



Oshkosh Area Voter

May / June 2008



Calendar for May & June

Wednesday, May 14

Food for Thought Lunch 12:00 PM

Vitale's Italian Cuisine, 215 W. Murdock
Cyndi Thaldorf, Captain of the Administrative Services Bureau, Oshkosh Police Department

Monday, May 19

LWV Oshkosh Area Annual Meeting

5:00 – 7:30 PM

Vitale's Italian Cuisine, 215 W. Murdock

Saturday, June 7

LWV-Wisconsin Annual Meeting

Pyle Center, UW Madison

Madison, WI (*See pages 5 & 6*)

Tuesday, June 10

LWV Oshkosh Board Meeting

5:00 pm potluck and meeting

1936 Hazel Street

Wednesday, June 11

Food for Thought Lunch 12:00 PM

Vitale's Italian Cuisine, 215 W. Murdock
Speaker to be announced

June 14-17

LWVUS National Convention

Portland, Oregon

See you at the
**LWV Oshkosh Area
Annual Meeting
Monday, May 19
At Vitale's**



215 Murdock Avenue

5:00 social

5:30 dinner (*order from menu*)

- ☞ Be there to choose local program topics
- ☞ Be there to elect board members and officers
- ☞ Be there to set budget for 2008-2009
- ☞ Be there to volunteer for local study and action items

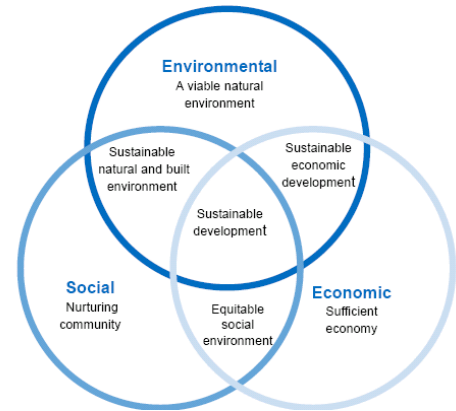
(See pages 7 - 9 in newsletter or if your newsletter is delivered electronically, see attachment "Annual Meeting")

Amy Oberg Sends Message on Sustainability's Importance at Fund Raiser

Amy Oberg, futurist at Kimberly Clark Corporation, gave a PowerPoint presentation at the fifth annual Oshkosh Area LWV's fund raiser on March 17 at LaSure's Hall. Her speech, entitled "From Exception to Expectation: Trends Supporting Sustainability," outlined the progress made toward sustainability decade by decade beginning with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in the 1960s and the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts of the 1970s. Her decade by decade report includes disasters such as Chernobyl, the Exxon Valdez oil spills as well as hopeful signs such as the Rio and Kyoto protocols. By the 1990s, the movement had become international; she reminded us of Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* and the Live Earth concerts featuring Madonna and Bon Jovi.

Her premise was that people who got involved in environmental concerns in the 60s and 70s are still with us championing for environmental practices. These Boomers now have money, power and government positions to push for sustainability. They are joined by the Gen X'ers and Milleniumists. Oberg contends that candidates not endorsing sustainability will probably lose election.

In a three sphere Venn diagram environmental, social and economic spheres overlap. The overlapped central portion is sustainability. (See diagram). A study of the diagram shows the co-dependent qualities of social, environmental and economic spheres. In other words you can't have one without the other. The expansion to all spheres is "deeply set in the American psyche," Oberg said.



Oberg listed four reasons why she believes sustainable practices will succeed.

First: Sustainability is a cause that runs across all generations.

Second: Money supports the cause through philanthropy; triple bottom line / full cost accounting; and socially responsible investing, one of the fastest growing market areas.

Third: Spirituality and religiosity show a growing connection between religion and environmental concerns. Religion now views the earth as a gift that is our duty to protect. This growing notion is world wide and embraces all faiths and non-denominations. Oberg called this idea a "shared bond" for religions around the world.

Fourth: Security deals with a broadening of the meaning to go beyond military threats and wars to include pandemics, social and economic disruptions and environmental disasters such as the tsunami in Indonesia and hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Now, Oberg says, sustainability has become a multi-generational cause with many governments, corporations and individuals following its values. She sees the following trends for the future:

- Environmental concerns to expand.
- Sustainability to become a political issue.
- Violations of sustainability to be punishable.
- Increased pressure for international cooperation.
- Increased activities on conservation level.
- Increased numbers of "low resource concerns."
- Increased business conscience.

The last part of Oberg's presentation centered on Kimberly Clark Corporation's efforts to be more eco-friendly. KC has reduced its energy and water consumption. It has cut the waste products of manufacturing and its CO2 emissions. It is working to improve its energy efficiency, its transportation logistics, product design and waste water quality. It has involved its employees in its sustainability and philanthropy programs. In the short question and answer portion, Oberg stated that ethanol "is a short term patch to a jugular that is bleeding."

March Food for Thought Lunch Speaker Offers Tax Solution

Joe Fahey and the Institute for Wisconsin's Future take a different look at how the state can afford to serve all its citizens with better tax support. There is "still a lot of wealth in Wisconsin," Mr.



Fahey stated at the start of the March 12 Food for Thought lunch.

His PowerPoint presentation pointed out that Wisconsin communities struggle to protect public service in recent years. Cuts in funding for the K-12 system and UW system, fights over fees, fewer UW extension staff to help farmers, crowded jails: the list goes on and on. State and local governments don't have money to maintain programs. As the cost to maintain programs rises, the level of state shared revenue remains flat. This leads to budget crises in local government and the typical blame game of parents blaming teachers, who blame the school board, who blame the tax payers. Yet the revenue limits set by the state legislature are the real cause of the problems.

The solution to the problem is in Madison. The current debate centers on two false choices: higher property tax or reduced services. The honey pot for the state lies in corporations which currently pay only 3% of the total taxes and fees collected by the state. He described the \$1.3 billion corporate tax leakage and pointed out three large loopholes corporations use:

- The Las Vegas loophole in which banks send profits to tax-free Nevada subsidiaries
- The real-estate loophole in which retailers send profits to tax-free real-estate subsidiaries, and
- The corporate logo loophole in which marketers send profits to tax-free owners of "intangible assets."

Mr. Fahey singled out one state assembly legislator, Mike Huebsch (R. West Salem) to show how, since his campaign was so heavily financed by banking and finance groups, he voted in 2006-2008 to protect the loopholes banks currently enjoy.

His final point was Wisconsin can ensure stable revenues for services and control property taxes by updating its tax system so everyone pays a fair share of taxes and fees.

Mr. Fahey sees his role and that of the Institute for Wisconsin's Future as one to inform as many citizens as possible of this solution to our tax burden.



May Food for Thought Lunch Preview

Wednesday, May 14, 2008 Cyndi Thaldorf, Captain of the Administrative Services Bureau, Oshkosh Police Department, will present an overview of the Department's new Team Policing initiative. Capt. Thaldorf has been with the Department since 1991 and is the first female promoted to the rank of captain within the Department.

Capt. Thaldorf will provide information about the city's seven patrol areas, the teams assigned to them, how the team policing model has been implemented and the challenges and accomplishments of this initiative to date. Join us at Vitale's Restaurant, 215 W. Murdock Avenue at 11:45am to order from the menu. The program will begin at approximately 12 Noon.

Suzette Lizotte Brings Spring Gardening to Cold April Day

Permaculture, a method of gardening that enriches soil, prevents erosion and improves plants, was demonstrated at the April Food for Thought lunch at Vitale’s restaurant. Suzette Lizotte, a master gardener, explained the process that she used on her yard on Hickory. With a “What to do,” “why do it,” and “what it looks like” chart, Suzette described how she transformed her front lawn. Here is an outline of the process:



What to do	Why Do it
Slash long grass and weeds, mow lawn and leave clippings in place	Clippings decompose and add organic matter to the soil
Wet whole area thoroughly	Rain won’t reach the soil through the layers
Add some agricultural lime/ gypsum for clay	Helps bind any heavy metals so they cannot be taken up by plants
Soak paper, cardboard, under felt or even old carpet. Lay overlapping sheets over the whole area	Stops weeds and adds more organic matter to the soil
Mark out paths with lime, stone, bricks or timber	Prevents beds being built over paths
Throw any organic waste such as grass clippings, garden scraps or weeds on garden bed	This will decompose and turn into humus
Add old hay or grass to 15cm deep	Most compost to turn into humus
Add 10-15cm of rotted manure, compost or mushroom compost (difficult to get enough!)	Immediate source of plant nutrients
Add layer of clean weed-free mulch (10cm): straw, rice hulls, oat husks or sunflower husks	Hold water to retain volatile nutrients, protect seedlings, soil temperature.

Suzette also provided us with garden plans that support sustainability and prevent run-off plus a long list of books and videos.

Editor’s Note: Several members are now receiving the Oshkosh Area LWV bulletin electronically. Getting the bulletin electronically saves the League the cost of printing and postage (about \$10.00 per year per member). Would you like yours to arrive that way? If you do, just send an email to frankiemengeling@sbcglobal.net and I will add you to the list of those receiving theirs electronically. Frankie

The Wisconsin League of Women Voters’ state convention will be held in Madison on the UW Madison campus June 7. (See pages 5-6 for agenda and speakers.) We are allowed to have four delegates who are voting members, but we can send any members who wish to attend. The keynote speakers are not to be missed! The training session on becoming a deputy registrar is particularly valuable as it will permit League members to register voters who live anywhere in Wisconsin. If interested in attending, please contact Kathy Propp jkpropp@earthlink.net.

Annual Meeting Agenda Highlights
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network
June 7, 2008

Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin

Saturday, June 7, 2008

8:30-9:30am Check-in and continental breakfast

9:30-10:30am Opening Keynote:

"Expanding the Electorate: The New Election Reform Agenda"

Professor Daniel Tokaji, The Ohio State University, Moritz School of Law.

10:30-11:30 am Business Meeting

11:45-1:00pm Luncheon and Keynote:

"A Fair and Impartial Judiciary"

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, Wisconsin Supreme Court, and

James Alexander, Executive Director, Wisconsin Judicial Commission.

1:15-2:15 pm Business Meeting

2:15-4:15 p.m. Training Sessions: Choose One*

- League Leadership

- Statewide Deputy Registrar

*Training Sessions

Statewide Deputy Registrar Training prepares and certifies participants to be able to register voters who reside anywhere in the state of Wisconsin. This program will be instructed by staff from the Government Accountability Board.

League Leadership is designed for those who are interested in taking a more active role in the League, and those who are already in leadership roles. In this workshop the state board's Membership Development Team (Kathy Allen (Ashland/Bayfield), Julie Arneith (Greater Green Bay) and Marion Ruelle (Wisconsin Rapids Area) will discuss how to retain current membership while recruiting new members and cultivating new leadership. The Team has been working closely with three Leagues this year to develop specific techniques to avoid leadership burnout and attract new, active members.

RSVP: Both trainings will be held on Friday afternoon and then will be repeated on Saturday afternoon. They may be cancelled if not enough participants register.

Daniel Tokaji is an Associate Professor of Law at the Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law and the Associate Director of Election Law at Moritz. His areas of expertise include the law of democracy, civil rights, freedom of speech, disability rights, federal courts, and civil procedure. His current research focuses on the intersection between election reform and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He is co-author of *"From Registration to Recounts: the election ecosystems of five Midwestern states."* Kathy Propp has a copy of this publication to lend to any interested member.

Among the publications in which Prof. Tokaji's scholarship has appeared are the *Michigan Law Review*, *Stanford Law & Policy Review*, and *Yale Law Journal*. His writings address questions of racial justice and political equality.

Prof. Tokaji is presently the author of a daily weblog (or "blog") called "[Equal Vote](#)." Prof. Tokaji's blog includes analysis of and commentary on election reform and voting rights issues, with special attention to the impact of changes in our election system on the voting rights of people of color, non-English speaking voters, and people with disabilities. The subjects addressed in the blog include the implementation of the Help America Vote Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Patrick Lucey in 1976. She was then the only woman to serve on the Court.

She won election to the Court in 1979 and re-election in 1989 and 1999. Since August 1, 1996, she has been chief justice and, in that capacity, serves as the administrative leader of the Wisconsin court system.

Before joining the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Abrahamson was in private practice in Madison for 14 years and was a professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. She is the past president of the National Conference of Chief Justices and past chair of the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts. The chief justice was chair of the National Institute of Justice, National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence. She is a member of the Council of the American Law Institute and the board of directors of New York University (NYU) School of Law Institute of Judicial Administration. She also has served on the State Bar of Wisconsin's Commission on the Delivery of Legal Services and American Bar Association's Coalition for Justice.

James C. Alexander, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Judicial Commission, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1968 and received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1974. He served in the U.S. Army 1969-1971. From 1974 to 1990 Alexander was engaged in the private practice of law in Madison with a primary emphasis in civil trial work. He was admitted to practice in Wisconsin in 1974 and is also admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Western (1974) and Eastern (1978) Districts of Wisconsin, as well as the United States Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit (1981) and United States Supreme Court (1984). Alexander has been executive director of the Judicial Commission since August 1990. He is past president and a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel and serves on the Advisory Committee to the Center for Judicial Ethics of the American Judicature Society.