



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

PO Box 175
Ashland, WI 54806
info@lwwabcwi.org

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

The Leaguer

April - June 2018



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Why We Need a Living Wage Economy

By Linda Jorgenson

Could Henry Ford have been right?
When he decided to double the daily wage of his workers in 1914, he gambled that it would increase the demand for his Model Ts. It paid off. He sold 308,000 cars in 1914. By 1915 it had climbed to 501,000. By 1920 he was selling a million cars per year.

One hundred years later, and after three decades of "supply side" economic orthodoxy, economists are now revisiting the "demand side" as well. In their February 2018 issue, the Harvard Business Review featured an article "The US economy is suffering from low demand. Higher wages would help". They asked the question, "Could we be at another Henry Ford moment?"

As Americans, we have watched both our unionized industrial workers and our public employees give back raises, lose benefits, and in the case of many industrial workers, lose their jobs entirely. But our alarm has been not only for worker's livelihoods, but also for the struggling businesses on our Main Streets.

Now movements like Fight for \$15 to raise the minimum wage have sprung up all around the country. Teachers are standing their ground for wage increases. Can raising wages pay off for rural areas like the Chequamegon Bay? Or is that a vain hope in a small business, ?

Living Wage continued from 3

Greetings from our Co-Presidents



Dianne Judd

president@lwvwi.org

Liz Seefeldt

lizseefeldt@cheqnet.net

THANK YOU for being active in our community, for supporting us, and for working together with us to make our community stronger. And, our thanks to everyone that attended our events over the past several months.

For those that didn't get a chance to attend our events, here is an overview:

- Dan Theno's talk on Restoring Democracy through Fair Voting Maps was very well attended. In his own words, "Democracy in America only works if both political parties are assured that they are being treated fairly and that their voices are given weight appropriate to the number of voters they represent." Wondering where the Redistricting issue stands today? The most recent update from Brennen Center for Justice indicates that the Supreme Court's decision is expected before the end of June.

- Health Equity talks: In the first talk in our series of 3, we explored the indicators that support a healthy community i.e. the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. At our second talk, we explored how economic inequality affects our health, and how inequity contributes to the population's health in countries, states and even regions. Our 3rd talk, on April 10th, will be about our state and county health plan, Healthy Wisconsin 2020.

- At our "Lively Issues" meeting each person present had an opportunity to express their concerns. From that conversation, we will bring forth our 2018-2019 Proposed Programs for the League. The topic of Civic Engagement captivated us all with thoughts of building our community culture of citizenship through local conversations. Further information about this is mentioned in the "Lively Issues" article in the newsletter.

Thanks for Voting in our Spring Primary and for preparing yourself for our Spring Election on April 3! This is the fun election – getting to know our neighbors who are stepping up to make our communities vibrant. Be part of your community, volunteer, know your representatives, keep up to date on your commu-

nity issues, AND...be inspired by our kids! After a recent school shooting, they are marching and speaking with articulate voices to save their lives. And they are focused and courageous as they speak out to elected representatives and to powerful voices in business and media. They give us hope and courage. We need to vote with them in mind. We can also inspire them with our years of knowledge, the storms we have weathered, and the paths we have traversed. We can support and encourage them as they use their youth and their passion. They are tomorrow's leaders. What do they care about? How will they make democracy work for all of us?

Our democracy is a complicated thing. It has been crafted, has stood the test of time, and yet it is constantly changing. We can make sure we and our kids have the information and access to make informed choices, while helping them register to vote, and listening to them as they speak.

What we have to be, is to be engaged!

In League,

Dianne & Liz

On Thursday, April 5, the LWV/ABC is co-sponsoring a community forum on "Why we need a living wage economy". Our co-sponsors are Northland College and the Alliance for Sustainability. It will be held at the Alvord Theater at Northland College from 6:30-8:30 PM.



Kevin Schanning, NC Professor of Sociology, will lead the presentation. Also included is a panel of local economic development stakeholders: Todd Buchner, owner of Delta Diner; Nick Smiar, Eau Claire County Board member and sponsor of their Living Wage Ordinance; and our own LWV Co-President, Liz Seefeldt, speaking from her viewpoint as Executive Director of the anti-poverty program, The BRICK.

The forum is open to the community. Please encourage your friends and family to attend. It is the culmination of this past year's work of the League's Living Wage Action Committee. The Committee hopes to continue its work into the 2018-19 League year.



VOTER SUPPRESSION: A Summary of our Current Status

by Bev Lindell

Protecting voting rights is a main mission of the League of Women Voters. Throughout our history, partisan efforts at interfering with registration or voting rights has been a threat to our democracy. In recent years, these efforts have accelerated. Tactics of voting suppression include: voter ID laws; requiring proof of citizenship; general registration restrictions; shortening early voting; restricting absentee voting; restricting student voting rights; and purging voter rolls.

The Brennan Center for Justice reports that these tactics remain a concern for the 2018 election cycle, particularly at the national level.

Within the past few weeks, the LWV has issued the following press release regarding the Homeland security Bill:

HOMELAND SECURITY PROVISION IS ANOTHER ATTACK ON OUR DEMOCRACY (3/12/2018). This Homeland Security bill would allow Pres. Trump to put Secret Service agents in polling places. Again, from President

of LWV Chris Carson, "Polling places must be safe, accessible, and welcoming to all voters-not places where eligible Americans will feel threatened and intimidated... Elections are the lifeblood of our democracy and sneaking in a provision that allows the President to order Secret Service agents to polling places is appalling.... the League will continue to stand against these shameless assaults. The best way for all of us, as Americans, to fight back against attacks on our rights is to get registered and vote in 2018."

On a positive note, there has also been recent efforts by some states to expand voting rights. To date, 22 states have approved or proposed legislation to reduce the burden of voter ID laws; restore voting rights to persons with past criminal convictions; or to implement Automatic Voting Registration.

Automatic Voter Registration is supported by the League of Women Voters. This would mean that eligible persons who have interactions with government agencies are automatically registered to vote unless they opt out, and those agencies would electronically transfer information to appropriate election officials. To date, 16 states have implemented this change, with several more states having pending legislation. The Brennan Center for Justice reports that Automatic Voter Registration "boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, makes voting more convenient, and reduces

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2017/2018 ABC LWV Board & Committee Members

BOARD

Contact the Board at:

info@lwv.abcwi.org or
PO Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806
or, membership@abcleaguevoters.
org

Darlene Charboneau

Membership

Dede Eckels

Newsletter, Voter Services

Dianne Judd

Co-President

Barb Bell

Treasurer

Dora Kling

Membership

Bev Lindell

Voter Services

Jan Penn

Local Challenges to Health Care

Liz Seefeldt

Co-President

Mary Jo Tuckwell

Nominating Committee, Financial

Linda Jorgenson

Living Wages

Sheila Mitchell

President Elect, Communications

Ginger Quay

Secretary

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Dianne Judd, Co-President

Liz Seefeldt, Co-President

Sheila Mitchell, President Elect

Giner Quay, Secretary

Barb Bell, Treasurer

Membership Committee

Darlene Charboneau, Chair

Gail Syverud

Dora Kling

Kathy Allen

Judy Swander

Voter Services

Bev Lindell, Chair

Joyce Kiel

Shari Eggleston

Deanna Eckels

Madeline Lee

Joyce Neumann

Communications Committee

Sheila Mitchell, Chair

Liz Seefeldt

Dianne Judd

Dee Johnson

Newsletter

Dede Eckels & Peter Skoro

Website

Peter Skoro

FaceBook

Dee Johnson

Nominating Committee

Madelaine Rekemeyer, Chair

Mary Jo Tuckwell

Kathy Allen

Financial Committee

Linda Jorgenson, Chair

Liz Seefeldt

Barb Bell

Mary Jo Tuckwell

Board Activity for January-March, 2018

Your Board has been busy this winter. Here are some of the highlights!

Fundamental to a functioning, effective organization is member participation. The Board has focused on leadership development and mentoring for aspiring members who are wondering about a path to leadership in LWV/ABC. There are Board vacancies each year, with important work needing to be done to help assist our communities. Committees are fluid and welcome new faces. Let us know of your interest and how we can support you! Members are always welcome to attend a Board meeting; just contact Co-President Judd or Seefeldt so we can make a place for you at the table.

Programs to support action goals take planning. And planning is what the Communication, Health Equity, Living Wages, Membership and Voter Services Committees have been doing. Committees, in turn, report back to the Board

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The “Lively Issues” Report

By Dianne Judd

At our “Lively Issues” meeting in January, each person present had an opportunity to express their concerns. Topics that were brought up included: voting, how to be informed, automatic voter registration, voter suppression, transparency in government, redistricting, the right to vote, civic education, money in politics, gun control, inequality, terms for governor, climate change, racism, encouraging people to come out to vote, and even more. The purpose of this was to help address our local programming for 2018-2019.

We agreed to:

- 1) Support LWV USA's work on Making Democracy Work (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money In Politics, and Redistricting)
- 2) Support LWV Wisconsin's work on outreach to include diverse communities. We also recommended to our State League that, as a whole, the State consider developing a position statement on Economic Equity.

LWV CALENDAR

April

Tuesday 3

Spring Elections/Statewide Constitutional Referendum, 7 am – 8 pm

Thursday 5

“Why We Need a Living Wage Economy” Community Forum, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Northland College, Alvord Theater

Monday 9

Voter Services Committee Meeting 4:00 Washburn Library

Tuesday 10

“State and County Health Plans – What are they about and how can they guide us?” 5:30-6:30 pm Vaughn Library, Ashland

Tuesday 24

Board Meeting, 5:30 Hotel Chequamegon, Ashland

May

Tuesday 8

LWV/ABC Annual Meeting; Guest Speaker Betsey Harries (AADC) 5:00-8:00 Hotel Chequamegon, Ashland

June

Friday/Saturday 8 & 9

LWV Wisconsin Annual Meeting in Oshkosh

Thursday/Sunday 28 - 7/1

LWV USA National Meeting in Chicago

3) Develop our local programming in three parts:

- a) Continuation of the Health Equity Committee
- b) Continuation of the Living Wages Action Committee
- c) Develop a program called “Civic Engagement”

Civic Engagement captivated us all as regards to having some community conversations about building our culture of citizenship. Some suggestions were: Learning how to exercise our civic power; How to be effective in talking with our repre-

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for consideration, evaluation, endorsement and support of their decisions. It takes teamwork to fulfill our mutual goal of Making Democracy Work.

January's Lively Issues meeting was a time to reflect on current programs and for members to recommend their concerns for additional programs in the coming year. Civics, promoted through education and action, was a thread that ran through member concerns, along with support for continuing our Health Equity and Living Wage efforts.

Programs this winter also included: Restoring Democracy Through Fair Elections with Dan Theno; 2 Sessions led by Pam Hayes of the 3-Part Health Equity Series; and a series of candidate forums for contested local elections in March.

Our League's Annual Meeting takes place at the Hotel Chequamegon in Ashland in early May. It will be a time of fellowship, fun and motivation. And we will vote on a slate of Officers, new Board Members and a proposed Program and Budget for 2018-19. We look forward to greeting friends and cementing bonds of commitment to the League.

Membership and League Communications

by Darlene Charboneau

Membership E-mail Address

An e-mail address has been established for the membership chair. Please use this address to contact the membership chair regarding your membership status, renewal date, or any other membership question you may have: membership@abcleaguevoters.org.

Membership Form

The membership form has been revised to include an optional check box for donations to help fund

meetings and events sponsored by our local chapter. The majority of our members join at the \$65 level, which includes membership in the State and National LWV organizations as well as our local chapter. We only retain \$4 per individual membership; \$61 goes to the State and National Leagues. If you use an old application to join or renew, an additional donation can still be included with your payment.

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Voter Suppression, continued from Page 3

the potential for voter fraud; all while lowering the cost."

The League of Women Voters has taken the lead in protecting voting rights with strong legal action and the promotion of nonpartisan information for all citizens. As members and supporters of LWV, there is much to be proud of, while remaining alert to continued threats.

"Lively Issues", continued from Page 5

sentatives with passion and respect; Study topics of immigration, gun control, individual rights, workers' rights; Learning how to negotiate the Wisconsin Legislation websites searching for bill numbers and progress; Supporting women in Government; Supporting Civics Education in schools, etc. This could be through conversations, lectures, webinars and book studies. We all can be inspired to be a part of this.

Consider becoming a part of the Civic Engagement team that will be organizing activities for our League in the upcoming 2018-2019 season!



Membership..., continued from
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E-mail Communications

All league members, and friends of the league, should be receiving regular e-mails from our local chapter such as this newsletter. If you would like to have these communications sent to a different e-mail, or if you know of someone who would like to receive league info, please send those addresses to membership@abcleaguevoters.org.

All members at the \$65 level and above should be receiving e-mail news and alerts from both the state and national leagues. If you are not receiving these e-mails, and would

like to, contact the membership chair at membership@abcleaguevoters.org or follow the instructions below for non-members.

Non-league members, and non-voting members of our local chapter, can sign up to receive both state and national league e-mail news and alerts. Sign up for national news from the national league's web page, <https://www.lwv.org/>. (Scroll down the page to the section to Signup For Email News and Alerts). Sign up for state news at <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/sign-news-alerts>.

Welcome and thank you to new member:

Karen Novachek

Thanks! to the following individuals who have recently renewed their memberships:

Joyce Neumann

Bruce Prentice

Kathy Wendling

Jennifer Zienty

Health Equity

By Jan Penn

Cindy Zach, Ashland County Public Health, will meet with interested LWV/ABC members and friends on April 10, 2018 from 5:30-6:30 PM to present a short PowerPoint on the most recent State of Wisconsin Health Plan and the County Health Plan. The meeting will be held in the meeting room of the Vaughn Library in Ashland, with an opportunity for questions after the presentation.

The program will explain the plans and help the participants identify how these plans serve to guide the health community, elected officials and citizens in addressing prior-

itized health concerns locally. This discussion is the final presentation in a 3-part series on Health Equity.

The series has addressed the determinants of Health or factors that contribute to Wellness, (which, for a large part, are disparities in socioeconomic and educational status). We have reviewed the County Rankings of Health and have looked at opportunities and programming that have been successful in improving County Rankings (from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute).

The Wisconsin Center for Health Equity defines Health Equity as "...a fair opportunity to attain...full health po-

tential and, more pragmatically, that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential..." They clarify further that this reflects "...fairness in the distribution of resources, and the freedom to achieve healthy outcomes between groups with differing levels of social disadvantage."

All LWV members and friends are invited to attend!



Wisconsin Statewide Constitutional Referendum

When: *On the April 3, 2018 Ballot*
What it will say on the ballot?

At the April 3 Spring Election, all Wisconsin voters will be asked to vote on the question: "Elimination of state treasurer. Shall sections 1 and 3 of article VI and sections 7 and 8 of article X of the constitution be amended, and section 17 of article XIV of the constitution be created, to eliminate the office of state treasurer from the constitution and to replace the state treasurer with the lieutenant governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands?"

Some history

The Wisconsin Constitution contains the following language: "The qualified electors of this state . . . shall . . . every 4 years . . . elect a secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general who shall hold their offices for 4 years. The powers, duties and compensation of the treasurer and attorney general shall be prescribed by law."

The state treasurer is a partisan office. The current duties prescribed by WI law include signing certain checks and financial instruments and helping to publicize the state's unclaimed property program (the program is managed and advertised by the Department of Revenue). Per the constitution, the treasurer serves along with the attorney general and secretary of state on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

The Board manages the state's remaining trust lands (more than 77,000 acres of forest), manages trust funds (more than \$1 billion) primarily for the benefit of public education, and maintains the state's archive of 19th-century land survey and land sales records.

Historically, the treasurer had custody of state funds, including state investments; handled receipts and payments of the State Fair; notified utility companies to pay taxes to the treasurer's office; settled with each county treasurer for the state's share of taxes; and made financial reports to the governor. Successive legislatures have assigned these duties to state agencies, primarily the Departments of Administration and Revenue.

Currently the only employee of the treasurer's office is the state treasurer, whose annual salary is approximately \$70,000. The total office budget is approximately \$113,500 per year.

What this referendum vote would do

This amendment would complete the transfer of financial duties from an independent elected official to agencies under the control of the governor. Supporters of the amendment contend that there are no remaining responsibilities that justify a separate office. Opponents are concerned about the consolidation of power in the executive branch.

Two successive legislatures voted to put this question to voters (as required by the Wisconsin Con-

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stitution). For additional background information, see <https://ballotpedia.org/> , or search "Wisconsin State Treasurer Amendment"

Get it right! What a Yes or No vote means

A "Yes" vote means the voter agrees that the constitutional position of state treasurer should be abolished.

A "No" vote means the voter wants to retain the constitutional position of state treasurer.

Thanks to the members of LWV Dane County for the compilation of this educational material.

*Join us at the
Hotel Chequamegon!*

*League of Women Voters of Ashland
& Bayfield Counties Annual Meeting*

Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Betsey Harries, Executive Director of Ashland Area Development Corporation

Menu Options

- White Fish Molly's Sirloin Dietary Restrictions, please specify:
- Wild Rice Stuffed Chicken Pasta Primavera _____

Garden salad, bread stick, garlic mashed potatoes, herbed green beans, and cheese cake with choice of toppings, coffee and tea.

Cash bar available.

- \$25/person includes tax & tip. Guests are always welcomed!

RSVP by May 2! Please complete the form below and mail to:

Barb Bell, Treasurer
LWV/ABC
P.O. Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

Yes! I'll be attending the LWV/ABC's Annual Dinner! Enclosed is \$25/person. Dinner choice:

_____ White Fish _____ Molly's Sirloin _____ Wild Rice Stuffed Chicken _____ Pasta Primavera

Names of attendees: _____

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY - Abbreviated

2017-2018 Session

Please refer to the Wis. Legislature's Website:
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
as this information changes frequently.

UNITED STATE SENATORS

Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

TAMMY BALDWIN (D)

Office: 709 Hart Senate Bldg.
Phone: (202) 224-5653
Web: <http://baldwin.senate.gov>

RON JOHNSON (R)

Office: 328 Hart Senate Bldg.
Phone: (202) 224-5323
Web: <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov>

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

DUFFY, Sean (R-7) Local

2330 Rayburn
Tel. (202) 225- 3365

POCAN, Mark (D-2)

1421 Longworth
(202) 225-2906

GROTHMAN, Glenn (R-6)

1217 Longworth
(202) 225-2476

GALLAGHER, Mike (R-8)

1007 Longworth
(202) 225-5665

KIND, Ron (D-3)

1502 Longworth
(202) 225-5506

RYAN, Paul (R-1)

1233 Longworth
(202) 225-3031

MOORE, Gwen (D-4)

2252 Rayburn
(202) 225-4572

SENSENBRENNER, James (R-5)

2449 Rayburn
(202) 225-5101

WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY STATE CAPITOL LEADERSHIP:

Speaker: Robin Vos (R-63)

211 W
(608) 266-9171

Speaker Pro Temp: Tyler August (R-32)

119 W
(608) 266-1190

Majority Leader: Jim Steineke (R-5)

115 W
(608) 266-2418

Asst. Maj. Leader: Robert Brooks(R-60)

309 N
(608) 267-2369

Maj. Caucus Chair: Romaine Quinn (R-75)

323 N
(608) 282-3675

Minority Leader: Peter Barca (D-64)

201 W
(608) 266-5504

Asst. Minority Leader: D. Hesselbein (D-79)

119 N
(608) 266-5340

Min. Caucus Chair: Mark Spreitzer (D-45)

113 N
(608) 266-1192

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE - Local

Meyers, Beth (D-74)

Home: Bayfield
Office: 409 N
(608) 266-7690

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR - Local

BEWLEY, Janet (D-25)

Home: Ashland
Room 126 S
Office (608) 266-3510

WISCONSIN CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

Governor: Scott Walker (R)

P.O. Box 7863, State Capitol, Madison
53707
(608) 266-1212

Lt. Governor: Rebecca Kleefisch (R)

P.O. Box 2043, State Capitol, Madison
53707
(608) 266-3516

Secretary of State: Doug La Follette (D)

P.O. Box 7848, State Capitol, Madison
53707
(608) 266-8888

Treasurer: Matt Adamczyk (R)

P.O. Box 7871, State Capitol, Madison
53707
(608) 266-1714

Attorney General: Brad Schimel (R)

P.O. Box 7857, State Capitol, Madison
53707
(608) 266-1221

Supt. Public Instruction: Tony Evers

P.O. Box 7841, State Capitol, Madison
53707
(608) 266-1771

Thank You!

Voter Services would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the candidate forums.

This spring we will be continuing voter registration efforts in our area high schools and colleges. We are also planning a "Get Registered Day," which will take place in local libraries.

Please contact Bev Lindell (715-779-5869) if you are interested in volunteering for these events.