

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 77 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter Oct. 2004

THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Every year for the past 4 years I have gone to the Issues Briefing held in the fall by the League of Women Voters in Wisconsin. Due to conflict in my schedule I cannot attend this year but I am encouraging all of you, including new and older members, to attend.

There is a keynote speaker at noon but the sessions in the morning and afternoon are equally excellent. If you are a Leaguer, you are someone who likes to absorb information and ask probing questions. We want to understand as many issues as we can and then get the word to the general public.

There will be a speaker from the ACLU talking about community resolutions that work to defend the Bill of Rights, another speaker will be talking about "Regional Economic Communities" and how they can be the catalyst for change. I highly recommend going to Dr. Joel Rogers's session on "Financing Wisconsin's Future: Alternatives to TABOR." He is an excellent speaker, and I promise that you will be fascinated.

The meeting is being held in Madison on Saturday, October 9th at the Clarion Hotel on Rimrock Road. Enjoy the fall weather and take a few League friends or non-League friends and family. It is too good to pass up! I will ask the state League if the sessions can be videotaped, as I will miss hearing these great speakers.

"Bi-partisan" is the new buzzword (according to me) and it is political destiny as no one party can solve the issues without the other. League studies issues and looks at all of the facts and does not rely on jargon or alienation: now we have to teach the parties how this works so we can have better solutions to common problems.

I am really on my Podium today! The political season has raised my enthusiasm for the way League does business!

If you have any questions on attending the Issues Briefing, please contact me, or our State Office (608-256-0827).

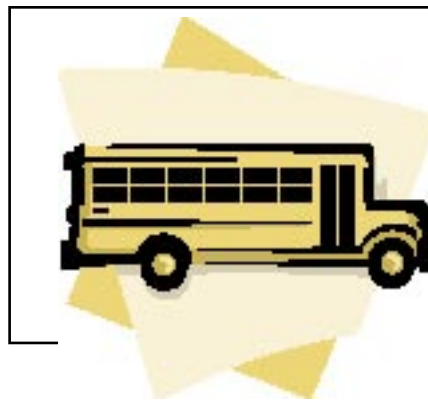
Registration information is also available on the state League web site. If you want to be a part of a car pool, let me know and I will put people in contact with one another.

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

P.S. We are going to start working on the nomination of officers for July 2005- June 2006 slate of officers so if you are interested in Voters Service or any other office, please let me or Ellen Rosborough know. In a future newsletter we will include job responsibilities for the various positions.

General Membership Meeting

School funding will be the topic for our general membership meeting on Thursday, October 28th at Fayze's Restaurant in downtown La Crosse.



Joining us at noon as the guest speaker will be Woody Wiedenhoef of the School District of La Crosse. Mr. Wiedenhoef is Associate Superintendent for Business Services. School funding is an extensive and complicated issue and Mr. Wiedenhoef has indicated he could talk for hours! Since we are limited in time, please let Roxanne Reynolds know what questions on this topic you would

like addressed.

Call or e-mail Roxanne with your reservation and any questions: (608) 526-5871 or roxannereynolds@centurytel.net. We will be having a salad and sandwich lunch with your choice of Reuben: \$5.25, Fayze's Clubhouse: \$5.25, Chicken Deluxe: \$4.49 or Fish Sandwich: \$4.99. Please indicate your choice of sandwich with your reservation. Prices do not include tax or gratuity.

Hope to see you all there! Please make your reservations early!

VOTER SERVICES

By Catherine Kolkmeier

September 11, the League welcomed La Crosse City Clerk Teri Lehrke to our Voter Education Day, where she answered our many questions and offered valuable information about how voting works in Wisconsin and what community groups can do to get out the vote. We had more than 30 attendees representing at least that many local community organizations wanting to learn more about voting, registering voters, and absentee ballots. Together, we compiled a list of some of the populations these groups were targeting in their get-out-the-vote efforts, and the results were very encouraging. For a list of all the great efforts going on this fall, call or email Catherine at (608) 796-9090 or cathkolk@centurytel.net. Thank you to everyone who came for all their hard work out in the community, and especially to Teri Lehrke for sharing her expertise with us on a beautiful Saturday morning!



Keep an eye on the League website (www.lwvlacrosse.org) for dates of our October candidate forums for the 94th and 96th Assembly races, the 32nd Senate race, and the 3rd Congressional District race (maybe even U.S. Senate—stay tuned). In conjunction with WKBT – Channel 8 and La Crosse Public Radio, we are preparing two candidate forums for the Assembly and State Senate races, one to focus specifically on women’s issues. We are also working with WXOW – Channel 19 and the La Crosse Tribune on a 3rd Congressional District candidate forum on October 27. Dates, times, and venues are still being worked out for most of the forums. We will post them on the website and send out emails as they are confirmed. If you are not getting emails from Catherine, send a note to her at cathkolk@centurytel.net to be added to her list.



ATTENTION OKTOBERFESTERS!

LEAGUE WILL ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN HERITAGE NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH WITH OUR NOW FAMOUS CREAM PUFF BOOTH. EACH YEAR WE SUCCESSFULLY SELL OUT OF DEA OLESON’S DELICIOUS CREAM PUFFS! IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING HERITAGE NIGHT, BE SURE TO STOP BY LEAGUE’S BOOTH, SAY HELLO, SAMPLE A GREAT TREAT AND THANK THE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS FUND RAISING TRADITION A CONTINUED SUCCESS!

THIS YEAR WE WILL ALSO BE PROMOTING OUR GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGN BY HAVING OUR LEAGUE VOTER INFORMATION CARDS AT THE BOOTH. THIS WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF OUR WORK AND PURPOSE.

HOPE TO SEE MANY FAMILIAR FACES ON HERITAGE NIGHT!

Getting out the Vote

There are a number of web resources for League members to use in helping people vote in November. Information on polling locations and the voting district map can be found at the La Crosse City Clerk's web site:

http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/clerk/Elections/Polling_Places.html

The County Clerk also has a web site listing county polling places outside of the city of La Crosse:

<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Departments/County%20Clerk/Election/POLLING%20PLACES.htm>



Have You Paid Your Dues?

The League year now starts on July 1. League dues have not been raised for several years and are still only \$45.00. Dues cover what the local League is required to send to the state and national organizations for each member. Encourage friends to join who also are interesting in studying the issues and working to inform voters. Thank You.

Please send your check (and checks from new members!) to:

LWV of the La Crosse Area
P.O. Box 363
La Crosse, WI 54602-0363



PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE SCHEDULE

President Bush and Senator Kerry will square off in three debates. All 90-minute debates will begin at 8 p.m. CST on Sept. 30, Oct. 8 and Oct. 13. The focus for the first at University of Miami, Coral Gables, will be foreign policy and the last at Arizona State University in Tempe, domestic policy. The topics will be unrestricted for the second debate at Washington University, St. Louis. The Vice Presidential debate is scheduled for Oct. 5 at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

The Commission on Presidential Debates now runs the debates, which were sponsored by the League of Women Voters in 1976, 1980 and 1984. Since the Commission took over there has been more controversy about the debates and a declining number of viewers. Some issues are the partisan control by the two major parties resulting in carefully crafted agreements which limit access by other parties, restrict follow-up questions, and generally lead to more "packaged" responses from the candidates. The 32-page memorandum of understanding is publicly available this year and can be downloaded as a pdf file from the PBS website. NOW with Bill Moyers covered the story on September 24 (<http://www.pbs.org/now/>).

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/>

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Representative Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4906
(202) 225-5506
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<http://www.house.gov/kind/>
email: ron.kind@mail.house.gov

La Crosse:
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La Crosse, WI 54601
782-2558
782-4588 FAX

Senator Russell Feingold
506 Hart Senate Office Building
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La Crosse:
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782-5585

Senator Herbert Kohl
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Milwaukee 800/247-5645
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<http://kohl.senate.gov/>
e-mail: senator_kohl@senate.gov

La Crosse:
425 State St., Suite 202
La Crosse, WI 54601
796-0045

E-MAIL AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Senate District 32 Sen. Mark Meyer
(608) 787-6574
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen32/sen32.html>
e-mail: Sen.Meyer@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 94 Rep. Michael Huebsch
(608) 786-3512
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm94/asm94.html>
e-mail: Rep.Huebsch@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 95 Rep. Jennifer Shilling
(608) 788-9854
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm95/asm95.html>
e-mail: Rep.Shilling@legis.state.wi.us

Assembly District 96 Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud
(608) 874-4231
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm96/asm96.html>
e-mail: Rep.Johnsrud@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

SEND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING *LA CROSSE WISCONSIN VOTER* TO THE EDITOR AT ANITALARRY@CENTURYTEL.NET

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/>



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 2004
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LA CROSSE AREA

- Oktoberfest Heritage Night (cream puffs!)* *Wed., Sept. 29*
- Issues Briefing* *Sat., Oct. 9*
Clarion Suites Hotel, Madison
- Board Meeting* *Wed., Oct. 13 at noon*
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.
- School Funding: Membership Meeting* *Thurs., Oct. 28 at noon*
Fayze's, 135 S. 4th.
- General Election* *Tues., Nov. 2*
- Board Meeting* *Wed., Nov. 10 at noon*
Doc Powell's, 200 Main St.

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



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