

President's Message April 2020

It's a really hard time to write a president's message when we should be celebrating as a country but instead we are suffering as a country. And yet, the League of Women Voters has endured and prospered throughout many difficult times in our 100 year history and we will continue. There has been a significant increase in questions to LWV Appleton via social media, email and phone with important questions on voting and candidates which suggests that the League is a trusted source for important voting information in turbulent times. We have had to cancel all of our March events including candidate forums, voter registration and educational programs. At this point, we are not sure of our steps going forward and we know that we have to take things on a week by week basis. We have been given some guidance by LWVWI which is included in Dropbox. We are able to conduct Board meetings electronically, but at this point, we are not able to conduct member meetings that way, including the Annual Meeting. We will need to review the information from state regarding this and decide how to conduct our May meeting if we are not able to meet as a local League by that point. We also have to approve the nomination of Board members for next year as well as the budget. There are some significant changes to the budget at the state level which will need to discuss. Another document from state is included in Dropbox regarding PMP payments for members who join at a reduced rate. That is good news. For this Board meeting, we will need to focus less on what we have done and more on what we need to do to be creative as a Board to figure out how to continue to carry out our mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy while still maintaining our Physical Distancing to keep everyone safe and healthy. Obviously this will be a very important Board meeting.