

# La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 103 League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter August 2009



## THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Nancy Hill, President, LWV of La Crosse Area

**Greetings.** It's that exciting time of year when school starts people have new energy, and we start a new year of programs for League. I know you will appreciate the effort that the **Program Committee** has put into this, and will *come and bring a friend*. You will find more information elsewhere in the Voter. I'd like you to know the on and off board members. They work hard to make us the successful League that we are.

It's a new season and there have been a few but major changes on the Board. First of all, the active folks who have left the board or taken "off board" positions: **Anita Evans** has stepped back from editor duties and is off the board, after 100 La Crosse League Voters and a long time as website editor; **Megan Rosborough** has stepped up to take her place as an off-board member; **Ellen Rosborough** is still the State League Treasurer, and now is off board here, but serving on the program committee; **Shirley Hass** is off board and coordinating a member observer corps; **Catherine Kolkmeier** has left the voter service position and the board, after years of fine service. **Peg Perri** is taking her place on board. **Betty Kruck** is on board, and is coordinating the efforts of the program committee. **Carla Townsend** is now on board, doing public relations, and is on the program planning committee.

**Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins** continues as Membership Chair. She is also coordinating plans for La Crosse League's hosting the State annual meeting next June 18, 19. *All of us* should act as part of her Membership committee, and help build and maintain membership. She will have brochures at our initial Ecopark meeting that will

include the program dates and places for the year.

**Roxanne Reynolds** continues as our Action Chair, and has coordinated our annual Legislative Breakfast and Annual Meeting dinner. **Maureen Kinney** continues with work on finances .

**Dee Peacock**, is treasurer and a treasure. She keeps us organized.

**Jean Marck** is off-board archivist. She has served for almost ten years in that role, mostly on board.

**Sandy Secrest** is our secretary. She deserves kudos for following all that is going on at our monthly board meeting. We try to cram a little too much into one hour, and yet she manages to follow it.

**Gretchen Benjamin** will be doing one of our Lunch and Learn programs about environmental issues on the Upper Mississippi, and **Jane Klekamp** is our Vice-President. She will be doing a program on effective programs within our local jail.

It's a good year ahead!

### League of Women Voters of La Crosse

#### Area Board:

Nancy Hill, President (09-11)

Jane Klekamp, Vice President (09-11)

Dea Peacock, Treasurer (08-10)

Sandy Secrest, Secretary (08-10)

Roxanne Reynolds, Director (08-10)

Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Director (08-10)

Maureen Kinney, Director (08-10)

Betty Kruk, Director (09-11)

Peg Perri, Director (09-11)

Carla Townsend, Director (09-11)

## **LWV Programs- 2009-2010**

This year the league program committee has planned **Lunch and Learn** program meetings on the **second Tuesday** of each month with the exception of our first noon meeting in September, scheduled September 15. These meetings will be held at the Cargill Room in the building just south of the Waterfront Restaurant. This is the Riverside Center South, 332 Front Street S. Lunch will be served by the Waterfront Restaurant, *Chef's Choice*, at a price of \$9 which includes tax and tip. Reservations are required for the lunch. The reservation will be a commitment to pay for the lunch unless a cancellation is received prior to the event. Members, guests and visitors are welcome to come just for the program if they choose not to eat.

In addition to the monthly noon program meetings, there will be several special programs and events. These include our kick-off meeting at EcoPark, a special Health Care Reform Program Sept. 10, and a collaborative program with AAUW and environmental groups on Global Warming in April. Please check the calendar of events for a complete listing. A description of the August and September programs follow.

Program Committee: Carla Townsend, Ellen Rosborough, Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Gretchen Skoloda, Nancy Hill, Betty Kruck



***Get to Know Your EcoPark and League  
August 25, 5:30-7:00  
Myrick Hixon EcoPark  
2702 Quarry Road, La Crosse***

Join in the fun of a social get-together, learn information about LWV and enjoy a presentation by Stephanie Hanna, Conservation Education Manager at the park. We will enjoy a potluck and Stephanie will lead us on a brief tour of the new facility and an easy walk along the trail. Think of a list of friends and potential members to invite.

Please bring a dish to pass- casserole, salad, or dessert. Lemonade, tea and coffee will be

provided. To be eco-friendly and to make clean-up super easy, consider bringing your own place setting; place mat, plate, silverware, glass or cup. (Disposable plastic or paper utensils will also be available). For reservations, please call or e-mail Nancy Hill, 608-782-1753 or [nancyhill@peoplepc.com](mailto:nancyhill@peoplepc.com).



***Health Care Legislation Reform: Local Impact  
Dr. Robert Nesse & Dr. Jeff Thompson  
September 10: 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Health Sciences Building, Room 2006  
1300 Badger Street, La Crosse***

Dr. Nesse, CEO of Franciscan Skemp, and Dr. Thompson, CEO of Gundersen Lutheran Health System, have both been in the forefront of the health care reform debate. The health care systems in this area are recognized by national leaders as efficient systems that offer quality care at a lower cost than many other areas of the country. Both doctors have been in Washington frequently to discuss legislation. Dr. Nesse has represented the Mayo Clinic in Washington. He is on the board of the American Medical Group Association. He has worked with that group and a consortium of some of the top performers in health care in recommending reform legislation. Dr. Thompson also has been meeting with congressional delegations and other health care providers. Both doctors will discuss the proposed reform legislation and the impact that it could have locally. Questions will be accepted at the end of the program.

The league's website has *Background Papers* and *Articles* on health care written by members of the League Health Care Task Force. These are available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on *For Members, Projects and Programs* and, and *Health Care Education Taskforce* to find these valuable papers.



***The Upper Mississippi River: A Changing Landscape***  
***Gretchen Benjamin***  
***September 15, 12:00-1:00***  
***Riverside Center South***  
***Cargill Room North, 332 Front St. S***

League member, Gretchen Benjamin- Assistant Director of the Upper Mississippi River Program for the Nature Conservancy- will talk about the Upper Mississippi River, the changes it undergoes and efforts to prevent its degradation. The Nature Conservancy is an organization that works around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. It works in all fifty states and more than thirty countries. Enjoy lunch in the beautiful Cargill Room, or come just for the program. (There is a sign on the building that announces the *River Rock Coffee Shop*.) Please send your reservation to Nancy Hill, [nfhill@centurytel.net](mailto:nfhill@centurytel.net), or call 608-386-6237.



**Save the dates!!**

We will continue with the noon program and lunch throughout the rest of the year, in addition to some special events:

- October 13, 12:00-1:00 *Plastic Recycling-Penny Pierce*
- November 10, 12:00-1:00 *Community Health Services-Doug Mormann*
- December 8, 12:00-1:00 *Lively Issues- Ellen Rosborough*
- January 12, 12:00-1:00 *Transportation in Coulee Region, Bob Fisher*
- February 9, 12:00-1:00 *Justice Sanctions: Effective Practices, Jane Klekamp*
- March 9, 12:00-1:00 *Census 2010, Panel*
- March 27, 9:00-11:00am *Legislative Breakfast*
- April 13, 12:00-1:00 *Jumping Aliens: Asian Carp - Pam Thiel*
- April 19 *Earth Day 2010: Climate Change*
- May 11, 12:00-1:00 *Follow the Money, Mike McCabe*
- June 8 *LWV La Crosse Annual Meeting*
- June 11-15 *LWVUS Convention, Atlanta*
- June 18-19 *LWVWI Annual Meeting, La Crosse*

**2009 -2010 Dues** (mail to LWV La Crosse, P.O. Box 363, La Crosse or bring to a meeting in September!)

The LWVUS and LWVWI have raised their dues this past year, so our local league will follow and raise our dues, to cover the cost of the payments we make to state and national. To make paying dues a little easier, we are offering to collect your dues in smaller payments, if desired. You may make one payment, or pay us quarterly or semi-annually. In addition, if you would like to support our local league further, you can include a donation with each payment, to help pay the cost of the newsletter, and speakers. We will email you a reminder of future payments.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 dues **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 for July 1,2009 -December 31,2009 with \$30 due January 1, 2010 **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for July 1-2009 – September 30,2009 with \$15 due Oct 1, 2009, Jan 1, 2010 and April 1, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a contribution to League of Women Voters of La Crosse Area

## Recycling Plastics With Sustainability in Mind

Today's recycling market is as sophisticated as any other business, with stocks traded and futures projected. Recycled products are a viable and vital component of manufacturing. The three main recycled materials are plastics, metals, and paper, and each has its own markets and uses. Recycled materials take the place of virgin materials in manufacturing. Manufacturing with recycled materials conserves raw materials and reduces energy consumption. Plastic bottles are everywhere from the refrigerator to the laundry room, each with an arrowed triangle and number stamped on the bottom. The numbers associated with recycled plastic can be confusing, so here's the rundown:

- \* No. 1 plastic is polyethylene terephthalate PETE or PET. It's used for soda bottles and other food containers. PETE can be recycled into fiberfill for pillows and sleeping bags and other food and drink containers.
- \* No. 2 plastic is high-density polyethylene, or HDPE. Milk jugs are made from nonpigmented HDPE; laundry detergent bottles are manufactured using pigmented, or colored, HDPE. If separated well, these plastics can be recycled into the same color bottles and jugs.
- \* No. 3 plastic is polyvinyl chloride, or PVC. It's used to make PVC pipe and medical tubing. Orange traffic cones and garden hoses are also usually made out of recycled PVC.
- \* No. 4 plastic is low-density polyethylene, commonly known as LDPE. It's used to make squeeze bottles for

condiments like jelly and ketchup. LDPE can be recycled into landscape timber or garbage-can liners.

- \* No. 5 plastic is polypropylene, or PP. It's used for storing food like yogurt and can be recycled into a variety of items from medicine bottles to battery cables.
- \* No. 6 plastic is polystyrene. It's used to make meat trays used by grocery stores along with plastic cups and plates. When recycled, polystyrene is turned into foam packing and license-plate frames.
- \* No. 7 plastic incorporates all other plastics not included in the first six categories. It's used to make larger water bottles and plastic lumber.

Once sorted at the recycling facility, plastics are baled and sent out for processing. There plastic is cleaned, possibly sorted for color, and converted to flakes and pellets. Then they're sold to manufactures for use as feedstock.

When making purchases of products be aware of what you are buying and how it can be recycled. Plastics take water, petroleum, and chemicals to create. Some of these resources are finite and others are hazardous. Manufacturing with recycled materials conserves raw materials and reduces energy consumption. Do your part, recycle don't incinerate. Find out what more you can do about recycling-join our **October 13th, 2009 presenter, Penny Pierce, at the Riverside Center South, Cargill Room, from 12:00 -1:00 pm.**

Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkin

Please email [megan.abtlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:megan.abtlaw@hotmail.com) if you want to change your VOTER delivery. Thanks.

**In the spirit of being green, would you like to receive an email notification when the VOTER has been posted to the website, *instead* of a printed copy?**

We can save money and of course paper, if you read your VOTER online. If you change your mind and want a copy, you can still print it out yourself – in full color or black and white. Unless we hear from you, we will continue to mail you a copy (unless you are already on our no mail list).



**Senate:**

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senhome.htm>

- District 31 Senator Kathleen Vinehout, 608-266-8546 or 877-763-6636, [Sen.Vinehout@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Vinehout@wisconsin.gov)
- District 32 Senator Dan Kapanke, 608-266-5490 or 800-385-3385; [Sen.Kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**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](mailto:Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 92 Rep Mark Radcliffe, 608-266-7461 or 888-534-0092, [Rep.Radcliffe@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Radcliffe@wisconsin.gov)
- District 93 Rep. Jeff Smith, 608-266-0660 or 888-534-0093, [Rep.Smith@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Smith@wisconsin.gov)
- District 94: Rep. Michael Huebsch, 608-266-0631 or 888-534-0094, [Rep.Huebsch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Huebsch@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 95: Rep Jennifer Shilling, 608-266-5780 or 888-534-0095, [Rep.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 96: Rep. Lee Nerrison, 608-266-3534 or 888-534-0096, [Rep.Nerrison@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Nerrison@wisconsin.gov)

**Contact Info for National Issues**

League of Women Voters <http://www.lwv.org/>

Library of Congress site <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Senate <http://feingold.senate.gov/>

<http://kohl.senate.gov/>

Congress <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://elections.state.wi.us/>

Court System <http://www.wicourts.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]

*Note that the website addresses are linked in the electronic version of this document – available on our website.*

# Calendar for August-October, 2009

## League of Women Voters La Crosse Area

- Get to Know Your EcoPark and League*** August 25, 5:30-7:00 pm  
Myrick Hixon EcoPark, 2702 Quarry Rd, La Crosse
- LWV LAX Board Meeting*** September 2, 12-1 pm
- Health Care Legislation Reform: Local Impact*** September 10, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Health Science Building, Room 2006, 1300 Badger St, La Crosse
- The Upper Mississippi River: A Changing Landscape*** September 15, 12-1:00 pm  
Riverside Center South, Cargill Room North, 332 Front St. S
- Recycling Plastics with Sustainability in Mind*** October 13, 12 – 1:00pm  
Riverside Center South, Cargill Room North, 332 Front St. S



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA  
P.O. BOX 363, LA CROSSE, WI 54602-0363