

League of Women Voters-Appleton  
2014 Annual Meeting  
Thursday, April 17, Liberty Hall  
Social Hour: 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Business Meeting 6:45 pm  
Presiding: Sara Companik Recorder: Secretary Lois Bressette

Members and guests present: Penny Bernard-Schaber, Lois Bressette, Sara Companik, Donna Cook, Deb Cronmiller, Sheryl DeHart, Miriam Douglass, Marcia Engen, Beth English, Marlys Fritzell, Marti Hemwall, Barbara Kelly, Jacqueline Klimaszewski, Stephanie Malaney, Carolyn Mewhowter, Helen Nagler, Amy Oberg, Jan Quinlan, Cheryl Reissmann, Ligia Rivera, Penny Robinson, Colleen Rortvedt, Joan Schneider, Richard Schoenbohm, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Cathy Thompson, Deb Werth, Kim Wetzel.

Reported by Shirley Strange, Anniversary Committee  
League of Women Voters of Appleton Celebrates 75 Years  
"League Memories" Discovering Our History

**Accomplishments:**

The first municipal service of garbage and rubbish collection and the disposal program in Appleton resulted from a study and campaign by the league during the years 1944-1946. The women steadfastly pursued the issue.

After careful study (always the League way), they presented a resolution to the city council, had an interview with the mayor, and petitioned signatures from community residents.

In April of 1946, the league's work resulted in bringing the issue before the people on the spring election ballot. The League's work was done.

In 1995 following a library study to update the 1975 library positions, the league made a concerted effort to support expanding the library. The league petitioned for the expansion project to be included in the Capital Plan of 1995 along with money in the budget to support it. The library did get its expansion.

**Tidbits:**

- February, 1947, the membership came to agreement that there would be no smoking at General Meetings.
- August, 1971, On August 4 a motion was made to refer to a League member by her given name rather than by her husband's name, e.g. Sally Smith rather than Mrs. John Smith.

- March 1961, Appleton held a Local League Convention on Wednesday evening at Bernie's Suppler Club. Reservations for a Prime rib dinner...\$3.00! Yes, three dollars!
- January 1962, The League had 85 members. Dues were \$5.00! Now stop that!!! The previous year they we \$4.00.

President Sara Companik called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

Parliamentarian Deb Cronmiller briefly reviewed procedures of Robert's Rules of Order running the meeting. There were no non-recommended items.

Marti Hemwall moved adoption of the agenda. Jan Quinlan seconded and the motion carried.

The minutes of the May 16, 2013 Annual Meeting minutes were read by a committee, approved and filed. The President appointed a committee of Deb Cronmiller, Marti Hemwall and Jacqui Klimaszewski to review and approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual meeting.

Barbara Kelly presented the Treasure's Report which was accepted.

In her President's Report, Sara Companik described an active and innovative year through participation in a variety of community events, all made possible through donations. There are several new members. Sara thanked the board members for their hard work this past year. A special thank you to Shirley and Dave Strange for their work on the league website. The League Speakers bureau is currently being organized to give talks about redistricting. Increasing observer corps participation at local meetings is a goal for the next year.

The Membership Report by Stephanie Melaney showed 60 current members. Staphanie passed out the membership master list so we could make corrections, if needed, to keep the list/data base current. Membership dues was increased to

\$75.00. The goal for the next year is to increase our membership for observer corp and other league duties. Dues assistance is available thru scholarship for those in need.

Barbara Kelly reviewed the budget contained in the meeting packet. The committee tried to be more conservative this year with the budget. Contributions from members was close to our projections, but fell short for non-member contributions.

Program Vice President Kim Wetzel reported that during the 2013-2014 year, the League held a total of six events, including the Annual Meeting in April. Last fall we had speakers who helped us better understand: The Affordable Care Act, Human Trafficking and Redistricting. And this winter, we had considerable numbers turnout for: Lively Issues, Mental Health, Crisis Intervention and Law Enforcement (NAMI speakers), Library Consensus Study (LWV-Appleton committee, chair: Miriam Douglass). We've had excellent community attendance and involvement with our programs, with much of the accolades going to the Appleton Public Library for not only hosting our events, but broadly marketing them as well. A sincere thank you especially to Elizabeth Eisen for her help.

Miriam Douglass reported on 2013-2014 Local Study. During the annual meeting two years ago the local study was decided. The nature of libraries has changed. Innovation has taken place to keep libraries current with the latest technology. David Lankes, author of the book, "Expect More" was used as a resource for the study. The study overlapped with the Appleton Public Library long range study which helped with our study. Due to the consensus, the job now is to support the APL as it works to build a new library for our city.

Kim Wetzel led the discussion of the Recommended Program. Kim said the Lively Issues forum was fabulous. The recommended study is a national, regional and

global issue: Human Trafficking. We need to oppose all aspects of human trafficking in terms of labor and sex. Texas and New Jersey has a completed a Human Trafficking consensus study. If the National Convention decides to pass this as a study, we recommend proceeding to act on it. We can concur with the New Jersey consensus study to make it more local by looking at human trafficking locally.

Motion by Shirley Strange, that the Appleton League take on the study of human trafficking as the local study. Second by Irene Strohbeen. Helen Nagler amended the motion, accepted as a friendly amendment by Shirley, to study human trafficking and research local services available to victims. Second by Stephanie Malaney. Motion carried.

Kim Wetzel further led the discussion to look into non-public transportation. We should look at the city plan and work concurrently with the city of Appleton.

Helen Nagler made a motion to add to the recommendation that Outagamie County and greenways committee, are included with the city plan for non-public transportation. Second by Barb Kelly. Offering as a friendly amendment, Penny Bernard Schaber asked to add non-public transportation such as bike lanes: the league should act to remind local governmental entities to follow through with the decisions/plans they have already adopted and advocate to move forward with and encourage the local governmental entities to follow and implement the adopted plan. A core group with the league should know and understand the city's plan on non-public transportation and advocate to move forward with the adopted plan. Second by Richard Schoenbohm. Motion carried.

Motion by Miriam Douglass that we re-adopt our local positions. Second by Stephanie Malaney. Motion carried. Two abstain: Jan Quinlan and Colleen Rortvedt.

Motion by Shirley Strange to adopt the budget. Second by Jan Quinlan. Motion carried.

Sara gave an update on the League Anniversary Committee. Personal invitations were mailed out for the 75th anniversary dinner. The committee is streamlining reservations to the state League to make it easier.

Shirley Strange presented the Nominating Committee Report. The slate of officers and directors for 2014-2015 are:

VP Action - Jacqui Klimaszewski

VP Program 1 year - Gayle Hardt (remainder of Kim Wetzel's term)

Treasurer - Barbara Kelly

Director 2 year - Irene Strohbeen

Director 2 year - Stephanie Melanie

Director 2 year - Penny Robinson

Director 1 year - Deb Werth

Continuing Board Members (Year 2 of 2)

President - Sara Companik

Secretary - Lois Bressette

Director - Karen Jansen

Nominating Committee 2015: Nadine Miller (Chair), Miriam Douglass, Marti Hemwall.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Unanimous acceptance of the Nominating Committee slate was moved by Irene Strohbeen and seconded by Marti Hemwall. The motion carried.

President Sara Companik reminded members to be non-partisan when speaking on the League's behalf. Be mindful of where we are and what we say to protect the League.

Directions to the Board:

Penny Bernard Schaber, continue to support Stephanie and encourage new members. Implement the scholarship program for membership fees.

Irene Strohbeen said this is an election year, time for the League to shine. Irene loves voter services and is available to help Jacqui. Jacqui has great ideas.

Richard Schoenbohm is available to speak on redistricting. Jacqui would like speakers to go into the high school and college classes. Jacqui will help with a proposal to principles. Helen Nagler will help with the speakers bureau. Amy Oberg will help with expanding the speakers bureau to include other topics.

Shirley Strange said thank you to the board. It is time for the League to educate the public on how important it is to vote in the primary elections.

Helen Nagler feels let down by the League. County services are absent from the League. The League needs to play more of a role in county elections.

Marlys Fritzell concurs with Helen.

Deb Cronmiller said we need to continue with membership and leadership development. Use the Joyce Fund money to help with education programs.

Penny Robinson said this year has been disastrous for the League and voter rights.

Jan Quinlan commended Miriam and the committee on the League study. Jan appreciates the League taking on the library study.

Kim Wetzel thanked the League and board.

Stephanie Malaney said we need to increase membership. We need more people to help with League activities.

Miriam Douglass said we have strong library support and hope to continue working with future library development.

Colleen Rortvedt is impressed with the dedication of the library committee and encourages the League to continue its support.

Jacqui announced that she needs help with voter registration on Sunday, June 22 from noon to 5PM in the park. Let her know if you can help.

Colleen Rortvedt gave a presentation on the Future of Libraries.

Motion by Jacqui to adjourn. Second by Lois Bressette. Motion carried.