

# La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 109 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter October/November 2010



## THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Nancy Hill, President, LWV of La Crosse Area

With this newsletter we are in another election cycle. The positive news is League is co-hosting a set of forums on Tuesdays in October which we hope will shed light on issues and focus on plans and solutions. Thank you to the many Leaguers who have stepped forward to be panelists, time-keepers, question sorters, greeters - and a myriad of other important jobs. Please participate in these events. They should be energizing.

Let's hope we can reach and encourage the people who remark that, "I don't like politics." It would be wonderful to somehow reach the disaffected. I hear people say they don't like politics or they don't vote because of the nastiness. I'm not sure if it's an aversion to confrontation (I can understand that!) or if it's the complexity of our current life and the issues. I'm thinking there are several aspects to the "I don't like politics" phrase and that it mostly mask frustration. When things are too complex, most of us worry that we are being duped. Looking at what the politicians actually say in response to good questions is a place to start. You might find [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) of interest. Please share this and your enthusiasm for voting. I'd like to figure how League can help people gain the patience and the gumption to inform themselves.



### 2010 CANDIDATE FORUMS

All forums are held at the Port O'Call Room in the Cartwright Center on the campus of UW-La Crosse and are from 7-8 pm.

October 5 – 94<sup>th</sup> Assembly

October 12 – 95<sup>th</sup> & 96<sup>th</sup> Assembly

October 19 – Governor

October 26 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

## The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

By Betty Kruck

The La Crosse League, with the collaboration of AAUW, the historical societies in the area, and other organizations,



managed to hold a true celebration on August 26<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment and the foundation of the League of Women Voters. In addition to the jovial celebration, the movie at the Rivoli Theatre dramatically imparted a bit of history of the long and difficult struggle

to obtain the right for women to vote. Many people left the theater with a sense of amazement at learning the history, and they left in a jovial mood with words of appreciation to the committee for organizing the celebration. The donations



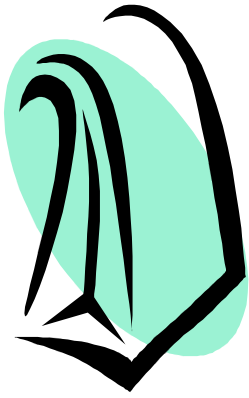
*partygoers in period costume*

contributed at the event just covered the expenses. Estimates of attendees at the movie celebration ranged from 250-300 people. Thanks

to everyone who participated!



*what's a party without cake?*



## Lunch and Learn

**October 12, 11:30-1:00**

**Radisson**

**La Crosse County Health Initiatives** will be the topic of the October Lunch and Learn program. Catherine Kolkmeier, Director of the La Crosse Medical Health Science

Consortium, Paula Silha, Certified Health Education Specialist with the La Crosse County Health Department, and Linda Lee, Nutrition Manager of the La Crosse County Health Department will explain the coordinated efforts planned to make La Crosse County the healthiest county in Wisconsin. Catherine, Paula and Linda will bring us up to date on the special grants La Crosse County has received, and the special projects planned for our area.

Please make reservations for the lunch by contacting Nancy Hill, 608-782-1753 or [nfhill@centurytel.net](mailto:nfhill@centurytel.net) by Thursday, October 7.

**November 9, 11:30-1:00**

**Radisson**

**Community Housing Issues and Solutions** will be the topic of the November program. Grace Jones, Executive Director of Couleecap, will present information on the availability of housing for people/families in our area. Couleecap serves people and communities in La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe and Crawford Counties. Couleecap is a private, nonprofit agency established in 1966 during the war on poverty. Drawing on the strengths of its diverse programs, Couleecap's main purpose is to provide the tools and resources that empower low-income people to meet their need, develop self-confidence and reach self-sufficiency. Couleecap strengthens communities by identifying resources, developing opportunities and advocating for local adults, youth and families.

Please make reservations for the lunch by contacting Nancy Hill, 608-782-1753, or [nfhill@centurytel.net](mailto:nfhill@centurytel.net) by Thursday, November 4.

## OTHER EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!



**Making People Matter More Than Money**

**October 25, 7:00-8:00**

**South Side Neighborhood Center**

Mike McCabe, Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, will be in La Crosse Monday, October 25, to speak to a government class at UW-L, to meet with the La Crosse Tribune Editorial Staff and to speak at a special league sponsored evening program. The WI Democracy Campaign is a nonpartisan watchdog group working for clean, open and honest government. The WDC specializes in tracking the money in state politics, and works for campaign finance reform and other democracy reforms that allow the common good to prevail over narrow interests. The LWV-WI belongs to the coalition of organizations supporting the WI Democracy Campaign.

Those who had the opportunity to hear Mike at a spring *Lunch and Learn* session, will recall that he is a dynamic speaker with very important information. Please spread the word about this opportunity to attend this special forum that is free and open to the public.

**Estate Planning**

**October 7, 11:30-1:00**

**Radisson**

This special lunch program is planned by the LWV La Crosse Area, AAUW La Crosse Branch and the La Crosse Community Foundation. It takes advantage of the expertise of Victoria Wing who returns to La Crosse for the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>. Victoria, daughter of LWV and AAUW member Liz Wing, now resides in California and is the Planned Gifts Director for UC Santa Barbara. LWV members Attorney Maureen Kinney and Community Foundation Executive Director Sheila Garrity will also add their expertise to trends and ideas in philanthropic giving, and they will be available to answer questions. Please make reservations with Sheila Garrity at the Community Foundation, 782-3223 or email Sheila at [SMG1514@centurytel.net](mailto:SMG1514@centurytel.net) to register by October 1.

## **THE SCIENCE OF 350**



By Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins

Scientists say that 350 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity.

350 parts per million is what many scientists, climate experts, and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere.

Accelerating arctic warming and other early climate impacts have led scientists to conclude that we are already above the safe zone at our current 392ppm, and that unless we are able to rapidly return to below 350 ppm this century, we risk reaching tipping points and irreversible impacts such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and major methane releases from increased permafrost melt.

There are three numbers you need to really understand global warming, 275, 392, and 350. For all of human history until about 200 years ago, our atmosphere contained 275 parts per million of carbon dioxide. Parts per million is simply a way of measuring the concentration of different gases, and means the ratio of the number of carbon dioxide molecules to all of the molecules in the atmosphere. 275 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> is a useful amount—without some CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases that trap heat in our atmosphere, our planet would be too cold for humans to inhabit.

So we need some carbon in the atmosphere, but the question is how much?

350 parts per million is what many scientists, climate experts, and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere. We need to stop taking carbon out of the ground and putting it into the air. By decreasing use of other fossil fuels, and improving agricultural and forestry practices around the world, scientists believe we could get back below 350 by mid-century. But the longer we remain in the danger zone—above 350—the more likely that we will see disastrous and irreversible climate impacts. With your help, we can spread this important piece of information to our fellow citizens, communities, countries, and the world.

**Circle This Date-10/10/10!**

This one day will be a MASSIVE opportunity to celebrate climate solutions at the local level--and put the pressure on our leaders while doing so. Make a Pledge:

### **10/10/10 Public Pledge:**

On October 10, 2010, I will join citizens from around the world working for an effective response to climate change by taking 10 of the following actions for/in 10 days to reduce my carbon footprint.

- Plug electronics into power strips that I turn off each night
- Line-dry my laundry
- Get rid of my second refrigerator
- Leave my vehicle in the garage and bike or use public transportation for one day
- Change 5 of my light bulbs to the most efficient available
- Turn off the lights when I leave a room
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to the most efficient settings compatible with my comfort level
- Turn off the TV and read a book or play a game w/family
- Use my own cloth bags when I shop
- Investigate my legislators' record on climate change (WLCV scorecard?)
- Appear at a campaign event for my legislator and ask what s/he plans to do about climate change
- Contact a legislator to urge an strong, effective government response to climate change
- Use natural light as much as possible
- Buy local food and eat it with my "family"
- Install a rain barrel
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Install a low-flow shower head
- Set my water heater to 120°
- Practice "eco-driving" (no jack rabbit starts or stops, keep to the speed limit or lower on highways, remove excess weight from my vehicle, keep tires properly inflated)

And for the really ambitious...

- Buy a fuel efficient vehicle
- Buy an Energy Star appliance
- Insulate my home
- Install a rain garden
- Cut my electricity use 100 KWH per month

# Calendar for October – November 2010

## League of Women Voters La Crosse Area

### ***Estate Planning***

Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse

October 7, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

### ***La Crosse County Health Initiatives***

Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse

October 12, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

### ***Community Housing Issues and Solutions***

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November 9, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm



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