



# Oshkosh Area Voter

## March/April 2006

### March/April Calendar

**Wednesday, March 8**

**Food for Thought Lunch 12:00 pm**  
China King Restaurant, 280 S. Koeller  
**Marriage Constitutional Amendment**  
Aaron Sherer  
Paine Art Center

**Monday, March 13**

**LWV Oshkosh Board Meeting**  
Meeting 4:30 pm, Potluck 6:15 pm  
Cynthia Thorpe, 1107 Merritt

**Thursday, March 23**

**Spring Candidates Forum**  
**6:30-9:30 pm (see details on p. 1)**  
Oshkosh City Hall, 215 Church Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> floor

**Tuesday, April 4**

Spring Election for Circuit Court Judges,  
City Council, School Board, County Board

**Monday, April 10**

**LWV Oshkosh Board Meeting**  
4:30 pm Potluck 6:15 pm TBA

**Wednesday, April 12**

**Food for Thought Lunch 12:00 pm**  
China King Restaurant, 280 S. Koeller  
*Fox Wisconsin State Heritage Parkway*  
Ed Kleckner  
East Central Regional Planning Commission

**Thursday, April 27 Fundraiser**

**Women as Leaders in Peacemaking**  
Speaker: Justice Janine Geske (ret)  
LaSure's Banquet Hall, 5:00-7:30 pm



**LWV Oshkosh Area,  
Oshkosh Community Access Television  
CitiCable 10**

**Oshkosh Community Radio WOCT 101.9 FM**  
co-sponsor live television and radio broadcast of the

**Spring Election Candidates Forum**

Thursday, March 23, 4<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall

6:30 pm Oshkosh Area School Board candidates: Dan  
Becker, Dennis Kavanaugh, Michelle Monte,  
Wayne Traska, Amy Weinsheim, Lee Wilson  
7:30 pm Oshkosh City Council candidates: Paul Esslinger,  
Mark Madison, Dennis McHugh, Kent Monte,  
Brian Poeschl, Burk Tower  
8:30 pm Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Branch 1  
Caroline Carver vs. Thomas Gritton  
9:00 pm Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 4  
William Lennon vs. Karen Seifert

Moderators: Kathy Propp & LuAnn Bird



Call Carolyn at 231-3350 to help with this forum. She  
needs timekeepers, question sifters, greeters.

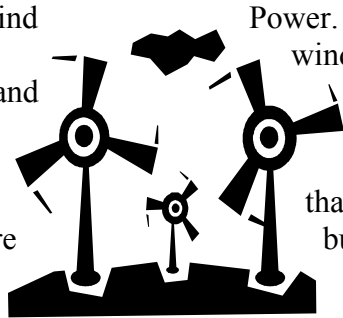
## January FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHEON REPORT

By Ann Marshall

**John Bahr** of RENEW Wisconsin was our January luncheon speaker. RENEW Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization advocating the adoption of clean energy strategies to power Wisconsin businesses and households in an environmentally responsible manner. Through a combination of public policy and private sector initiatives, RENEW aims to increase the use of clean, self-renewing energy resources to generate electricity or displace fossil-generated electricity.

About \$6 billion leaves Wisconsin to bring coal, petroleum and natural gas to the people of our state. The more coal, natural gas and petroleum we use, the more we pollute Wisconsin air and water. The main alternative to fossil fuels in our area is nuclear power. This creates highly radioactive waste, which must be carefully stored for thousands of years. RENEW Wisconsin believes that sustainable energy will yield multiple benefits for Wisconsin such as stabilized fuel prices, improved environmental performance, and a strengthened rural economy.

John focused primarily on Wind concerns raised by the public about aesthetics, property values, bird kill and Improvements in design have reduced the speed of rotating blades reduced avian mortality. Turbines are areas. Each requires about half an acre of land for the turbine and can still farm the land around them.



Power. He spoke about common wind turbines including noise levels. He mentioned that improvements in design have lessened some of these concerns. Turbines are built primarily in rural areas. Each requires about half an acre of land. This includes land for the turbine and access roads. Farmers can still farm the land around them.

Requirements for a good wind farm include accessibility to an electric transmission line, good wind supply, cooperative landowners and a source of investment funds.

Discussion ensued about the Forward Wind Project in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties. The Forward Project will consist of 133 wind turbines and serve four state utilities. The project is expected to generate 100 megawatts of electricity or enough to power 100,000 homes. There has been concern about the impact of wind turbines on birds and bats because of Forward's proximity to the Horicon Marsh. State regulators voted to bar construction of turbines within 1.5 miles of the edge of the Marsh.

Compensation to landowners who host a turbine will receive \$4,200 per year. Property owners who live within 1/3 of a mile of one turbine will receive \$500 per year and farmers within 1/3 of a mile of two turbines will receive \$750 per year. Counties and townships also receive some compensation.

Our State LWV began a two-year study of state energy policies last year, so we will be hearing more about this in the near future. In the December issue of LWV Forward there were some highlights from an interview held with George Edgar who is with the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation in Madison. You might wish to take a look at that.

## February FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHEON REPORT

By Ann Marshall

Our February speakers were **Mike Bonertz**, Executive Director of ADVOCAP (pictured right), and **LuAnn Bird**, Fund Director. There are 16 Community Action Agencies in Wisconsin of which our local ADVOCAP is one. The local ADVOCAP was formed in 1966 and serves Winnebago, Fond du Lac and Green Lake counties. The agency is a locally controlled, private not for profit corporation that sees solutions to poverty at the local level. ADVOCAP's mission is to "Create opportunities for people and communities to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency."



ADVOCAP is seen in results, but does not "toot its own horn". In our county, some of the services provided include:

- Senior meals sites and home delivered meals (over 100,000 meals served per year),
- Retired and senior volunteer program (one service the volunteers provide is home safety checks).
- Community Services:
  - Empower homeless to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency
  - Provide employment services to refugees
  - Assist local food pantries
  - Sponsor the community garden project
- Community Employment: Project Power, which we have had presented at one of our luncheons, is one these programs as is skills enhancement for the working poor.
- Weatherization of homes belonging to the poor.
- Affordable Housing which provides home ownership opportunities and a housing rehabilitation program
- Business Development which helps low income entrepreneurs to start or expand a business.

As you may be aware President Bush in his 1007 budget proposal recommends a cut of \$1.6 billion (-2.3%) in funding for Health and Human Services. State of Wisconsin funds with grants available to agencies like ADVOCAP have also been reduced in recent years. Therefore ADVOCAP is seeking private community funding for some of its programs such as Project Power. LuAnn has been hired to help find those private funding sources. We all know that we do have poverty in our area and everyone will benefit if we are able to help people who find themselves in poverty become economically self-sufficient.



## Oshkosh LWV Members Mull possible National and Local Issues at Taste of League

More than 20 enthusiastic Leaguers enjoyed good food and great conversation at our Jan 31 Taste of League meeting. Each year Leaguers all over the country hold a Lively Issues meeting (we call it Taste of League since food is an important part) to offer grassroots ideas on new studies to national or state LWV and to their own local League. Luida Sanders was a gracious hostess; Heritage Court is an excellent facility for us. Members present decided to ask LWV US to undertake an update on our Representation and Redistricting position including proportional representation. LWV US is now compiling ideas from Leagues all over the country. The national board will consider these suggestions and recommend new updates or studies to the national convention in June.

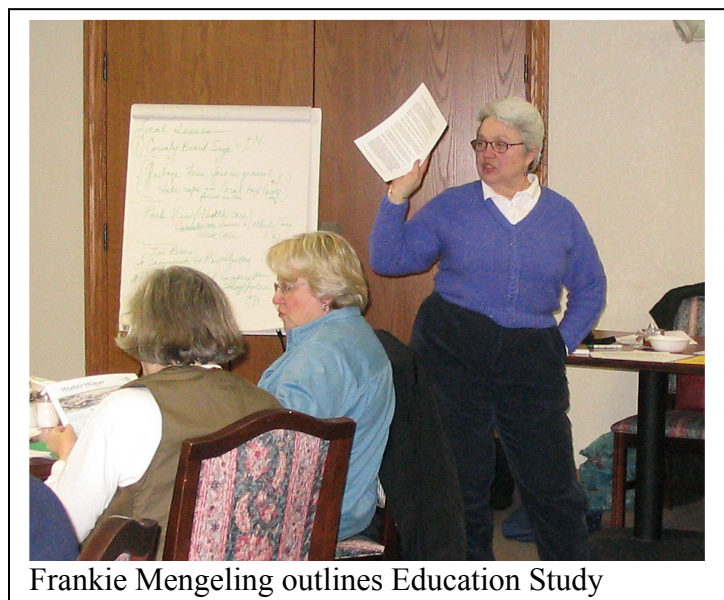
Members debated local issues for study and discussed our local education position. Our current LWV Oshkosh studies are county board size, Fox River Corridor concurrence, and local education review. It is likely that our board will recommend continuing the county board and local education studies for next year. We hope to have a Fox River Corridor concurrence ready for the annual meeting. Two new study ideas emerged. Members want to review the Community Revitalization position, including the impact of the proposed Five Rivers resort. Members also want to study the pros and cons of merging city and county law enforcement functions, under our Intergovernmental Cooperation position. Our board will be recommending studies and updates to the May Annual Meeting.



Kathy Propp argues a point at Taste of League



Anne Hintz & Katherine Rill Ponder issues.



Frankie Mengeling outlines Education Study

## UPDATE on the State Energy Policy Study

(Editor's note: At its convention last May, the state LWV adopted this new study on energy. According to President Kathy Propp, the local league has received all five papers mentioned. They are excellent. We could use a LWV Oshkosh energy committee to digest these materials and lead a local discussion meeting in the future. Tina Haffeman is interested. Any other local League members interested should contact Kathy Propp to sign up for the committee.)

At the end of January local leagues will receive the first five papers in the LWV-WI series, Wisconsin Energy Basics. These papers present brief, factual information that will assist leagues and their members in the energy study. These papers include:

1. The League and Energy
2. Governing State Legislation
3. Overview of Regulatory and Administrative Agencies
4. Executive Summary of the Department of Administration's 2005 Wisconsin Energy Statistics with graphics
5. Executive Summary of the Public Services Commission's 2004 Strategic Energy Assessment

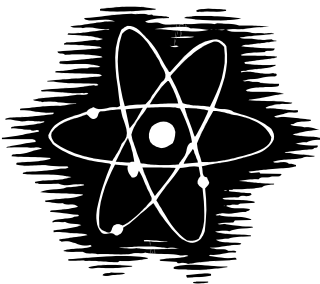
Papers that will be mailed by mid-March will include: Restructuring of the Energy Industry, Utilities Generating Energy (including conventional fuels and renewables), Transmission of Electricity, Conservation, and Public Benefits. REALLY GOOD READING!!!

You can find the Wisconsin Energy Basics papers on the LWV-WI website [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org) beginning in February.

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

*A trusted advocate for sustaining our democratic society*

608-256-0827





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OSHKOSH AREA**

*LWV, a non-partisan political organization of men and women, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Visit us on the web: [www.oshkosh.wi.lwvnet](http://www.oshkosh.wi.lwvnet)

**“Women as Leaders in Peacemaking”**

**Justice Janine P. Geske (ret.)**

**Distinguished Professor of Law  
Marquette University Law School**



- **Interim dean, Marquette Law School 2002-03**
- **Interim Milwaukee County Executive 2002**
- **Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court 1993-98**
- **Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge 1981-93**
- **Honorary Doctor of Law degrees Marquette University and Marion (ret.)**
- **Milwaukee Bar “Lawyer of the Year” award 1994 and 2002; numerous other awards**

**Thursday, April 27, 2006**

**5:00-7:30 pm, Speaker 6:00 pm**

**La Sure’s Banquet Hall, Oshkosh**

3125 S. Washburn St., adjacent to Hawthorn Inn and Suites

(Take Hy. 44 exit from Hy. 41. Go west to Washburn St, turn left, go past Prime Outlet Mall)

**\$30.00 per person**

A Fund Raiser to benefit The League of Women Voters of the Oshkosh Area

- Talk with Justice Geske about women, peacemaking, power and politics in Wisconsin
- Support the work of the League of Women Voters in the Oshkosh Area
- Enjoy networking, tasty hors d'oeuvres supper with cash bar, and good fellowship

**PLEASE RESPOND BY: Fri. April 21, 2006**

Yes, I will attend the April 27 event with special guest Justice Janine Geske (ret.)

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount due (\$30 per person): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution to LWV Oshkosh Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend, enclosed is my contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to LWV Oshkosh Area. Mail to Karen Boehning, 1202 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh WI 54901.

