

June - August 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ANNUAL MEETING

One of our Board members, Maren Peterson, posted on Facebook this morning what I thought was a great quote – “dagnabit, where are my angry reacts?” The

**I URGE YOU IN THIS NEXT YEAR TO HONOR ALL OF THE WOMEN WHO CAME BEFORE US, NOT ONLY THE SUFFRAGISTS BUT THE SECOND WAVE FEMINISTS AND OUR CURRENT CROP OF FEMINISTS, AND TO USE YOUR ANGER TO BECOME MOBILIZED.**

importance of this is not to say that we should live our lives angry or that we cannot be confused or sad. The point is that anger energizes and mobilizes. The anger of the suffragists mobilized them into working state by state for the vote and to picket the white house using the president's words against him and in their favor. We have done so much this year but we have even more to do next year. In the year 2019/2020, we will celebrate the women who came before us and earned many of us voting rights. We also have to acknowledge the mistakes made and those who were left behind and not really enfranchised until the voting rights act was passed in the 1960's. We also have a census that is under attack and an election that has to be fought for and we need our anger over so many issues that the League stands in order to mobilize us. The best way to celebrate our anniversary and honor the women who earned our voting rights (because they were

earned by us, not granted to us) is to use our anger the way that they did and make our voices heard. One of the best things I have learned by taking on this role as president of the LWV of Appleton is to focus on issues, not parties or candidates. Issues like a woman's right to her body, issues like gun safety measures, issues like the science of climate change, issues like the human rights of immigrants and refugees regardless of what country they are fleeing from, issues like the injustice of the missing and murdered indigenous women that go unsolved, issues like voting rights and upholding the voting rights act, issues like fair district maps.



LWV President Jeanne Roberts speaking at the LWV WI State Annual Meeting

I urge you in this next year to honor all of the women who came before us, not only the suffragists but the second-wave feminists and our current crop of feminists, and to use your anger to become mobilized. We will have many opportunities for you to volunteer your services this year. Marti Hemwall and Linda Bjella will need help with our centennial celebration. Linda Bjella will need help with action and advocacy. Jacqui Klimaszewski will need help with voter services, especially with our young and disenfranchised communities. Sue Hopfensberger will need your help in

organizing fundraising so that we can achieve our goal of empowering voters and defending democracy. Please contact any of these women to let them know where you can help. There is no amount of help that you can give that is too large or too small. Each of you has unique gifts and we are asking you to share them to help us mobilize. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, “Women are like teabags, you don’t know how strong they are until you put them in hot water!” We are in hot water and we need our cooperative strength.

## ANNOUNCING OUR 2019/2020 PROGRAM CALENDAR

We are pleased to introduce our program schedule for the upcoming fiscal year! This plan balances our year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage and the League of Women Voters with educating ourselves on important issues. Mark your calendars now; all programs except for the Holiday Brunch and Lively Issues will be from 5:00-6:30 pm at Copper Rock café in downtown Appleton:

- August 19 The ERA: History and Action
- September 16 Jeopardy Fun: Women’s Rights History
- October 21 ALICE: The Status of the Working Poor in Outagamie County
- November 18 Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
- December Holiday Brunch Kick-Off to 19th Amendment Centennial
- January Lively Issues
- February 17 Integrating Refugees into the Appleton Area
- March 16 Interactive Program on Women’s History
- April 20 Climate Change Preparedness



State Annual Meeting attendees Irene Strohsbeen, Sara Companik, Jacqueline Klimaszewski and Gayle Hardt in Ripon at the birthplace of LWV Founder Carrie Chapman Catt.

## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

The kick-off to our year of celebration of the progress for women's equality will begin with the holiday brunch in December. Another major event is being planned in February or March that will feature the ongoing struggle for the rights of women of color in conjunction with Black History Month and Women's History Month. For the centennial kickoff at the Holiday Brunch and Women's Equality Day in August of 2020, we will engage a major speaker and solicit partners among other local women's organizations. Sue Silton is working on this event. Much research has gone into potential speakers by Dottie Leclair, Marti Hemwall, Linda Bjella, and Julie Keller (from the Women's Fund). And all of this is in addition to an exciting year of monthly League programs! The Educational Resources Subcommittee chaired by

Barb Kelly has developed a tagline, and a logo design is in progress that will be used on publicity materials. Barb and her committee will be working on preparing materials for speakers to use when addressing local organizations and a tool kit to be used in the schools. Both the Outagamie County History Museum and the Trout Museum have been approached about their potential involvement as well, and we are gearing up to solicit sizable contributions and grants from women-owned businesses, local foundations, corporate sponsors, and law firms. While much has been accomplished, there is much more to be done, so please let **Marti Hemwall (mhemwall@gmail.com)** or **Linda Bjella (lindabjella@gmail.com)** know if you'd like to pitch in. We promise we'll find a place for you.



Karen Nelson, Jeanne Roberts and Irene Strohbeen

## LWV APPLETON TO HOST 2020 STATE ANNUAL MEETING

We're excited to announce that LWV Appleton will be our host for the LWVWI 2020 Annual Meeting on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13! We are hoping for record-breaking attendance during the League's Centennial year, and a fine event to launch us into the 2nd Century of the League. We hope a large contingence from every League can join us for the meeting and as we march/stroll/ride together in the City of Appleton's Flag Day parade. More information about the Annual Meeting and parade forthcoming.

### \*FUNDRAISING RUMMAGE SALE\*

The LWV Appleton will be holding a rummage sale in early September. If you have items you would like to donate for the rummage sale please contact **Sue Hopfensperger at suehop57@gmail.com**.



# FISCAL/FUNDRAISING REPORT

Our spring fundraising letter campaign is in full swing, we hope we can count on your support. Whether you consider your gift large, small, or somewhere in between, your support makes a difference. Along with the passage of the 19th Amendment, we, The League of Women Voters, will be celebrating our 100th anniversary-100 years of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy through advocacy to protect every American their right to vote. We need to work together to protect everyone's right to Vote. Your gift makes a strong statement, that women's history and democracy matters.



Assisting with Voter Registration at Juneteenth.

## VOTER SERVICES EVENTS

We have been very active this summer: Juneteenth, Farmer's Market, the Light for Liberty March. We also spoke to the Citizen's First Group at SOAR as part of the Disability Voter Registration Week.

2



The "Vote" graphic on this page was developed by the Willems Marketing students. This graphic is on "pop sockets" which were purchased with our Youth Grant as a promotional item. These will be used at the high

schools during the August registration events.

The following is a partial Voter Registration Assistance Events list for August, September and October. Volunteers

are needed for all of these. Training and refreshers are available. Contact **J. Klimaszewski, JJKlim@new.rr.com**

- Saturday, August 3 – Appleton Farmer's Market -8:00-12:00
- Tuesday, August 6 – North High School – 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-3:00
- Wednesday, August 7 – East High School- 1:00-4:00
- Thursday, August 8 – North High School – 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-3:00
- Thursday, August 8 – East High School – 3:30-6:00
- Tuesday, August 13 –North High School – 9:00-11:00 and 1:00-3:00 and 5:00-7:00
- Tuesday, August 13 – West High School – 3:00-7:00
- Tuesday, August 13 – East High School – 4:00-7:00
- Wednesday, August 14 – East High School – 10:00-1:00
- Thursday, August 15 – West High School – 3:00-6:00
- Monday, August 19 – West High School - 10:30-1:00
- Wednesday, August 21 – West High School – 12:30-3:00
- September 7 -Latino Fest – Pierce Park
- Public Community conversation Series on Creating Community Amidst Political-Ideological Divisions: Appleton Public Library—Sept. 19, 26 and October 3 from 5:30-7:30—Table and opportunity to participate
- Tuesday, September 24--National Voter Registration—September 24, 2019—Multiple locations will be set up
- October 9 -Eloisa Gomez, Author-Appleton Public Library-6:30-9:00

We are also working on a plan to have a regular schedule at the Appleton Public Library.

## JOIN OBSERVER CORPS

Volunteers are needed for observer corps for Appleton Common Council meetings, Outagamie County Board meetings and Appleton School Board meetings. Observer Corps is an opportunity for League members to keep a pulse on what is going on with our local governments and to provide this information to the League President to make official statements about local issues as well as for other League members to be informed about the need for advocacy. If you are interested, contact **Linda Bjella** at [lindabbjella@gmail.com](mailto:lindabbjella@gmail.com).



Memorial Day Parade

## FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON RACISM

Racism is not new in this country and contrary to some beliefs has never gone away. The League of Women Voters of Appleton is a nonpartisan organization that neither endorses nor supports candidates or parties. However, the League will confront those within parties when their behavior crosses certain lines. Recent comments from the current president and those who support him have reminded us of just how strong sexist and racist beliefs still are. The Women's Movement has a strong history of racism. If women are excluded from history books, women of color or LGBTQ

women are even more excluded. The League of Women Voters of Appleton strongly condemns any words or actions by anyone in government that indicate that certain people are not deserving of respect or do not belong in this country. To suggest that women should "go back to where they came from" or should leave the United States if they disagree with what the president believes is un-American. It is more important now than it has been in a very long time that everyone registers and votes in all elections and votes for candidates that are willing to stand up to racism, sexism and any other form of bias in our country, state or municipality. The League of Women Voters of Appleton welcomes anyone who is willing to stand up to bias in any form and to educate and register voters to fight back against racism that exists in our government.

## LWV-WISCONSIN UPDATES

**Save the Date: Issues Briefing:** Saturday, October 19, 2019, in/near Madison, WI. Tentative agenda and venue information to be announced soon.

**Save the Date: LWVUS 2020 Convention:** The 2020 Convention will be held in Washington, DC, on June 25–28. The official first call by LWVUS will be published in October, and they anticipate registration and hotel reservations opening in late January of 2020.

**LWVWI Working Groups:** We have two statewide, grassroots working groups right now made up of dedicated League members from around the state around the issues of Fair Maps (redistricting reform) and National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). If interested in joining either of these groups, contact Erin Grunze at the state office.



## National Voter Registration Day: September 24

National Voter Registration Day is around the corner! On Tuesday, September 24, LWVWI joins more than 100 Leagues across the country committed to participating in this national day celebrating our democracy. We're a proud partner of National Voter Registration Day and look forward to participating again this year to promote the excellent work local Leagues are doing across the state to help voters register to vote and to encourage even more eligible voters to get registered.



Sara Companik & Shirley Strange at the State Historical Society's display in Madison.

Join us in celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote.

League of Women Voters of Appleton

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