



Winnebago Voter

July August 2009

Calendar July & August



Monday, July 13 6:30 pm
LWV Calendar Committee Meets
1936 Hazel Street

Tuesday, July 28 6:00 pm
Support the Grand Opera House
Oshkosh City Council Workshop
Oshkosh City Council Chambers
Room 404 City Hall

Monday, August 10 6:30 pm
LWV Board Meeting
1707 Chestnut St.
(Note new time!)

Wednesday, August 12 11:00 AM
Food for Thought Lunch
Shoreland Restoration Project (See
page 4 and next column →



August Food for Thought Lunch Field Trip to two Shoreland Restoration Sites

Wednesday August 12, 2009, 11:00 am

1st Peter & Rebecca Fleischmann residence at 1525
Cowling Bay Rd, Neenah, WI 54956 and

2nd Jeff & Jean Hoppe residence at 1475 Cowling Bay
Rd, Neenah, WI 54956

Chad Casper and Keith Marquardt from Winnebago
County Land & Water Conservation Dept. will be in
attendance.

Directions: from Neenah, travel south on County Road
A to Cowling Bay Rd, turn left onto Cowling Bay Rd
to address; from Oshkosh, travel north on County
Road A to Cowling Bay Rd, turn right onto Cowling
Bay Rd to address.

Members & guests who want to carpool should meet at
Kathy Propp's 1936 Hazel Street at 10:30 am.

Lunch is at noon at Payne's Point Bar & Grill, corner
of County A and Payne's Point Road. Chad and Keith
will be there to answer questions and provide more
information.

Check out our new
web address:
www.lwvwinnebago.org

May Food for Thought Lunch Centers on Sex Offender Registry

Lawyer Nichole Hall has a job many of us would label as thankless—maintaining the sex offender registration and community notification for Winnebago and Fond du Lac counties. (*pictured: l to r Nichole Hall and intern Katie Smart*)



Her presentation at the May 13th Food for Thought lunch at Vitale's took the 20 plus League members and guests through the process of registering and keeping track of the 392 and 213 sex offenders in each county*. In her presentation, she destroyed many of the myths of who are sex offenders. One myth was that they can be identified by appearance, occupation, or class. Quelling the myth of "stranger danger," she noted that 93 per cent of sex offenders are known to their victims. There are no typical sex offenders, but all thrive on secrecy and desire power over their victims. She described how offenders "groom" their

victims through manipulation to reduce the potential victim's resistance to abuse. Usually child offenders will work to gain a child and family's trust and gradually escalate the boundary violations of the child's body to desensitize to further abuse.

Another myth exploded was why such people offend. Power is the main reason, Ms. Hall said. They relish the power they have over their victims. Successful treatment works to destroy this notion of power.

Another myth she exploded dealt with the notion that communities can protect their citizens from sex offenders by ordinances that prevent offenders from living within set distances of schools, parks, etc. However, what often happens is the offenders simply stop filing their annual reports and the registry loses track of them.

According to the registration law, all offenders—adult and juvenile—who are convicted in Wisconsin of any mandatory offense or whose compliance is court ordered must register. This includes military, tribal and those who move in from other states as well as Wisconsin residents. As of May 12, 2009, 20,827 sex offenders were registered in Wisconsin. Of these 5,902 were in prison, 5,109 were on supervision and 9,816 were off supervision. The general public can see the list of adult registrants at www.widocoffenders.org. This web site will include a picture, list of offenses, as well as current address.

Offenders are sent a letter each year on their birthday requesting their residency status. The offenders who refuse to provide information, provide false information, fail to report a change within 10 days, fail to return the letter within 10 days, or refuse a photo are found guilty of a class H felony in most cases.

The intent of the registration law is community protection, the public's need to be informed and the offender's likelihood for successful reintegration within the community. Treatment for offenders is often successful, she added.

*as of May 12, 2009

League Members Participate in Vision Oshkosh and Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh

Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh counts as one of its directors Kathy Propp, League President. The CSO held an open meeting at the Oshkosh Convention Center on Monday, June 15 to consider the impact of the state budget on the community. Presenters from Institute for Wisconsin's Future showed the need for more revenue sources from the state. On Monday June 15, the Vision Oshkosh report was shared by consultant Tony Nelessen, of A. Nelessen Associates, to interested citizens at the Convention Center. League members present included Dorry Wilner, Carolyn Blassingame, Frankie Mengeling, Shirley Mattox, and Susy Vette. League members were heartened by results of the survey which calls for more green space in the city and a "booming" waterfront.

Soapbox Series # 6: Joe Heller Describes Political Cartoon Career

Joe Heller kept up a running commentary about his political cartoonist career while thirty-two images of his recent work flashed on the screen.

(Pictured Kathy Propp, Stew Rieckman & Joe Heller)

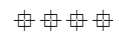
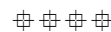
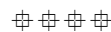
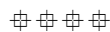
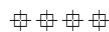
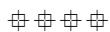
There was laughter at cartoons ridiculing greedy bankers and foolish acts of politicians; silence at Heller's well known cartoon of Miss Liberty crying as the Twin Towers collapsed on September 11, 2001.

Heller produces five cartoons a week for the *Green Bay Press Gazette*: one of those is Green Bay centered; one, state centered and three deal with national and world events. There are days, said Heller, when the idea for that day's cartoon pops into his mind and other days he struggles to come up with an idea.



Joe Heller was the presenter at the Winnebago County LWV Soapbox Series #6 held on May 4th at the Oshkosh Country Club. Sixty-seven LWV members and friends enjoyed his remarks, an hors d'oeuvres buffet and raffle.

Introducing Heller was Oshkosh *Northwestern's* Executive Editor Stew Rieckman. An undercurrent that ran through the evening's presentation was the precarious state of print journalism in America. Both the *Press-Gazette* and the *Northwestern*, Gannett papers, require all its employees to take a one week furlough during which time they may not do any writing, interviews or in Heller's case drawing. He ruefully joked that during his recent furlough all sorts of stories broke that lent themselves to cartoon ideas: swine flu outbreak, Alan Specter's party switch and Bret Favre's "will he or won't he."



LWV WI Sets New Study and Action Campaigns at Annual Meeting

At its Annual Meeting in Manitowoc on May 29-30, the state League presented its updated voting rights position. It also announced a new study: Study of issues related to selection of State Supreme Court justices including election vs. appointment and public financing of Supreme Court races.

Members approved two action campaigns:

1. Universal/affordable health care (partnering with LWVUS to critique national health care plans being considered; raise the issue of funding parity for dental care and mental health/AODA treatment).
2. Local and state government itemized agenda to deal with climate change and promote sustainability (could include: solid waste recycling, green energy development/energy conservation; nuclear power option; green job creation; expansion of mass transit; preserving air and water/quality/wetlands/Great Lakes Compact/declining grasslands/local farmlands).

Tuesday, July 28: At a Oshkosh City Council Workshop, Joe Ferlo, the director of the Grand Opera House, and others will present plans for the repair of the Grand. League members who support the restoration and repair of the Grand are invited to attend to "swell the ranks" of those who wish to see the Grand restored.

June Food for Thought Lunch Looks at Public Transportation in EC Wisconsin

Jason A. Kakatsch, Principal Transportation Planner for the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, provided overviews of the Oshkosh Transit and the Valley Transit at the June 10 Food for Thought lunch at Vitale's. (Pictured left Jan Scalpone, former principal transportation planner and Jason Kakatsch.)



His presentation centered on the five major issues facing local transit in this area:

- Funding
- Planning, development and density
- Demand for more specialized services
- Public image
- Affordability

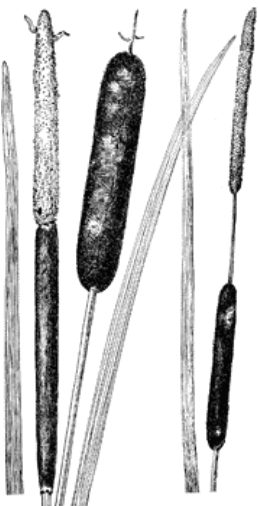
The Oshkosh Transit currently is funded 29% with federal monies, 27% with state, 29% local (city, county, other), and 15 % passenger fares (fixed routes and demands). Since the Fox Cities Area is projected to exceed 200,000 people in 2010, it will lose its federal operating assistance which will amount to between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. This will necessitate forming a Regional Transit Authority (RTA). RTA's are established by the state and levy a small sales tax to raise the necessary funds. An RTA for the Fox Cities was cut from the state budget just days before the Governor's signature.

With a plethora of maps, Mr. Kakatsch showed how both communities had grown from 1970 to 2005. He also showed the "North East Region Travel Demand Model" that uses socioeconomic data and other inputs to forecast auto, truck, and transit trips on its transportation network. It can test transit routes and is a great tool for assisting in transit route decisions.

He has looked into what aspects of public transit might be included in a city's sustainability plan. He says transit must be included in the planning decision making process. School districts, for example, should consider public transit as part of their decision in setting up schools. He also sees an increase in public transit use as the population continues to age. Lastly he sees the need to change the image of public transit. Feedback on surveys shows many consider riding a bus not to be cool.

Mr. Kakatsch turned to the League asking for support to advocate for regional transit authority legislation and to contact local and state legislators to express the importance of funding transit.

Shoreland Restoration: On-site Tour for August Food for Thought Lunch



Traditional manicured lawn down to the water's edge is a familiar sight to those of us who use city parks or live on or near the water. Lawns themselves are not "bad" but they are chemically dependent and labor intensive. Over-fertilization and their wide open spaces are conducive to storm water runoff, negatively impacting water quality. Lawns are also poor habitat for wildlife.

The League Parks Committee invites you to visit two sites with alternative landscapes. These are shoreland restoration projects developed by private lakefront owners in cooperation with county programs. There is a natural shoreline-- a buffer zone between land and water. These buffers provide a seasonal array of colors, textures, aromas and continual wildlife activity. They protect water quality by reducing shoreland erosion and acting as a filter strip between the lawn and waterway. They also provide a biological barrier to deter geese. (submitted by Jan Scalpone)

Parks and Recreation Position (Adopted June 4, 2009)

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County believes parks, open space and recreational opportunities are important to the quality of life in urban areas. We support actions and policies that ensure park and recreational facilities are adequate to meet local and area wide needs now and in the future.

A. New Parks

1. Support acquisition of new park land where needed
2. Promote provisions for parks wherever new areas are subdivided
3. Promote green spaces as infill in developed areas
4. Encourage alternative methods of financing park acquisition

B. Facilities

1. Support safe, well-maintained facilities compatible with adjacent equipment/facilities and the surrounding neighborhood.
2. Promote park and recreational facilities and activities for all ages
3. Support adequate funding for park maintenance and improvements
4. Support protection of park areas from encroachment.
5. Support development and implementation of a pedestrian and bicycle plan that includes construction of walking and biking paths that connect key public facilities in the community and link to county and regional trails.
6. Encourage development of marine facilities to accommodate many types of craft.
7. Promote public access to the waterfront wherever possible
8. Support cultural facilities that enhance the community



C. Policies

1. Support continuation of a Parks Advisory Board with diverse interests
2. Promote timely updating and implementation of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
3. Support a comprehensive events policy that considers community, vendor and neighborhood needs.

D. Communication

1. Promote attractive and clear identification signage where appropriate.
2. Promote tasteful historic and other instructional or descriptive signs as needed
3. Ensure availability of up-to-date printed and electronic information about park and recreation facilities.

E. Sustainability

1. Ensure environmentally sound maintenance and management practices
2. Support preservation and enhancement of natural systems and open spaces
3. Promote naturalization of shorelines where feasible
4. Encourage use of natural landscaping and prevention and control of invasive species
5. Promote stormwater management practices in parks where feasible (rain gardens, parking lot vegetation, small retention ponds, swales, etc.)
6. Promote energy efficient facilities
7. Support an aggressive urban reforestation program

F. Cooperative Activities

1. Promote cooperative park-related activities among the city, school district, county and towns and encourage regional facilities and town parks where feasible.
2. Promote interdepartmental cooperative planning between Parks, Community Development and Public Works where their missions overlap.

Annual Meeting Sets League Course for 2009-2010

Winnebago County LWV held its Annual Meeting on June 4th at Vitale's Restaurant. Much of the action taken cemented the blending of the former Neenah-Menasha and Oshkosh Area leagues into one.

The following agenda items passed unanimously:

- ★ Adoption of Bylaws which state the name change,
- ★ Adopting of merged local positions of Oshkosh and Neenah-Menasha,
- ★ Adoption of parks position as updated in consensus meeting on April 27,
- ★ Adoption of LWV Winnebago County local positions as amended.
- ★ Adoption of the 2009-2010 budget.

The next item of business concerned recommended local program studies. The membership voted to continue the study of the impact of state levy limits and add state shared revenues. The membership will also update two items: community living position and mass transit position. There were no non-recommended local studies.



Anne & Steve Hintz confer on local topics



Members elected Kathy Propp (*pictured left*), president; Ann Marshall, secretary, and Susan Nuernberg, Jan Scalpone and Carol Codner as board members. Appointed for one year to the board are Jeanne Shiras, Peggy Cox and Donna Lohry. Zaiga Freivalds and Cynthia Thorpe will be off-board nominating committee members for 2010.

Members approved an increase in dues to \$50.00 for individual members and \$75.00 for household membership. Student membership remains at \$10.00. The increase is necessary to cover the per member payments to the LWV-US and LWV-WI, both of which have increased. See the letter from our treasurer, Karen Boehning on page 8.

In other business President Propp asked for volunteers for study and action committees: the Levy Limit Impact and the League Tree Committee. The latter stems from the League's park study. Members who would like to participate in either or these committees should contact Kathy Propp (jkpropp@earthlink.net).

Interns from the Women's Center Volunteer to Help League

Three interns from the Women's Center at UWO worked on projects for the Winnebago County LWV in Summer Session I. Julie Herro and Tamika Harris researched ways to better connect the college age population with the local league. Part of this research was to find ways to create a campus presence and liaison with the League. They identified tuition costs, diversity, immigration, college/community relations, and evening mass transit as issues relevant to both students and League members.

Another intern, Cassandra Nagle, compiled the many pages of the League's park study, including profiles of all city, township and county parks adjacent to Oshkosh, for publication in print and also on the League's website.

Oshkosh to Celebrate National Night Out on August 4

(Information on National Night Out was sent to League by Dorry Wilner via the Oshkosh Police Department. –Ed.)

National Night Out's goal is to involve everyone in building a healthier, safer community by learning more about crime prevention and strengthening the relationship between police and the community. Help Oshkosh and 100's of communities around the nation celebrate the 26th anniversary of this alcohol-free event.

**Join your neighbors at South Park Pavilions
Tuesday August 4th, 2009, 4-8 pm
Celebrate our Neighborhoods!
Build Crime Prevention Awareness!**

- ★ **Music starring *Sons of John***
- ★ **Forensic Demo**
- ★ **Hot dogs, brats, and hamburgers**
- ★ **Squad cars & fire trucks**
- ★ **Children's activities and family games**
- ★ **Dunk Tank – Pie Throwing – Jail & Bail**
- ★ **Face painting & hair coloring**
- ★ **3 on 3 Basketball – show up & play**
- ★ **Fishing – children & youth**
- ★ **Community Resource Fair**
 - *Community for Hope*
 - *Fox Valley StreetSmarts*
 - *Community Blood Center*
 - *Christine Ann Center*
 - *Oshkosh Public Library*
 - *AmeriCorps Connects*
 - *Oshkosh Area Humane Society*
 - *And more...*
- ★ **American Black Belt Academy Demonstrations**
- ★ **Door prizes – chance to win a Wii**
- ★ **Meet Miss Oshkosh – Chelsea Hammett**

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Thank you to sponsors: Target – Oshkosh Corporation – West Pointe Bank – Family Value Hair Salon - Associated Bank – 4Imprint – Oshkosh Correctional Institute - Kitz & Pfeil True Value Hardware– Winnebago County K-9 Unit – Oshkosh Jaycees – US Bank – Police Auxiliary – Oshkosh Convention & Visitor Bureau – American Red Cross –Head Start - Schoenberger's Pastry Shop – Retired Senior Volunteer Program & TRIAD – Pepsi – Lakeshore Municipal Golf Course –

From the Treasurer:

We very much value you as a member and we know you value League and all it does.

A dues-renewal form is included in this newsletter. Your dues aren't officially due until September, but we start our fiscal year on July 1. Since it takes a while to get everyone's renewal commitment, we need to start early, and we appreciate your promptness.

If you read the fine print on the renewal form, you know that we count very heavily on our members paying more than the dues amount to balance our budget. Our basic dues of \$50/person and \$75/household don't cover our expenses, but our policy is to keep dues affordable so as many people as possible can join. We depend on our members paying extra to pay our bills. Yes, this is dues increase from last year—we are trying to be **less** dependent on donations.

Last year we did make money on our fund-raiser event—Joe Heller was a wonderful speaker. And, yes, we will do another fundraiser and we have included that income in our budget. We still need your help.

A little more explanation on League donations:

- Donations and membership to the LWV-Winnebago County are NOT tax deductible
- Donations to the LWV-US Education Fund ARE tax deductible AND offset our League's assessment for national dues.
- Donations to the LWV-WIS Education Fund ARE tax deductible but do not offset our assessment for state dues.

Please renew as soon as possible. We want you to be a League member.

Please be generous and make your check larger than the minimum dues if you can.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Karen Boehning, Treasurer
426-2843
boehningk@gmail.com

Are you receiving Action Updates from the National and the State Leagues?

League is action centered. You can make your voice heard in Washington and Madison by responding to Action Alerts. League makes this very, very easy. The letters are already written, you may add a personal note if you wish. A few clicks on your computer and your letter is on its way to your Congressional Representative or Senator in Washington or your State Assembly or State Senator in Madison. If you are not receiving these action alerts, contact Ann Marshall. Marshall-a@att.net



League of Women Voters of Winnebago County
DUES NOTICE September, 2009—August, 2010

Please make your dues check payable to: LWV of Winnebago County
 Please mail your check to the Treasurer: Karen Boehning
 1202 Algoma Blvd.
 Oshkosh, WI 54901

Basic Dues \$50.00
Household Dues (two members) \$75.00
Student Dues: \$10.00

Because our dues do not cover our expenses*, we very much appreciate members who help us out with an additional contribution. This can be done in two ways:

1. Write a separate check payable to the LWV-US Education Fund. This reduces our national League assessment.
2. Write a generous check to LWV-Winnebago County for an amount larger than the dues.

Thank you in advance for your membership and your help.

Item	Amount
LWV Winnebago County dues 2009-2010 Dues are not tax deductible. New members who joined in March or later need not pay again.	
Additional donation to LWV Winnebago County This is not tax deductible but is very much needed and appreciated.	
Total payable to LWV Winnebago County:	
Optional: LWV-US Education Fund This reduces our per-member payment and IS tax deductible. Write a separate check to LWV-US Education Fund Send the check to Karen Boehning.	
Optional: LWV-WI Education Fund Tax deductible, separate check to LWV-WI Ed. Fund	

Name(s) _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I want my email address shared with LWV-US and LWV-WI for updates
 Please use my email address for LWV Winnebago County mail only.

*Per member, LWV-WC pays \$30 to the state League, and \$29.20 to the national League. We lose \$9.20 for each individual member and \$13.80 for each household membership, plus we have our own local expenses. **Your generous contribution makes the difference!**

Your email address will be included on the League membership list that is distributed to local League members only.

The Winnebago Voter

1936 Hazel St.

Oshkosh WI 54901

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Visit <http://www.lwv.org>, <http://www.lwvwi.org>, <http://www.lwvwinnebago.org>

Members receive the bi-monthly *Winnebago Voter, Forward* from LWV-WI Meetings are open to the public. Those interested in government and public policy issues will find their intellectual home here.

League Membership: \$50 (\$75 for two in household), \$10 for students)

Winnebago County Voter Subscription only: \$10.00.

Dues payable to: LWV-Oshkosh, 1202 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

President Barack Obama
President@whitehouse.gov
Senator Kohl
Senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov

Senator Feingold
russel_feingold@feingold.senate.gov
Rep. Tom Petri Gov. James Doyle
tompetri@mail.house.gov wisgov@mail.state.wi.us

Sen. Randy Hopper
Sen.hopper@legis.wisconsin.gov
Sen. Michael Ellis
Sen.ellis@legis.wisconsin.gov

Rep. Gordon Hintz
Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov
Rep. Dick Spanbauer
Rep.Spanbauer@legis.wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Legislative Hotline: 800-362-9472 Capitol Hill switchboard (202) 224-3121