



Oshkosh Area Voter

March / April 2008



Calendar for March & April

Wednesday, March 5 *"So Many Candidates, So Little Time: tools for making your choice"*.
Noon, Reeve Union UW Oshkosh. Sponsored by the Women's Center and LWV for Women's History Month.

Tuesday, March 11 LWV Board Meeting
5 pm potluck and meeting 1707 Chestnut St.

Wednesday, March 12 Food for Thought Lunch 12:00 PM
China King Restaurant, 280 S. Koeller St.
Joe Fahey, Institute for Wisconsin's Future "Healthy Communities and Fairer Taxes"

Monday, March 17 LWV Fund Raiser (*See page 3*)
LaSure's Banquet Hall at Hawthorne Suites
Cash bar begins at 5:00 pm Hors d'oeuvres buffet 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Speaker Amy Oberg, Futurist at Kimberly Clark Corporation, 6:15 pm
"From Exception to Expectation: Sustainability"

Thursday, March 20 Candidates Forum 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Oshkosh City Hall, 215 Church Ave., 4th Floor
Winnebago County Board (6:30-7:25), Oshkosh Area School Board (7:30-8:30)

Tuesday, April 1 Spring Election Day
City Council, County Board, School Board, & State Supreme Court
Polls open 7 AM to 8 PM

Monday, April 7 Healthy Wisconsin Forum 6:30 -8:00 pm (*see p. 6*)
Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 E. Phillip Lane, Appleton

Wednesday, April 9 Food for Thought Lunch 12:00 PM
China King Restaurant, 280 S. Koeller St.
Suzette Lizotte "Abundance Through Relaxed Gardening: Using Permaculture Ideas in Your Yard"

Wednesday, April 16 LWV Board Meeting
5 pm potluck and meeting 147 W. 22nd Ave.

League Members Donna Lohry and Jessica King Tell About County Board and City Council Matters.

Donna Lohry, (*R in picture*) and Jessica King, (*L in picture*) described their priorities and concerns as members of the Winnebago County Board and Oshkosh City Council at the January Food for Thought lunch.

Using the mantra “you might want to have...come in and speak about that” Donna Lohry, two-year member of the Winnebago County Board, listed things that “troubled her.” These included:

- ★ Should additions be made to the jail? What should be done about the empty Huber Center?
- ★ The 19 mentally and physically disabled that had to be moved out of Park View
- ★ The corporations that do not pay corporate income taxes in Wisconsin
- ★ And Representative Frank Lasee’s (R-Green Bay) idea to reduce the number of Wisconsin counties.

Donna praised County Executive Mark Harris for doing an “excellent job.” She pointed out that this year, no committee or department “is robbing” from another’s funds.

She is pleased with the new Park View Health Care Center acknowledging that other counties had closed their nursing homes and now wish they had, instead, chosen to rebuild as Winnebago County did.

Donna serves on the land/water committee of the board. She mentioned her proposal to plant native trees along county roads. She is also working to get the Department of Natural Resources involved in eliminating Eurasian Millefoil from Miller’s Bay.

She closed with her favorite short prayer: “O Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.”

Jessica King, first-term Oshkosh City Council member, outlined three projects facing Oshkosh.

- ★ Oshkosh is facing a high departmental leadership turnover including the City Manager and City Attorney and other department heads. Jessica feels the city needs to look at its assets, to evaluate what Oshkosh has going for itself, to have a plan and then to implement it. “No one,” she said, “is coming in to help Oshkosh. We have to do this ourselves.”
- ★ Sustainability. Jessica serves on the transportation committee and the Grand Opera House Board. She is pleased that the Council has revived the energy and environment committee. She hopes the Council is motivated on sustainability now that it has signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. She mentioned that the transportation committee is talking about pervious concrete and rubber sidewalks. Don LaFontaine, Oshkosh’s purchasing agent, has done an energy audit with Wisconsin Public Service and knows the city’s “carbon footprint.” The city is also switching to green cleaning products.
- ★ Jessica’s third project is one that “looks for donors.” She has analyzed the tax burden to see what services are based on taxes. She has examined how the city generates revenue and the value per service. Basically she is looking at other methods to support the city’s 17 endowment funds. These endowments support the city museums, Grand Opera House, etc. Donating money to an endowment is a good idea as it keeps the money local and provides a tax deduction for the donor. Brochures describing these endowments will be inserted in city water bills.





League of Women Voters 2008 Fundraiser

From Exception to Expectations: Sustainability

Join us for a look into the future...with Amy Oberg. Ms. Oberg is a strategist, futurist and competitive intelligence professional who specializes in helping organizations better understand emerging trends in technology, economics, politics, society, demographics and the environment—areas that interact to shape the future.



You're invited to an evening of tasty food, stimulating conversation and good company to benefit the League of Women Voters of the Oshkosh Area

**Monday, March 17th, 2008
5:00 – 8:00 pm**

**LaSure's Banquet Hall
Inside Hawthorne Suites at 3125 S. Washburn St.
(west frontage road just south of the Outlet Mall)**

**\$35.00 includes hors d'oeuvres buffet and program
cash bar 5:00 – 7:30 pm**

PLEASE RESPOND BY: Mon. March 10, 2008

Yes, I will attend the March 17 event with futurist Amy Oberg, Kimberly Clark Corp.

Number attending: _____

Amount due (\$35 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.

Questions? Kathy Propp at 920-231-4770 or e-mail jkpropp@earthlink.net

Give names of all those attending (add another page or use back if needed):

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City and Zip Code: _____

Oshkosh Public Library Director Jeff Gilderson-Duwe Outlines Strategic Plan

The Oshkosh Public Library's strategic plan is guided by its vision statement to be a "vital community place to find help on the lifelong path to knowledge," stated Jeff Gilderson-Duwe at the February Food for Thought lunch at China King restaurant. Mr. Gilderson-Duwe, *pictured at left in photo with Friend of the Library member Jean Conover*, took those present through the guiding principles and strategies for action of the local library which is supported by funding from the city of Oshkosh and Winnebago County.



- Among the goals and objectives he listed are
- ✓ Increase knowledge-sharing conversations—look for opportunities to take service an extra step; look for “teachable moments.”
 - ✓ Study the need for adult programming. Currently funding for this does not exist; however, Candy Pearson of Apple Blossom Books brings in authors in conjunction with the library.
 - ✓ Set up a standing planning advisory committee to give community feedback on library plans and projects.
 - ✓ Develop a plan for adding more public computers. His hope is to increase the number by 50% within the next three years
 - ✓ Use federal grant funds to launch a “community photo album” to digitize images donated by customers. He noted that the library has received three federal grants.
 - ✓ Develop a facility improvement plan
 - ✓ Continue “Bookfest” bringing children’s authors and illustrators to Oshkosh
 - ✓ Create a Family Resource Center on the lower level. Work on this begins spring of 2008.

Mr. Gilderson-Duwe thanked the League for its support in the recent city budget hearings. The League has had a position supporting adequate library funding for several decades.



Wanted: Three or four League members to register voters prior to the April 1 election and also this fall. You will need to undergo a training session at the City Clerk’s office. Call Carolyn Blassingame (231-3350) to volunteer for this. Voter service is a major part of LWV.

League Holds Candidates' Forums for Spring Elections

Oshkosh Area School Board candidates and Winnebago County Board candidates will highlight a candidates' forum on Thursday, March 20th in the City Council chambers on the 4th floor of City Hall.

From 6:30-7:25 pm, the eight County Board candidates from four Oshkosh districts (14, 15, 18, 21) will state their qualifications and answer questions on county board matters.

The four school board candidates vying for two seats on the board will hold their forum from 7:30-8:30 pm. The candidates are incumbents Tom McDermott and Ben Schneider II and challengers John Lemberger and Michelle Monte. Kathy Propp will be the moderator, Jonathon Krause of News Radio WOSH and Jim Fitzhenry, managing editor of the *Northwestern* and Alex Hummel, editorial editor of the *Northwestern* will join her in the question and answer part of the forum.

This forum will be aired simultaneously by Oshkosh Community Media CitiCable 10 and 101.9 FM Oshkosh Community Radio and rebroadcast many times before the April 1 election.

On February 4th, the League held a forum at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church for Winnebago County Board District 14 which had a primary contest between Donna Lohry, Harold Steineke and Claud Thompson (*R to L in photo*).

This district was newly created as a result of the County Board reducing its size from 38 members to 36. This forum was videotaped by Oshkosh Community Media. The moderator was Frankie Mengeling along with Alex Hummel, *Oshkosh Northwestern* editorial page editor.



On February 7th, the League held a primary forum in the Oshkosh City Hall Council chambers for the six candidates vying for Oshkosh Area School Board. The six candidates were John Daggett, Kevin Jahnke, John Lemberger, Tom McDermott (inc.), Michelle Monte, and Ben Schneider II (inc.). The moderator was Frankie Mengeling; Jim Fitzhenry, managing editor of the *Oshkosh Northwestern*, asked the questions.

The forum was simulcast by Oshkosh Community Media CitiCable 10 and 101.9 Oshkosh Community Radio live and for later broadcasts.



(Pictured L. to R. Kevin Jahnke, John Lemberger, Tom McDermott and Ben Schneider II. Mr. Daggett was absent for picture.)



Are you interested in a “Healthy Wisconsin?”

Healthy Wisconsin Forum

Sponsored by ESTHER and Citizen Action Wisconsin

**Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Monday, April 7th
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Senator Jon Erpenbach, author of Healthy Wisconsin, the plan for health care reform in Wisconsin, will be there to:

- **Tell you about Healthy Wisconsin**
 - **Explain why health care reform is SO important**
 - **Answer your questions**

 - **Why should you attend?**
 - **Health care costs are skyrocketing**
 - **The U.S. has the highest health care costs in the world**
 - **Many Wisconsinites lack health insurance**
 - **If you lose your job, how will you be covered???**
- There is no charge for this event. Please come and learn.**

Questions: Connie Raether, ESTHER Health Care Forum Co-Chair: 832-8990
 Raja Khatib, ESTHER Health Care Forum Co-Chair, 749-9258
 Maynard Beemer, ESTHER President, 738-9566

Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is located at 2600 E. Phillip Lane, Appleton Wi.
Go to Calumet St., take Matthias St. south, and Phillip Lane to the left.
From 441, take the Calumet exit west, Matthias St. south, and Phillip Lane to the left; near Copps and Family Video

League Members Discuss Lively Issues for National and Local Leagues

Oshkosh Area LWV members met at a brunch at the Women's Center on the UWO campus on Saturday, February 16 to suggest issues for LWVUS to tackle and additional local issues for the 2008-2009 year.

Members narrowed a list of national topics to two which Kathy Propp will submit to LWVUS by March 1. The LWVUS will add items for study at its national convention in Portland this June. The two items are as follows:

★ **Recommend review of existing Health Care position**

Scope: Our LWVUS Health Care position was adopted fifteen years ago. Health Care is one of the most important policy issues at national and state levels. Our position needs to be current and relevant to today's environment.

★ **Recommend a New Study of Water Rights (part of Natural Resources)**

Scope: State and regional water rights issues now demand nationwide attention. National public policies need to address fair and effective allocation of limited water resources incorporating principles of stewardship and sustainability.

Next, members turned their attention to local program items. These items will be discussed by the board and voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 19.

Local Program Recommendations to LWV Oshkosh Board

- ★ Adopt position on sustainable community at 2008 annual meeting.
- ★ Reword community revitalization position to adopt at 2008 annual meeting.
- ★ Study the impact of state levy limits on Oshkosh city services.
- ★ Continue Parks and Recreation study. Include town and county parks and tree planting. Add focus on best management practices for parks adjacent to lakes and rivers. This will include weed management in Millers Bay, shoreland buffers and mowing practices.

Food for Thought Lunch Program Ideas

- ★ Fox River PCB Update
- ★ Oshkosh school facilities plan update
- ★ Billboard update
- ★ County jail issues
- ★ Oshkosh community revitalization process (agencies involved and how they work together)



Oshkosh Area League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Monday, May 19

5:00 Social Hour 5:30 Dinner *(order from a limited menu)*

Vitale's Restaurant 215 W. Murdock Avenue

Agenda:

- ★ Selection of local program items for 2008 – 2009
- ★ Election of officers; adopt budget

Direction for the Board