



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

Calendar

414-273-8683
www.milwaukee-voters.org

November

- 6 Sun. - 11a.m.
Wisconsin Women's Network
Stateswoman of the Year Brunch
Honoring Gwendolyn Moore
Grain Exchange, 225 E. Michigan Ave.
Reservations and Contact:
Barb Hussin (414) 351-0819
- 9 Wed. - 6p.m.
Board Meeting & Bulletin Deadline
Washington Park Library
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.
Contact: Karen Campbell (414) 774-5944
- 10 Thur. - 7:30p.m.
Alverno College Debate Series, Wehr Hall
"What is the Place of Faith in Politics?"
Contact: Donna Engelmann (414) 382-6413
- 16 Wed. - Unit Discussion Meetings
TOPIC: Energy (Bring this bulletin)
WEST AFTERNOON UNIT, 1 p.m.
St. Matthew's Church
1615 Wauwatosa Ave.
Contact: Minna Jones (414) 476-5249
EVENING UNITS
EAST - 6:30p.m.
Shorewood Public Library
Community Rm. North
Contact: Judith Lindsay (414) 963-9829
Or Louise Petering (414) 351-3617
WEST - 7:30p.m.
Location Varies
Contact: Ruth Snedic (414) 771-7690
- 19 Sat. - 9-11 a.m.
**Issue Meeting: SE WI's Energy Future:
Who's in Charge? Who Pays? Who Benefits?**
Schlitz Audubon Center
1111 E. Brown Deer Road, Bayside, WI
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067
(See article p.3)

- 28 Mon. - 9:15 am
Internatn'l Relations Committee
CHINA
Doris Zwickey's home
623 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald
(414) 476-9272
- 30 Wed. - 7:00 p.m.
Natural Resource Committee Meeting
Energy, Sewage, Great Lakes Water
Jennifer Runquist's home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067

December

- 11 Sun. - 2-4 p.m.
**Milwaukee League Winter Social
Fran and Steve Swigart's home**
1529 E. Hartford Ave., Milwaukee
Contact: Fran Swigart (414) 962-8984
(See article below)
- 14 Wed. - 6p.m.
Board Meeting & Bulletin Deadline
Washington Park Library
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.
Contact: Karen Campbell (414) 774-5944
- 15 Thur. - (9:00 & 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.)
New Voter/New Citizen Naturalization
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
(Courtroom unconfirmed)
Contact: Fran Swigart (414) 962-8984

WINTER SOCIAL

Fran Swigart
Reserve Sunday, December 11, 2005, 2-4 p.m.
for festivities with League friends and guests at
Fran and Steve Swigart's home! This is a time
to invite spouses, friends, and co-workers as we
enjoy one another's company and celebrate our
good works in "making democracy work!"
Please add your season specialties - appetizers
or cookies - to the holiday table. Beverages
will be provided. Directions: Swigarts live at

1529 E. Hartford Ave., in Milwaukee on the
corner of Hartford and Newhall - 4 blocks north
of Locust & 3 blocks west of Oakland. Coming
from the north on Oakland turn right at the third
stoplight south of Capitol Drive. Parking is
available on the street, but be sure to note park-
ing restrictions.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING KICKOFF EVENT

Fun and Informative!

Thanks to Helga Guequierre, Evelyn
Dickmann and Louise Petering for arrang-
ing and organizing our September 21st
kickoff event where 40 of us feasted with
League friends and guests on a wonderful
array of member-donated potluck items.
Following supper Ellis Bromberg, General
Manager of Channels 10/36, told us about
the financing, governance and politics of
public broadcasting. We learned that:

- the Corporation for Public Broadcasting allocates about 25% of its monies to radio and 75% to television because costs for TV are much greater than for radio.
- less energy will be required for television broadcasting when digital TV becomes the norm after 2010.
- public broadcasting is the most trusted news source in the nation.
- the politics surrounding public broadcasting need our attention (as of this writing it is on the auction block of appropriations to cut in order to finance hurricane relief efforts).

ACTION

Ruth Snedic

In September we did an email Action Alert on the USA Patriot Act Reauthorization. The House and Senate both passed bills to reauthorize the Act. The House version added extraneous measures and expanded the powers of the USA PATRIOT ACT making most of the law permanent without regard to needed oversight. The LWVUS opposed this version and asked for our lobbying effort. They also asked us to support the Safe Act, which provides reasonable checks on some of the extreme sections of the Patriot Act and safeguards to our rights, as well as the improvements found in the bipartisan Senate version of the Patriot Act. Attempts to further expand the Patriot Act in the House bill, H.R. 3199, must be stopped.

The League sent a resolution to the West Allis City Council commending them for fully funding Community Access Cable.

ELECTION REFORM:

Legislative Council Special Committee on Election Reform, Aug. 25, 2005

Kit Halloran O'Meara

This Special Committee held a sub-committee meeting at Milwaukee City Hall to review the special task force report on Milwaukee's November 2004 election. They had received the report earlier and wanted Sue Edmond, the city's new election commissioner, to discuss the recommendations that would need state legislative action.

Re: Absentee Ballots

- The city would like a satellite facility for casting absentee ballots to ease the crowding and take the process away from an already crowded election office. The city presented the idea of one large satellite location like the Bradley Center or Midwest Center. There was some discussion of the up to four sites mentioned in the governor's proposal. One sounded possible.
- The city could use the same satellite spot to tally all the absentee ballots. A machine could easily assign ballots to the correct wards. This would save the money, time and confusions of delivering them to their separate wards to be tallied and then returned to city hall. This also sounded possible.

Re: Registration

- Don't allow per registration pay for new registrations.
- Increase the deadline for "mail in registrations to 29 days from the current 13 days. (In subsequent meetings we have tried to negotiate that number to 15 since this would include our voter registration efforts.)
- There was some ominous discussion of deputy registrars. (Another item for later negotiation)

Re: Poll Workers

- Obvious need for more workers with more training & Dollars for pay and training
- Ways to get public and private employers to encourage, even donate, employee services as poll workers.
- Need for more trainers - a potential role for League PR and income.

Re: Accessibility Issues

- Many Milwaukee sites must have physical alterations to meet HAVA standards.
- At least 40 sites cannot be altered and must be moved or merged. Milwaukee is having trouble getting sites – nobody wants the chaos.

It was good for the League to be represented as we do know a good bit about how polling and tallying works in Milwaukee. Other members of the Coalition on Voting Reforms were also represented.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stefaniak, Co-Chair

An avid and capable golfer, Barbara Hussin chaired the Brown Deer Women's Golf Club tournament this past August. Proceeds from the event benefited Lissy's Place, a shelter for young women discharged to an uncertain future from the foster care system at age 18. Lissy's Place provides life skills and a support network for these young women until they become self-sufficient. Thanks, Barb!

Welcome to our new members, Vicki Bennett, John Murtaugh, Alfonzo and Brazilian Thurman, Barbara and Wayne Hoppe, Patricia Ulman and Katherine Kane. Current members, remember to find these new members listed in the new directory and invite them to attend our committee meetings, Unit Discussion meetings and other events. You will find our get-togethers informative and stimulating. Contact numbers for each event are included in the Calendar.

SUPPER MEETING -Thursday, JANUARY 12, 5:30 pm
Susan Edman, Exec. Dir.-Milwaukee Election Comm.
will discuss Milwaukee election problems and solutions.
At Heinemann's at 76th and Bluemound
Reservations contact: Barb Hussin 414-351-0819

NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY: TOPIC OF THE NOV. 16TH UNIT DISCUSSIONS & NOV. 19TH ISSUE MEETING

The Public Service Commission and Electrical Energy Generation & Transmission

Jennifer Runquist, NR Chair

Reading this article carefully will help you prepare for the November 16th Unit Discussions on energy as well as the **November 19 Issue Meeting: "SE Wisconsin's Energy Future: Who's in Charge? Who Benefits? Who Pays?"** at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. The Chair of the Public Service Commission (PSC), Dan Ebert will be the speaker. This article summarizes the draft Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA) presented in April of 2004 by the PSC. Topics are presented in the order in which they appear in the Assessment.

BACKGROUND - The PSC is an independent state agency that regulates electric service in WI. Its role is to insure the availability and reliability of WI's electric energy supply at an affordable and competitive cost. Every two years the commission must provide a technical document for comments from parties in the electric industry, government and the public. This document, the **Strategic Energy Assessment**, is generated for evaluation of the adequacy and reliability of current and future electrical supplies (Act 204). Public hearings are required (their dates are available at <http://psc.wi.gov>). The most recent **SEA was presented in April of 2004** for the period from 2004-2010. In addition to the SEA, the commission must also provide an **environmental assessment of the SEA** 30 days prior to hearings. The SEA itself is developed from assessments made by utilities looking forward 7 years in the areas of growth in energy demand, new construction, the need to import power, and types of fuels planned for generating stations. Utilities providing information to the SEA include municipal public utilities, investor owned utilities, electric cooperatives, electric power purchasing groups and transmission companies.

ELECTRIC DEMAND AND SUPPLY - In 2003 WI needed 13,803 megawatts (MW) of electrical power: 12,293 MW came from WI's owned and operated electric generating plants, 1,588 MW came from independent power producers (IPP) and 1,193 MW were imported. Recently newspapers have reported that WI does not have enough generation in the state during peak summer demand times to meet its reserve margin. WI must rely on transmission lines to meet the required reserve margin. WI has 170 sites for electricity generation, the majority of which are concentrated in 20 large generating stations with over 300 MW capacities each. These stations provide 90% of the state's capacity.

Projections predict an increase of 2.5% per year for peak demand and 2.1% per yr. for year-round statewide energy use. Demand is expected to grow by about 375 MW per year or one major power plant every two years. The state's major utilities are planning on \$3.66 billion in new power generating facilities, which would **provide 3,300 MW** in the next 8 yrs. This will **cost customers a 12% increase in their electricity bills**. Currently there is 1.347 MW of IPP or utility generation under construction and 5 MW of generation approved for future construction.

The **WI transmission system is limited in capacity**. There are constraints that result in congestion for power movement into or within the state. These capacity limitations can prevent purchasing the least costly power for importation. American Transmission Company has plans to **construct 70 major transmission projects** to accommodate load growth and to relieve constraints.

Transmission - Implementation of the **Midwest Independent System Operator's (MISO) transmission congestion management system** could lead to higher prices for electricity in WI. The PSC hopes to coordinate the state's electrical system regarding both generation and transmission so the most optimal system is achieved. The PSC is in discussions with MISO and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to address WI's concerns regarding the proposed congestion management system and wholesale power market. The PSC has been active in the **Organization of Midwest States (OMS)**. This group hopes to coordinate regulatory oversight among states. Within WI, maintaining reliability is dependent upon a high degree of coordination between Wisconsin's two **regional reliability councils (RRC)**. The RRCs have authority over generation reliability and system operators have authority over transmission operations. The two are strongly **interdependent on a minute-to-minute basis**. At the national level the North American Electric Reliability Council and the FERC try to enact and enforce mandatory reliability standards.

Reliability - The regional bulk power market has been adequate and reliable. Reserve margins have increased. For planning purposes an **18 % reserve requirement** has been advocated by the PSC. It has approved a strong utility generation construction program in order to achieve this 18% reserve. For the 2004-2010 period, net imports and purchases from IPPs should decline as new generation comes on-line. Fortunately we have had **no statewide black outs**. However, baseload generation is already running near capacity and new generation has come from expensive, natural gas turbines.

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Other Questions – Some questions relate to the transfer capability of WI's transmission system of 2,000 MW imported from the south (IL) and 2,000 MW imported from the west (MN). Should generation and transmission planning be integrated? The importance of this is due to the nature of the electric system, where adding a power plant does not necessarily improve the reliability of the system without adding transmission facilities. Further, transmission and generation facilities can be substitute for one another. However, planning is complicated because the energy market has moved beyond being focused on Wisconsin and now embraces a much larger region being set up by MISO.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLES - Increases in energy savings will hopefully occur with improvement in the state's fiscal year 2006 budget and return to the 1993 level of funding for the **public benefits programs of \$85million**. In 2003-2004 \$62million was spent on energy efficiency by the state Department of Administration. This resulted in a 60 MW savings. Currently, **the Governor's Energy Efficiency and Renewables Task Force is charged with restoring WI's leadership in conservation and renewable energy**. The last energy efficiency potential study was conducted in 1994, so there is general agreement that a new, objective, evaluation of energy efficiency potential is needed. Such an evaluation would assist in the planning of utility infrastructure and provide information regarding available cost-effective energy efficiency savings. The Report by the Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency & Renewables was submitted in October 2004 and can be found at [Http://energytaskforce.wi.gov](http://energytaskforce.wi.gov). As part of the efficiency effort, WI Electric Power Company (WEPCO) is under Commission order increase energy efficiency by 55 MW by 2008.

Rate and Cost Trends - WI will incur higher rates with significant investment in new generation and transmission lines. This is necessary for continuing electric service reliability and compliance with environmental laws. Our rates have been competitive although our competitiveness has eroded. Minimizing rate effects requires the best balance of fuel type, transmission systems and energy efficiency.

Fuel Diversity - 85% of WI capacity uses fossil fuel. **Coal-fired generating units provide the bulk of generation** and will continue to do so in the future. For WI, total generation is 61% coal, 18% nuclear, 3% hydroelectric, 15% imported, and 3% natural gas. Natural gas construction has been approved but increased **dependence on natural gas presents problems because of supply and pipeline constraints**. High natural gas prices and volatility have increased cost and reliability concerns. The natural gas pipelines may not be sufficient for an increased demand for gas, especially in winter when gas demand is high for heating purposes. In winter

there would be an electric generation reliability risk.

Concerns about WI's energy supply have contributed to the recent approval of two 600 MW coal-fired power plants in Oak Creek. WEPCO intends to keep Point Beach nuclear power plant in operation for 20 years starting in the 2010-2013 period. **WI's utilities have met their statutory requirements for the development of alternative energy sources, primarily through wind turbines**. Currently, 53 MW of wind farm power is produced in WI, and WEPCO is contracting for up to 214 MW in future wind power.

Public Health and Safety and Environmental Protection. Electricity is necessary for life today and provides many benefits. Unfortunately its production results in pollution. More efficient technologies and cleaner methods should be utilized where possible. **Coal is the least desirable fuel with gas being cleaner and renewables and energy efficiency being desirable for environmental reasons**. The WEPCO coal-fired plant in Oak Creek uses cleaner technology than older plants. Public input helps the Commission to balance often-competing goals of reliability, cost rate, public health and environmental protection. An involved public contributes to input about local conditions and potential hardships.

WISCONSIN'S ENERGY PRIORITIES LAW - This 1993 law states that to the extent it is cost-effective and technically feasible, the **priorities of the state are energy conservation and efficiency first, renewable energy resources second and non-renewable combustible energy resource such as natural gas and coal third**. **Should the state adopt a 10% renewable portfolio standard (RPS)?** At this time 2.2% renewable is required by 2011. This would reduce our dependence on imported coal and natural gas and reduce emissions of pollutants and CO2 by as much as 17% from 1999 levels - yet not increase household bills significantly. Utilities disagree with this last point! The Renewable Energy Committee of the Governor's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Task force is studying the RPS percentage issue.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2003 - The PSC and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are to cooperate so that proposed energy construction projects proceed in a manner that assures energy needs are met and environmental protection achieved. The PSC and the DNR are to coordinate the review process for utility construction applications with Chapter 30 permits, respectively, thereby synchronizing the permitting process. Also the Department of Transportation and the PSC will facilitate the co-location of electric transmission facilities with transportation corridors.

The Report of the Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency & Renewables can also be provided for further preparation. Contact Jennifer Runquist @ 332-5067

ENERGY CONSERVATION IN WHITEFISH BAY

Louise Petering

Being a “turn out the lights” advocate at home and work, I was happy to read about the Whitefish Bay School District energy conservation program instituted in 2003. The District contracted for four years with a company, Energy Education, Inc., of Wichita Falls, TX, to begin an energy-saving program in July of that year. During the first 13 months of the program designed to manage energy use for heating and cooling (set points on thermostats), lights, computers, soda machines, natural gas, sewer and water use, etc., the District saved \$110,000! And the District Business Manager estimates a savings of \$220,000 for Sept. 2004 - August 2005 period. With a contract cost of \$40,000 per year that included a money back guarantee should implementation not result in savings, the District is sparing our environment the pollutants produced through energy use and is saving money.

To implement the program the District assigned one custodial staff person to the position of “Energy Manager.” It also purchased software to set up a data bank for tracking energy use prior to and during implementation of the program. Informing himself using the data bank and other tools, the manager worked cooperatively with the entire staff to implement the program. Keys to the success of the program are cooperation, having an energy manager, tracking data on energy use, and holding staff accountable. After the 4-year contract expires, the consultant fee will end yet the District will be able to avail itself of periodic consultation.

Wisconsin school districts that have used the program are Mukwanago, Waukesha, Menomonee Falls and Woodall. If your district is not on this list, contact your district administrator and push for implementation such a program.

See you there!

SE WI's Energy Future: Who's in Charge? Who Pays? Who Benefits?

Sat. Nov. 19, 9:15-11:15 a.m.

Speaker: Daniel Ebert, Chair
Wisconsin Public Service Commission

Present and future generation is the focus of this
Natural Resources Issue Meeting.

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
1111 E. Brown Deer Rd, Bayside WI 53217-1999
phone (414) 352-2880.

HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY TO LWV

**Thanks to Suffragette Mathilde Franziska Anneke for
Making a Difference in Milwaukee**

August 26, 1920, was the red-letter day when Tennessee ratified the 19th amendment and the number of states required for ratification was met. The 19th Amendment reads: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” On that day in 1920 suffragettes rejoiced and founded both the League of Women Voters of the United States and the LWV Wisconsin. Celebrate! Keep on “making democracy work!”

As we celebrated our right to vote we received a timely donation about a Milwaukee suffragette who never lived to see women gain suffrage but made a difference in our community in the mid and late 1800's. Mathilde Franziska Anneke (1817-1884) fought for equality of the common man in the German Revolution of 1848. And she wanted women to receive the same education as men, have their say at the ballot box, and take part in public life. Because of her activities, she fled to the US where she continued to agitate for women's equality and the abolition of slavery. After the Civil War she established a school for girls in Milwaukee. It maintained high academic standards so women would be prepared not only for house and home, but also chosen careers. Boys later entered the school. She joined Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, in fighting for the women's vote and in 1931 Mathilde's name was entered on the national League of Women Voters roll of honor after being nominated by Milwaukee League member Martha Orth.

Men and women who benefited from her work supported the nomination. Booklets about suffragette Mathilde's life were available free at our kickoff. The 62 page booklets produced by the Milwaukee Public Museum include several of her speeches. We thank Mrs. Joan Robertson of Whitefish Bay for donating the booklets to the League. Joan was instrumental in their printing. And thanks to member Gretchen Rosing for passing them on for distribution at our September Kickoff. Women/Leaguers do make a difference!

The LWV US noted our 85th Anniversary celebrations in its August 2005 E-Letter as did “Public News Service (PNS),” a relatively new statewide news service founded by and for progressive non-profits. LWV WI subscribes to PNS.

**Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle to conserve.
Go to: www.grrn.org and www.rbrc.org
to help you recycle.**

Join the League Today!

Become a member of the League of Women Voters and help *Make Democracy Work!*

Dues [Circle One]: \$60 Individual \$75 Household (2 or more individuals) \$25 Student \$25 Limited Income
 \$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$160 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ e-mail _____

Involvement [Check One]: Active ___ or Supporting ___ Interests _____

Please Note: Please circle your preferred means of contact and mail this form with your check to the **League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, P.O. Box 100785, Milwaukee, WI 53210**. Thank You. (Non-tax deductible contributions may be made to the LWV Milwaukee County. For a tax deductible gift to the LWV Milwaukee County, write a separate check, minimum \$50, payable to the LWV Education Fund. Mail contributions to the membership dues address above.)



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OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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