



Winnebago Voter

September / October, 2009

September / October Calendar

Monday, September 14 6:30 – 8:00
Winnebago LWV Board Meeting
3694 Leonard Pt. Rd

Wednesday, September 9 Noon
Food for Thought Lunch
Vitale's Italian Cuisine 215 Murdock Ave.
Census Plans, Susan Keplinger, Oshkosh city Planner (See page 2)

Monday, September 21 6:30 – 8:30
Capital Commentary
Oshkosh Senior Center 200 N. Campbell Rd.
Assemblymen Gordon Hintz & Richard Spanbauer (See page 3)

Monday, October 12 6:30 – 8:00
Winnebago Cty LWV Board Meeting
1926 E. Murdock Ave.

Wednesday, October 14 Noon
Food for Thought Lunch
Vitale's Italian Cuisine, 215 E. Murdock Ave.
State of Drinking, Wendy Harris Magas, Appleton Post Crescent

Thursday, October 22 5:30 PM Civil Society, the League and the UN Panel Discussion
Milwaukee LWV
Italian Conference Center 631 E. Chicago St.
Milwaukee, WI *(See page 8)*

Capital Commentary Legislative Report

Monday, September 21,
6:30 – 8:30

Willow Room, Oshkosh Senior Center
200 N. Campbell

Assemblyman Gordon Hintz
Assemblyman Richard Spanbauer



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

September 9 Food for Thought Lunch to Look into the 2010 Census

Susan Kepplinger, Principal Planner for the City of Oshkosh, will be discussing the City's 2010 Complete Count Effort and related issues dealing with the 2010 census.



This will be the third Census of Ms. Kepplinger's career here in Oshkosh. Her primary responsibilities revolve around housing and issues relative to older neighborhoods but she also staffs the Sustainability Advisory Board, the Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee and the Downtown Business Improvement District. She is a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Siena Transitional Housing Board and she Co-Chair the Winnebago Housing Coalition.

According to the state LWV, the stakes are high for a complete and accurate census count. It is estimated that the 2000 census missed more than 3 million people. The LWVWI lists three reasons an accurate count is vital:

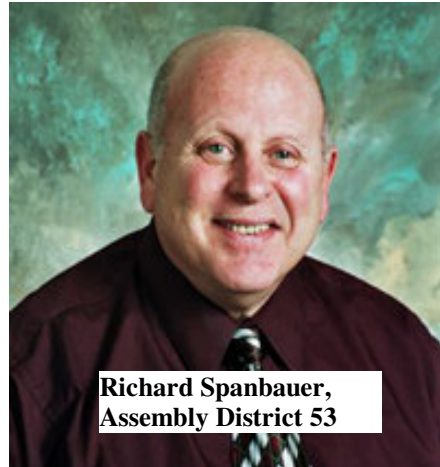
- ★ Census data comprise the basis for allocating political representation for Wisconsin in the federal government and for municipalities in state government.
- ★ The federal government relies on the census count to allocate almost \$400 billion in grants to states for needed government programs and services including education, health, crime prevention and infrastructure. For every person not counted, our state will lose \$12,000 over the next 10 years.
- ★ The census provides a picture of the diversity of our population and the demography of our state. Certain groups are traditionally undercounted, including minorities, those with low incomes, the unemployed and the homeless. The current national economic crisis has moved more people into high-risk categories for the upcoming census.



Capital Commentary Legislative Report
Monday, September 21, 6:30 – 8:30
Willow Room, Oshkosh Senior Center 200 N. Campbell



Gordon Hintz,
Assembly district 54



Richard Spanbauer,
Assembly District 53

Come and bring your friends to hear our local Assemblymen give their views on League positions and their priorities for the next session of the Legislature. As in former years, the Winnebago County League is holding a Capital Commentary. This year's event will be held in the Oshkosh Senior Center's Willow Room, 200 N. Campbell Drive, from 6:30 to 8:30. There will be time for questions from the audience.

Questions for Capital Commentary Session

1. LWV Wisconsin is undertaking a study of issues related to the selection of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices. Our principal state advocacy priorities for this year are health care reform and local/state action to deal with climate change and promote sustainability. Please outline key bills pending before the legislature on these topics, and give your position.
2. Local units of government (city, towns, county, and schools) are significantly affected by the Wisconsin state budget. LWV Winnebago County is looking at the impact of state levy limits and revenue sharing on Oshkosh city services. What will be the impact of the current state budget on the city, towns, and county budgets for 2010? What expenditure and revenue restrictions will the state budget place on the Oshkosh public schools?
3. What are your top personal legislative priorities for the coming year?
4. Questions from the audience (other topics of interest: update on alcohol related bills, campaign finance). 2-3 minute limit.

Refreshments will be served.

Shoreline Preservation Sites Wow League at August Food for Thought Lunch

League members and conservationists gathered at two sites on Cowling Bay Road, Neenah, to learn about shoreline preservation. The Peter and Rebecca Fleischman and Jeff and Jean Hoppe properties on Lake Winnebago are two examples of shoreline restoration. The



weather was perfect and the wild flowers were in full bloom on that day.

Shoreline restoration extends thirty five feet from the water's edge to meet state technical standards. They include many feet of rip rap on the shore followed by plantings of native wild flowers that bar run-off of pesticides and fertilizer from polluting lake water.

Chad Cooper and Keith Marquardt from the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department were our guides.

From inception to gorgeous takes about two years. Landowners contact Chad and Keith who work with them in preparing the sites, ordering the plants, planting and care. The first step is to remove existing vegetation with Roundup in the fall. In the spring, the ground is cleared and worked and holes are dug for plant plugs in each square foot. Chad provides landowners with catalogs of plants suitable for shade and sun. He orders the plants from nurseries involved in the program and with a crew sees to the plantings.

The Fleischman property's shoreline restoration covered 3,500 square feet. The cost is usually a dollar per plant and a plant plug is planted every square foot. The cost sharing is 70% paid by the state, leaving 30% to be paid by the landowner. The Hoppe property has a rain garden as well as the shoreline restoration. Property owners can run paths through the wildflower area to piers.

Chad and Keith said the number of requests for inclusion in shoreline restoration programs is "slowly, but steadily picking up." They do about 5 to 7 per year and all restoration projects have survived the winters.

(Pictured above are Chad Cooper and Keith Marquardt with League President Kathy Propp. Remaining pictures on this page and pages 2& 7 were taken by Tom Mengeling.)



Local League Takes Action on Health Care and Parks Position

(Ed. Note: One of the two main functions of the League is Action. This is done in many ways. Our state League and the LWVUS appear at legislative committee meetings as lobbyists for League positions. Both the state and national Leagues also ask their members to contact state and national legislators to voice their support or disapproval for measures up for consideration. Currently there is an appeal for League members to contact members of Congress urging them to support health care legislation and climate change legislation. Do your part as a league member and send your email to Senators Feingold and Kohl and Congressman Petri. This couldn't be easier as the messages are already written all you have to do is "sign" them electronically and the LWVUS zips them via email to Washington. If you wish to add to the already prepared message, you can do that. Having done this many times, I can add that you will get a reply from the senators and Mr. Petri.

*If you are not receiving the LWVUS emails asking for you to take action, contact Ann Marshall who is our action chairwoman. marshall-a@att.net
Frankie Mengeling)*

If you subscribe to the *Oshkosh Northwestern*, you probably read Kathy's letter supporting national health care. It is reprinted here for you. The second action piece is a statement that Anne Hintz read at the Parks Advisory Board meeting.

To: *Oshkosh Northwestern* Letters to the Editor
From: Kathleen Propp, 1936 Hazel St., Oshkosh WI 54901, 231-4770
Date: August 2, 2009

While it is encouraging that Senate and House committees are seriously working on health care reform legislation, it is critical that the U.S. Congress takes action and passes real health care reform in the next few months.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health. A study reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine* found that 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul.

Health care reform legislation must guarantee quality, affordable health care to all U.S. residents. All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. In addition, it is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions.

Congress needs to take strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Enacting health care reform legislation is a very complicated process and members of Congress will have to make compromises. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone a government health insurance plan that will compete with private health insurance plans will be essential for any meaningful reform.

Achieving this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. Ask Senators Kohl and Feingold and Representative Petrie to support meaningful health care reform.

Kathleen Propp, President, League of Women Voters of Winnebago County

Statement to the Parks Advisory Board, July 13, 2009

I am Anne Hintz, 1361 Washington Avenue, representing the League of Women voters of Winnebago County. The League recently completed a study of Oshkosh area parks. We commend the city on its beautiful, well-maintained park system. Menominee Park is the jewel of the system with its sweeping shoreline, graceful trees, lagoons, zoo, swimming beach, trail system and Little Oshkosh. Located in an historic neighborhood, it is newly enhanced by the elegant restoration of the Waters building.

The League's parks position supports comprehensive park planning and safe, well-maintained facilities compatible with adjacent equipment/facilities and the surrounding neighborhood. As a result, the League has a number of concerns about the construction of an 80-foot observation tower in Menominee Park:

- ★ A tower in Menominee Park was not included in the 2003 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This document serves as a guide to the city for park improvements. It is due for a five year update. It would behoove the Parks Advisory Board to move ahead with updating this plan in order to address the proposed tower within a planning framework.
- ★ An 80-foot tower is out of scale for this urban park. A tower of this sort would dwarf what now is a stand of magnificent, towering trees. It would intrude upon the landscape and diminish the pleasing effect of low lying buildings that blend into the setting. This type of tower is more suitable for a state or regional park where tall towers often appear to emerge naturally from the wooded environment.
- ★ The tower's rustic structure conflicts with the historic neighborhood, especially with the elegance of the newly restored Waters building.
- ★ Current park design trends move away from increased development. Emphasis is now on balancing open space and natural areas with existing development.
- ★ A tower poses safety and maintenance challenges to a staff already overloaded and a budget barely able to meet current needs.
- ★ Its need as a beacon light can be met with other, simpler projects. The strobe light that exists could be mounted on a taller pole.

With a new city visioning process anticipating numerous opportunities to enhance the city's natural landscape, it seems premature to spend a significant amount of money on a project with potentially negative impacts. Also, we understand that the tower is a gift and a city gift policy is currently being written. We urge the Parks Advisory Board to press for timely completion of the gift policy, participate in the implementation of the visioning process, and initiate an update of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan before making any decision about the observation tower. Thank you for your consideration.

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County

Making Democracy Work

Civil Society, the League and the UN



Dr. Louise Kantrow,
Member of the International Chamber of Commerce &
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

**"The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector Working
With the United Nations"**

PANEL MEMBERS:

John Palmer Smith, Executive Director of the Helen Bader
Institute for Nonprofit Management at UW-Milwaukee

Claudena Skran, Associate Professor of Government and Edwin & Ruth West Professor
of Economics and Social Science at Lawrence University

Wendy Baumann, President & CVO
Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)

Register to attend what will be an inspiring and thought provoking evening! For
registration material go to [http://:lwvmilwaukee.org](http://lwvmilwaukee.org)

Date: Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009

Time: 5:30PM Cash Bar & Social Hour, 6:00 PM Dinner

Cost: \$35 General Admission,\$25 Students with Valid ID

Location: Italian Conference Center 631 E. Chicago Street Milwaukee, WI 53202-5916



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-Oshkosh Area 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



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 Oshkosh dues 2009-2010 Dues are not tax deductible. New members who joined in March or later need not pay again.	
Additional donation to LWV Oshkosh This is not tax deductible but is very much needed and appreciated.	
Total payable to LWV Oshkosh:	
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.