



PO Box 175

Ashland, WI 54806

info@lwvabcwi.org

Our Mission...

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) is a nonpartisan political organization whose main objective is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of all citizens in government at all levels, especially locally.

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The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

Find us on 

The Leaguer

November - January 2018/19



LWV/ABC Leading WI End Child Poverty Campaign in Ashland/Bayfield Counties

By Linda Jorgenson & Jan Penn

The LWV/ABC League's outreach to local individuals and groups to organize the far north for Wisconsin's [End Child Poverty](#) (ECP) Campaign has been met with almost universal enthusiasm. One family was so moved that they immediately donated \$500.00 to support our League's efforts.

Since the Health Equity and the Living Wage Action Committees merged in September there is now an active core of 12 committee members and another 18 active supporters for organizing the ECP Campaign in our area. September and October have been spent making community contacts and

beginning the process of collecting signatures. Those signatures get sent to the Wisconsin Conference of Churches where they aggregate toward the Campaign's statewide goal of 10,000.

Work is also underway to prepare a brief power-point presentation and generate some printed handouts to be used for community groups. The Ashland Rotary has scheduled our first presentation for their November 27 meeting.

A good question has been asked about how the Campaign can be non-partisan since most of its goals involve health care, education, and family supports that require more, not less, government ac-

Fall Plans continued on 3



Anne Chartier, President

president@lwvabcwi.org

Greetings, Leaguers and Friends!
Midterm Elections are upon us. Reminding you to vote on November 6 is unnecessary, but perhaps I can encourage you to help get out the vote by making sure your friends and family make it to the polls. All the information needed for last minute registration, and to locate where to vote, can be found at myvote.wi.gov.

As president of our LWV/ABC my nonpartisan involvement in the political process is paramount. At the same time many of you have exercised your right to manifest party affiliation and espouse preferred candidates. Our organization is devoted to promoting knowledge and participation. How do we get uninterested and disenfranchised citizens to vote? Perhaps one of the best ways is to make personal connections and share specific instances of relevance. Dialogue can help us Make Democracy Work!

Greetings from our President

Over the last months our Civic Engagement Committee has been and will continue to be focused on Civics in schools. In late October they invited Judge Sherman to speak about our Constitution and the Judicial Branch. During the upcoming evening of November 15 the committee and UW Extension are collaborating on a free Workshop for Candidates Considering Local Office. This effort is in response to the fact that many local officials run unopposed, and only a small percentage of women run for office.

An enthusiastic Voter Services Committee has devoted countless hours to registering and informing many in our communities and schools. Efforts to organize a Voter Forum for our Senate and Assembly candidates failed due to obstacles similar to those encountered by other Leagues across the state.

The Issues Advocacy Committee, headed by Joan Elias who is this year's recipient of the Superior Rivers Watershed Association Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award, was instrumental in the Community Presentation featuring Wisconsin's Green Fire in September and the Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium in October.

The Membership and Events Committees organized our Fall Member Social which made it possible for

us to gather with fellow members and hear about our committees' important work. Our numbers are growing and include committed Leaguers from counties beyond Ashland and Bayfield.

The Inequality Committee, which combines last year's Health and Living Wage Committees, is leading our participation in Wisconsin's End Child Poverty Campaign as one solution to the serious problems that afflict our populace.

Our Communications Committee oversees publication of this newsletter, which will show up in your inbox four times a year. Articles appear monthly in The Bottom Line, a free periodical available throughout our communities. The LWV/ABC website and facebook page are updated regularly to inform our membership and interested public about our activities.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin website has a wealth of information; including the video series "Be a Wisconsin Voter" with stories about why the right to vote is important to each featured citizen. These videos are designed to inspire all eligible voters to make their voices heard at the ballot box. You will also find positions taken on key public policy issues after study, debate and consensus by membership, and a link to national positions.

Throughout the United States, over 700 state and local Leagues are engaged, as we are, in promoting and defending the democratic process. The League of Women Voters will be celebrating its 100TH

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birthday in 2020. We started the same year women achieved the right to vote. Our organization's accomplishments have advanced the cause of representative government, but we must be vigilant and involved to ensure that more citizens participate. Your support and engagement are essential to success. There is surely a cause or task to channel your individual interests and talents. Please consider joining a committee or the board, and you can be sure your additional financial support will be put to good use.

As the year draws to a close and winter sets in, I look forward to joining you at League gatherings in the months to come.

With best wishes for you and yours,

Anne

Child Poverty continued from page 1

tion. Anticipating this criticism the Campaign's four founding organizations researched recommended solutions from both conservative and liberal sources (the American Enterprise Institute/Brookings-Consensus Plan to Reduce Poverty and Restore the American Dream, Community Advocates-Pathway to Ending Poverty, Paul Ryan's Better Way, and the UK Poverty Reduction target - now reported in Jane Waldfogel's book *Britain's War On Poverty*.)

Common themes emerged from this research and resulted in a plan to "flip the script and hold ourselves

Thank you to everyone that comes together to support our League work...

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. –Erma Bombeck

We love it that you are part of our work and for those of you wishing to get more involved....Here are some ideas. You may have ways of your own that you can tell us about.

Contact us at info@lwwabcwi.org

- Join a committee
- Post posters in our community for events
- Bring treats to our events
- Take or share your League photos with communications
- Help with writing articles
- Are you a techy? Help with G.Suites training and administration
- Bring a friend to League events
- Be our Twitter help

and our elected leaders mutually accountable to outcomes rather than support for any particular set of policies." The goals that emerged therefore were:

1. Set child poverty reduction goals, equity goals and timelines.
2. Develop robust and independent tracking and accountability mechanisms which will make clear assessments of what is working and what needs to be changed.
3. Implement multi-sector, evidence based strategies including:
 - a. Help people get well paying jobs
 - b. Increase public investment in underfunded education, particu-

larly for the early years

c. Strengthen families: deepening relationships and building social capital

4. Measure progress and adjust strategies as necessary

The Committee is also exploring possible grant funding and has invited a speaker from the Coalition for a community event in late January or February. If you are interested in joining this effort please contact Jan at janmmpenn@yahoo.com, or Linda at jorgensonla@gmail.com. Or call Jan at 715-274-2942, or Linda at 715-373-2948.

End poverty:

<https://www.endchildpovertywi.org/>

Issues and Advocacy Committee

By Joan Elias

We'd like to highlight recent actions of others at the local level that affect our area communities in positive ways.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

In September 2018, the Ashland County Board of Supervisors approved two ordinances– the Ashland County Large-Scale Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Ordinance (009-2018-99) and the Ashland County Agricultural Performance Standards and Animal Waste Storage Ordinance (009-2018-100).

When a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) was first proposed in the Fish Creek watershed, Bayfield County, a couple of years ago, local county governments and residents were taken by surprise. While many local small-scale farms existed in the area for generations, no large-scale farms had ever been proposed. The local voice of resistance was loud and

strong, detailing concerns ranging from public health to small-scale livestock health to protection of water quality.

Since the time of that first CAFO proposal, the counties in the region have a chance to enact ordinances pro-actively, which is what Ashland County has done. The Ashland County CAFO Ordinance is written to regulate the operations of CAFOs of 2,000 animal units, or greater “to protect public health (including human and animal health), safety, and general welfare, to prevent pollution and the creation of private nuisances and public nuisances, and to preserve the quality of life, environment, and existing small-scale livestock and other agricultural operations of Ashland County...”. State law defines CAFOs as 1,000 animal units or more, and the state will continue to regulate CAFOs between 1,000-2,000 animal units. The additional regulations of the Ashland County Ordinance become effective when a CAFO reaches

2,000 animal units.

The Ashland County Agricultural Performance Standards and Animal Waste Storage Ordinance apply to all livestock farming. It regulates manure storage facilities, runoff, nutrient management, setbacks from streams and other surface waters, and handling of wastewater. This in-depth Ordinance goes a long way toward protecting water quality lakes, streams, and ultimately Lake Superior.

The LWV/ABC extends kudos to the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department for developing these ordinances and urging their passage. We also applaud the Ashland County Board of Supervisors for their proactive stance in enacting these ordinances and encourage surrounding counties to take similar actions.

To find the full text of the Ashland County ordinances related to CAFOs and manure storage, as well as other ordinances, go to this [Ashland County page](#).

A Glossary of Helpful Links About Voting:

Candidate Info/print out your ballot: <https://www.vote411.org/>

Proof of Residence: <https://elections.wi.gov/publications/voter-guides/proof-of-residence>

Photo ID: www.bringitwisconsin.com

Voter Registration Status: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

Directory of your municipal clerk: <https://elections.wi.gov/clerks/directory>



2018/2019 ABC LWV Board & Committee Members

BOARD

Contact the Board at:

info@lwvabcwi.org or
PO Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

Anne Chartier
President

Sheila Mitchell
Vice President

Barb Bell
Treasurer

Ginger Quay
Secretary

Joan Elias

Mary Hassett Gabrys

Linda Jorgenson

Dianne Judd

Jan Penn

Bruce Prentice

Liz Seefeldt

Mary Jo Tuckwell

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Anne Chartier, President
Sheila Mitchell, Vice President
Barb Bell, Treasurer
Ginger Quay, Secretary
Mary Jo Tuckwell, Membership

Membership Committee

Mary Jo Tuckwell, Chair

Voter Services

Mary Hassett Gabrys, Chair

Communications Committee

Dianne Judd, Chair
Dee Johnson, Facebook
Anne Chartier, Email Blasts
Liz Seefeldt, Bottom Line Liaison
Pete Skoro, Newsletter & Website

Issues Advocacy Committee

Joan Elias, Chair

Economic Inequality Committee

Linda Jorgenson & Jan Penn, Chairs

Civic Engagement Committee

Liz Seefeldt, Chair

Events Committee

Sheila Mitchell, Chair

Finance Committee

Barb Bell, Treasurer
Linda Jorgenson

Nominating Committee

Gail Syverud, Chair
Betty Schell
Dianne Judd, Board Liaison

Feel free to visit a committee meeting at any time. Join a committee and get involved with our work.

**Contact us at:
info@lwvabcwi.org**

League Board Notes

(August, September, October- 2018)

By Ginger Quay, Secretary

The LWV/ABC Board of Directors meet once a month at Chequamegon Hotel. You are always welcome. Please note our meeting times in our calendar and if possible, let our President know you are coming:

president@abcleaguevoters.org

It was with enthusiasm that the board convened in June for our first 2018-2019 Board Orientation. We welcomed our new president, Anne Chartier and new board members, Joan Elias, Mary Hassett-Gabrys and Bruce Prentice. Fresh perspectives combined with committed board members' experience set up expectations of what we could accomplish with the input and support of our growing membership. Deepening our work we reviewed our basic documents, our local league history and accomplishments, volunteered to take responsibility on various committees and heard about our broader League work with stories and news from those attending our State Annual Meeting and National Convection.

Beginning in September, We heard reports from committee chairs that convened their committees to determine goals. Membership Chair, Mary Jo Tuckwell, assisted by Event Chair, Sheila Mitchell, launched our springboard event: Our Member Social and Community Presentation

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of Wisconsin's Green Fire-The Hopes and Dreams for Reclaiming Wisconsin's Environmental Legacy.

The Living Wage Action Committee, led by Linda Jorgenson, and the Health Equity Committee, under the guidance of Jan Penn, had parallel concerns--outgrowths of the Economic Inequality Study published in 2016. Jan had successfully brought the board's consensus statement to our State assembly for concurrence in the Annual meeting in June 2018, validating the League's widespread concern for poverty in Wisconsin. The result this fall has been the merging of the two committees under the umbrella of the statewide End Child Poverty Campaign.

Our newly launched Civic Engagement Committee, led by Liz

Seefeldt, is looking for ways citizens can be engaged in the political process. An event focusing on the Judicial Branch of Government with Judge Gary Sherman was held in October. In November this committee will be cosponsoring with UW-Extension a workshop for citizens interested in running for local office.

The Voter Services Committee under the guidance of Mary Hassett Gabrys worked enthusiastically all summer and fall conducting educational and voter registration efforts that particularly focused on youth and underserved populations. The Friends of the Vaughn Public Library and LWV/ABC cosponsored a public program on voting registration, presented by Kim Westman, Ashland Election Clerk.

Joan Elias is building our Issues Ad-

vocacy Team, soliciting committee members and new areas of membership interest that can be a vital part of our community outreach. Joan, a recipient this fall of the Watershed's Service Award, brings a natural resource background to our board.

Votes we have taken:

- We have voted to be open to cosponsoring with other nonpartisan groups willing to work under League methods and policies, in an effort to expand our outreach in Making Democracy Work.
- We have voted to waive membership fees for Students. This fee has been waived by state and national and now we as a local league have waived that fee as well.



Welcome to New Members!

By Mary Jo Tuckwell

The Membership Committee is delighted to welcome eight new members to LWV/ABC. New members joining our league since the Annual Meeting in May are:

Margie Braun – Hayward

Kathy Finnie – Bayfield

Beverly Holmes – Bayfield

Debbie Josephson – Ashland

Suzanne Niemi – Iron River

**Peggy Jo Schiel Haueter – Hayward
(during the summer)**

Suzanne Ulmer – Hayward

Wendy Wood – Hayward

Several of these new members have been actively involved in our Voters Services Committee. We appreciate their enthusiasm in engaging area residents to register to vote and to VOTE on November 6th! We look forward to getting to know each of the new members as we collaborate with them on League activities to protect and promote our democracy.

Student Membership with the League of Women Voters is free of charge to full or part-time students (minimum age 16). For questions please contact us at info@lwvabcwi.org.

About your email from our President:

When you receive an email from President@abcleaguevoters.org, does it come from our current President, Anne Chartier?

-Some of you have received emails from the LWV/ABC President for several years. This email address has been held by Madelaine, Dianne and now Anne Chartier. If the emails from our league come with either Madelaine's or Dianne's name on it, here is how you change it.

- Go to your address book on your email app or server.
- Look for Madelaine (Herder or Reykemeyer) and/or Dianne's (Judd) name and see if it has the President's email address behind it. -If so, change the name to Anne Chartier.

Madelaine's current email is: Madelaine Reykemeyer (madelaine1078@gmail.com) and Dianne's is: Dianne Judd (dljudd@bayoak.com) (Questions? Email Dianne)

LWV CALENDAR

November

Tuesday 6	General Election, 7am – 8pm
Wednesday 7	Economic Inequality/ End Child Poverty Committee Meeting
Saturday 10	LWV WI “Issues Briefing,” Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton
Thursday 15	Elected Office 101, NGLVC
Thursday 22	Thanksgiving
Tuesday 27	LWV/ABC Board Meeting, 5-7 pm, Hotel Chequamegon

December

Tuesday 4	Holiday Party! Hotel Chequamegon
Saturday 15	Bill of Rights Day

January 2019

Friday 18	Newsletter deadline for February-March
Tuesday 22	LWV/ABC Board Meeting, 5-7 pm, Hotel Chequamegon
Monday 28	Lively Issues TBD

February

Tuesday 19	Spring Primary
Tuesday 26	LWV/ABC Board Meeting, 5-7 pm, Hotel Chequamegon

March

Tuesday 26	LWV/ABC Board Meeting, 5-7 pm, Hotel Chequamegon
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April

Tuesday 2	Spring Election
Thursday 23	LWV/ABC Board Meeting, 5-7 pm, Hotel Chequamegon

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2018

POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM-8:00 PM

Why your vote counts, and why it is important to vote.

By Mary Hassett Gabrys, Voter Services Committee

During the past month our Voter Services Committee was able to register high school and college/technical school students, as well as people at the area libraries, the BRICK, some store fronts, North Lake Clinics and some senior centers. Many of these people were first time voters who just needed a reminder that voting is important and have someone help them get started with the process.

In assisting with voter registration in our northern counties, the Voter Services Committee was surprised by the number people who were not registered. Many of the reasons varied: some were apathy "my vote doesn't matter," mistrust of the government "I don't want the government to have any more information than they have," "I am homeless and don't have an address," "I moved out of the house and am staying with friends" (because of a domestic situation), or "our landlord removed us because we were behind in rent." There were almost as many examples as there were people we visited. Our volunteers worked with everyone in providing information or assisting in registering or helping in making calls with residents to the Wisconsin Elections Commission to help them access

the right to vote if they wanted. In this process, we discovered that many people faced obstacles in getting registered because of the complexities of the system.

Voting is a fundamental right and all eligible voters should have the equal opportunity to exercise that right. The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring that our elections remain free, fair and accessible. It is important to vote for whichever candidate that has demonstrated a willingness to support the issues that you care about. These issues may include the environment, education, wages, health care, etc. You can go to the candidates' web pages or VOTE411.org for candidate information.

So, why is it important to vote?

The leaders we elect make decisions that affect our daily lives. Elections are our chance to stand up for what matters most to us and to have an impact on the issues that affect us, our communities, our families and our future.

VOTE411.org helps voters find essential information about the election process in each state, including place hours and locations as well as ballot information, voter deadline and ID requirements.

Online registration is over but you

can still register to vote at the polls with a Proof of Residence and a photo ID.

- [A Proof of Residence](#) document is a document that proves where you live in Wisconsin. All Proof of Residence documents must include the voter's name and current residential address. Example would be a bank statement, current & valid Driver's license. An example would be a bank statement or current resident & drivers license.

- [A photo ID](#) is separate. You only show photo ID to prove who you are. A drivers license, a voter ID card or student ID card with a photo are acceptable.

You can check your [voter registration status](#) as well as find your polling place and see a sample ballot. As of October 17 you will need to register at your municipal clerk's office. Be sure you call to make sure they are available. You can register at the polls on election day.

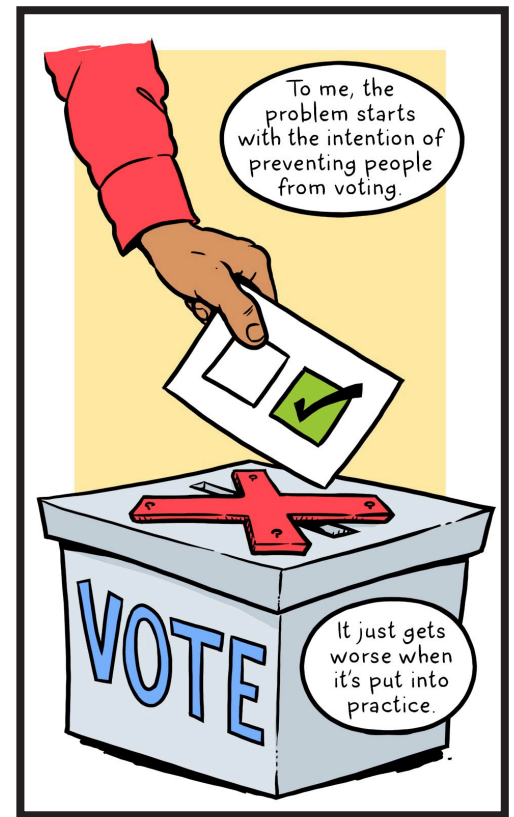
The Wisconsin Elections Commission phone number is 1-866-VOTE-Wis if you need additional help to contact your municipal clerk. Or go to: [Directory of Wisconsin Clerks](#) and look under Ashland County, Bayfield County or Sawyer County to find your municipal clerk. If you get to the polls and for some reason not allowed to vote, ask for a provisional ballot.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

By Liz Seefledt

The Civic Engagement team has been busy making a plan. Our goal is to provide opportunities for the public to become more deeply aware of what it means to be involved in the political process in a *healthy* way. We recognize that the current political climate is polarized; yet we believe that those who genuinely care about our governmental processes can engage with each other and share our divergent views while maintaining respect for each other and our perspectives. The Civic Engagement committee wants to equip each of us with a clear understanding of our governmental system and a set of values for guidance. With these ideals and concepts in place we are all better prepared to be responsible citizens who can confidently hold discourse with those across the political spectrum.

By the time of publication, our first event will have taken place. Judge Gary Sherman has presented his insights about the judicial branch of government. Understanding the judiciary and its role in the balance of powers is especially relevant as we witness a potential shift in balance in the highest court in our nation.



Just around the corner is an event we are co-hosting with the UW-Extension - Elected Office 101: A Workshop for Candidates Considering Local Office. On Thursday, November 15, 2018, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, this event will cover issues that impact potential candidates' decision to run for local office, including the "I'm not qualified" myth, dealing with negative feedback, and responsibilities of local elected officials. The workshop will include speakers and small group discussions, as well as opportunities for mentoring and individualized planning. If you've ever thought about running for office, this might be the jump start you need. Even if you don't see it in your own future, please share this opportunity with that bright and engaged friend or neighbor. Your encouragement could be the word that helps them move forward on their path to governmental service.

Watch for more exciting activities from the Civic Engagement team as the year progresses!

The League is Increasing Voter Registration

Why it matters

Every eligible voter should have a fair and equal opportunity to register to vote and to cast their ballot. Millions of Americans miss the opportunity to vote because they don't know how to register or they miss their state's deadline to register.

What we're doing

Our volunteers register hundreds of thousands of voters and host community voter registration drives across the country each year. We concentrate our registration drives at locations that reach large numbers of unregistered voters, including high schools and community colleges, transit hubs and naturalization ceremonies. Each year, we also help tens of thousands of Americans register online at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

From the League of Women Voters of the United States recent National Biennium Conference

As the 2018-2020 biennium came to a close, the League of Women Voters looked back on the successes they accomplished together through the League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work® over the past two years. From protecting voters' rights and registering hundreds of thousands of voters, to informing voters and fighting to stop partisan and racial gerrymandering, we've impacted and strengthened our democracy.

To Learn More: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/proposed-2016-2018-lwvus-program>

Recommended program:

The Campaign for Making Democracy Work® — includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on:

- Voting Rights
- Improving elections
- Campaign Finance/Money in politics
- Redistricting

“The League has been an active one in a way that we never could have anticipated. There have been challenges to the right to vote and to fair and open elections at every level and in every branch of government. Leagues at every level have worked to protect and advance voting rights and election reform as well as fight efforts in Washington, D.C. and state legislatures to suppress the vote”...from LWVUS 53rd National Convention workbook
LWV/ABC would like to highlight one of the parts of our Making Democracy Work Program in this and upcoming issues of The Leaguer.

Campaign Finance/Money in Politics

Elections should be about the voters not big money interests. It's time to limit SuperPACs and secret donors to protect representative democracy.

Why it matters – Reducing the influence of big money in our politics makes our elections fairer.

Voters have the right to know who is raising money for which political candidates, how much money they are raising and how that money is being spent. Our elections should be free from corruption and undue influence and should work so that everyday Americans can run for office, even if they aren't well connected to wealthy special interests.

What we're doing – We fight to reform money in politics in Congress, with state legislatures, with the executive branch and, where appropriate, the courts. We are deeply committed to reforming our nation's campaign finance system to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, and enable candidates to compete more equitably in public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.