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The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

The Leaguer

September – October 2016



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League of Women Voters/ ABC League Fall Member Kick Off Event

Darlene Charboneau
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As summer activities are winding down we are looking forward to the upcoming season of League of Women Voters activities. Our first event will be our annual fall membership Kick Off Event on Wednesday, September 28. **NOTE: This is a change from the date initially published.** The speaker will be Carolyn Castore. She will discuss Redistricting and the Election Observer Corps. A welcome and an overview of LWV/ABC 2016-17 year will start at 7:00 pm with our program following at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Stay and socialize after the program.

This is a public event - everyone is welcome. Please feel free to encourage friends and neighbors to attend. The speaker's topics are of importance to all voters. This event will also be an opportunity for individuals to learn about the league's activities and the league's mission to protect, educate, and engage voters.

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Greetings from our President

Dianne Judd
djudd@bayoak.com

With a very interesting Presidential Election coming up on November 8, all our eyes and ears are turned into what is the best government for our country. The LWV/ABC is all about encouraging citizens to vote, getting informed, studying the issues, and being involved in government at a non-partisan level.

The LWVUS will be 97 years old in February. The 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, turned 96 on August 28. The LWV/ABC League is 60 years old. There is lot's to celebrate! "In this issue you will hear from one of our founders, Lu Eckels who has an interesting story to tell"

Most certainly in these next couple months, our local focus will be on Voting and Elections. Attend our September meeting and hear Carolyn Castore, from the state legislative committee of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network, talk about her work with Redistricting in Wisconsin

and the League's Election Observer Corp.

Come find us at Applefest, October 8 & 9th, at our League information table and marching in the parade! Volunteer to help inform as many voters as we can on the process of voting.

Economic Inequality has been our local focus of study these past couple years. Our study process means we choose study topics from your input, we thoroughly search out the details and facts, bring conversation to our members and community, form a consensus, develop a position, take action through public information meetings, letters to the editor, writing reports with documentation. Read about our current study and you will learn of our plans to present forums on "Poverty" and "Getting Money Out of Politics."

In League,

Dianne Judd



Ashland/Bayfield League Inequality Study Enters its Final Year

Linda Jorgenson &
Jan Penn

With climate change connected weather events, and a presidential election filled with nods toward doing something about the wealth gap between the 1% and the rest of us, it could not be more relevant that our ABC League struggle with economic policy alternatives.

The League study – “Impact of wealth inequality on Ashland and Bayfield Counties”, is entering its final year. It has evolved into a Steering Committee and three subcommittees – Education, Employment/Economic Development, and the Social Safety Net. All Study activities are open to all Leaguers and non-League community members. If you would like to join us, please contact Study Coordinators Linda Jorgenson at 715-373-2948 or jorgensonla@gmail.com, or Jan Penn at 715-274-2942, or janmpenn@yahoo.com. Our next meeting is set for 5:30 pm on September 14 at the Blue Wave Café in Ashland.

We have learned a lot. After examining what is happening to our local economy and the rise in poverty in our two counties, and reading a number of books and articles, it is clear to the Study Group that we live in a time of paradigm shift in the economic relationships developed over the past two centuries. We can see that much of our high paying industrial jobs and extraction industries are gone and are not likely to come back, stranding a large portion of our middle class without the same gainful employment. Public education, key to the rise of the American middle class, is under attack. The established methods for providing a safety net for the vulnerable children, disabled and elderly in our communities are being questioned without better alternatives being presented. Health insurance is still at an almost

“...we live in a time of paradigm shift in the economic relationships developed over the past two centuries.”

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(Member Kick Off continued from Page 1)

There will be a table for members to renew and new members to join.

Local league membership also enrolls an individual, or household, in both the Wisconsin and the national league organizations. Visit us at <http://www.lwvabcwi.org/> to learn more about who we are and click on "Get Involved" to join. To learn about the Wisconsin league's activities or sign up for e-news and news alerts visit <http://www.lwvwi.org>. For information on the national

(Inequality Study continued from page 3)

confiscatory cost for the middle class. Services to people with disabilities have been cut. There is a shortage of affordable housing. Increasing poverty is placing a drag on economic development efforts.

If you would like to join us at our next meeting, please contact Study Coordinators Linda Jorgenson at 715-373-2948 jorgensonla@gmail.com, or Jan Penn at 715-274-2942, janmpenn@yahoo.com.

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On a much brighter note, however, the Study Committee has found that in many ways our Chequamegon Bay area is poised to move forward in potentially key sustainable economic directions. Some of this comes from new ideas, but much of it is built on the wisdom from our region's own self-reliant past. Community supported agriculture is popular and small organic farmers are bravely inventing ways to make themselves more economically sustainable and increase production of "valued added" products. The small business tourism industry continues to attract numbers of bold entrepreneurs in lodging and food service with a growing recognition of the importance of paying a "living wage". Anchor institutions such as Northland College and the medical community are thinking self consciously about ways to "purchase local" as an engine for business start-ups and to keep more money circulating locally to be spent on our main streets. Elected officials and local investors are also stepping up to keep more dollars at home through green energy production. Finally, our Bay area persists with admirable generosity in its unflagging efforts to support the disadvantaged among us.

During the course of its work the Study Group has shared part of

their learning with the community. In November 2015, and January 2016, the Education Subcommittee highlighted their findings on outcomes from the decades long movement to privatize public schools. They hosted two community forums sharing research that now shows no performance differences between public or private school students. Also revealed, however, was a decades long strategy by corporations that stand to profit from privatization pushing that movement.

The Employment/Economic Development Subcommittee examined the questions of how rural economies are dealing with the issues of wage stagnation, globalization, and the imperative of adapting to a green economy given the impending crisis of climate change. They partnered with Northland College's Center for Rural Communities to organize two forums in April and June 2016. The one in April laid out the facts of what has happened to wages and benefits for Wisconsin workers in the last three decades. The June event showcased promising alternative economic

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Voter Ed Volunteers Needed

By Beverly Lindell
Voter Services Chair
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The voter services committee has been busy getting ready for 2016 election season. Voter education and participation in our electoral process is a primary goal of the League of Women Voters. In the next few months LWV/ABC has several planned activities that will require help from volunteers.

In September and October we will have information tables set up at our local colleges answering questions of new or young voters and offering assistance in finding correct polling station.

Regional high schools may be requesting persons willing to speak about how our democracy depends on an active citizenry and the importance of being an informed voter.

We will be putting together voter information packets that will be distributed around the region.

League of Women Voters- Wisconsin has a GEAR UP TO VOTE project in which a van of state volunteers will be traveling to events in several communities around the state

including the Bayfield Apple Festival (Oct 7, 8, 9). We will be with them at our information booth and walking alongside their van in the parade handing our voting information cards.

If you interested in helping out with any of these activities or events, please contact Beverly Lindell.

For Voter Information please see the following websites:

<http://www.vote411.org/>

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

<http://www.lwvwi.org/Vote2016/WisconsinVoterPhotoID.aspx>

<http://gearuptovote.com/Voter-Resources>

Can a Snowbird Vote in Wisconsin?

By Lu & Dede Eckels
eckelspottery@charter.net

My Mom, Lu Eckels is living with us in Bayfield for approximately 6 months.

She lives in Texas the other half of the year and maintains a drivers license there. So the question is-Can Mom vote in Wisconsin while she is living here?

Here is what we found out: If you have lived in Wisconsin for 10 days and can show a physical address, and have a

Wisconsin photo ID, yes you can vote in Wisconsin.

First we went to Bayfield City Hall to get the necessary paper work. We filled out the registration forms and handed over her driver's license and address. Since her address was listed as a PO Box and her photo ID is a Texas driver's license she was not able to register.

Next stop was Bremer Bank to change her bank account address to a street address.

While waiting for this to happen we decided to go to the DMV to get a Wisconsin ID. The friendly lady at the DMV was happy to help us. She handed us the "blue card" and said in order to get a Wisconsin ID you must give up your Texas drivers license. No way Jose'! She is not handing over her drivers license. In order to get a Wisconsin photo ID you cannot have a drivers license from any state.

We now had to figure out how to get a photo ID in Wisconsin. Her passport is an option, but it had not been renewed for 20 years. A Wisconsin ID was not an option because she would have to give up her driver's license.

Voting by absentee ballot for Texas is her only option until she can get a photo id that verifies that she is in fact here-6 months of the year.

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2016/2017 Board Members

Ashland and Bayfield Counties
League of Women Voters

(Snow Birds, continued from Page 5)

So all you snow birds, if you have a second resident outside of Wisconsin, remember to get an absentee ballot before you go, or plan on carrying with you a passport that verifies that you are real and live in the United States. For those of you who are coming here from another state you also must have either a Wisconsin drivers license, a passport, prove that you have a physical address, and then you can register to vote in Wisconsin.

Note: One way to get around the Wisconsin ID problem is to ask for an absentee ballot, mark the "not able to get to the polls" box. The clerk can mail you an absentee ballot. With out showing the Wisconsin ID.

You can't have the thrill of go to the polls but your vote WILL be counted. Good luck Snow Birds, may the force be with you!

2016/17 ABC LWV Board Members

Officers:

Shari Eggleson,
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Dianne Judd,
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Liz Seefeldt,
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Mary Jo Tuckwell,
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Directors:

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Bev Lindell,
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Jan Penn,
janmpenn@yahoo.com

Committee Contacts

The main objective of the League of Women Voters 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.

Executive Committee:

Dianne Judd, *President*; Liz Seefeldt, *President-Elect*; Shari Eggleson, *Secretary*; Mary Jo Tuckwell, *Treasurer*

Membership Committee:

Darlene Charboneau, *Chair*; Dora Kling, Liz Seefeldt, Gail Syverud

Voter Services:

Bev Lindell, *Chair*; Linda Barnes, Shari Eggleson, Joyce Kiel, Dede Eckels, Janel Ryan

Water & Issues Advocacy

Committee: Shari Eggleson (*I/A*), Dee Johnson (*Water*)

Communications:

Sheila Mitchell, *Chair*; Darlene Charboneau, Dede Eckels, Dee Johnson, Dianne Judd, *Website:* Valerie Damstra

Events:

Darlene Charboneau, JoAnne Katzmarek, Dora Kling, Linda Barnes

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

(Inequality Study continued from page 4)

development strategies that are emerging from the grassroots around the country.

Now, two more community education events are planned for 2016-17. In January, the Social Safety Net Subcommittee is working on a forum on innovative approaches for addressing poverty which they hope will offer some ways to advocate for effective policies in that area.

Finally, the Study Group will conclude its work with a community forum on the importance of "Getting Money Out of Politics". Given the gridlock in state and national government they see this as a prerequisite to any truly creative new economic development policymaking. They will also prepare a written report for the League membership at the Annual Meeting in Spring 2017.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".

~Author Unknown

LWV CALENDAR

September

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Wednesday 14 | Economic Inequality of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday 19 | Board Meeting at Blue Wave, 5:30 – 7:30 |
| Wednesday 21 | International Peace Day |
| Monday 26 | 1st Presidential Debate |
| Tuesday 27 | National Voter Registration Day |
| Wednesday 28 | Fall Kick Off "Membership" Event |

October

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| Tuesday 4 | Vice Presidential Debate |
| Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 7/8/9 | Applefest "Gear Up" table |
| Sunday 9 | Applefest: "Gear UP" Parade |
| Sunday 9 | 2nd Presidential Debate |
| Monday 17 | Board Meeting, Blue Wave, 5:30 – 7:30 |
| Wednesday 19 | 3rd Presidential Debate |

November

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| Tuesday 8 | Fall General Election |
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