



The Leaguer Newsletter September/October 2015

Greetings from our President

The League of Women Voters Ashland Bayfield Counties is a group of civic minded women and men from all walks of life dedicated in their passion for raising awareness about voters' rights to keep our elections fair, free and accessible. We are committed to seeing a realistic picture of this region's economic inequality through a multi-faceted study and committee work. We recognize the importance of conserving our clean water and other natural resources. We will continue to work with regional and state leagues along with local Chequamegon Bay organizations to preserve resources and look for ways to influence public policy through education and advocacy. We ask you to be a part of our efforts.

This newsletter provides links and information to increase understanding of our work. The importance of the work the LWV has done and continues to do cannot be overstated. Thank you for your help and encouragement in our efforts to make democracy work and keeping hope for democracy alive.

In League,

Madelaine Herder

2015 League of Women Voters Ashland and Bayfield Counties Board:

Linda Barnes, Kate Bortell, Shari Eggleston, Joan Elias, Dee Johnson, Linda Jorgenson, Dianne Judd, JoAnne Katzmarek, Dora Kling, Jan Penn, Janel Ryan, Elizabeth Seefeldt, Mary Jo Tuckwell

<http://www.lwvabcwi.org/>

www.facebook.com/ABCLWV

September Calendar

Dates:

Sept 21 Economic Inequality

– Pub. Ed. subcommittee,
page 4

Sept 22 National Voter

Registration Day

<http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

Sept 25 & 26 LWV Lake

Michigan Conference

<http://www.lwvabcwi.org/calendar/2015/9/25/lwv-lake-michigan-conference-in-glenview-il>

Sept 28 Community Meeting,

5:30 pm, Washburn Library,
see page 2

Sept 30 Economic Inequality

– Labor & Development
subcommittee, page 4

**Calendar continues
on page 5**



September Community League Meeting

(All are welcome to attend our Community Meetings. Bring a friend.)

Monday, September 28, 5:30 pm
Washburn Public Library, Lower Level

In honor of the 95th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, we will be participating in the Bayfield Applefest Parade, which takes place on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00pm — judging is at 1:00pm sharp, before the parade.

We are going to be Suffragettes!! We will have an old car or two, and will dress the part. Men are welcome to join us in costume in the parade, as are kids and grandkids — the more the merrier! Lu Eckels, a founding member of LWV/ABC, will join us in the parade.

This year we will use our September meeting to plan our entry, discuss costumes, and create sashes to wear and posters to carry! We will also learn the LWV/ABC song, shared with us by Lu!!

Please invite your friends and prospective new members! What a great way to inspire participation in our wonderful organization — as well as to remind ourselves of the fragility of our rights, including our right to vote!

Remember that if you have visitors that weekend, they are welcome to join us in the parade, and will probably have lots of fun!

<http://www.lwvabcwi.org/calendar/2015/9/28/annual-membership-meeting>



Our Mission:

Together we are
MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK[®]
in Wisconsin!

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*.



Get Involved 2015-16 LWV ABC!

(Find Ways to connect with us locally)

Voter Services/Candidate Forums

Contact: Janel Ryan, nelfish13@gmail.com

The Voter Services Committee helps voters get to know the candidates and issues in upcoming elections, primarily by holding forums for candidates for our area's state and local offices. At the forums, all questions come from the audience, so attendees can hear the candidates address issues of interest to them. Regarding Voter ID Laws visit: <http://bringit.wisconsin.gov/>
Register to Vote: <http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

Water Committee

Contact: Dee Johnson, deejohnson@outlook.com

The LWV WI and LWV/ABC will advocate for the strongest possible water protection and restoration actions. Water is necessary for life. The League must look beyond current inadequate public policy and make a clear statement consistent with League values: We envision an informed citizenry participating in public policy to ensure equity for this and future generations. Info: <http://www.lwvabcwi.org/issues-advocacy/> and <http://www.wordsforwater.com/about/>

Issues Advocacy Committee

Contact: Shari Eggleston, eggleston@centurytel.net

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties takes positions on and advocates for key public policy issues after study, debate and consensus by our membership. A description of this stringent process is outlined in [Our Mission](#).

The LWV/ABC also acts in support of [League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Positions](#) and [National League of Women Voters Positions](#). The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network Inc. [lobbies for positions in the current legislative session](#) and also files lawsuits in support of stands—see the [LWV WI website](#) for information on their Wisconsin Voter ID Lawsuits.

LWV/ABC Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the second Wed of each month at 5:30 at the *Blue Wave* in Ashland. All board meetings are open to members. You are welcome to visit. Or you are welcome to contact any of the board members if you have comments or requests about our meetings. If you are interested in attending or have comments, please contact our secretary: Shari Eggleston, eggleston@centurytel.net

Become an LWV/ABC Member

Contact: Liz Seefeldt, lizseefeldt@cheqnet.net or <http://www.lwvabcwi.org/membership/>

Economic/Inequality Study

Contact Linda Jorgenson if you are interested in this ongoing study: jorgensonla@gmail.com

Income inequality has become such an undeniable problem that both Democrats and Republicans feel that it can no longer be ignored. Economists of all stripes who always saw it as a side issue are now filling scholarly journals with articles about how to deal with it.

As one of the preeminent issues of our time the LWV/ABC thought it would be important to look at some of the ways it might be impacting the lives of people in Ashland and Bayfield Counties and the policies that might be responsible for it. At their May 2014 Annual Meeting the LWV/ABC voted to study the following question over two years. Jan Penn and Linda Jorgenson volunteered to chair the study.

Study Question: "What are the specific ways in which the Chequamegon Bay region is impacted by economic inequality, and what can we do about it?"

The study is into its second year and has proven to be a fascinating and timely topic. After a year of digesting recent books and articles about the growing gulf between the top 1% and the rest of the 99% in the US, the Study Group is now concentrating on collecting data about Ashland and Bayfield Counties and planning three community public education events in late fall and winter:

- 1) **"Privatization of Education and its Impact on Chequamegon Bay Area schools"** November or January 2015/16. Possible Coalition partners were Northland College, CESA 12 and the UW-Superior.
- 2) **"How Does a Business Survive and Yet Maintain a Culture of Economic and Social Justice"** for January or February 2016. Possible speakers would be CEO of Organic Valley, Bill Penzey of Penzey Spices, Judith Falkner of Epic, locals such as Omer Nelson Electronics, Delta Diner, someone from Labor.
- 3) **"Low Wages, Wage Stagnation and Our Social Safety Net?"** for March or April 2016. Coalition partners to be determined.

The aim is to complete a written study report for the LWV/ABC Annual Meeting in May 2016.

Anyone interested is welcome to join the Study Group and can come on board anytime. This includes your friends and community members. Contact Jan Penn at 715-274-2942 or Linda Jorgenson at 715-373-2948. The next Economic Inequality meets as a whole on Monday, October 5, 5:30 pm at the *The Blue Wave*, Ashland. The Labor and Development subcommittee will be Sept 30 at 5:30 pm at *The Blue Wave*. The Public Education subcommittee will meet Sept 21 at 8:30 am at *The Blue Wave*.



National and State Activities

The League of Women Voters has been instrumental in lobbying for health care reform, voter rights, and climate change legislation, and it has always distinguished itself for its strong support of campaign finance reform and judicial independence.

National Activities : [League of Women Voters: Our Work](#)

Wisconsin Activities: [League of Women Voters of Wisconsin: Mission, Vision & Principles](#)

October Calendar

Dates:

Oct 4 Bayfield Applefest Parade,
see page 2

Oct 5 Economic Equality
Meeting -- Whole committee ,
see page 4

Oct 7 LWV ABC Board Meeting,
5:30, *Blue Wave on the Bay*

October Community Meeting
TBA

2015 Continuing

Nov. 11 LWV ABC Board
Meeting, 5:30, *Blue Wave on the
Bay*

November Community Meeting
TBA

Dec 9 LWV ABC Board Meeting,
5:30, *Blue Wave on the Bay*

December holiday Party TBA



2015/16 ABC LWV Board Members

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Committee Contacts

Executive Committee:

Madelaine Herder, president
Shari Eggleston, Secretary
Mary Jo Tuckwell, Treasurer

Membership Committee:

Madelaine Herder,
Liz Seefeldt

Voter Services: Janel Ryan,
Linda Barnes, Shari Eggleston,
Jim Oakley, Joyce Kiel

Action Committee:

Shari Eggleston

Communications:

Kate Bortell, Dianne Judd

Unit Meetings/Membership Gatherings:

JoAnne Katzmarek,
Linda Barnes, Dora Kling

Study Committee:

Linda Jorgenson, Jan Penn,
Liz Seefeldt,
JoAnne Katzmarek

Water Committee:

Joan Elias, Dee Johnson

Fundraising Committee:

Linda Jorgenson,
Mary Jo Tuckwell

Any submissions, corrections,
changes, please email Dianne
at dlijudd@bayoak.com