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The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

The Leaguer

November – December 2016

Highlights

**LWV-ABC goes to a
Apple Festival**

**Greetings from our
President Dianne**

**Opportunity “in the
Oven” for LWV-ABC**

Holiday Party

Events Calendar



League of Women Voters ABC Goes to Bayfield Apple Festival 2016

By Bev Lindell
bjlindell@centurytel

Our league had a strong presence at this year's Applefest. The Gear UP van arrived from Madison in time to work with local members at our booth and then to drive the parade route with members following along handing out voter information cards, “future voter” stickers and candy. It was gratifying to hear some visitors compliment the LWV on their work on behalf of voters.

In addition to Applefest, we have been to WITC and Northland College talking to students about the Voter ID requirements. Contrary to some opinion, we found students in our regional college and technical schools to be knowledgeable and interested in this important election. We were pleased to have Rebecca Johnson, a graduate student from UMD, volunteer to talk to high school students about the importance of their vote.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave their time and energy to the voter services projects.

Greetings from our President



Dianne Judd
dljudd@bayoak.com

Fun Facts about E Pluribus Unum

- Just as the U.S. has thirteen original colonies, E Pluribus Unum has thirteen letters in it.

- The term *ex pluribus unum* dates to ancient times, where Saint Augustine uses it in his c. 397-398 *Confessions*.

- E Pluribus Unum still appears on U.S. coins even though it is no longer the official national motto! That honor was given to *In God We Trust* in 1956 by an Act of Congress.

- In the film *The Wizard of Oz*, the wizard gives the Scarecrow a diploma from the society of *E Pluribus Unum*.

Information was gathered from Wikipedia, League of Women Voters, Wisconsin website and other on-line sources.

The end of a long divisive political election season is here. America's past tradition is to come together again to find the best path forward as a nation. It is time to listen to each other, learn from each other, work together, and build friendships to Make Democracy Work.

"E Pluribus Unum" is Latin for "out of many, one." E Pluribus Unum refers to the fact that the United States was formed as a cohesive single nation as the result of the thirteen smaller colonies joining together. "E Pluribus Unum" was the motto proposed for the first Great Seal of the United States by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson in 1776.

Pluribus is very exciting. Each of us has our own voice, our own passions, and our own beliefs. It is important for us to use our voices, to stand up and participate in this messy process of Civic Life. The many colors and cultures that make us

diverse and vibrant can also get heated into conflict easily.

Unum brings us together by honoring each other, celebrating our diversity, crossing those partisan divides, listening to each other and talking civilly for the common good. Coming to consensus and building community and the well being of future generations is challenging work.

The League of Women Voters is the original grassroots citizen network, directed by the consensus of its members and mobilized whenever necessary. Enduring through time is what the League is about - we've been working to inform ourselves and our neighbors about critical public policy issues for 97 years and to advocate in an informed manner on those issues to build better communities - for the interest of all.



The LWV-ABC has a long history of engagement with the popular Big Top Chautauqua “Pie and Politics” event going back to the start of this popular local season of entertainment. The history of “Pie and Politics” itself goes back to the early days of Chautauqua, when this popular tour of summer programs would originate on the East Coast and wind it's way westward through the countryside. Chautauqua brought both entertainment AND the opportunity to engage in discussion of current issues to the rural regions of this country.

The local event of “Pie and Politics” began as collaboration between our local League of Women Voters, Northland College/SOEL, and the Alliance for Sustainability. While in recent years the League may have appeared to “merely” arrange for 60-70 homemade pies to show up all yummy /baked/cut to go, our support of this event has not waned.

As a result of our current work on the Economic Inequality Study, the Board of the League has been asked by the Alliance for Sustainability to take the lead this year in arranging the annual “Pie and Politics” event. A good share of the groundwork is already laid out, but we are asking our membership to step forward in assisting with the task as we move forward.

We feel this is a great opportunity for us because we will have completed our Economic Inequality Study, and also because at our annual meeting there was approval of our consensus statement. (It is a consensus that drives advocacy on any issue). While we have partnered with local entities such as WITC, Northland and the business community in our study, the ultimate goal will be to utilize the consensus to help formulate a vision in the Chequamagon Bay Region that will help to improve long-term Economic Equality.

Our participation as lead in this year's Pie and Politics is the first step beyond the study to engage the broader community in this effort. We are beginning the process of identifying a lead speaker, but the many tasks, both big and small, could use the energy of our members. Interested parties are asked to contact the Study Chairs, Jan Penn and Linda Jorgenson, and join in this exciting opportunity.

OPPORTUNITY “IN THE OVEN” FOR LWV-ABC

By Jan Penn

***Pie and Politics 2017
“Our pies have been amazing; WAIT ‘til they see what else comes out of our ovens!”***

2016/2017 ABC LWV Board & Committee Member

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COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

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Liz Seefeldt, President-Elect

Shari Eggleston, Secretary

Mary Jo Tuckwell, Treasurer

Membership Committee

Darlene Charboneau
Chair

Gail Syverud

Dora Kling

Voter Services

Bev Lindell, Chair

Linda Barnes

Joyce Kiel

Shari Eggleston

Tessa Levens

Deanna Eckels

Water & Issues Advocacy Committee

Shari Eggleston

Dee Johnson (Water)

Communications Committee

Sheila Mitchell, Chair

Darlene Charboneau

Dee Johnson

Newsletter

Dede Eckels

Website

Valerie Damstra

Events Committee

Darlene Charboneau

JoAnne Katzmarek

Dora Kling

Fundraising Committee

Linda Jorgenson, Chair

Mary Jo Tuckwell

Economic Inequality Study Committee

JoAnne Katzmarek

Jan Penn

Linda Jorgenson

Nominating Committee

Linda Barnes, Chair

Kathy Allen

Dora Kling

Lois Albrecht

*of Ashland & Bayfield Counties is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of **all citizens** in government **at all levels, especially locally.***

We do this through the active participation of our members on initiatives throughout the year.

We invite you to be more deeply involved in any aspect of our efforts, please contact a committee chairperson.



Ashland-Bayfield Counties League of Women Voters

Annual Holiday Dinner

Join us at the Hotel Chequamegon

Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season with your League friends!

Four delicious menu choices:

- Wild rice stuffed chicken breast, gluten free
- Broiled white fish
- Sirloin steak
- Pasta Primavera, vegetarian

Garlic mashed potatoes, salad, herbed green beans, bread sticks, gluten-free bread, cheesecake with assorted toppings, coffee, & tea. Cash bar available.

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

RSVP by November 30 with meal choices and check to:

LWV/ABC

c/o Mary Jo Tuckwell, Treasurer

P.O. Box 175

Ashland, WI 54806

You may also send your menu choices & pay at the door, by emailing maryjo.tuckwell@yahoo.com.

Small Group Gatherings

Those present at our September Community Gathering had an opportunity to respond to a Small Group Gathering Survey.

Along the lines of what used to be called "Unit Meetings," the Small Group gatherings would be held just once, or twice as there is interest. These groups would gather in a public place in various communities, be provided a topic with possible background readings (articles, not books), and led through a series of questions to dialog with each other about the topic at hand.

Here are the topics rated in order of interest:
Natural Resources/Water, Election Reform/Voting Rights, Economic Inequality/Poverty, Redistricting, Racism, Gun Control, Education, and Government Structure.

Be on the lookout for more action on this in the New Year.

LWV CALENDAR

November

- Friday 4** Duffy vs Hoeft Debate, 7-8 pm, Hayward Community HS
- Sunday 6** Daylight Saving Time change
- Tuesday 8** Fall General Election
- Saturday 19** Issues Briefing in Madison
- Monday 21** Board Meeting, 5:30, BW End of the Year Finance Drive
- 25/25** Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- Tuesday 4** Holiday Party, 5:30 pm (No board meeting this month)
- Sunday 18** Jan/Feb/March Newsletter articles due
- 24 - 26** Hanukkah/Christmas/Kwanza