

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 114

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter

Nov./Dec. 2011



THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Jane Klekamp, President, LWV of La Crosse Area

WOW! What a month October has been. There is always something to do as a member of the League of Women Voters. The Unitarian Universalist congregation sponsored a concert and part of the proceeds went to the League to help people get a photo ID for voting, the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) asked that we help with its presidential election, and we still have a lot of work to do on Photo ID's.

In early October, the HMAA Board asked the League to assist in the presidential election for the HMAA. Due to some differences within the community, the HMAA Elections Committee had resigned its post shortly before the scheduled election. As the HMAA by-laws indicate the election must happen in October, the HMAA board asked for our assistance. The LWV Board agreed it is within our mission to assist with an election. League members volunteered to coordinate the election and it was held on October 29th.

Within the next few weeks, the board will be developing a plan for educating the community on obtaining a photo ID for voting purposes. While the ID itself is without a charge, there are underlying costs (such as obtaining a birth certificates) that the public needs to understand. We have received many inquiries about the plan to educate the public regarding photo ID's from community members. It is certainly an opportunity for the LWV to get out the word on the good work we do. As the law and rules continue to change ie: Can student ID's be used? Will the colleges and universities educate the students? Will people over 65 be exempt? it continues to make the

process of educating the public even more complicated.

Please think about what you are able to do to help the League get out the word for the work that needs to be done. I think we are going to need all the help we can get. If you would like to become more involved in League activities, please go the website at lwvlacrosse.org or contact Jane Klekamp at 785-2211 or jgklekamp@centurytel.net.



Statewide LWV News

501(c)3 Status

The WI League of Women Voters has obtained 501(c)3 status. In the past, the organization was classified as a 501(c)4. The most significant outcome of this change in our nonprofit status is that donations to the league are now tax deductible. This status also allows the League a tax exemption on purchases normally subjected to sales tax. The League of Women Voters is still able to engage in nonpartisan lobbying and educational activities under the limits of this classification.

League Files Voter ID Lawsuit

Visit the Wisconsin LWV website for more details about the lawsuit filed in October by the League in Dane County Court. Go to www.lwvwi.org and click on the *News and Announcements* links on the left hand side.

The Role of the Federal Government in Education

U.S. Representative Ron Kind

November 8, 2011 – Lunch 11:30, Program 12:00
Radisson Hotel

Representative Ron Kind will speak on the role of the federal government in education at the monthly Lunch and Learn program at the Radisson. Ron will provide an update on education issues in Congress.

Please make reservations for the noon program by contacting Nancy Hill, nfhill@centurytel.net or 608-386-6237 by **Friday, November 4**. A buffet lunch will begin at 11:30 (\$10), and the program will be 12:00-1:00.

Leagues across the country are studying this education topic, and are asked to respond to questions posed by the LWV National Education Study Committee. A national league position may be formed based on areas of consensus of league members. Leagues may lobby for legislation based on positions that are formed. The consensus questions and background information are on the national league website, www.lwv.org. They can be found by clicking on *Projects and Programs* under the *For Members* section.

League members and others are invited to discuss education issues, the information provided by the national LWV committee and consensus questions from the national committee at meetings scheduled **November 1 and November 10** at 1:00 at the North Side Library, 1552 Kane Street.

November 17 is reserved as an additional meeting if it is needed. If you can't attend these meetings, you are invited to send your responses to the consensus questions to Betty Kruck, P.O. Box 27 Genoa, 54632 or krux@mwt.net by November 16.

Parental School Choice: What Does It Mean?

State Representative Sondy Pope Roberts and Mr. Jim Bender

December 13 - 5:30 P.M.
La Crosse Public Library

The Wisconsin State Budget expanded the school voucher program in the Milwaukee area and established a voucher program in eastern Racine County. A provision in the budget put in place the automatic creation of school voucher programs in other districts throughout the state when specified criteria were met. The state Senate approved a bill on October 18 to prevent the automatic creation of additional voucher programs without legislative approval. The program December 13 will provide discussion in support and in opposition to the expansion of school voucher programs.

Wisconsin Representative Sondy Pope Roberts is the ranking minority member on the state Education Committee. She is opposed to the creation or expansion of Parental School Choice/ the school voucher program. Mr. Jim Bender is the president of Wisconsin School Choice. He will speak in support of the choice and opportunities that school vouchers provide to parents.

This program will begin at 5:30 at the La Crosse Public Library on Main Street. No reservations are required. Please share information on the program with those who are interested.

Save the Date: 2011-2012 Program Events

(11:30 to 1:00 at the La Crosse Radisson unless otherwise specified)

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 & Cons: Creating a Position of La Crosse City Administrator

March 13m 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

Membership Corner

By Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Membership Coordinator

We have two new members since our last Newsletter-October 2011.



Craig Brooks comes to us from Buffalo City, Wisconsin. He is recently retired and ready to become involved in his community to facilitate Voter ID Legislation issues. He attended October's luncheon program where Reid Magney, Wisconsin

Government Accountability Board member, gave us all a great accounting of the history of the board, recent activity, and possible new direction on a few issues.



Lynn Wolter is a physical therapist at Gundersen Lutheran and a mother of Katy, age 9. Born in Madison, she lived in Illinois and then Trempealeau County for fifteen years before moving to La Crosse in 2006. She volunteers with the St.

Clare Health Mission and the Girl Scouts. She joins the LWV with the hope of becoming more involved locally.

The League membership is up 97 strong. The political climate has people 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 Program Planned for the year.

General membership should feel free to invite a guest to our Luncheon Program 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. Get engaged and renew your present membership (new annual year started in July 2011). If you are not sure whether or not you paid your 2011-2012 dues, feel free to give me a call, 782-5727. Bring a guest to our programs/events to help our membership flourish. 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.

Want to save paper and postage?



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

October with the La Crosse League of Women Voters



Former La Crosse resident and current Government Accountability Board spokesman Reid Magney spoke about the nonpartisan board's work implementing the voter id legislation at the October Lunch & Learn.



Peg Perri and Mary Garves prepare for the Hmong Association election.

Thanks to League members who have volunteered to help conduct the Hmong elections. The League Board voted to accept the request from the Hmong Association after meeting with Hmong representatives and after reviewing their bylaws. Volunteers included:

Peg Perri, Nancy Hill, Jane Klekamp, Sue Mercier, Kathy Mulliner, Shirley Haas, Betty Kruck, Mary Graves, Maureen Freedland, Vicki Burke, Melissa Kono, Monica Lazere, Sharon Hampson, Sandy Sechrest, and Tara Johnson



Nancy Hill and Peg Perri (above) and Sue Mercier and Jane Klekamp (right) work the polls for the HMAA election.



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]

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

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

Education Study Discussion

November 1, 1:00 pm
North Side Library, 1552 Kane Street

LWV Board Meeting

November 2, 12:15 pm

Role of the Federal Government in Education

U.S. Representative Ron Kind

November 8, 11:30 to 1:00
Radisson Hotel, 200 Front Street

Election Day

November 8

Education Study Discussion

November 10, 1:00 pm
North Side Library, 1552 Kane Street

Parental School Choice: What Does It Mean?

State Representative Sony Pope Roberts and Mr. Jim Bender

December 13, 5:30 pm
La Crosse Public Library



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA
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