



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

Calendar

414-273-8683

New web site!! <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: info@lwvmilwaukee.org

September

- 7 Thur., 7-8:30pm
Candidate Forum 1st Cong. Dist.
Democratic Primary Forum
Greendale High School
Multipurpose Room
6801 Southway, Greendale
Contact: Fran Swigart, 414/962-8984
- 7 Thur., 9a.m. – 4.m.
WI Coalition Against Sexual Abuse
Training re Ban on Civil Unions
Contact: www.wellstone.org for
Milwaukee & other locations
- 12 Tue. - Fall Primary Election, 7am-8pm
VOTE, VOTE, VOTE
- 12 Tue., Election Night Reporting, * p. 3
Contact: Barb Hoppe, 414/355-5872
- 13 Wed. – 6p.m.
Board Meeting
Washington Park Library
Contact: Louise Petering 414/351-3617
- 14 Thursday – 7p.m.
Film: The Defenders: A History of the
Birth Control Movement in Wisconsin
8:30p.m. Q & A Talk Back
Oriental Theater, 2230 N. Farwell Ave.
Contact: Patty Bloomer, 414/289-3737
- 20 Wed., 7p.m.
Fall Kickoff, Issue Forum and Dessert,
*p. 2
Gordon Park Pavilion,
Corner of Locust and Humboldt
**Issue: November Referendum on proposed
Amendment to Wisconsin's Constitution,
"Marriage Amendment/ Ban on Civil
Unions,"** Panel presentation, Q & A
Contact: Louise Petering, 414/351-3617
- 21 Thursday, 11:50a.m
4th Street Forum with LWVWI
Exec Director Andrea Kaminski participating
Historic Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St.
Information at: FourthStForum@aol.com
Contact: Louise Petering, 414/351-3617

- 23 Sat., 9-Noon, Carpool -deadline Sept 21
Wind Turbine Tour, free
Contact: Brenda Bantz, bbantz@mac.com
- 25 Mon., 7p.m.
Natural Resources Committee Meeting,
Topics: Energy, Lake MI water issues
Jennifer Runquist's home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist, 414/332-5067
- 25 Mon., 7:15-9:00p.m.
International Rel. Committee Meeting
Topic: **Global Warming, Breaking the
Gridlock**
Doris Zwickey's home
623 N. 93rd Street, Wauwatosa
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald 414/371-7836

October

- 5/6 Thur., 6-10p.m. & Fri., 8:15a.m.-4:00p.m.,
*p. 3
Rethinking WI's Constitution
Marquette University
- 6/7 Fri., 1:00-8p.m. & Sat., 8a.m.-3p.m.
*p.7
Lk MI InterLeague Annual Mtg.
Contact: Marge Palleon, 262/377-8575
- 11 Wed., 6p.m.
Board Meeting,- visitors welcome
Washington Park Library
Contact: Louise Petering 414/351-3617

- 18 Wed. evening, TIME/PLACE TBA
**ISSUE MEETING, Kickoff, Local Study
on Predatory/Convenience Lending
& LWVUS President Mary Wilson Visit**
Details to be posted at
<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>
Contacts: Kit Halloran 414/226-9930,
Louise Petering, 414/351-3617
- 19 Thursday
LWVUS President Wilson in Milwaukee at
various venues - to be reported in the
Nov/Dec bulletin
- 21 Sat., 8am-3:30pm
LWV Wisconsin Issues Briefing – for all
Inn on the Park, Madison
Contact: Louise Petering 414/351-3617
- 23 Mon.-7:15-9:00p.m.
Internat'l Relations Committee Mtg.
**Topics: United Nations & "America's
Uncomfortable Relationship with Nationalism"**
Marianne Steigerwald's home
7979 N Glenbrook Rd., Apt. 6003, Milwaukee
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald, 414/371-7836
- 23 Mon.,7p.m.
Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Topics: Energy, Lake MI water issues
Jennifer Runquist's home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist, 414/332-5067
- 24 Tue., United Nations Day Flag
Raising, Wauwatosa & Milwaukee
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald, 414/371-7836
Or visit our website, <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

SAVE THE DATES

November

- 7 Tue.
General Election and
Election Night Reporting
- 15 Wed., Supper Meeting
**Topic: Wisconsin's Energy Picture:
Issues and Values**

ARE YOUR ANNUAL DUES PAST DUE?

Check the address label for your dues due date.
Check "dues paid through" date
on your address label. Not paid?
Complete the form on back of this
bulletin & send in with your Dues!!!

* Article Inside

LEADERS LINES

Louise Petering & Angela McKenzie, Co-Presidents

Welcome to the League year. You may have been on vacation this summer, and yes, we took ours; but we have been busy and excited as we plan for the coming year, especially for those events early in the League-year. Because of League's emphasis on governance and elections, the upcoming September Primary and November General Election make for special programs and added interest. We just got word, LWVUS President, Mary G. Wilson, will be here in mid October! Because plans are in the making, the website so ably developed by Dorothy Dean will be a good source of information for Mary's visit. Dorothy's introduction to our newly adopted local study, "Convenience/Predatory Lending," and Pres. Wilson's talk will be the highlights of a General Meeting the evening of October 18th.

Thank you, all of you who have pitched in to plan and volunteer for events. We are not going to name names because we want you to look through the bulletin "Where's Waldo" fashion and find the names of some of the Leaguers who make our League tick. Those members aren't named with a red-and-white-striped shirt icon nearby, but read on – and look back at the calendar - to find the names of some of those who are working to bring about a productive League year for our organization and the residents of Milwaukee County and beyond. And please join us at League events as we go about "making Democracy work."

SEPTEMBER 20TH KICKOFF, 7 p.m.

Louise Petering

Wisconsin is a battleground state for the hotly contested issue of the ban on civil unions, the topic for our kickoff event for this League year. The proposed constitutional amendment that will be on Wisconsin's November ballot, if passed, will change the very nature of our constitution from a document articulating rights to one that is discriminatory, so the proposal be defeated in November. It reads, "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individual shall not be valid or recognized in this state." The League has opposed the passage of the amendment in both of the last two WI legislative sessions in which it passed. The proposal affects the rights of all citizens of Wisconsin with respect to a host of issues. Please see our website <http://lwwmilwaukee.org> for a complete list of panelists and the topics to be covered. Come to the Gordon Park Pavilion at Locust and Humboldt for the program and the social and desert that will follow.

The League thanks the Cream City Foundation for a grant to support the event. The proceeds of the grant will enable us to tape the event, duplicate the tape, and distribute copies to the 22 Leagues around Wisconsin. Leagues around the state will use the tape for their own local programming and broadcast on community access stations in their areas.

ABOUT LEAGUE: MEETING TYPES

Different kinds of meetings foster different objectives. League "Unit Discussion Meetings" enable members to talk more in depth with one another, develop a topic or arrive at consensus. Our "General Meetings" allow members to hear presentations and ask questions of presenters. Often these topics are discussed at subsequent "Unit Meetings."

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stefaniak, Membership Co-Chair

- Many of you have renewed your membership and some have joined for the first time. Thank you and welcome to the July 2006-June 2007 League year! If you are unsure about whether your dues are due, please check the date in the upper right hand corner of your address label. If the date is in 2006, please carefully complete the form on the back of this bulletin and send it with a check to the address provided on the form. Your entries on the form help us accurately record your contact information so it appears correctly in our membership directory. Thank You!
- Several of our members have contributed to the LWVWI birthday fund. Thanks to Janet Martin, Dee Sitzberger, Marilyn H. Shepard, Louise Petering, Frances B. Swigart and 2 anonymous donors for recent support of both the state and our League. The idea behind the fund is that members contribute an amount equal to their age (clever), and a portion of the gift comes back to our Milwaukee County League to support our ongoing activities. To contribute when your birthday comes, make a check out to LWVWI and mail it to LWVWI, 122 State St., Suite 405, Madison, WI 53703-2500. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- Take a moment to make a difference in the life of a friend or family member: give the gift of a League membership. Introducing someone to the LWV through a one-year membership is a unique and wonderful way to remember and honor friends and family. A gift certificate can be sent to you or the recipient. For more information, please contact membership chair Mary Stefaniak, 414-276-7557

ACTION

Ruth Snedic

"On behalf of the LWVMC, Louise Petering met with Rep. Sensenbrenner about the Voting Rights Act (VRA) thanking him for his leadership on the bill. She later phoned him, Rep. Moore and Senators Kohl and Feingold urging passage without amendment. We celebrate that the VRA was indeed passed - and without amendment. Petering also phoned Rep. Sensenbrenner advocating judiciary committee support of DC Voting Rights Act. A hearing on the bill is currently scheduled for Sept 14th. Hopefully the bill will reach the House floor in the fall and pass."

League is following the Housing Trust Fund issue and communicating with critically involved folks.

ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING

Barb Hoppe, Coordinator

Reporting election returns for the September 12 Primary and November 7 General Election are major fundraisers for our League. Your help is welcome. If you have not been contacted and would like to participate in watching the action at the polls and reporting result, please phone me at 414/355-5872. Time involvement varies, but you must report to your reporting place at 7:45p.m. and stay until returns are reported, possibly 10:30p.m. or later. Some of you who have reported in the past have automatically assumed you would be reporting again and expressed disappointment at not being contacted. Please be assured, I want to hear from you - I did not get your name when I received records of past reporters. Thanks for understanding.

WISCONSIN'S CONSTITUTION OBSOLETE?

Louise Petering

At our Annual Meeting in May we heard Ed Huck, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities tell us "Why TABOR is Wrong for Wisconsin." We not only heard why, but Mr. Huck used the opportunity to discuss Wisconsin's founding document and assert that a serious look at amending Wisconsin's constitution is warranted since, as the fifth oldest state constitution in the U.S., it does not meet the needs of our time.

On October 5th and 6th, the Marquette U. Law School, the UW-Madison LaFollette School of Public Affairs, and the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities will co-sponsor a discussion of whether Wisconsin's constitution needs fundamental reform. Key areas of taxation, local government, education and checks and balances will be discussed. View the conference schedule at <http://law.marquette.edu>, click on calendar and the October dates.

Reserve at http://law.marquette.edu/cgi-bin/site.pl?1405&ctChannel_channelID=2.

If you have questions, please contact Prof. Michael K. McChrystal at 414/288-5364 or michael.mcchrystal@marquette.edu. Cost for the entire conference is \$150. Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of LWVWI will be attending.

Wisconsin's Constitution is one of the nation's oldest and has been amended more than a hundred times. With many WI residents concerned about the economic and political direction of the State, this important two-day conference asks whether our constitution provides the structure for the political economic and educational excellence Wisconsin needs to compete in the 21st century.

A quick look at TABOR/TPA: Whether known as TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) or TPA (Taxpayers Protection Amendment), such an amendment aims to hamstring government, the vehicle by which elected representatives thrash out differences and decide budgets that determine specifics of governance. For decades, regular legislative budget decisions

have determined which governmental programs are to be funded. Administrative departments have instituted those programs. League has acted to defeat TABOR/TPA because we believe elected officials must be actively engaged in budgeting as needs change through time. Rigid formulas that would be instituted in a Constitutional amendment like TABOR/TPA will not allow legislatures to respond speedily and creatively to societal changes and emergencies.

VOTER GUIDE NOW ONLINE

Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI Exec. Director

The Voter Guide to September and November races for Wisconsin offices (Legislature, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Sec. of State, Treasurer) and Congress is available online and easily accessible through our website at www.lwvwi.org.

The League collaborated with Common Cause in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign to ask candidates for state office six questions on campaign finance, ethics and other reforms. Candidates to the United States Congress also received questionnaires on a broader range of issues. Updating of the questionnaire will continue through October.

As of this writing: Democratic Governor Jim Doyle returned the survey and answered yes to all six questions, as did Nelson Eisman the Wisconsin Green Party candidate for Governor. Their Republican challenger, Green Bay Congressman Mark Green, did not respond and did not go on the record on these issues.

Three of the four candidates for Attorney General responded – incumbent Democrat Peg Lautenschlager, her Democratic Primary challenger, Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk and Republican JB Van Hollen, a former U.S. Attorney. Republican Paul Bucher, the Waukesha County District Attorney, didn't respond to the questionnaire.

Over half of state legislative candidates did not take a public stand on reform issues. Of the 36 candidates for state senate, 16 answered the questionnaire and one other replied but refused to answer. Nineteen did not reply at all.

Of the 206 candidates for state assembly, 134 did not reply to the survey. Sixty-seven answered the questions, while five refused to answer.

Among legislative leaders, both Senate Republican Leader Dale Schultz and Senate President Alan Lasee responded. Senate Democratic Leader Judy Robson, Assistant Senate Republican Leader Neil Kedzie and Assembly Republican Leader Mike Huebsch did not respond and Assembly Democratic Leader Jim Kreuser replied that it is his policy not to answer such questionnaires.

Take a look at what your candidates had to say and let them know what you think about the issues.

CONGRESSWOMAN MOORE HOLDS CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

Fran Swigart

In response to the increased interest in applying for citizenship status, Congresswoman Moore's office set up a half-day workshop, Saturday July 29th, on the benefits, steps, and questions surrounding this process at MATC. A panel of speakers from

Voces De La Frontera, The American Immigration Attorneys Association, The US Citizen and Immigration Services and the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County spoke about: Why become a citizen,

- Why is there a benefit?
- Filling out the application.
- Why you may need an attorney.
- Do's and don'ts of the application process and procedures used to process an application.
- How to register to vote.
- Why voting is important.

Maria Flores from the EEOC was the moderator. She is also involved with Latinas en Accion.

Fran Swigart spoke on behalf of the League and discussed what we do at Citizenship Ceremonies, how a person registers to vote and why voting is important.

State Representative Pedro Colon welcomed the group as a member of the MATC Board of Directors and spoke as a concerned political activist regarding removing barriers to applying for citizenship as well as barriers to registering to vote.

Displays were provided by several local agencies involved in assisting aliens in obtaining their green cards, permanent resident status and ultimately citizenship. USCIS also had a large supply of applications, and supporting materials in several languages for applicants.

The most successful opportunities of the day were one on one pro bono consultations with attorneys from the AIAA. An audience of over 30 potential new citizens attended. Interpreters for English to Spanish and Spanish to English were available. About two-thirds of the audience were Spanish speaking with the remainder from the Middle East, India and Pakistan.

There was interest in having another workshop like this in the Fall. Fran has copies of the handouts if you are interested in them.

STATE ENERGY STUDY

Jennifer Runquist, Chair, Natural Resources Committee

Editors Note: Earlier articles related to the State Study may be found in these bulletins posted on our website: '05 - Sep/Oct p.6; Nov/Dec p.3; '06 - Jan/Feb, p.6; Mar/Apr, p.5; May/June, p.5. Related to the energy issue is "Why Transit-Oriented Communities?" in the July/Aug issue. Read these articles to prepare for the November General Meeting and the February Consensus on the Energy Study.

UPDATE -The League of Women Voters of WI is in the midst of a two-year study of electric power in WI. The purpose of the study is to develop a substantive energy information base for our members who in turn will inform their communities. Through a consensus process, we will expand and strengthen our energy positions so that we can assume a more aggressive advocacy role. Part of the study process includes interviews with the major electric utilities and the American Transmission Company. Jennifer Runquist Chair of the LWV-MC NR committee and Louise Petering, LWV-MC Co-Chair interviewed Roman Draba, VP of Regulatory Affairs for WE Energy, on July 26th for several hours. This interview focused on the WE Energy planning process, the planning relationships among WE Energy, the transmission utility ATC, and southeast WI counties and municipalities. There were additional questions related to the utility's plans to meet the increased portfolio standards for the use of renewables (10% by 2015).

During the first year of the Energy Study the materials provided by the state energy study committee included Wisconsin Energy Basics, papers on 1) The League of Women Voters and Energy, 2) Governing Energy Legislation, 3) Overview of Regulatory and Administrative Agencies, 4) Energy Statistics from Wisconsin Energy Statistics 2005 Department of Administration, & 5) Executive Summary of Wisconsin's Strategic Energy Assessment, Energy 2010, PSC. Recent papers are on 6) Restructuring of the Energy Industry, and 7) Generation of Electricity by Wisconsin Utilities. The Wisconsin Energy Basics papers on Conventional Fuels (8), Alternative Fuels (9), and Transmission (10) will be sent out in the first part of August and will be on the LWV-WI website shortly thereafter. Papers on Energy Conservation, Energy Efficiency and Public Benefits Program are planned.

During the second year (2006/7) the local leagues will be involved in a consensus process. That process will include materials exploring value-related concepts found in current LWV-US and LWV-WI principles, positions and supporting narratives. Included in these values are global, governmental, corporate, shareholder, and individual responsibilities. A second area of emphasis is a policy document to be used for discussion and decision-making. The policy document will consider global warming; the conventional fuels gas, coal and nuclear; and reducing demand for fossil fuels and energy planning.

The NR Committee will review the materials submitted by the state energy committee at our August, Sept, & Oct. meetings. The informational materials will be presented to the LWVMC on Wednesday November 15, 2006 at a General Sipper Meeting. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a soup and sandwich supper at Heinemann's Restaurant, 76th and Bluemound, Wauwatosa. Presentations by NR members follow supper at 6:15.

The Final draft of the consensus materials will be sent to local Leagues in January. Our League will arrive at consensus at our February discussion unit meetings. We will send our results to the State Study Committee to be collated with those of other Leagues in Wisconsin. The State Committee will summarize the results and issue a policy document and the Wisconsin Energy Basics series. Next, the State Board will act on their report and those results will be considered and voted upon by delegates at the State League Convention, June 15-16, 2007.

STATE ENERGY STUDY – INTERVIEW with Roman A. Drab,

VP Regulatory Affairs and Policy Department We Energies
Wednesday July 26, 2006 from 9:30-12:00.

Using questions developed by the State Study Committee with input from local Leaguers, Jennifer Runquist and Louise Petering conducted the interview. The topic of each question is in bold print Notes from Petering's 7/31/07 phone conversation with Jim Miller, MISO contact person for We Energies, are indicated in italics.

Mr. Draba's statement before the interview: We try to have a diverse portfolio for generation of electricity both in fuels and power plant size.

ONE: In planning electricity generation we consider whether we will need a base load plant, an intermediate plant, a peaking plant or whether we should purchase electricity. The base load plants which will run continuously (24/7/365, unless repair is required) are expensive to build and require several days to start up but costs less to run (coal, maybe nuclear). The peaking plants cost less to build, can be turned on almost immediately but are expensive to run (gas). So there is a fleet of plant types to respond to demand. We predict our load and build according to load, peak load (which usually lasts 1-2 hours) and perhaps fuel costs are considered. For renewables we are considering all the options, such as wind turbines and anaerobic digesters for sewerage and farm animal waste. Possibly we could collect the gas from the digester and send it to a substation for conversion to electricity. We think this might be a possible option for WI but obviously this is still in the experimental stage. In planning for distribution of electricity, we are in good shape in the City of Milwaukee, have difficulty with supplying an intermediate zone arcing around the City because of tremendous growth and insufficient substations and feeder lines, and further out in an arc between Highways 83 and 67 are serving customers well. Thus, we have had to enlarge our capacity for this intermediate region.

TWO: We do not have an external advisory committee. We use focus groups for specific issues. We schedule meetings and seek input for our various projects such as siting substations. For substations folks may want it to be aesthetic, so in some cases the station looks like a house. For projects we will send letters to neighbors send postcards, go knocking on doors, use the newspaper or radio depending on the situation. For example when starting a big project we will invite neighbors to discuss the hours our trucks will be working and get input from neighbors and prepare neighbors for the project. When considering various initiatives we have 10-12 people who intermittently attend community meetings or we may put on a discussion at a municipal meeting or put together our own community meeting. We may put on a dinner meeting to encourage people to come and get a free meal and hear about what we are planning.

THREE: We do much planning with ATC, which is owned by 6 utilities but has an independent board of 10, one vote each. Six are from the utilities and 4 are independent such as Tony Earl, a businessman and 2 others. These four cannot be involved with the utility industry but must provide an independent voice. Yes we do use common forecasting models for planning. We plan with ATC most for substations. Also we are trying to use the cheapest fuels and some small additional transmission lines may be helpful in achieving this goal for our customer. We Energies currently owns about 40% of

ATC, but its share will decrease once Arrowhead Weston's new facility is part of the ATC portfolio.

FOUR: The three advantages of MISO are a bigger footprint with more resources to provide electricity reliably, market availability with pricing options, and more ability to coordinate supply sources with demand. However, in the disadvantage category there is only so much transmission capacity. If the capacity is utilized, no more electricity can be carried and we are out of luck. Also electricity coming from longer distances will be less efficient due to voltages losses. Also if certain transmission lines are at their capacity limit we may have to buy power elsewhere at a considerably higher price. Other disadvantages with MISO are transaction costs and market costs. We have elected to be part of MISO and are hoping that much of the cost experienced to date reflect administrative "start up" costs, such as for the large investment in computer systems which are tracking the regional system and telling each utility what to provide from each of its units.

The system controllers see the demand (we tell them on a daily basis what our needs are) and the dispatchers tell the system units what to do, but we cannot see this. Once we had our own system controllers who did this for us. Today, we do have fewer system controllers who work with MISO system controllers to determine who produces what and at what price each pays for their portion of electricity used in the brokering system. So much of MISO's activity is power brokering (buying and selling) which we do not see. The MISO system is hopefully able to call for the cheapest generating/fuel units to provide electricity first. Weekly we get a report on what went on on a daily basis and a bill telling us what we are being paid and what we have to pay. Of course the FERC is encouraging this system with the hopes that eventually the system will be efficient but the procedures are still being developed. There is one company that has backed out (Louisville Gas and Electric) because they don't think they are getting their money's worth. We are trying to be hopeful and helpful to make the system work as envisioned. The system is transparent as to the "clearing price" for electricity, but not the price offers made by the generators (utilities and independent power producers).

Currently the MISO system is being 1) audited externally, 2) evaluated by an independent market monitor (Potomac Economics) that does have access to all information of all involved utilities and IPP's and 3) monitored by the Federal Energy RC where staffing is being increased. MISO itself checks for anticompetitive behavior among its participants. The PSC of WI is able to require confidential information, however there is concern that open records laws will result in leaking of confidential information, namely each utilities aggregate data which is seen as proprietary information. (from conversation with Jim Miller, MISO contact person for We Energies, 7/31/07, L. Petering) There are rules and a code of conduct. Another problem is that some utilities may have been more efficient and other less efficient so the customers end up paying an average. And again because there is not enough transmission capacity customers may not always get the lowest cost electricity because the energy could not be provided from the lowest cost producer. MISO is a work in progress.

We did discuss some of the rolling blackouts and grid failures that have occurred in the USA over the years and how the larger systems are involved with each other and sometimes have to break connections so that say WI will not go down when some of the other systems go down.

continued from pg. 5

Another of WE protocols is their demand response plans in which certain residential and industrial customers will lose electricity 20 minutes out of the hour for water heaters or air conditioners or they will have an hour to go onto their own backup system or they will close down. For this they will receive compensation. This reduction in demand protects the utility from having to buy power at \$500 a kilowatt hour instead of \$ 35, which the customer does not want to pay. This plan is important when much of the country is at very high temperatures and the larger systems are running at their peaks.

FIVE: For planning with county committees, as discussed above, we have 10-12 people that go to various communities to build awareness about our projects but also keep tabs on what might be coming up. Of course it is easier to have less distribution capacity if the folks are concentrated. As we said before we were ok quite far out into the suburbs (including Milwaukee) until there was a burst of building and then our planning has been with ATC for substations and feeder lines to increase capacity and for small transmission lines to address bottlenecks. But this was before the "Smart Growth" era came to be. Communities may have to give us a heads up if they need us for comprehensive planning but we do have our people trying to be aware of what might be coming up as far as plans for growth.

SIX: We are concerned about the expense of using alternative energy resources. We know the legislation does discuss the problem with alternative energy being expensive for the utility and subsequently the customer. However we have to go with the program eventually even if we are a little behind schedule. We have 14,000 customers out of 1 million that pay into the program that supports our alternative energy program. We use this money to pay for the difference between the cost of using a conventional fuel versus an alternative resource. At this point we have 2.9% of our electricity coming from alternatives. We plan to put up a wind farm in the Fond Du Lac area with 82 towers generating 182 MW and we have the site, but the wind turbine companies have more orders than they can fill so we may get them in 2008/9. If this turns out to be very expensive electricity we will have given alternatives a real try and maybe learned some lessons from our efforts. Rates to be paid to a farmer once he generates electricity from his biodigester will be \$0.11/kwhr, rather than \$0.08, today's rate; buyback rates for our 23 solar PV producers are \$0.22/kwhr

SEVEN: We do not do our own research. We pay EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute) in California-www.EPRI.com. We participate in projects. For example we installed a fuel cell in the Idea House on Bruce St. and follow its performance. For seven or 8 years we have had two wind turbines operating close to I43 for all to see or visit.

EIGHT: We have a plan to conserve 55 megawatts through energy conservation and this will cost \$43 million. We did receive the permission from the PSC to fund \$6 million for gas conservation through a rate increase. We have had programs at Home Depot and Menards to give \$25-\$50 incentives to promote conservation measures when customers buy CFL light bulbs or purchase insulation, setback thermostats, or weather stripping or items which represent efforts to conserve energy in the home. We are a participant in the Public Benefits Program. For 2006 it is expected that \$137 Million will be collected throughout the state. Approximately \$64 Million will come from customers of WE Energies for transfer to the state Public Benefits fund. We were pleased when Act 141 passed to secure the Public Benefits money for energy conservation. We do work with non-profits to assist

with developing behaviors which promote energy conservation in households. We have a program which puts _ million into buying down the difference between regular and green houses-the Energy Star Difference. (At this point we discussed efforts by the LWV to get folks to buy the energy star light bulbs or educate people and institutions to turn off computers when not in use like overnight and to get schools to work on reducing energy use which has been amazingly successful at the Whitefish Bay Schools). Also we discussed the idea that the utility, which makes money from folks buying electricity, would want to educate customers to conserve electricity. The answer stated that education about efficient use of the product -fuel cost management-gave the customer some control of the bill. Conservation allows We Energy to delay construction of new plants. Also a well-run "load management program" can lead to lower fuel costs because demand is lowered through conservation. In the past 6 years the price of electricity has gone up 38% and this is difficult for many customers but yet the utility is experiencing building costs and fuels costs that have gone up considerably. So to try and teach the customer to conserve and yet have the utility have some growth will help manage everyone's costs. "Conservation does not cannibalize the company."

NINE: We do purchase alternatives, such as landfill gas (methane) and we purchase excess energy from 23 customers who have PV arrays for water heating. We find small individual generators at Energy Fairs and we are working with farmers for anaerobic digestion possibilities. We have discussed the potential for turning municipal waste that MMSD currently used for Milorganite into energy pellets. So we think anaerobic digestion of waste from farms and municipalities is something worthy of consideration for alternative energy production in the state of WI. We are looking for an economy of scale with anaerobic digestion of wastes.

As far as nuclear energy there is a tremendous amount of regulatory compliance work required of generators. At one time We Energies had 200 people in regulatory compliance as well as operations people. We Energies sold Kewaunee to Dominion (Virginia). Dominion is selective in what they buy. They are buying generating facilities of similar type of nuclear technology they feel they can maintain. In the US there is a mix of technologies for nuclear power plants from companies such as Westinghouse, GE and Combustion x. Entergy is another company from Louisiana buying nuclear power plants. For Point Beach WE uses NMC (Nuclear Management Co.) for services to keep the plant running and in compliance. Nuclear Plants can be expensive to run if you don't have many and your expertise is not as great as groups specializing in this type of plant technology. In the case of WI Public Service the employment remained in WI, local entities would continue to buy power under a contract agreement so the risk of a rate hike was lessened. So the value of selling nuclear plants to groups which specialize means the operation of the plant is improved and the community has a contract price, rather than ownership shutting down the plant because it is too expensive to run. In France most plants have the same technology so maintaining them is not so esoteric. Similar replacement parts and procedures reduce the variety of expertise needed to keep the plants going. France produces 30-40% of its electricity with nuclear power plants. Also they recycle their own used radioactive material as well as recycling radioactive material for the rest of Europe.

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for

LAKE MICHIGAN INTERLEAGUE ORGANIZATION
2006 Annual Meeting Invitation

Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, 2006
Radisson Milwaukee North Shore
7065 N. Port Washington Road, Milwaukee, WI 53217
Telephone: 414-351-6960, www.radisson.com

SEE FULL INVITATION

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
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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.)



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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