

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 81 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter March 2005

THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

As I compose this article, I am sitting on my comfy couch with the flames of our fireplace keeping me cozy and the wireless laptop keeping me on task. When the article is done it will be sent through email to Anita Evans who will put it in our newsletter. Then it will be posted on our website and sent via paper mail to those who still want a paper copy. The additional joy is that I do not have to leave this couch to send the email as this article will travel through the air to an airport on another floor, go through the telephone lines and appear on Anita's computer. Anita has coordinated our newsletter for many years and is now helping to post information on our website. This technology allows us to reach more people but only because we

have many volunteers willing to give of their time to keep the public and fellow League Members informed. Anita told us the number of hits on our website have increased. We will use the growing interest by posting more election information, including information about forums and responses from the La Crosse mayoral candidates to our questions. We are asking for your help. If you think of questions you would like to ask the mayoral candidates, please send those to me and we will integrate them into website. If you are lucky, you might be able to send it through the air while sitting on your comfy couch.

Kay Adams

President, League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

VOTER SERVICES

By Catherine Kolkmeier

The spring elections are upon us again, and we have had an amazing amount of requests for candidate forums this spring. Below is a very tentative list of what we have been asked to organize. Plans are ongoing for many of these so for the latest updates, check our website at www.lwvlacrosse.org or call Catherine at 796-9090.



FORUM	DATE	TIME, LOCATION
La Crosse School Board	March 15	Central High School Auditorium, 6 p.m. (run by the Central High School Political Club)
Town of Onalaska	March 19	TBA
Holmen School Board	March 21	Holmen Board of Education Meeting Room, 7 p.m.
Mayor of La Crosse - Economic Forum	March 24	Radisson Hotel Ballroom, breakfast at 7 a.m. and program at 7:30 a.m. Cost: \$15. For reservations call: 784-5488.
Town of Campbell	March 24	Campbell Community Center, 7 p.m.
Mayor of La Crosse - Poverty Issues Forum	TBA	TBA
Mayor of La Crosse Forum with WKBT-News Channel 8	TBA	TBA

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST--A CHANCE TO MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS

This year's Legislative Breakfast, one of our most popular events, will be held on Saturday, April 2 at Day's Inn at 101 Sky Harbour Drive. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the buffet brunch starts at 9:00 a.m. The scrumptious menu includes juices, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, bacon, breakfast potato, English muffins, yogurt, and coffee, tea, or milk for \$10.00 (includes tax and gratuity).

Our federal and state legislators will provide an overview of their perspective of news from Washington and Madison, and then we will have an opportunity to ask them questions. The following members have been invited: Senator Russ Feingold, Senator Herb Kohl, Representative Ron Kind, Senator Dan Kapanke, Representative Mike Huebsch, Representative Lee Nerison, and Representative Jennifer Shilling.

Due to scheduling and other commitments, we won't know if the member or their staff will be participating until closer to the date. However, we always have an informative and lively discussion at this event. Don't miss this chance to learn first-hand about the present legislative agenda in Washington and Madison! For reservations, call the League number at 791-1191 by March 29.

ANNUAL MEETING Monday, May 23 at Ciatti's Italian Restaurant You will order off the menu. 5:30 p.m. Social Hour and 6:30 p.m. Dinner Business Meeting and Program to Follow

Global Trade and Local Jobs

The League is one of the co-sponsors of a Town Hall Meeting: *Is Anybody Listening? Making Your Voice Heard at Home and Abroad.* The panel presentation will be held on Thursday, March 3rd, 7:00 p.m. (UW-L Cleary Center)



Reality Store

By Catherine Kolkmeier

Twice a year, the National Association of Women Business Owners and the La Crosse School District organize the Reality Store, an event where high school seniors learn about money management, financial decision-making, and the cost of living an adult life. Students are given a pretend checkbook, a month's "pay" from a job that they choose, and a life situation (marital status, kids, etc.). Businesses from all over the area volunteer staff members to work in various booths that the students must visit, paying for housing, transportation, child care, food, and other amenities. It's a lot of fun and very educational for the students.

This year's Reality Store, held March 2nd at Logan High School, has a new feature—a voting booth! Students got to learn about voter registration, ballots, and voting, and 18-year-olds even got to register for real. We hope to make this a regular part of the Reality Store in the future.

2004 MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER FINANCE DRIVE

We have now completed the 2004 member and non-member fundraising efforts. I would like to thank all of the members who participated and who so generously donated to our efforts and also to the businesses that donated. If you know any of the businesses or business owners, please thank them.

The non-member donors – 2004:

Attorney Thomas M. Fitzpatrick, Fowler and Hammer, Inc., HSR Associates, Inc., Kwik Trip, Elaine M. Nelson, S. Ollard, Ovation Marketing, John Berry and Coulee State Bank

The membership donors – 2004:

Kay Adams, John Berry, Anita Evans, Peg Fish, Ellen Frantz, Lee Fricke, Jean L. Foss, Nancy Goode, Rachel Gundersen, Patricia Heim, Tara Johnson, Maureen Kinney, June Kjome, Madeline Kepner, Elizabeth Kruck, Kathryn S. Lammers, Bev Mach, Marian Ramlow, Ellen Rosborough, Paul/Joan Schoenfeld, Sig Schroeder, Grace Sierer and Marilyn Van Wyk.

Thank you all for your generous contributions.

Maureen L. Kinney
Finance Chair

Web Server Statistics for lwvlacrosse.org

The League of Women Voters of California hosts the local League website and has been rolling out new features since we first launched our lwvlacrosse.org website less than 2 years ago. Just announced is a web server statistics service that gives a number of reports on web activity. Now we can track the number of average requests per day, and see what the volume of activity is on the site. Not surprisingly, there was a spike in the number of “hits” around the time of the primary election. The data log, which was initiated on November 11, recorded an average of 48 requests per day. On February 15, the busiest day to date, there were 154 requests for pages. February 10 was the 2nd highest day with 130 requests, followed by February 3 with 114 requests. Some of the pages most often accessed were the candidate forum calendar and the La Crosse mayoral primary candidate responses. There have been over 5,200 total requests for the 107 days statistics have been tracked.

Through keyword searches on various search engines, links from other websites, and references in the La Crosse *Tribune*, an audience beyond our membership is reaching the League website. The League website is becoming another important community resource for information on elections and voting. If you have suggestions for improving the website, please contact Ellen Rosborough or me.

Anita Evans

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/>

Senator Herbert Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
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LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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Senator Russell Feingold
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E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Senate District 32 Sen. Dan Kapanke
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<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen32/sen32.html>
e-mail: Sen.Kapanke@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 94 Rep. Michael Huebsch
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Assembly District 95 Rep. Jennifer Shilling
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Assembly District 96 Rep. Lee Nerison
(608) 266-3534
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm96/asm96.html>
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La Crosse County website (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/>



PLAN NOW:

LWV STATE CONVENTION, JANESVILLE CONFERENCE CENTER, JUNE 3-4, 2005

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA**

2004/05 BOARD MEMBERS

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Kay Adams

Vice President

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Sandy Sechrest

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Dee Peacock

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Nancy Hill

Maureen Kinney

Jane Klekamp

Catherine Kolkmeier

Jean Marck

Ellen Rosborough

Pam Thiel

Send correspondence regarding *La Crosse Wisconsin Voter* to the Editor at anitalarry@centurytel.net

Be Patriotic - VOTE

Mark your calendar for the
General Election on April 5.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH - APRIL, 2005
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

Board Meeting
Ciatti's, 9348 Hwy 16

Wed., March 23 at noon

Legislative Breakfast
Day's Inn, 101 Sky Harbour Drive

Sat., April 2 at 9 a.m.

SPRING GENERAL ELECTION

TUES., APRIL 5

Board Meeting
Ciatti's, 9348 Hwy 16

Wed., April 27 at noon

Check for Election Forum dates inside.

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



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