

La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 122

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter

Apr/May 2013



THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Jane Klekamp, President, LWV of La Crosse Area

President's Column

Another busy quarter for the LWV of the La Crosse Area! The Legislative Breakfast on March 16th was a huge success with over 30 people in attendance. The area legislators were well represented and shared important information for League members. Please see the article written by Ellen Frantz for more information.

The League was involved in two of the mayoral debates as a moderator, panelist, and timekeeper. The mayoral election is so important to the city of La Crosse and the area. Congratulations to Tim Kabat, there are high expectations of the new mayor!

The board was saddened to make the decision to no longer fund "I voted" stickers for the City of La Crosse. The city asked we not add the League's name to the stickers as there had been a complaint.

The following is an excerpt received from City Clerk Teri Lehrke. "I contacted legal counsel at the GAB and they confirmed a complaint was received February 19 from the same individual who contacted me. The complainant said to GAB that the League of Women Voters is partisan and unless stickers are going to be handed out from other groups too, they shouldn't be handing out any. GAB told him that the stickers do not violate the law because the League is not a political committee and is not advocating to vote for a candidate or ballot issue. GAB's advice is not to have a named

organization, including corporate sponsors, on materials such as "I Voted" stickers, as it may create the type of objection raised in this complaint."

Ms. Lehrke was appreciative of the stickers but believes she must follow the advice of the Governmental Accountability Board.

Please attend the annual meeting on May 20th! A by-laws change is being considered (see page 2) and the board is looking for input. We will also be asking for program suggestions for next year – please bring your ideas to the annual meeting for development.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20th at the Radisson in the Iowa Room (2nd Floor). The evening schedule consists of:

Social Hour – 5:30 p.m.

Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Meal choices are:

- **Petite Stuffed Chicken Breast** (stuffed with goat cheese, spinach and ham), with Veloute sauce
- **Grilled Vegetable, Spinach Ravioli Pasta** Mushroom Filled Ravioli, Grilled Portobello, Summer Squash, Roasted Red Pepper, Tomato Basil Jus
- **Port Tenderloin Medallions** with Hoisin Ginger Sauce

Cost is \$15, including tax and gratuity.

RSVP to Nancy Hill nfhill@centurytel.net (preferred) or (608) 782-1753 by Wed., May 15

Officer and Board Director Nominations/Annual Meeting 2013

Dear League Members,

It is that time of year, just about one month prior to the annual meeting, that we take time to plan for the operation of the local League for next year. The officer positions of President and Vice President are up for nominations for the 2013-2015 term. At the present time Jane Klekamp has agreed to serve another two-years term as the President of League. However there is the Vice President officer position available. If anyone in the general membership has suggestions for nominating anyone for the Vice President officer position or Board of Directors positions please bring those suggestions to the attention of the Chair of the Nomination Committee-Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins. The e-mail address for Carolyn is cgjenks@earthlink.net and telephone number is (608) 782-5727. If your suggestions come after April 24, 2013 please bring those suggestions to Nancy Hill, nfhill@centurytel.net or 608 782-1753.

The Nomination Committee will bring forward a slate of nominations for these positions to the membership at the annual meeting for the general membership to vote on. The local League of Women Voters annual meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2013 at the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Nominations from the general membership, from the floor at the annual meeting are also welcome. All nominees from the floor must have prior consent from that member.

There are two Board of Director positions available for appointment. Dr. Peter Nelson and Sheila Hilke have agreed to be nominees for the 2013-2015 term.

Again, thank you to all members that make up such an active and vital force in the League of Women Voters-La Crosse area. I will be looking forward to hearing of other possible nominees from the

general membership for any of the above positions. There are numerous opportunities for any members to be more involved and we are always looking for help with monthly programs and voter service activities. The Program Committee and the Voters Service Committee are looking for new members. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming more involved. We have a task for YOU!

Nominating Committee Chair
Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA CROSSE AREA BY-LAWS

Article IV
Board of Directors

Sec. 8. Meetings conducted by telephone conference call or via electronic media:

Action may be taken without a meeting of members of the Board or Executive Committee if the action is approved in writing, via electronic media, or pursuant to a telephone conference call by members holding at least 50% of the voting power of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Said action shall be confirmed by subsequent written minutes, to include a listing of all members notified and the voting results.

(This is an addition, not a change, to the current By-Laws.)

Electronic Newsletter

At the March meeting, the board agreed the LWV of the La Crosse Area would migrate to an electronic newsletter later this year. It is understood some people may not have access to an electronic newsletter and a printed copy will be made for those who request one. Please contact Jane Klekamp if you require a paper copy of the newsletter.

REVIEW OF LEAGUE FINANCES

Maureen Kinney

The Budget Committee (Maureen Kinney, Ellen Frantz, and Dee Peacock) met to review and prepare the budget for the 2013-2014 year and noted that our dues again do not cover all of our local league costs. For newer members, I will review a bit. At the local level we collect dues and then pay our state and national assessments in addition to running our local programs which include costs for our newsletter, voter service and our monthly meetings, to name just a few. Over the last year or two, we've had some speakers from out of the area and we've paid some modest speaker fees or reimbursement for expenses. I think our meetings have been great! However, in order to have these good meetings, there are some costs.

Our league expenses are about \$10 per person in excess of our yearly dues. If you feel that you could pay a little bit extra, you could do so at one of the monthly meetings or at the annual meeting or simply send a check to League of Women Voters, PO Box 363, La Crosse, WI 54602-0363. Any donation is greatly appreciated. Please remember that League is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization for purposes of making tax deductible contributions.

There will be a budget and treasurer's report presented at the annual meeting, and any questions will be answered hopefully to your satisfaction.

Please see page 4 for our proposed 2013-2014 budget

Legislative Breakfast

On March 16th, we had our annual Legislative Breakfast with area legislators. We heard from state senator Jennifer Shilling, assembly members Jill Billings, Steve Doyle and Chris Danou. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's presentation was provided by John Medinger. Members were able

to ask questions and there was a good exchange of information – both ways.



Over 30 people attended the legislative breakfast

Voter Services Update

The spring elections unfortunately do not garner interest from the public as well as the fall elections do. We did, however, moderate forums for the school board race for the Holmen School District and for two La Crosse mayoral forums. Thanks to all of you that assisted! Below is a thank you note to the League. This is an important function of Voter Services and is much appreciated at the community/school board level.

Ellen,

Thank you for contributing your time and expertise to the March 18th Candidate Forum. The Holmen School Board and Administration truly appreciate the support our District has received over the years from the League of Women Voters, and commend you for everything you do to ensure election systems are free, fair and accessible to all.

Dull
Dale Carlson

Contact Info for National Issues

League of Women Voters <http://www.lwv.org/>

Library of Congress site <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Senate <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov>
<http://baldwin.senate.gov/>

House of Representatives
<http://www.kind.house.gov/index.html>

Supreme Court <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

Contact Info for State Issues

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
<http://www.lwvwi.org/>

Governor's Office <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/>

Government Accountability Board
<http://www.gab.wi.gov>

Court System <http://www.wicourts.gov/>

State Senate:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senhome.htm>

- District 31 Senator Kathleen Vinehout, 608-266-8546 or 877-763-6636,
Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 32 Senator Jennifer Shilling, 608-266-5490 or 800-385-3385;
Sen.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov

State Assembly:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/asmhome.htm>

- District 91 Rep. Chris Danou, 608-266-7015 or 888-534-0091, Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 92 Rep. Mark Radcliffe, 608-266-7461 or 888-534-0092,
Rep.Radcliffe@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 94: Rep. Steve Doyle, 608-266-0631 or 888-534-0094, Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov
- District 95: Rep. Jill Billings, 608-266-5780 or 888-534-0095, Rep.Billings@legis.wi.gov
- District 96: Rep. Lee Nerrison, 608-266-3534 or 888-534-0096,
Rep.Nerrison@legis.wisconsin.gov

For neighboring counties, check websites [[Buffalo](#), [Crawford](#), [Eau Claire](#), [Jackson](#), [Monroe](#), [Pepin](#), [Pierce](#), [Trempeleau](#), [Vernon](#) Counties]

Local Contact Information

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area
<http://www.lwvlacrosse.org/>

La Crosse County:

Staff <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/directory.htm>
County Board <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/CoDirctry/2SupervDist.pdf>

City of La Crosse

Staff <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?nid=94>
Council <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?NID=338>

Note that the website addresses are linked in the electronic version of this document – available on our website

2011-2012 League of Women Voters of La Crosse Area

Board:

Jane Klekamp, President
president@lwvlacrosse.org
Dee Peacock, Treasurer
Sandy Sechrest, Secretary
Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Membership Chair
membership@lwvlacrosse.org
Sheila Garrity, Program Chair
Ellen Frantz
Nancy Hill
Maureen Kinney
Peg Perri
Carla Townsend

Calendar for February 2013

League of Women Voters La Crosse Area

Monday, May 20th, 5:30 pm

Annual Meeting, Radisson



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE LA CROSSE AREA
P.O. BOX 363, LA CROSSE, WI 54602-0363