diverse communities

López Springfield requests that you are mindful that Latinx groups support the practice of asking Latinx community members for help in reaching out to potential voters, as a great many citizens and undocumented individuals have been personally effective in communicating urgency in voting drives even among those who cannot personally vote on issues or for candidates.

While we are engaged in preparing informational materials for leagues’ use, as requested, we would like to ask you to share with us about what you are learning. We are all stronger when we listen to and help one another on new paths to understanding and implementing collaborative work.



Reflecting on the *Making Democracy Work* Award

Editor's Note: I was so encouraged by Connie Raether's remarks upon receiving the *Making Democracy Work* Award, I decided to include them here in case you missed the Holiday Brunch or just wanted to hear them again.

Thank you for this honor. As I look out over the group here, I see so many people who are way more deserving of it than I am. And I feel guilty about what I don't do. But...I thank you. As I pondered receiving this award, what came to my mind was actually a very big thank you. Many of us have been in the struggle to "make the world a better place," to achieve equity, to work for social justice, for years...and years. And today, as we gather here, it seems that we as a country, have been taking many steps backward.

Gerrymandering, tax cuts for the very rich, global climate change, raids of our public lands. Some days it seems we all want to give up. So what keeps us going? Small successes, some positive policy changes, certainly. But maybe we need to celebrate each other. The fact that some people here appreciate the work I do helps me go on. What about you? Do you thank the person who organizes the vigil or the person who makes the calls to invite you to the vigil? Every single person is important if we truly want to "make our democracy work." Calling your neighbor and inviting him/her to the vigil is important. Writing a check is important. Writing letters to the editor is important. Coming here today, when everyone is so busy, is important.

So here's my idea. Please turn to your neighbor and say "thank you." If you don't know the person next to you, introduce yourself and say "thank you for coming". From now on, please make a point to thank someone who organizes the next rally you attend, or writes a great letter to the editor. Or brings snacks to the office during the next political campaign. Celebrate everything that everyone does, no matter how small.

A few weeks ago when I was in Arizona at a protest, I had the privilege of attending the celebration of life of a Catholic priest who had died in September. Many people spoke about him and talked about his incredible life. He was arrested over 150 times and spent over five years in prison for resisting.....resisting the things he believed were wrong. Militarization of our borders, criminalization of our immigrants, mass incarceration and nuclear proliferation. I listened to the people, one after another, get up and talk about Jerry. I felt so small, like "here I am in my safe home, going to vigils, arranging rallies, calling my congressmen;" and Jerry in his 80s, hanging on to his walker, faced the police, going to prison yet another time. As a priest, he felt that he could minister to others while he was in prison. Wow. Then one woman got up to speak. She said that she had known Jerry and said to him, "I feel so guilty. You face so much and go to prison for your views. I am just a 'stay at home mom' and I'm not doing anything while you do so much." Now Jerry as a Catholic priest, obviously was very religious. He said "The Holy Spirit moves us in many ways. If you take care of your children and raise them to be the very best human beings that they can be, you have made a huge difference. Just do what you do and do it in the best way you can." So, that is my mantra. I will try to do what I do "in the best way I can" and do it in the spirit of Jerry Zawada. I won't apologize for what I can't do, I will do the best I can, and I will celebrate that and celebrate everyone who continues in the struggle.

So, this is one of my favorite quotes by Dorothy Day, the founder of the catholic worker movement.

"People say, what is the sense of our small effort. They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a

time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like

that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.”

FYI: Heroin Highway Lecture Series

For location and time, click on the link for free tickets

Editor’s Note: Sara Companik suggested this be included in the newsletter. League Lively Issues suggestions led to an interest in the opioid crisis. She suggested the league can publicize the Heroin Highway as an educational series.

<p>Feb 13, 2018</p>	<p><i>Suicide Prevention:</i> Join us as we listen and learn from Barb Bigalke, Executive Director and Founder Suicide Awareness of Kaukauna. A short video will also be shown. Get your free tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heroin-highway-lecture-series-suicide-prevention-tickets-42067857093?aff=eac2</p>
<p>OSHKOSH FVTC Feb 28—6-8 pm</p>	<p><i>Journey into Recovery.</i> <i>Facilitator:</i> Jessica Geschke, President Stop Heroin Now. Join us as we listen to a panel of people in Recovery speak about their journeys from addiction to recovery! Get your free tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heroin-highway-lecture-series-journey-into-recovery-tickets-42067944354</p>
<p>March 13:</p>	<p>Learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences—A personal story: <i>Origin Story from Surviving Addiction to Thriving in Recovery</i>, Jesse Heffernan. Get your free tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heroin-highway-lecture-series-origin-story-from-surviving-addiction-to-thriving-in-recovery-tickets-42068013561</p>
<p>OSHKOSH FVTC March 28</p>	<p><i>Medication Assisted Treatment Options—What’s right for you?</i> AMS Staff Oshkosh. Get your free tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heroin-highway-lecture-series-medication-assisted-treatment-options-whats-right-for-you-tickets-42115264891</p>
<p>April 12</p>	<p><i>Released from Treatment, Now What? Sober Living Home Options—</i> Paula Jolly, Spoehr House, GB, Stephanie Starke, Ohana House, Neenah. Get your free tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heroin-highway-lecture-series-released-from-treatment-now-what-sober-living-home-options-tickets-42115498590</p>
<p>April 24</p>	<p><i>Take a LEAAP—Police helping people into recovery,</i> Nacho Enriquez <i>What happens if you have Dual Diagnosis?</i> TBD Get your free tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heroin-highway-lecture-series-take-a-leaap-police-helping-people-into-recovery-tickets-42115638007</p>
<p>May 8</p>	<p>Pending--Recovery Coaches vs Sponsors—Mandy Suthers</p>
<p>May 16</p>	<p>Pending--Panel of Treatment Options A Village 4U—classes—Teresa Gross Options Treatment Center—IOP—TBD Mooring Program—inpatient—TBD: 28-day stay OR NOVA Beacon House—inpatient 90-day stay—Julie Wockenfus</p>

LET PEOPLE VOTE



Thur. Feb. 1, 2018

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Menasha Public Library

440 1st St., Menasha, WI 54952

FREE – public is welcome.

Speaker: Molly McGrath, ACLU's Voting Rights Project and People Power organizer.

Topic: Impact of Wisconsin's voter ID law and how we can work together to provide accurate information and assistance to voters who need IDs.



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