

# La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 106

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter

March/April 2010



## THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



It takes a village to raise a child perhaps, but it takes a good League Board and active League members to do the business of League. My musings this newsletter are weaving together the joy of our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a League and as voters, with the frustrations of watching the world and national news and so many seemingly intractable issues. If we can remember that League has the perspective of time and an historical and current habit of diligent research and action, we know we can come out of the various crises and create a stronger country. We may have to just get busy.

As we prepare for this newsletter, there are computers all around the area putting together articles on what has happened and what is to happen soon in our area. We have had some remarkable *Lunch and Learn* sessions with great turnout. It's a comforting feeling knowing there are so many interested and hard-working people helping to focus on important local, state and national issues.

Add to them the many people in League who are working to keep the election process working. There are several forums coming up, some leaguers running for office, and others watching the election process to make sure it is fair and runs smoothly. We are non-partisan, but we do love to study issues. We do work hard to assure a good informative debate among people running for office.

I hope to encourage all of us to shoulder a little more in doing what each of us is good at... running for office, writing letters, doing research, helping with elections, joining the Board, leading and teaching. When the going gets tough, Leaguers can handle it.

As the year goes on, we will continue celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are yard signs ordered by some of you that we will "flock" in June in time for the State Convention that will be here June 18 and 19. I hope you will take part in helping with the convention. Let us know what you would like to be a part of.



When we celebrate such a birthday, we go back to our roots. For a big birthday a few years ago, we dressed up and did a nice parade and commemorative speeches for some of the early

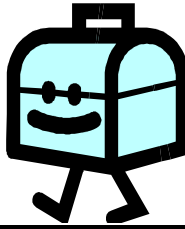
founders. I'm hoping this year we can each dig deep in our personal experiences and note the changes in our personal lives as women. Some of it is progress and some of it may not seem like it. I can certainly remember being told "women don't do that" or "a lady cannot do that"... And then along came Title IX, birth control, and some other very major changes. Now women certainly can be whatever! We can be school patrol girls, ministers, medical doctors, foresters, athletes, astronauts, composers and politicians. We CAN do it.

I'm not sure what our format should be for a celebration, but please give your ideas. It may be that at our local annual meeting, (which will be in early June), besides the business meeting, we could have a fun evening of where we've been and maybe better yet, where we should be going. It could be a dress up affair, a few skits, a game, a booklet. Any ideas?

Let's take some time and reflect on the accomplishments.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Dear League!

## Lunch and Learn



### **Census 2010**

**Speaker: Ardell Ladd**

**U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist**

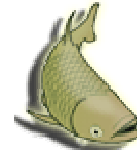
March 9, 11:30-1:00

Waterfront Restaurant Banquet Room



Come join us at the Waterfront Restaurant to learn about this year's census. Did you know there is only a short form this year? Do you know who should fill out the form? And what happens if you don't fill it out? And what happens with all that data? A question and answer period will be included and we are inviting the local media to participate.

Please contact Nancy Hill for reservations at [nfhill@centurytel.net](mailto:nfhill@centurytel.net) or 782-1753 by Friday, March 5. Although reservations are appreciated, the Waterfront will attempt to accommodate additional members, visitors and guests without reservations. The program and lunch are open to the community.



### **Jumping Aliens: Asian Carp**

**Speaker: Pam Thiel**

April 13, 12:00-1:00

Waterfront Restaurant Banquet Room

The invasive Asian Carp have been in the news as the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials, fishermen and sports and nature lovers have fought to keep them out of the Great Lakes and other waterways. Recently appeals have gone to the Obama administration and courts in efforts to close the Chicago locks to prevent the fish from entering Lake Michigan.

Pam Thiel, LWV member, is project leader and supervisor for the La Crosse U.S. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Onalaska. Trained as a biologist, Pam has worked on preserving rivers in her work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. Prior to this, Pam worked for the WI DNR and Illinois State Water Survey. Pam's work takes her all over our state, the country and even to far-away places such as China where she has twice been part of a U.S. delegation working with the Chinese on the Yangtze River. Pam was featured in the latest February/March 2010 *Coulee Region Women*.

Pam will provide the latest information on Asian Carp, the jumping aliens that threaten lakes and rivers. Please contact Nancy Hill for reservations at [nfhill@centurytel.net](mailto:nfhill@centurytel.net) or 782-1753 by Friday, April 9. Although reservations are appreciated, the Waterfront will attempt to accommodate additional members, visitors and guests without reservations. The program and lunch are open to the community.

## Come Join Us!

March 9, 11:30-1:00 *Census 2010*, Ardell Ladd, US Census Bureau, Partnership Specialist

March 27, 9:00-11:00am Legislative Breakfast

April 13, 12:00-1:00 *Jumping Aliens: Asian Carp*, Pam Thiel

April 19 6:30-8:30 pm *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

## UPDATE

### La Crosse Area Dental Care Advocacy Coalition

While a big problem of access to dental services remains for Medicaid recipients and uninsured individuals and families, there have been some successes of the La Crosse Area Dental Care Advocacy Coalition. Some of these include, an increase in local and state legislature's awareness of the dental health services problem, establishment of a system for emergency coverage of dental care needs identified in local emergency rooms and urgent care centers, establishment of a fluoride varnish program in the La Crosse County Health Department, passage of water fluoridation referendum in Holmen, expansion of the Scenic Bluffs federally qualified community health center program, support of the 2009 Missions of Mercy free dental clinic in La Crosse, and support of the La Crosse Community Dental Clinic operating in the Medical Health Science Consortium Building.

The dental coalition, after taking some time off to recharge and reassess priorities, is back meeting on a regular basis and is ready to again tackle the challenge of dental access for Medicaid recipients and uninsured



individuals and families. Members of the Coalition individually prioritized suggested activities that came from a September 2009 brainstorming session. The coalition then met in January 2010 to discuss goals and priorities for the group. Future activities fall in the areas of Information/Education, Prevention, Access and Funding.

The coalition meetings are generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in the basement auditorium of the health & Human Services Building at 7:00 AM. Anyone interested in attending a meeting, please call Nancy Hill or Betty Kruck to check on the date and location of the meeting. The La Crosse League will continue to be represented on this coalition because of the league position on access to healthcare.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

Film Screening: "Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas & Beliefs."

March 8, 4 p.m.

UWL Cartwright Center, Rm 332



Film discussion with Mahruq Khan, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. This film by the filmmakers Cliff Orloff and Olga Shalygin, gets behind what life is like for women in Afghanistan's northern city of Mazar-I-Sharif. Olga, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist, receives assistance from an American woman, Serena, who is living with an Afghan family and their 27-year-old daughter Hasina. From interviewing child brides to women in prison, Serena and Olga gain an understanding of the risks Hasina and other Afghan women take to assert their rights. This film presentation and discussion is free and open to the public.

## **EARTH DAY EVENT**

### **Mississippi River: Basin to Backyard The Impact of Stormwater Runoff**

April 20, 6:30-8:30 pm

La Crosse Public Library, Main St.

Everyone is welcome to attend Basin to Backyard – the Mississippi River and How You Can Help Improve the Vitality sponsored by the La Crosse Area League of Women Voters (LWV) and American Associated University Women (AAUW). This is part of the Earth Week celebration designed to help you learn how to make a lasting contribution to improve your local water quality and make a positive impact downstream.

The program will begin with a look at the Mississippi River Basin, with the help of **two short videos by Alexandra Cousteau** who filmed the people, the cultures, and the environmental issues of the Mississippi River about a year ago, in the Blue Planet series. We will get a glimpse at how the water quality of the Mississippi has impacts locally and all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. This will set the stage for a local expert, **Shawn Giblin, Water Quality Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources** to talk about water quality in the Wisconsin border waters of the Mississippi River. He will relate historic information, present conditions and what the future may bring. He will also address the common question, “Can we eat the fish out of the river”?



Maintaining water quality and proper drainage is very important and beneficial to all residents and businesses for several reasons.

Property values can erode with increases in water pollution or flooding. Water utility fees may increase because polluted water is difficult and expensive to treat. Water pollution is a deterrent for business growth. Polluted water is unsafe for many activities we all enjoy, including fishing, swimming, boating and other water sports. But perhaps the most important reason of all is that our drinking water is

taken from surface water resources. The City of La Crosse Storm water Management department is actively working to reduce pollution sources, not only for today, but also for the generations to come.

To meet the new state stormwater discharge requirements, municipalities must develop an education and outreach program that:

- Informs residents of the impacts of stormwater runoff on local rivers and lakes, and wetlands.
- Provides recommendations on how to reduce stormwater pollution.

This presentation is an attempt to provide the homeowner and businesses with ideas of how to minimize our personal contributions to poor water quality. **Bernie Lentz, city engineer, and Karl Green, UW Extension personnel**, will provide the community with practical reasons why to develop a stormwater education and outreach program. There will be suggestions to rethink yard care, better plan your driveways and walkways and discuss rain barrels and rain gardens.

Join us for an informative evening with time for a panel discussion and Q & A following the discussion.

### **Other League Activities**

At the LWVUS level, the climate change issue is still an active focus. The League is also partnered with OXFAM America. From their [website](#):

#### **Sisters on the Planet**

Climate change hits poor people hardest—especially poor women, who are disproportionately affected. Oxfam’s Sisters on the Planet initiative brings together American women leaders to raise awareness about women and climate change, and to influence policy to help vulnerable communities adapt to the crisis.



**See the legislative activities section of [www.lwwvi.org](http://www.lwwvi.org) for information on the state issues.**

## 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/>

House of Representatives

<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/>

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)



## 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](#), [Trempealeau](#), [Vernon](#) Counties]

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

## Calendar for March – April 2010 League of Women Voters La Crosse Area

- Census 2010*** March 9, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Riverside Center North, Waterfront's Banquet Room, 332 Front St. S
- Legislative Breakfast*** March 27, 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Days Inn and Conference Center, 101 Sky Harbour Drive
- Spring Election*** April 6
- Jumping Aliens: Asian Carp*** April 9, 12: - 1:00 pm  
Riverside Center North, Waterfront's Banquet Room, 332 Front St. S.
- Earth Day Event: Mississippi River Basin to Backyard*** April 20, 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
La Crosse Public Library, Main Branch



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA  
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