



# League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area

P.O. Box 5  
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971  
<http://riponarea.wi.lwvnet.org>

December 2015

“Like” us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Ripon-WI-Area/114476978650612>

## President's message:

Well the holiday season is upon us and you are all invited to attend the Holiday Gala; 6 PM Thursday, Dec 10 at Ripon College in the Heritage Room (same as last year) in the commons. You will be getting an electronic invitation soon. Our speaker will be Sarah Grossheusch, health official in Adams county, who organized the poverty study for a multiple county area which Cindy Diemer and I went to this fall. She will be talking about poverty in this area and the need for equity to ever resolve it.

In the other seasonal event, Dickens of a Christmas on Dec. 4, Gary Wetzel will be Scrooge in a living window and Lelani Sanchez-Gatzke's 6 year old son will be Tiny Tim. Any one else who wants to help please contact Gary. It will be in the Dear Prudence window which Ellen Sorenson's son owns.

We had good attendance and ideas at the urban policy review and decided that it is good as far as it goes, but is quite out of date. It should not just cover large cities and might consider calling it sustainable communities instead. Aspects other than programs for economic development need to be addressed either in referring to other recent studies we have done, or studying some new aspects, because it is hard to have either economic growth or communities that people want to live in without them. Some are transportation, communication, energy needs, food security, water, condition of the air, recreation. Also declining funding for schools, libraries, the handicapped and elderly are issues. Racism is also an issue. That should keep us busy for awhile.

Also please note that Sat Jan 9 at 11:30, at UCC church on Ransom we will have a Lively issues meeting and bring sandwiches or dessert type things or vegetables to pass around. No bulletin before then but you will get a reminder.

Jean Johnson

## **Poverty Study Committee - Report**

### Poverty Study Activities Continue

Our LWV of the Ripon Area was invited to participate in a Ripon College Sociology Club program "Hunger in Ripon and Beyond: A Panel Discussion" which was held Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The purpose was to discuss how poverty and hunger affect Ripon and surrounding communities. The event was part of the Club's month-long effort to increase awareness of hunger on global, national, state and local levels.

Amy Pollesch, Director of the Ripon Community Food Pantry, Josh Filler, Ripon College Assistant Professor of Philosophy, David William Scott, RC Assistant Professor of Religion/Chair of Servant Leadership at Ripon College, and Cindy Diemer participated.

The event had over 60 participants, students, Ripon residents and LWV members in attendance. Students and audience members provided questions and comments and shared poignant personal experiences such as humiliation in previous free and reduced lunch practices when assigned different colored lunch tickets or of being called to come forward to collect their different ticket.

Amy Pollesch provided detailed information regarding Ripon area numbers of those in need of food, clothes and assistance as well as a passionate invitation to participate in one of many possible ways to provide needed assistance and follow their individual passion to help. Diemer explained results of our LWV Survey of area school districts which gathered information and data as indicators of growing poverty affecting children and families. Survey Results listed existing programs such as food pantries, summer breakfast/lunch opportunities for hungry children and distribution of free student backpacks with school supplies as examples of successful efforts.

Ripon College Professor Smith discussed food pantry participation in the Boston area and Professor Filler presented detailed information about growing poverty in Wisconsin. An important "take-away" for me was an explanation of the difference between Hunger "Management" programs versus Sustainable Long Term Empowerment Solutions.

> Members who were unable to attend our earlier fall meeting where Poverty Study Survey results were shared will receive a spreadsheet document which includes responses from Ripon, Berlin, Green Lake, Markesan, Wild Rose and Wautoma School Districts. (Available through email or paper document.)

Cindy Diemer  
Poverty Study Chair  
Poverty Study Chair

## League of Women Voters Annual Fund Drive

Our year end fund drive begins soon! You will receive a letter in mid-December asking for your support. If you donate at our Gala, you will save us some postage!

We have a modest budget, but some funding is important to our activities including:

- candidate forums
- local studies such as our current poverty study
- travel for state and national league events

Others in the community will be solicited, so please let us know if you know of any individuals or companies that might have an interest in the League's activities. Names can be added to the mailing list by simply emailing me at [averym@ripon.edu](mailto:averym@ripon.edu).

Some folks are giving in honor of Gladys Gray, one of our founding members.

Mary Avery  
Fundraising Chair