

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 101 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter March/April 2009



THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Nancy Hill, President, LWV of the La Crosse Area

LEAGUE'S MANY HATS

February has reminded me again of the many hats League wears. March will do the same. We deal with voting and with issues, and at local, state, national, and international levels.

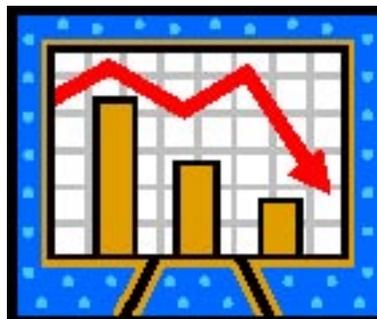
VOTING has been a big theme in February. The primary election was exciting. We helped with forums, and some of us worked at the polls. I was delighted that two women ran for the office of mayor. At one time, we couldn't imagine a woman running. Now we can't imagine a woman not running! Catherine Kolkmeier and Peg Perri and several other League members helped with a well-attended televised forum with the seven candidates.

From another VOTER perspective, someday perhaps the CONSENSUS vote taken after our Election Administration Study and further implications on future voting will be the big news. Running elections is a lot of hard work, and vital to our democracy.

We were so fortunate to have our very own expert, Ellen Rosborough, help us through to League's consensus. You may remember she worked with the GAB (Government Accountability Board) to get the 1850+ different Wisconsin voter lists in compliance with the HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002). She was in Madison for 18 months trying to get the systems in place so we would have secure votes that were counted...only once. She brings a great deal of technical expertise to the process, too, as we go more and more into the computer age. I'm sure she worked with more than the famous voting lists, and brought that experience to La Crosse. None of us wants to have the mess that the 2002 election was, nor the mess that the senatorial election still is, in Minnesota. We have helped in several ways to have an informed

public, including ourselves, and to have each of our votes counted fairly and in a timely manner.

ISSUES are often what we vote on or act on. It was probably issues that made the primary interesting, and will likely make the April election lively. We are living in



a very volatile time, with the economic messes driving decisions that have long-term implications. We cannot afford, however, to lose the things that make us great. Our March 9th meeting to learn about

EDUCATION in the 21st century is going to be very vital information for us. On April 16th we will learn more about IMMIGRATION problems in Postville. There will also be joint meetings to understand how to impact the state budget.

A major issue and study will remain HEALTH CARE, and for this reason, we are attempting to understand dental care delivery to children. Betty Kruck has been on the La Crosse Dental Coalition for 2 years. In the state budget, there was an effort to have 3 counties be pilot programs to help with children's care. It has not passed. The goal is to raise Medical Assistance payment to dentists so that they do not lose money on each MA patient they take. Somewhat related to this is a one-time Mission of Mercy to provide free dental care. This will be in La Crosse in June.

And never forget the impact you have in taking action with your information! We do have the Legislative Breakfast in March.

See inside for information on

***LWV Legislative Breakfast
Upcoming Candidate Forums
Programs on Education & Immigration***

Education in the 21st Century

When: Monday, March 9, 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Where: Health Science Center, Room 2064

Our students are in the middle of a tug of war. On the one end is No Child Left Behind and accountability and at the other end we find 21st Century Skills (e.g., collaboration, critical thinking skills, information literacy, creativity, flexibility, and technology). Our discussion will explore issues and trends in schools today along this continuum. Broad topics will include but not be limited to: NCLB, School Funding issues, charter schools and school choice, School safety, including Internet safety, PreK programs, 21st Century skills and strategies, teacher licensing.

Sandy Richert - Sandy has been the Director of Instructional Services in the School District of Holmen for the past 11 years and has been employed by the District for 33 years. Some of her major responsibilities include curriculum development, testing and data analysis, instruction, staff development, and mentoring new teachers. She and her husband reside in Holmen and have two sons in their 20's. When not working, she enjoys traveling, reading, and trying out new restaurants.

Kathy Tyser - retired last summer as Associate Superintendent of Instruction for La Crosse Public Schools. After 30 years in the district and 6 prior to that in other places, she has recently transitioned her energy and efforts to community projects. Currently that means more involvement with the new Myrick-Hixon EcoPark, Farm to School work, People's Food Coop, Habitat House, UW-L Foundation, and reading to kids once a month!

The Health Science Center is located on Badger Street, 2 blocks east of West Avenue and 3+ blocks north of State Street. Parking is free, and is behind the building, off of 13th and Pine Streets. The meeting room is on the 2nd floor, and there will be signs directing you. The building is completely accessible. Come join us for a cup of coffee and a good discussion.

Contact Ellen Rosborough or Betty Kruck if you have questions about this or the Immigration program below.

Immigration Revisited: Experiences of Postville, Iowa

APRIL 16, 2009 AT 7:00 PM

SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1300 6TH ST. S.

Mr. David Strudthoff was the Superintendent of Schools in Postville, Iowa for eight years prior to September 2008. He is currently Superintendent of Schools in De Soto, Wisconsin. One of the largest immigration raids in the country took place at Agriprocessors, a Postville meat-packing plant. Mr. Strudthoff will speak about the community of Postville, the raid by federal immigration agents, and the aftershocks in the community. Ms Sharon Chavolla, the coordinator of the Hispanic community for the Diocese of La Crosse, helped to pick up the pieces after the raid in Postville. She will also be in attendance. Please invite others to attend this program.

Voter Service Ready for Spring Elections

After an already busy primary season, we are now getting ready for the spring election. I hope some of you were able to see the La Crosse mayoral candidate forum on WKBT, and thank you to them for co-sponsoring it as well as Joe Heim for assisting as a co-moderator.

Now we are down to two candidates for the La Crosse Mayor—Dorothy Lenard and Matt Harter--and there are many opportunities to see them in a forum if you missed the primary race. March 17, we will be moderating a mayoral forum at LADCO's Economic Forum breakfast. I have also been contacted by the public library about a candidate forum there but have no details yet, so watch our website and your email for details. Finally, later in March (date to be determined), we will again co-sponsor a televised forum with WKBT. Stay tuned to our website or www.wkbt.com or watch WKBT NewsChannel 8 for details as they come together.

The La Crosse Mayoral race isn't the only race on the ballot, however, and we have been invited to take part of two other forums as well. On March 11th at 7:00 PM, we are moderating a forum for an open town supervisor seat at the Town of Campbell. Details will be on our website.

Also, we are pleased to be co-sponsoring and moderating a forum along with the La Crosse County Bar Association and the Rotary Club of La Crosse as well as the LWV WI Education Fund for the office of Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The forum will be held on March 19, 2009 at the Radisson Center as part of the noon meeting of the Rotary Club of La Crosse and will feature Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and Jefferson County Circuit Judge Randy Koschnik. Lunch (which is optional, but available if you RSVP) will begin at 11:30 AM and the forum will begin at 12:15 PM. This will be a great opportunity to hear of two competing visions for the Supreme Court and its role in the development of law in Wisconsin. Please sign up in advance with Catherine Kolkmeier at cathkolk@centurytel.net or 608-498-1016 no later than March 13. Cost for the lunch is \$10 payable on the day of the event--a table will be set up for LWV members who have signed up in advance.

Finally, don't forget to vote on *Tuesday, April 7!*



For information on elections, check the LWV of the La Crosse Area website at:

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

Local League Fundraising

Every two years we ask our local members if they are able to donate an additional amount for our local league's activities. Our dues don't even cover the cost of our state and national dues, so any money for our local programs and get out the vote activities have to be raised from the local membership.

We have had numerous programs in the last two years dealing with immigration, election procedural reforms, and educational issues just to name a few. We have held our election debates and participated in get out the vote activities such as sponsoring voter information on municipal buses that traveled around the greater La Crosse area. In addition we have the traditional costs of running any organization, publishing a newsletter, postage, telephone and internet and the like. The League has always run a lean machine but there are costs of simply keeping the organization running.

We would ask for your help this year. Enclosed is an envelop to use to return your donation. Thanks for any donation you can make.

Maureen Kinney, Finance Chair

Annual Legislative Breakfast

It's time once again for our Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, March 28th. This year we will be returning to Days Inn at 101 Sky Harbour Drive on French Island. Registration starts at 8:30 am with breakfast at 9:00 am. We have the Greenery reserved once more and a great buffet of scrambled eggs, breakfast potato, muffins, fruit, yogurt, juice, coffee tea and milk will be served. Cost is \$10.00.

This year we will change our format to allow plenty of time for questions and response from your legislators.

Please make your reservations before March 23rd by calling Roxanne Reynolds at (608) 526-5871 or by email at roxannereynolds@centurytel.net.



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E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Senate Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/sen-home.htm>

Senate District 32 Sen. Dan Kapanke
(608) 266-5490 or (800) 385-3385
e-mail: Sen.Kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov

Assembly website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/asmhome.htm>

Assembly District 94 Rep. Michael Huebsch
(608) 266-0631 or (888) 534-0094
e-mail: Rep.Huebsch@legis.wisconsin.gov

Assembly District 95 Rep. Jennifer Shilling
(608) 266-5780 or (888) 534-0095
e-mail: Rep.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov

Assembly District 96 Rep. Lee Nerison
(608) 266-3534 or (888) 534-0096
e-mail: Rep.Nerison@legis.wisconsin.gov



League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area and AAUW members join together for a program on Pay Equity on January 10, 2009.

Legislative information from the Library of Congress:

THOMAS
<http://thomas.loc.gov>

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

*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.lwwwi.org/>

Calendar for March - April, 2009 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

- Forum on Current Issues in Education* *Mon., March 9 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.*
La Crosse Public Library, North Branch
- CWV Board Meeting* *Wed., March 18 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.*
- Legislative Breakfast* *Sat., March 28 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.*
Days Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 101 Sky Harbour Dr.
- Spring Election VOTE!* *Tues., April 7*
- CWV Board Meeting* *Wed., April 15 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.*
- Immigration Revisited: Experiences of Postville, Iowa* *Thurs., April 16 at 7:00 p.m.*
Southside Neighborhood Center, 1300 6th St. S.

Note: Contact LWV Board President or refer to the agenda for Board meeting locations. Board meetings dates and time are subject to change. For more program information, check the LWV calendar: <http://lwvlacrosse.org/calendar.html>.



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