

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 87 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter May/June 2006

THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Could it possibly be so close to one year since I was installed as President of our local League? Our Annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15th at Ciatti's, and that's fast approaching! Enclosed in this newsletter you will find the Budget Committees report along with the Nominating Committees slate which will be brought to the membership at the annual meeting. The annual meeting is also when we customarily start collecting renewal dues. If you are planning on attending, please also plan on bringing your dues for collection. If you cannot attend that evening, please consider renewing now by mailing your \$50.00 dues to League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area, P.O. Box 363, La Crosse, WI 54602-0363. Thank You for your consideration in helping us get these renewals submitted in a timely fashion.

We are also conducting our annual fund drive. As many of you know, our annual dues pay only the monies that our chapter owes to State and National Leagues and, therefore, in order to carry on our local activities, we must fundraise through our own general membership and other local activities. Our primary mission is to act as a non-partisan political organization to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Of course, we are also continuing to study issues and will be providing forums to our members on issues of importance to us and the community at large. Please consider helping us with these projects by making an additional donation to our fund this year. Simply add your gift to your dues renewal and bring it to the annual meeting, or mail it to our P.O. box. Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated!

I look forward to seeing most of you at the meeting in May. It promises to be an enjoyable evening with an entertaining program. Please call in your reservations if you have not done so already.

Happy Spring to all!! Aren't the sunshine, warm temperatures and flowers in bloom an absolute delight? Enjoy

Roxanne Reynolds
President, League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Beverly Speer, Advocacy Director for the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, will be the speaker at the League's April meeting, Thursday, April 27, 2006. Lunch will be 11:30 a.m. to Noon, and the program from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

The meeting will be in the classroom at the People's Food Cooperative, 315 Fifth Avenue South. The classroom is on the second floor of the Co-op near Hackberry's Bistro.

All food and beverage items brought into the classroom must be purchased in the PFC grocery store or in Hackberry's Bistro. Parking is available in the Wells Fargo bank lot where there are spots marked PFC customer parking. We are asked to park in the bank lot, saving the spots in the parking lot in front of the store for customers who are carrying groceries.

The LWV co-sponsored a community discussion with the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign on the subject of preserving democracy in today's society. The discussion, "Dialogue for Democracy: Shared Values for Reclaiming Democracy in Wisconsin, was held March 25, the same day as our Legislative Breakfast. Beverly will give us a recap of the public forum held in our community, and information on the activities of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign throughout the state. The WDC describes itself as a nonpartisan political watchdog group working for clean government and real democracy. WDC tracts the money in state politics, fights government corruption and works for campaign finance reform, media reform and other pro-democracy reforms through research, citizen education, community outreach, coalition building and direct advocacy. WDC manages the state's only online searchable database of contributors to state campaigns.

Come and listen or join the lively discussion that occurs at League meetings. No reservations are needed for this program.



LWV NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee would like to present the 2006-2008 slate of officers:

2006-2008 POSITIONS

Secretary: Sandy Sechrest
Treasurer: Dee Peacock

Directors

Nancy Hill
Anita Evans
Betty Kruck
Open--at least one position

Nominating Committee Chair – Open

Note that there are no portfolios attached to these positions, though each of the directors have agreed to take on a portfolio. According to our bylaws, each Board determines the portfolios needed for the year to accomplish their goals. In addition to the elected board, there can be up to 6 appointed directors, to help with special projects, or even to take on what may be considered an elected director's portfolio. Broad participation of the membership on the Board and in volunteer positions is encouraged.

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS (ELECTED TO 2005-2007 TERMS)

President Roxanne Reynolds
Vice-President - Open

Directors

Gretchen Benjamin
Maureen Kinney
Catherine Kolkmeier

Respectfully Submitted,

Nominating Committee

Ellen Frantz, Chair, Sharon Hampson, Jean Marck

League Legislative Day

League of Women Voters members were joined on March 25 by Representative Ron Kind, State Sen. Dan Kapanke, and Rep. Jennifer Shilling as well as staff from the offices of Senators Feingold and Kohl. Among the far ranging issues discussed were wildlife refuges, troop withdrawal from Iraq, cuts to student aid, affordable health care, the federal deficit, immigration reform, lobby reform, protecting civil liberties, energy policy & ethanol, Taxpayer Protection Amendment (TPA), and upcoming state ballot initiatives/referenda. League members appreciate the opportunity to directly discuss the issues of the day with those who represent us in state and federal government.

TPA-TABOR

For the complete LWVWI Statement on TPA-TABOR, see <http://www.lwvwi.org/> Below is an excerpt from the document:

The regulatory functions of government protect our environment and the health and safety of our communities. Public agencies provide safety nets for those in need. They provide and maintain the infrastructure of roads, highways, bridges, airports, docks, museums, and schools and colleges. Education, costly as it is, is a key not only for individual success but also for our nation's survival. Reduce government? Punish it? How foolish. Make it more efficient and more effective? Fine, the League is in support. However, we do not find that kind of fine-tuning in TABOR/TPA.

Annual Meeting Dinner

WHEN: Monday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ciatti's Italian Restaurant at 9348 Hwy. 16 in Onalaska

Make your reservation for the LWV of the La Crosse Area annual meeting by May 10. Contact Pam Thiel at 788-6411, jctpat@aol.com or the League phone at 791-1191. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting. We will be ordering off their dinner menu.

LWV
of the
La Crosse
Area
Budget
2006-
07

	2004-05Act	2005-06Bdgt	2005-06	2006-07 Prop Budget
INCOME				
Dues	3105.00	3100.00	3510.00	3510.00
Contributions				
Members	773.90	600.00	5.00	600.00
Non-Mmbers	490.00	450.00		450.00
Annual Mtg/Units		500.00		500.00
Fundraising				
Heritage Night	785.85	800.00	588.20	
Books			102.98	100.00
Heileman's Voter Service Fund		500.00		500.00
Other				
Units/Mtgs	490.00		47.70	
Interest				
Money Market/Savings Acct.	212.61	240.00	495.58	730.00
Heileman's Voter Service	203.51	240.00	447.63	550.00
Education Fund	120.00	100.00		100.00
Reserves		1720.00		605.00
Total Revenue	6180.87	8250.00	5197.09	7645.00
	2004-05Act	2005-06Bdgt	2005-06	2006-07 Prop Budget
EXPENSES				
Board & Admin		50.00	240.00	180.00
Supplies/Postage		50.00		50.00
Administration	68.00	100.00	72.00	100.00
Telephone	395.26	700.00	664.32	665.00
Finance/Fundraising	77.78	100.00		100.00
State Donation				
Membership		125.00		125.00
Public Relations		75.00		75.00
Unit/Mtgs/Speakers	491.65	300.00	352.13	400.00
Conventions/wrkshps/Annual Mtg				
State Convention/Council	409.67	600.00	186.42	300.00
National Convention	437.00	800.00		1000.00
Annual Meeting				
Dinner	400.09	500.00		500.00
Annual Report	45.41	50.00		50.00
State Wrkshps/Meetings		100.00	80.00	100.00
Assessments				
State per Member	1796.00	1800.00	1674.00	1700.00
National per Member	1572.70	1650.00	1462.50	1500.00
Education Activities				
Bulletin	390.07	500.00	187.35	300.00
Committee resources		100.00		100.00
Voter Service	50.00	50.00		50.00
Heileman's Voter Service Fund	4690.50	500.00	105.50	250.00
Community Information		50.00		50.00
Action		50.00		50.00
Educational Fund (tax exempt)	120.00			
Total Expenses	10944.13	8250.00	5024.22	7645.00

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Representative Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4906
(202) 225-5506
(202)-225-5739 FAX
<http://www.house.gov/kind/>
email: ron.kind@mail.house.gov

La Crosse:
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Senator Russell Feingold
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La Crosse:
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Senator Herbert Kohl
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e-mail: senator_kohl@senate.gov

La Crosse:
425 State St., Suite 202
La Crosse, WI 54601
796-0045

E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Senate District 32 Sen. Dan Kapanke
(608) 266-5490
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen32/sen32.html>
e-mail: Sen.Kapanke@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 94 Rep. Michael Huebsch
(608) 786-3512
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm94/asm94.html>
e-mail: Rep.Huebsch@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 95 Rep. Jennifer Shilling
(608) 788-9854
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm95/asm95.html>
e-mail: Rep.Shilling@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 96 Rep. Lee Nerison
(608) 266-3534
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm96/asm96.html>
e-mail: Rep.Nerison@legis.state.wi.us

County & State

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/>

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/>

GET FULL MEMBER ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE WEB SITE BY REGISTERING. IT'S A SIMPLE PROCESS THAT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES.

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/>



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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

2005/06 BOARD MEMBERS

President

Roxanne Reynolds

Vice President

Open

Secretary

Sandy Sechrest

Treasurer

Dee Peacock

Directors:

Gretchen Benjamin

Anita Evans

Nancy Hill

Maureen Kinney

Catherine Kolkmeier

Betty Kruck

Jean Marck

Ellen Rosborough

Pam Thiel

47TH NATIONAL CONVENTION/ MEETING IN THE MIDDLE MINNEAPOLIS FRIDAY, JUNE 9 - TUESDAY, JUNE 13

Registration must be received by May 19, 2006. Attend for the entire conference--or one day: One-Day Registration Fee: \$125.00

19TH BIENNIAL COUNCIL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The Cedarburg Cultural Center – Cedarburg, Wisconsin

For more information:

<http://www.lwvwi.org/>

CALENDAR FOR MAY-JUNE, 2006
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

*Program: Wisconsin Democracy Campaign Thurs., April 27 at 11:30 (program at Noon)
People's Food Co-op, 2nd floor*

*League Annual Meeting Mon., May 15. Social Hour at 5:30 p.m. & Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Ciatti's, 9348 Hwy 16, Onalaska*

Board Meeting Wed., May 17 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

*League of Women Voters National Convention June 10-13, 2006
Minneapolis, MN*

Board Meeting Wed., June 21 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Note: Contact LWV Board President or refer to the agenda for Board meeting locations.
Board meetings dates and time are subject to change.



League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area
P. O. Box 363
La Crosse, WI 54602-0363