

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 75 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter May 2004

THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Kay Adams
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April is almost over and we made it through the spring elections. The ads for the fall Presidential election are coming fast and furious and the furious part connects to the emotions that I feel about the lack of credible information shared in these ads. Campaign finance reform was a step in the right direction but the voters are still not getting solid information on the true policies being promulgated by the candidates. The League website for candidates at DNet.org is up and running so please take the time to visit the site and tell your family and friends.

Catherine Kolkmeier did an exquisite job crafting our new business cards with our name and website on them. At our annual meeting they will be available to the members with the intent that you help to disperse them in the area. Our website is listed and includes links to dnet.org for voting information. Being an informed voter is not as easy as it sounds when we have to wade through all of the 60-second sound bites on TV. Giving our cards to people is a personal way of telling them to take a bite out of commercialism by accessing objective information about the stands the candidates are taking on issues important to them.

See you at the annual meeting in May!

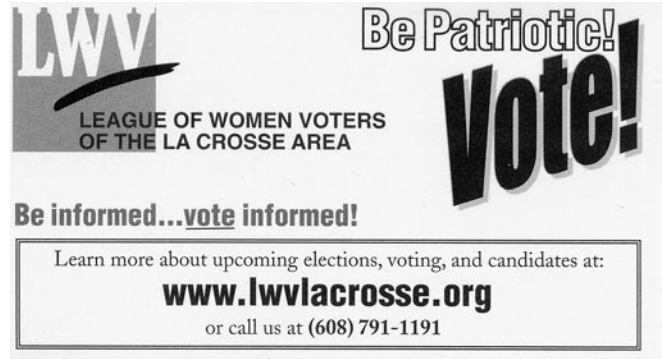
No Child Left Behind

Wednesday, May 5, 2004 at Doc Powell's Buffet Lunch at 11:30 a.m. & meeting at Noon

Cost: \$5.95 plus tax and tip

Kathie Tyser, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, La Crosse Schools, will speak on the challenges of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. This is part of a state study that will be completed next year.

Please RSVP to Jean Marck, 788-4162 or jeanm2332@aol.com by Sunday evening, May 2. Please respond with either a yes or no so we know you received a notification. Guests are always welcome.



LWV
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

Be Patriotic!
Vote!

Be informed...vote informed!

Learn more about upcoming elections, voting, and candidates at:
www.lwvlacrosse.org
or call us at (608) 791-1191

VOTER SERVICES

By Catherine Kolkmeier

The spring election is behind us, and our sights are now set on the September primary and the general election. I have had several people volunteer to help the Be Patriotic—Vote! Campaign committee reach new voters this year. If you haven't been called on yet, you will be in the coming months. We have come up with several different groups of people we hope to reach before the fall elections and will need help reaching each one. If you want to volunteer and haven't yet, please call me at (608) 796-9090, and we will find a role that works for you.



One of the newest tools we have to reach new voters (and to remind registered voters to go to the polls) is our Be Patriotic—Vote! campaign business cards, which we

will hand out at the mall, at large businesses during shift changes, and at other public events. If you know of an event where we might pass these out (preferably later in the summer, closer to the primary), again, please give me a call.

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped us educate voters this spring!

LWV Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 17th. To sign up for the dinner (you can order off the menu), call the League number at 791-1191 or email Roxanne Reynolds at roxyrey@aol.com. The LWV Proposed Budget, Board elections and recommended studies for next year will be on the agenda.

Slate of Candidates

Nancy Hill, Director (Action)
Pam Thiel, Director (Administration)
Roxanne Reynolds, Director (Program)/
Vice President
Sandy Sechrest, Secretary
Dee Peacock, Treasurer

Recommended Studies for 2004-2005

City and County Comprehensive Planning

A continued study of city and county comprehensive planning.

This study was adopted in May of 2003. We had a program by Jeff Bluske, Director of the La Crosse County Zoning, Planning and Land Information Dept. to explain the county ordinances and "smart growth" planning done in the county. We also had a meeting on affordable housing by Diane Dunlap, Housing Program Specialist, Coulee Region Community Action Program. New emphasis would include annexation, boundary and regional planning issues.

Criminal Justice

A continued study of alternative programs and how they affect the need for additional jail construction. The area of emphasis would be on mental health issues.

The studies on these two items are not completed and because of the emphasis on Voters Service activities this year, no new items were recommended.

Support Positions

Recommend that support positions be adopted with an effort to update during the next year.

LEAGUE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

La Crosse Area League Phone: 791-1191

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

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

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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La Crosse:
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E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Senate District 32 Sen. Mark Meyer
(608) 787-6574
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen32/sen32.html>
e-mail: Sen.Meyer@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 94 Rep. Michael Huebsch
(608) 786-3512
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Assembly District 95 Rep. Jennifer Shilling
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Assembly District 96 Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud
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<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm96/asm96.html>
e-mail: Rep.Johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us

La Crosse County web site (information on Board of Supervisors and Committees):
<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Default.htm>

State Legislative Hotline:
(800) 362-9472

Wisconsin State Legislature (including Wisconsin Blue Book): <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>

To check on the voting record of elected officials, go to:

Project Vote Smart
<http://www.vote-smart.org/>

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

From the website:

DNet - is a project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

It is an interactive platform designed to improve the quality of voter information and create a more educated and engaged electorate. DNet encourages candidates to address a wider range of issues, and to address them in greater depth, than they might in other media. Candidate issue statements are provided by the candidates themselves, without any outside editing.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING *LA CROSSE WISCONSIN VOTER* TO THE EDITOR AT
ANITALARRY@CENTURYTEL.NET

CALENDAR FOR MAY, 2004

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

Board Meeting *Wed., April 21 at noon*
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.

No Child Left Behind *Wed., May 5 at Noon (Cunch: 11:30 a.m.)*
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.

Annual Meeting *Mon., May 17 at 5:30 p.m. (dinner at 6:30 p.m.)*
Ciatti's, 9448 Hwy 16, Onalaska

Board Meeting *Wed., May 19 at noon*
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.

Note: Board meeting times/location are subject to change; refer to agenda or contact LWV President.



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