



League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area

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November 2015

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President's message:

It feels like it has been a busy month. The poverty study committee is working away for the Feb meeting. Plus see Cindy Diemer on the various follow-ups on our meeting with the school people.

Please note that November 12, at 6:30 at the high school there is an urban policy survey to fill out which I am sending you along with the state urban policy and a discussion about it. These are from the 1970s! They definitely need revision, which probably means a new study. Think about possible areas and we can discuss these as part of the survey and send it in. That way we get our opinions considered.

In September I went to the state issues briefing and heard a couple of interesting things discussed. Research on photo ID shows that if written information is given to people the voting numbers go up, probably because people get mad. Also we heard from Jay Heck of Common Cause about groups working together on voting rights. Tia Nelson (Gaylord Nelson's daughter) gave an interesting overview of some of the state environmental history and present problems. She has spent her whole life working in this area.

Jean Johnson

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Poverty Study Committee - Report

Quick Update: Local Poverty Study Continues

League actions spark broad discussion and awareness.

This fall our Poverty Study moved forward from gathering statistical and anecdotal information from six area school districts to sharing those survey results in a well-attended open meeting. Participants from Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Waushara Counties discussed increasing poverty and unmet needs of area children and families as well as examples of successful programs already in place.

Excellent newspaper coverage prompted invitations to participate in a WBAY Channel 2 interview which aired Monday, October 26 and an invitation from the Ripon College Sociology Club to participate in a panel discussion of hunger in the Ripon Area. The panel discussion is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 from 7-8:30pm (location to be announced).

Please plan to attend our annual League Gala on December 10 which will include speaker Sarah Grossheusch discussing Poverty and Equity.

We hope you will also plan to bring a guest.

Cindy Diemer
Poverty Study Chair

Voter Services Committee - Report

We had a photo ID meeting with the Ripon City Clerk and the Fond du Lac county clerk as resources and Gary Wetzel and Linda Wilkins also spoke. Some items regarding registration were also covered. It was recorded and played on Ripon Cable TV then and later and can be accessed on line. There were only 2 of the general public there but many League members and it was good training.

We found that Fond du Lac county now has new excellent voting machines for every district in the county and is the only county so far to have that. It is paper ballots scanned and saved, with pictures taken of the ballots also. The information can be sent in rapidly to the central location, which has not been true in the past.

Food for Thought & Action

Mark your calendar: Valuable information as we study Poverty Issues

Heroin & Prescription Drug Abuse Summit

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Royal Ridges

5:30-6:30pm Meet with local resources & professionals

6:30-8:30pm – Presentations

Hear directly from local law enforcement, legal experts, healthcare providers & recovering heroin addicts and their families.

Sponsored by: Agnesian Health Care, Ripon Commonwealth Press, Royal Ridges, Ripon Area School District and City of Ripon Police.

We **will** be taking part in the Dickens of a Christmas living window (Dec 4th), using Andy Sorenson's Dear Prudence window. We plan to do Scrooge and his approach to poverty since we are studying poverty. **Please volunteer** to help out (will be a hoot for sure)!

Gary what incarnation of Scrooge will we see; the miser or the enlightened one? If you need wooden crutches for Tiny Tim I have them - Linda Holloway.
Contact for the Dickens Mission is: Gary Wetzel at 748-3280 or email GaryLWetzel@yahoo.com

Remembering Gladys Gray

Please consider joining Rich and me in honoring Gladys Gray, one of the founding members of the League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area, by donating to our local League this year in her memory.

Gladys was my beloved first grade teacher at Roosevelt School who not only got me on a solid track in school after a tumultuous first grade year, but also inspired a classroom of children to love learning. I'll never forget her efforts to incorporate beginning French with Ripon College student assistance while singing, dancing and repeating French words, phrases and sentences. As a young mother needing to get out and 'use my brain', I explored what I might choose to become involved in to satisfy this need to learn and have adult conversation. With urging from my Leaguer-Mother-of-7 Mom, she came into my life again when I joined the Ripon LWV and benefited from Gladys' knowledge and mentorship about League, government, issues, and action. She truly enriched my life and the lives of many children and citizens of Ripon.

So I hope you'll join me in remembering Gladys with a contribution that supports our League, an organization she was involved in and supported for over 53 years. Thank you.

Cindy Diemer