

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 96 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter March/April 2008



THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Nancy Hill, President, LWV of the La Crosse Area

League has its plate full with lots of interesting program material, plenty of Action (time to make ourselves heard), and other involvement in trying to promote democracy. I want to stress that it takes a great Board and membership to accomplish this. Much goes on daily and behind the scenes.

Catherine Kolkmeier loves Voter Service, even though she's got a lot of new responsibilities in her job. She sets up forums, contacting all sorts of people and getting the venues. Often, she moderates and gets time-keepers. She keeps an eye on how elections work, the machines, the counting, the reapportionment. For most of us as general members, this is a busy election year. We are trying to understand and keep track of how the primaries and caucuses are doing nation-wide. It's interesting to see if issues are brought up to debate, and if the debates are managed as League might have done it. So far, I think some of us wish the national media would bring League into their debates. I'd like to see more light shed on important concerns of mine, and I'd like the questioners to alternate directing the first question to each candidate. There are local elections on April 1. Many of you are helping with forums and in the polls.

The number of different program issues we are working on keeps things fascinating. Many people have helped plan and set up this year for both noon brown bag lunch-

es, and early evenings. I appreciate people making the effort to go. People's schedules are busy, and weather doesn't always cooperate. A lot of work goes into setting these up, and there's much to be learned.

Some members have joined Natural Step study circles in preparing for the changes locally. One such group is going on now, and if there's interest, there will be more. Barb Frank and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins have spear-headed this effort with our local League. Our county and city are already designated as "eco-municipalities." League members will be more informed as decisions are made to make our area more environmentally attuned. We know that we rank high on some lists, but there is always room for improvement.



Barb Frank (left) talks about bottled water at a "Natural Steps" Study Circle on February 28. Barb and Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins were co-facilitators.

To make the merry month of March far more interesting, we've added an adventure this year. Four Kyrgyzstani judges are to be here from March 21-29 to learn the Rule of Law. World Services of La Crosse, working with Open World, asked us if we would host and coordinate the visit. AAUW has joined with us in welcoming and hosting four women from the former Soviet Republic. Judges and the legal community have been helping

set up a program of study for the week. Please join them in getting to know La Crosse and the League on Tuesday, March 25 at Wine Guyz, and Friday, March 28, at Huck Finns. For the Friday dinner, **please RSVP to me (782-1753)**. Cost is \$16.50 to people who are not hosting the delegation. It should be a great time. The delegation comes on March 21, Good Friday (Easter is very early this year) and leaves the day of our Legislative Breakfast.

Please participate in the annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday March 29 at Day's Inn. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Susan B. Anthony

*Susan B. Anthony- Let Her Speak! (1820-1906)
Saturday, April 12*

*La Crosse Country Club, Onalaska
9:30 Registration
10:00 Brunch (about \$11)
10:30 Program*

The program will be a dramatic portrayal by Beverly and Stuart Smith. Through a series of interviews, dialogues, and narrated episodes, Susan B. Anthony comes to life in her crusade for human rights, particularly those of women. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, this dynamic tireless woman contributed all she had to secure the vote for women. In 1872 she was arrested for voting for a representative in Congress. Her trial attracted nationwide attention. Susan B. Anthony was the keynote speaker for the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association held in Oshkosh, Green Bay and Eau Claire in 1886 when she delivered her great lecture, "Woman Wants Bread and not the Ballot". Retiring as President of the National-American Woman Suffrage Association at the age of 80, she died fourteen years before Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment, finally giving women the right to vote.

In her presentation, Bev will incorporate material she has researched on Susan B. Anthony's life and experiences as she traveled throughout the country promoting rights for women. The presentation will be approximately 40 minutes.

"Suffrage is the pivotal right"
Susan B. Anthony

Beverly Smith is an actress, educator and musician who has also created dramatic portrayals of Wisconsin pioneer Elizabeth Baird, American folk artist Grandma Moses, Edna St. Vincent Milley, Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet and Edna Ferber, Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Currently, Beverly is a Howe School volunteer and plays violin with the Green Bay Civic Symphony. She and her husband, Stu, are co-directors of The Heritage Players, a group they organized to present plays and programs of historical interest to the local area.

Stu Smith is a well-known actor/singer/storyteller in the Green Bay area in addition to being an advertising consultant and president of AD./Smith, Inc. Favorite theatrical roles include Scrooge in "Christmas Carol", Don Quixote in "The Man of La Mancha," and Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady."

This program will be a joint meeting/program for the LWV and AAUW. Members of both organizations are encouraged to bring guests. Publicity will be going out to departments at UW-L and Viterbo. Please plan to join us for the brunch or just for the program. Reservations are required for the brunch. Although reservations for the program are not essential, they will be appreciated so we can plan on seating. For reservations, call Betty Kruck, 608-689-2222, or Nancy Hill, 782-1753, or e-mail Betty at krukr@mwt.net.

"Natural Step" Study Circle

In June the county and the city council approved to have La Crosse become an Eco +Municipality. What is an eco-municipality? The municipal government and community it serves will make a commitment to sustainable change. The goal of sustainable change is to reduce use of fossil fuels, metals and minerals, chemicals, encroachment upon nature, and to meet human and community needs fairly and efficiently. The hope is that all city/county departments and governing agencies in the area will work together to bring about change. The Natural Step is a comprehensive, common sense, proven approach that can carry us in to the new millennium. Its potential for combining economic success with social well-being and environmental responsibility is creating tremendous interest throughout the public and private sectors. For more information on "Natural Step" study circles, contact Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins.

ONALASKA MAYORAL FORUM

Catherine Kolkmeier, Voter Services

Despite the beginnings of yet another snowfall on Thursday evening, February 28, a large crowd gathered at Eagle Bluff Elementary School to hear mayoral candidates Mike Giese and Bob Muth discuss their visions for Onalaska. In fact, those visions turned out to be very similar, a point that even the candidates joked about. Muth and Giese, both Onalaska council members and good friends, enjoyed a pleasant exchange of views and conversation with the audience about the future of their city.

Anchorman Scott Hackworth of WXOW-19 moderated the forum, which was organized and sponsored by the Onalaska Area Business Association, and the entire forum was filmed for later broadcast. Catherine Kolkmeier represented the League as the timekeeper and reader of audience-provided questions. Live questions were also taken from audience members by Scott Hackworth.

Whether written or spoken, the questions ranged from the candidate's views of conservation, smoking bans, and community diversity to their Vietnam veteran experiences and views on mayoral duties. Thanks to Channel 19 for their promotion and broadcast of the event and to the OABA for inviting the League once again to participate in this important election.

To watch the forum, tune into WXOW-Channel 19 on Sunday, March 9th at 1:00 p.m. or cable network CW on Friday, March 7th at 10:30 a.m.

Our next two forums are:

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 7 P.M.
HOLMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT (DISTRICT BOARD ROOM)

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 7 P.M.
TOWN OF CAMPBELL COUNTY SUPERVISORS (TOWN OF CAMPBELL HALL, FRENCH ISLAND)

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

This year's Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 29th. We will meet in the Greenery of Days Inn, 101 Sky Harbour Drive, La Crosse.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Cost will be \$10.50 including sales tax and gratuity. The breakfast buffet will consist of fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, bacon, potato, english muffins, yogurt, juices and coffee, tea or milk.

Invite a friend. This is a good way to introduce a potential new member to League.

Call in your reservation by March 18 (791-1191) or email Roxanne Reynolds (roxannereynolds@centurytel.net).

Upcoming Programs

Watch for emails on the details of upcoming programs; they may change venues. Programs also are listed on the League website calendar. All of these programs are open to the public and will be advertised.

March 2008

Continue our discussion on sustainability by participating in a Natural Step Study Group.

April 2008

Update on Dental Health issues and the status of health care in Wisconsin.

May 2008

Prepare for fall 2008 elections. Topics include How to Conduct or Moderate a Forum; How to Register Voters; How to be an Observer; and What you need to know to be a poll worker.

League Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be at Ciatti's on Monday, May 5. The social hour begins at 5:30 P.M. and dinner at 6:30 P.M. You can order off the menu.

National League Celebrates 88th Birthday

Jean Marck shared a small sample of the over 1,000 birthday wishes the National League received in February—a truly heartwarming reminder of the League's impact.

"88 keys on a piano. 88 years of League. Let the music continue."

"You are truly the League with a heart, a voice, and shared information which can create positive change,"

"Still the best organization in America! Taught me most everything I know about organizing. Love it with all my heart."

"You are the most underappreciated national treasure."

"You go, girls...doing a great job!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"When LWV speaks, civic leaders listen. Happy Birthday to a group that has earned respect because of all the hard work of its volunteers."

"With respect, love and gratitude from my grandmothers, my parents, my children, grandchildren - and self."

"From the bottom of my heart, body, mind and political soul - Women can and do change the world. Let's keep it up!"

"The League was responsible for two of the biggest things in my life: My business and my marriage. I'll always be grateful to this terrific group of women."

"LWV is the standard by which I measure all other organizations."

"Without you, we'd be nowhere. Thanks for changing the world."

"League Members are wonders, Without them voters would wane, By not registering to vote, by not standing in the voting lane. So Happy Birthday LWV, Long may you continue to serve, So our voting process continually improves, And never your resolve shall swerve."

"It is great to be associated with this wonderful organization which so many depend on for advice & information, especially in this election year!"

"The League continues to blaze a trail for women's equality. Congratulations!"

"We've come a long way baby!!!! The clothing changed, but not the sentiments!!!"

"AT 88 you still have the "it factor" and still rock."

"Happy Birthday to a group that still believes in the "high road" and making things transparent, honest, and positive."

"To the best darn organization that ever was created in these United States. Happy Birthday, women. "

"We are so proud to be a small part of this big, beautiful picture of democracy in action."

"I came from Iraq and I was 38 year-old. I was never given the chance to vote. I am a proud member of this league and I am a proud citizen of this country where I was given the chance to vote."

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 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/>

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 OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

2007/08 BOARD MEMBERS

President
Nancy Hill

Vice President
Jane Klekamp

Secretary
Sandy Sechrest

Treasurer
Dee Peacock

Directors:
Gretchen Benjamin
Anita Evans
Maureen Kinney
Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins
Catherine Kolkmeier
Roxanne Reynolds
Ellen Rosborough

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

Calendar for March - April, 2008
League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

<i>CWV Board Meeting</i>	<i>Wed., March 19 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Legislative Breakfast</i> <i>Days Inn</i>	<i>Sat., March 29 from 9 - 11 a.m.</i>
<i>General Spring Election</i>	<i>Tues., April 1</i>
<i>Susan B. Anthony Brunch</i> <i>La Crosse Country Club, Onalaska (See inside for details)</i>	<i>Sat., April 12 Registration at 9:30 a.m.</i>
<i>CWV Board Meeting</i>	<i>Wed., April 16 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>CWV of the La Crosse Area Annual Meeting</i> <i>Ciatti's</i>	<i>Mon., May 5 at 5:30 p.m.</i>

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