

President's Message October 2020

It is countdown time to what is one of the most important elections in our lifetimes. LWV Appleton has been very involved in efforts to fulfill the League's mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy during a pandemic. We have learned a lot and made some natural mistakes which helped us learn even more. Thanks to Jacqui & Brian who have been conducting our first virtual candidate forums and have become creative in doing voter registration assistance. Thanks also to Julie Evers for being our timekeeper. And especially thanks to Dave Strange for all of his technical assistance with all of the changes we have had to make. Thanks to everyone else for everything you are doing to get us through this election cycle and what I know you will be doing to help us with the transition. Kathy Voigt has done an exceptional job with both the newsletter and press releases. LWV Appleton has been featured in many media outlets for the good work that we are doing. We have a lot to talk about during this Board meeting. Sue Hopfensberger and Cindy Fallona have worked hard on the fundraising campaign. Cindy has also scheduled new member meetings and will talk with us about membership fees which will be due later this year. We appear to be in good fiscal shape and thank you to both Diane Putzer and Sue H for helping to sort out our budget especially related to the centennial celebration. We need to begin looking at developing an observer corps again and figuring out what meetings we want attended. Linda Bjella has some good ideas regarding that in addition to all of the other advocacy work that she has been doing with the census, fair district maps and the centennial. Our next program will be in conjunction with Kimberly Clark to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Renee has been working with Ligia Rivera on that. Renee and I have also talked about the possibility of an extra program with a Lawrence professor talking about what should happen according to the constitution if there is a contested election. With all of the changes that have had to be made especially related to Covid-19, we as a Board need to review any policies we have regarding virtual programs or meetings especially related to social media and our candidate forums in order to maintain our nonpartisan integrity. We also have to vote to change our bylaws to reflect changes approved at the national convention this summer related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within the League. Please remember to place your reports in Dropbox and be prepared to get a lot of work done!