

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 80 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter Feb. 2005

THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

YOO HOO! Are you out there? We are now on our way to serious legislative issues so when proposals are hitting the Legislators desks, League will be ready to let them know what we think. It is uniquely satisfying that as a member of LWV we can promote our positions and take action on legislation.

LIVELY ISSUES: We usually have a meeting where we talk about local and state program/study ideas for the coming year. We have local positions on various subjects and have used them to express out opinions or to speak at public events. We do not have time to have separate meeting this year but your ideas are welcome and the board will consider a local study if there is an idea and the interest to make it happen. If you have an idea for a new local study or want to change an old position, please send me an email or you can call and leave a voice mail for me. I work 40 plus hours a week so it is hard to reach me and in the evenings. I either work late or am at the pool. If you leave a message with my spouse, it is likely that I will not get the message so email is still the best.

MEMBERSHIPS: If you have not renewed, please due so as soon as possible as we will be entering the paid members on our National Website and if you have not paid, your membership will be dropped. We need your support even if you cannot attend the meetings or serve on committees. Your membership money helps League lobby our positions on the national and state levels. Our local lobbying relies on the old gumshoe technique. If you are intending to send a check and do not want to be dropped, please leave a message with Dee Peacock or Jean Marck. You can always let me know as well and I will get the message out there.

Due to my work schedule, I was not able to attend the mayor's forum, but it sounded like it was interesting!.

You and me are League
So keep the spirit high,
Your membership will feed
The action that will not be denied!

Kay Adams
President, League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

LA CROSSE MAYORAL ELECTION

The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area sponsored a "Candidates Luncheon" for La Crosse mayoral candidates at Forest Hills Golf Course Restaurant on January 27, 2005. Roxanne Reynolds served as moderator. The candidates in attendance at the luncheon were Dustin Bagstad, Chip DeNure, Neil Duresky, Jerry Every, George Italiano, Mark Johnsrud, Audrey Kader, David Loomis, Bernie Maney, Jeffrey Netzer, Jon Olson, and Deak Swanson. Candidates were asked to submit answers to the 5 questions covered at the luncheon for posting on the LWV website. Those responses can be found at:

<http://www.lwvlacrosse.org/elections.html>

LWVWI Education Study

On Tuesday, February 15, at the City Brewery Beer Stube restaurant (1111 3rd St. S.), there will be a 11:30 a.m. lunch buffet, followed by a brief discussion of the Education consensus questions and study. Following the discussion, we will vote on the questions. Each person is responsible for reading the background materials that are all online at http://www.lwvwi.org/education_study_resources.htm. If anyone does not have

access to the internet, contact Ellen Rosborough or visit a public library to gain access to the documents. The consensus questions are included as an insert in this bulletin and are posted online. No reservation is necessary for the luncheon.



Voter Services

By Catherine Kolkmeier

Spring is coming—and with that comes spring elections! So far we have three candidate forums coming up, so mark your calendars and come learn more about the coming elections:

- La Crosse School Board: Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 6:00 p.m. (Central High School Auditorium)
Once again this year, we are working with the student Political Club at Central High School to conduct a candidate forum for the school board. The students will organize, publicize, and moderate the forum, so please come and show your support for young people getting involved in the political process!
- Holmen School Board: Monday, March 21, 2005, 7:00 p.m. (School District Board Room)
- Town of Campbell: Thursday, March 24, 2005, time and location TBA. More details in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions about these forums or would like to invite the League to get involved in another forum, please call Catherine at (608) 796-9090 or email her at cathkolk@centurytel.net.

Global Trade and Local Jobs

Want to learn more about the effects of globalization on the local job market and local economy? The League of Women Voters has been assisting Viterbo University, the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse, WWTC, La Crosse County, and the La Crosse Tribune to organize a series of panel discussions this early spring to take a closer look at this issue.



The enclosed flyer details the three discussions, which are open to the public. Please plan to attend one or all of these events, and bring your questions!!

PLEASE SHARE THE FLYER WITH A FRIEND OR POST ON A LOCAL BULLETIN BOARD TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD.

- Where Have All the Jobs Gone? Thursday, Feb. 17th, 7:00 p.m. (WWTC Academic Resource Center, Room 200)
- American Jobs: Is Our Way of Life at Stake? Thursday, Feb. 24th, 7:00 p.m. (Viterbo University Reinhart Center, Room 127)
- Town Hall Meeting: Is Anybody Listening? Making Your Voice Heard at Home and Abroad, Thursday, March 3rd, 7:00 p.m. (UW-L Cleary Center)

For questions, more information, or to help distribute flyers, please call Catherine Kolkmeier at (608) 796-9090 or email her at cathkolk@centurytel.net.

Coming in April and May....

Legislative Breakfast

Mark your calendars now for the Legislative Breakfast on April 2 at Day's Inn. More details will be provided in the March issue of the LWV newsletter.

LWV Annual Meeting

The League Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 23.

We want *YOU!*

Haven't sent in your dues yet for this year?

Please do so soon. We are in the process of reviewing the official membership list and will be dropping names of members who are no longer current.

People can participate in League at all levels. Even if you only can make a few meetings each year, your participation is important. Please send in your membership...and while you're at it, ask a friend to join! Just refer people to the form on our website: http://www.lwvlacrosse.org/join_form.html



LEAGUE AWARDED \$225,000 CIVIL LIBERTIES GRANT FROM MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

January 28, 2005

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) received a \$225,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to coordinate a national public dialogue about the delicate balance between civil liberties and homeland security, entitled "Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities." The project will begin immediately.

"In this post-September 11th world, it is critical for all communities to explore the interrelationship between these two important topics," said LWVEF Chair Kay J. Maxwell. "This builds on the League's role as a trusted convener of community discussions, as well as our historic leadership in the area of civil liberties. We are thrilled to begin this project."

The grant provides for the League to develop materials, train local facilitators and create a public dialogue. This project will foster citizen participation in large League-led conversations about the relationship between civil liberties and homeland security. While all of the League's 900 local and state affiliates will have opportunities to work on this project, 10 select cities will be the focus of the LWVEF work. Representing ethnic, economic, and geographically diverse locations, the outcomes of the dialogues in these locations will be gathered, analyzed, and compared with larger national trends. A final report will be released in fall 2005 to coincide with the national debate about the sunset provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

This grant will continue the League's traditional leadership in the area of civil liberties. In the 1950s, the League led a national campaign, The Freedom Agenda, to educate the public about their rights and to combat the impact of the McCarthy hearings. More recently, Leagues across the country have held educational forums about the USA PATRIOT Act, and the organization has lobbied Congress on related pieces of legislation. The MacArthur grant will allow the League to move forward and expand its reach into this important field of study.

Reprinted from the January 2005 *LeaguE-Voice Newsletter*

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/>

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E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

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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
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<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm96/asm96.html>
e-mail: Rep.Nerison@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/>



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

Roxanne Reynolds

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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

Be Patriotic - VOTE

Remember to vote in the
Primary on February 15!

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

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

LWVWI Education Study
City Brewery Beer Stube Restaurant

Tues., Feb 15 at 11:30 a.m.

PRIMARY ELECTION

TUES., FEB. 15

Board Meeting
Ciatti's

Wed., Feb. 16 at noon

Board Meeting
Ciatti's

Wed., March. 16 at noon

Legislative Breakfast
Day's Inn

Sat., April 2 at 9 a.m.

Check for Forum dates inside.

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



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