

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 114

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter

October 2011



THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Jane Klekamp, President, LWV of La Crosse Area

In thinking about writing the first column in my role as president of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area, I remembered why I became a member.

On a concrete level, two women are responsible - Maureen Kinney and Marian Ramlow. I was honored when Maureen invited me to attend a LWV meeting as I had read and learned about the League during election cycles. I admired the fact that it was an organization that prioritized women and issues important to women. I also had the good fortune of sitting by Marian Ramlow during the first annual meeting I attended. As I listened to Marion talk about her role in developing family planning services for women in the area I knew I could learn and grow from being a part of this inspiring organization.

On a philosophical level I admire the history of the LWV and the work that has gone into developing its stands on issues. Whether it is social policy, global climate change, health care, money in elections, or voter registration and elections administration - there is a thoughtful statement attached to the issue.

Why did you become a member of the League? Was it to be more active in our community? Was it to learn more about issues from a different perspective? Was it to be part of an intelligent community of thoughtful people who consider all sides of a discussion? Whatever your reason, know that your skills and talents are valued within the League and the Board would love to know what your interests and talents are. Would you like to

learn more about registering people to vote? Would you like to help people obtain photo identification to be able to vote in 2012? If you have ideas on what you would like to do to be an active League member, please contact any board member to talk about issues that are near and dear to you - we would love to hear from you.

Observer Corps Members Honored

By Marybeth Clark, Observer Corps Coordinator

National Observer Corps Day, a made-up holiday to honor the 21 La Crosse area LWV government Observers, was celebrated at the Sept. 13th Lunch and Learn meeting at the Radisson Hotel. Those receiving 1-year participation rhinestone VOTE pins were: **Carla Townsend** (City Planning), **Jan Contreras** (city and county Judiciary and Administration), **Jean Marck and Carolyn M. Jenkins** (Aging and Long Term Care), **Marilyn Hempstead** (county Health & Human Services), **Pat Killeen** (Western WI Cares, city Executive, & city Police & Fire), **Monica Lazere** (Winding Rivers Library Board), **Robert Richardson & Elizabeth Nutter** (La Crosse School District Board of Education), **Sue Mercier** (substitute observer), **Bev Mach and Nancy Hill** (co-coordinators and cheerleaders).

Observer Corps welcomes 4 new participants: **Nancy McCarthy** (La Crosse city/county Sign Committee), **Carla Pena** (La Crosse Finance and Personnel), **Kathryn Lammers** (Town of Campbell), and **Rocky Huber** (Town of Onalaska).

Training session for anyone wanting to become an Observer will be Wednesday, Oct. 12th at 3 p.m. in the La Crosse Public Library (Main Street) Trustees Room. Training should last no longer than 1 hour.

Lunch & Learn with LWV:
WI Voter ID Legislation
October 11, 11:30 to 1:00
See Page 4 for Details

Membership Corner

By Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Membership Coordinator

A warm welcome to new LWV members in the La Crosse Region since our annual meeting in June!

Our new members are: Keith Belzer, Jill Billings, Christine Clair, Beth Piggush, & Bonnie Sacia.

League membership is up (95) and people are in the mood to be engaged and have their voices be heard. The league has an exciting line-up of events and presentation for the 2011-2012 year. Make special note of the programs planned for the year. General membership should feel free to invite a guest to our Lunch & Learn series, and any other events planned. Our membership grows when community members join our events and see for themselves how compelling and informative the league can be.

There are a wide variety of opportunities for involvement and many age groups to focus our energies on. With the new Voter ID requirement there are various interest groups that need representation and support, high school age students old enough to vote, higher education students, minority groups, handicapped populations whether it is a learning disability or cognitive disability, and elderly need a voice. This diversity of community groups provides the league a multitude of opportunities for involvement.

Get engaged and renew your present membership (new annual year started in July). Bring a guest for new membership-the first year dues are only \$30.00. What a bargain for so much good information & opportunity.

General Membership: \$60.00

Additional family member: add \$30.00 to general membership

National LWV Studies

By Betty Kruck

The national LWV is conducting two studies: The Role of the Federal Government in Education and Privatization of Government Services. There is background information available on the national website, www.lwv.org, for the education study. On the website, please go to the *Members* tab at the top of the page, and scroll down to *Projects and Programs*. Leagues across the country are asked to provide programs, read the information papers provided by the national committee, and discuss the issues raised by the consensus questions.

Consensus questions on the education study must be completed by November 30. Anyone interested in participating in the education study, please contact Betty Kruck, krux@mwt.net or call 608-689-2222. Those interested will meet to discuss and answer the questions posed by the national committee. The papers provided by the national committee are *Common Core Standards and Assessments*, *Early Childhood Education- Equity and Funding*, *Funding and Equity Issues*, *Legislation and Funding for Education of Children Who are Disadvantaged* and *Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives*.

Background information papers and consensus questions for the privatization study will be available after the education study is completed.



LVW Program News for 2011-2012

By Betty Kruck

The program committee for the La Crosse LWV has selected the following list of timely topics for the 2011-2012 year. Although the majority of the programs are planned as lunch programs on the second Tuesday of the month at the **Radisson, from 11:30 to 1:00**, please watch for special notices for any changes in the time and location for the programs. More details and any changes will be listed on the League website calendar, www.lwvlacrosse.org.

September 13	Housing and Poverty in the Coulee Region – Karl Green, UW Extension Agent
October 11	Voter I.D. Legislation- Reid Magney, WI Government Accountability Board
November 8	Role of the Federal Government in Education- U.S. Representative Ron Kind
December 13	Parental School Choice: What Does It Mean? State Representative Sondy Pope Roberts and Jim Bender, President WI School Choice (5:30 p.m. La Crosse Public Library)
January 10	Privatization of Government Services
January 14	Creating an Environment for Diversity (10:00 brunch co-sponsored with AAUW)
February 14	Municipal Government: Pro & Con, Creating a Position of La Crosse City Administrator
March 13	Reducing Environmental Regulations: Degradation of Natural Resources
March 31	Legislative Breakfast
April 10	Who Owns the Water?
May 8	What's True and What's Not----Political Rhetoric

Program committee: Maureen Kinney, Sheila Garrity, Jane Klekamp, Carla Townsend, Nancy Hill, Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Betty Kruck

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Opt for an e-mail version of this newsletter by sending a request to news@lwvlacrosse.org.

League Action on Voter ID Legislation Implementation

By Jane Klekamp

Approximately 25 people attended a meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area to discuss the important issue of the Voter ID law that was signed earlier this year and will go into effect in the 2012 election cycle.

People interested in helping others obtain voter identification signed up to help with education, transportation, fundraising, or outreach. The board will discuss further efforts to educate the public at the next board meeting - if you have an interest in helping, please contact Jane Klekamp at igklekamp@centurytel.net.

Linked to the Voter ID bill, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is sponsoring a concert on October 15th, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the UU Fellowship. The following information is from the UU Newsletter: "The music will be provided by Fayme Rochelle and the Waxwings, who will offer fine vocals, great up-tempo music, and an opportunity to dance. The cause will be the League of Women Voters' voter registration support campaign, a key initiative at a time when registering and voting have been made more complicated by Wisconsin's new voter ID law.

Tickets are \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a couple, and \$20 for a family. Ticket sales will take place after each service in September."

If you are interested in a ticket, please contact Jane Klekamp for more information!



Wisconsin Voter ID Legislation

Reid Magney, Spokesman Government
Accountability Board

October 11- Lunch 11:30, Program 12:00
Radisson Hotel

Reid Magney, former reporter for the La Crosse Tribune, is currently Public Information Officer for the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board. Reid will give an overview of changes to the requirements for voting in Wisconsin. He will also talk about the challenges the Government Accountability Board has faced this year with implementing the law and educating the public about the changes.

The La Crosse League has initiated contacts with various organizations, people and agencies that may be interested in helping individuals obtain the necessary documentation that will be required to vote. An update on the League's plans will be given at this program meeting.

Please make **reservations** by contacting Nancy Hill, nfhill@centurytel.net or 608-782-1753 **by Friday, October 7.**

2011-2012 League of Women Voters of La Crosse Area Board:

Jane Klekamp, President
Dee Peacock, Treasurer
Sandy Sechrest, Secretary
Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins
Nancy Hill
Maureen Kinney
Betty Kruck
Peg Perri
Carla Townsend
Marilyn Huckenpoehler

Contact Info for National Issues

League of Women Voters <http://www.lwv.org/>

Library of Congress site <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Senate <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov>
<http://kohl.senate.gov/>

House of Representatives
<http://www.kind.house.gov/index.html>

Supreme Court <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

Contact Info for State Issues

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
<http://www.lwvwi.org/>

Governor's Office <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/>

Government Accountability Board
<http://www.gab.wi.gov>

Court System <http://www.wicourts.gov/>

State Senate:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senhome.htm>

- District 31 Senator Kathleen Vinehout, 608-266-8546 or 877-763-6636,
Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 32 Senator Jennifer Shilling, 608-266-5490 or 800-385-3385;
Sen.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov

State Assembly:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/asmhome.htm>

- District 91 Rep. Chris Danou, 608-266-7015 or 888-534-0091, Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 92 Rep Mark Radcliffe, 608-266-7461 or 888-534-0092,
Rep.Radcliffe@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 94: Rep Steve Doyle, 608-266-0631 or 888-534-0094, Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 95: Vacant pending Nov. 8 election
- District 96: Rep.Lee Nerrison, 608-266-3534 or 888-534-0096,
Rep.Nerrison@legis.wisconsin.gov



Local contact information

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area <http://www.lwvlacrosse.org/>

La Crosse County: Staff <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/directory.htm> County Board <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/CoDirctry/2SupervDist.pdf>

City of La Crosse Staff <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?nid=94> Council
<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?NID=338>

For neighboring counties, check websites [[Buffalo](#), [Crawford](#), [Eau Claire](#), [Jackson](#), [Monroe](#), [Pepin](#), [Pierce](#), [Trempeleau](#), [Vernon](#) Counties]

Note that the website addresses are linked in the electronic version of this document – available on our website

Calendar for October-November 2011 League of Women Voters La Crosse Area

<i>LWV Board Meeting</i>	October 5, 5:30 pm
<i>Voter I.D. Legislation Reid Magney of the Government Accountability Board</i>	October 11, 11:30. – 1:00 Radisson Hotel, 200 Front Street
<i>Primary Election for 95th Assembly District</i>	October 11
<i>Observer Corps Training</i>	October 12, 3:00 pm La Crosse Public Library, Main St.
<i>UU Fundraiser for LWV Voter ID Support Campaign</i>	October 15, 7:30 pm UU Fellowship, 401 West Ave. S.
<i>Role of the Federal Government in Education U.S. Representative Ron Kind</i>	November 8, 11:30 to 1:00 Radisson Hotel, 200 Front Street
<i>Election Day</i>	November 8



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA
P.O. BOX 363, LA CROSSE, WI 54602-0363