



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

JULY/AUGUST 2005

Calendar

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

July

- 4 Monday – All Day
Independence Day
Free to be civically responsible – All Year!
- 6 Wednesday – 7 p.m.
Natural Resources Committee
Water Diversion, State Energy Study +
Jennifer Runquist’s home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd.
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067
- 9 – 13, Saturday, 2-6 p.m. and
Sunday – Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
NAACP Convention, Staff League Booth
Volunteers needed
Contact: Louise Petering (414) 351-3617
- 13 Wednesday – 6 p.m.
Board Meeting
Washington Park Library
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.
Contact: Karen Campbell (414) 774-5944
- 21 Thursday - (9 & 11 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.)
New Voter/New Citizen Naturalization
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Judge Randa’s Courtroom #320
Contact: Fran Swigart, (414) 962-8984
- 28 Thursday, (9 & 11 a.m.)
New Voter/New Citizen Naturalization
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Judge Randa’s Courtroom #320
Contact: Fran Swigart, (414) 962-8984

- 18 Thursday, (9 & 11 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.)
New Voter/New Citizen Naturalization
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Judge Adelman’s Courtroom #390
Contact: Fran Swigart, (414) 962-8984
- 25 Thursday, (9:00 and 11:00 a.m.)
New Voter/New Citizen Naturalization
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Judge Randa’s Courtroom #320
Contact: Fran Swigart, (414) 962-8984

LEAGUE EXHIBIT AT NAACP CONVENTION NEEDS YOU JULY 9-13

The Milwaukee County League will have a booth in the Information Exchange Center of the upcoming NAACP Convention here in Milwaukee. Your help is needed from 2-6 p.m. on July 9th and from 10 a.m.– 6 p.m., July 10-13. Please contact Louise Petering, 351-3617, if you are able to help staff the table for a couple of hours.

DUES FOR 2005-2006 NOW DUE

With the beginning of our fiscal year July 1st, it is time to pay your dues for the 2005-2006 year. We encourage you to thoroughly and legibly complete the membership form on the back page of this newsletter. That will save us money for mailing notices and phone time for checking the accuracy of your contact information.

Look for “Save-the Date” post card in August with the September Kick-Off!

August

- 3 Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Natural Resources Committee
Energy, Water Diversion +
Jennifer Runquist’s home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd.
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067
- 10 Wednesday
Bulletin Deadline – Articles Due!
Contact: Louise Petering (414) 351-3617

WE’RE 85!!

The LWV is in its 85th year of successfully educating voters and ensuring free elections!



ANNUAL MEETING

Ruth Snedic

Keynoter Milwaukee Police Chief Nanette Hegerty provided Leaguer's and their guests with insight into her principled, courageous and no-nonsense leadership of the Milwaukee Police Department. The Chief began her remarks with a retrospective of her childhood and early work in the airline business and followed with how she came to join the Department, move up in its ranks, serve under the Clinton Administration as the Milwaukee region U.S. Marshall and apply for and be hired as the City Police Chief. She shared her perspective on management of the Police Department. We are fortunate to have her as its leader.

During the business meeting the 2005-2006 budget was passed and board members and nominating committee members were elected. Karen Campbell, Barbara Hussin and Louise Petering continue as the Leadership Team and Fran Swigart continues as Treasurer. Directors include Helga Guequierre, Susan Lindberg, Dorothy Dean, Hannah Dugan, Sonya Edwards and Anne Morrissey. Gloria Weiskotten and Mary Stefaniak are Co-Directors and Membership Co-Chairs. The Secretary's position remains unfilled. Julie Helmrich will chair the Nominating Committee for '05-'06 with Kerry Thomas and Barbara Toles serving as Committee members.

LWV WISCONSIN CONVENTION

JUNE 3-4, 2005

Louise Petering, Director

Marilyn Boeldt, Carolyn Castore, Helga Guequierre, Barbara Hussin and Louise Petering represented our League at the 59th Convention of the LWV Wisconsin. We thank you for the opportunity to represent you at the Convention in Janesville.

As usual, Leaguers expressed their sentiments - on budget, endowment funds, program, and bylaws - and elected a slate of officers and provided directions to the newly-elected Board. The Janesville League cheerfully and competently hosted the Convention and exhibited great League spirit. Helga and I enjoyed a visit to the Rotary Garden after the Convention. Thanks Janesville! Convention highlights follow. For further details on Convention including keynote addresses, read the next issue of the "Forward."

UPDATE on the Bremer Grant to LWV WI Ed Fund, Louise Petering, Director

Andrea Kaminski happily reports members and friends of the League have donated almost \$11,000 to matching monies. To achieve our \$15,000 goal and receive the \$15,000 match from the Bremer Foundation, please avail yourself of the coupon form enclosed in this bulletin and send whatever you can. We thank all Milwaukee County League members who have already donated.

- The delegates and affiliations line item of the budget was increased by \$1000. There was no accompanying increase in income
- A committee was established to determine criteria for socially responsible funds to assist in future investment of endowment monies
- A motion to require State Convention or Council approval for liquidation of endowment funds in excess of 6% failed by a significant margin.
- Two program items were approved for State Study, State Energy Policy and Voters Rights. Two program items of great merit were defeated by narrow margins, Dental Access for Low-Income People and Government Structures and Procedures.
- All positions on the State Board were filled by election, and Marilyn Boeldt is once more serving on the State Board

Included in directions to the Board were calls to provide detailed revenue and expense reports and honorary Board status for the immediate past President; to post proposed by-laws changes on the LWVWI website providing a comment period; to congratulate Judy Crane on her appointment to the UW Board of Regents; to consider making LWVWI Ed Fund a membership organization; and to study our organization like we study governing bodies.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stefaniak, Co-Chair

WELCOME to three Milwaukee area residents who have joined us through the National League, Mrs Joseph Frenn, Virginia Erlandsson, and Shirley Spelt. Thanks for joining us in "making democracy work!"

Marilyn Boeldt is continuing as a member of the State Board; thank you and congratulations Marilyn!

DUES FOR 2005-2006 NOW DUE - With the beginning of our fiscal year July 1st, it is time to pay your dues for the 2005-2006 year. We encourage you to thoroughly and legibly complete the membership form on the cover of this newsletter. That will save us money for mailing notices and phone time for checking the accuracy of your contact information.

NEW VOTER/NEW CITIZEN

Fran Swigart, Chair

Upcoming dates for helping provide voting information to newly naturalized citizens and registering those in Milwaukee are shown on the calendar page. Please let me know when you can help. I do need to have two people at each ceremony. If you would like to do two times in a row....to maximize the trip downtown.... and save gasoline and time....that would be great. Note that some dates have two ceremonies and some have three each day.

I am looking forward to hearing from you at 962-8984 or by email.

NATURAL RESOURCES

MMSD & Infiltration and Inflow (I/I)

Jennifer Runquist

At the Jan. 19, 2005 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (CAC), Bob Biebel, Chief Environmental Engineer, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), discussed the planning processes for eliminating SSOs (separated sewer overflows) and CSOs (combined sewer overflows). MMSD is under court order to end SSOs and would like to prevent CSOs, especially if cost effective measures can be developed.

One method of reducing SSOs is to minimize the water coming from the MMSD service communities, which accounts for about 70% of the sewerage. Actually the contract communities are sending in excess of that which is "expected" during rain events. Because the sewerage district knows how much water is being used by communities for sanitary and other purposes (70 gallons/day/person), they can calculate what should be returning to the district. However, there is a leeway factor of 10, so 700 gal/day/person is planned for. However, some communities are sending in double or triple this amount. The district is putting in a monitoring system so they can observe the real amount that each contract community is sending in.

A problem for the district is that they can have some CSOs (sewerage from Milwaukee falls into this category), but they cannot have SSOs, which is the sewerage from the service communities. This latter sewerage appears to be affected by infiltration and inflow, especially during rain events, which causes it to swell to an amount over that which is "expected". This is why sometimes the deep tunnel remains unfilled because they are holding space for greater-than-expected amounts from the separated sewerage.

A possible reasonable way to help control water delivery is to get the contract communities to "tighten" up their systems. Then Jones Island and the deep tunnel would deal more with sewerage and less with "extra" water. However, we all know that this "extra" water, otherwise known as stormwater runoff, is often polluted with animal wastes and pesticides and oil, etc. Perhaps the ideal system would deal with polluted stormwater runoff; that is one reason why Milwaukee has a combined system. A possible solution to the stormwater problem for the area is the "rain garden, rain barrel, green roofs, porous parking lot, and detention pond" approach. Using this approach water is either kept out of the system entirely or its treatment is delayed until the system has space. Of course, ideally we should also minimize pollution.

MMSD and the contract communities are working on lessening Infiltration and Inflow (I/I). Infiltration is water that leaks into the sewer system from an underground path, and Inflow is rainwater that enters the sewer system above the ground. How does "extra" water get in? Leaky manhole covers and deteriorated manholes, manholes in flooded areas, yard drains, sewer clean out holes which have lost their covers, sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer system, illegally connected downspouts, collapsed and broken sewer pipes, offset sewer joints, flooded road basin outlets. I/I can add up to tremendous amounts of "extra" water. How do communities find these problems? Sending smoke through the system is a cheap method. Other methods are inspecting with TV equipment, injecting water and colored water, direct inspection of the sewer system and home inspections, perhaps during a property transfer.

Who owns the sewerage system? MMSD owns Jones Island and the deep tunnels and 300 miles of intercept sewers. Municipalities own about 3000 miles of sewers and homeowners and businesses and institutions, etc privately own another 3000 miles. Why do we want to protect and preserve the capital outlay we have in our sewerage systems? The health and safety of the public is paramount. Basements flooded with sewerage and toilets that don't flush are not good public policy. Environmental protection is also a significant result. Our sewerage systems should use their capacity as designed and should be reliable. A sewerage treatment system is an asset that needs to be carefully maintained.

MMSD contract communities have been filling out a Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR). This report apparently has become a legal requirement under NR208. MMSD has a general permit with the state. Related to the MMSD general permit, the CMAR reports will be "graded" by the district (and the DNR) on an annual basis

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and will be a factor in the reissue of the contract community permits with MMSD on a 5 year basis. This form requires documentation of survey and maintenance procedures and also includes non-point questions. The form can be found on www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/ww/cmar.html.

The information in the above report was presented at the 2nd Annual Watershed Planning Conference on Feb 23, sponsored by MMSD and SEWRPC and in collaboration with many other interested groups. Specifically Timothy Bate, Engineering Planning Manager MMSD discussed I/I, and Jack Saltes, Wastewater Engineer WDNR, presented information on the CMAR.

AIR QUALITY AND YOU

Louise Petering, Committee Member

For the first time in history, Wisconsin had its first ozone alert day in February! And now that it is summer, air pollutants from vehicles and point sources increasingly result in diminished air quality in southeast Wisconsin. To help you make decisions about your outdoor physical activity for a given day, or to find out why breathing was difficult when you went for a walk, phone the **air quality hotline 263-8582** and use the scale below. Or sign up for air quality health advisories from the Wisconsin DNR at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/health/listserv.html>.

<u>INDEX</u>	<u>DESCRIPTOR</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
0-50	Good	Green
51-100	Moderate	Yellow
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151-200	Unhealthy	Red
201-300	Very Healthy	Purple
301-500	Hazardous	Maroon

To arrive at an index number for various periods throughout the day, each pollutant (ozone, particulates, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, lead and carbon monoxide) is measured and its individual index number determined. The highest index number for any one pollutant is then used as the index number for a given time period.

Please note that the "Air Quality Index" above is a revision of the former "Pollutant Standards Index." This newer index adds an air quality category. **Previously, Index values from 101 - 200 were characterized as "unhealthful."** The revised Index establishes a category from 101 -150 characterized as "unhealthy for sensitive groups," and a category of 151 - 200 as "unhealthy." For details on the 1997 revision and index numbers go to this website: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/fact_sheets/factsht.html.

Also note that carbon dioxide is not yet legally regarded as a pollutant despite its contribution to global warming.

Who suffers most when air quality is not good? The American Lung Association (ALA), website, <http://www.lungusa.org>, recently reported that out of a US population approaching 300 million, 20 million Americans (6.6%) suffer from asthma. Among those are 6.1 million children or 7.6% out of approximately 80 million under 18. Milwaukee County's report card from the ALA is below. In reading the data you will see that about 41% of Milwaukee County's population falls within "at-risk" groups.

HIGH OZONE DAYS, 2005 Report

Ozone Grade:	F
Weighted Average:	9.5
Orange Ozone Days:	24
Red Ozone Days:	3
Purple Ozone Days:	0

PARTICLE POLLUTION - 24 Hour, 2005 Report

Grade:	F
Weighted Average:	3.8
Orange Particle Days:	10
Red Particle Days:	1
Purple Particle Days:	0

PARTICLE POLLUTION - Annual, 2005 Report

Grade:	P
Design Value	13.1

GROUPS AT RISK

Pediatric Asthma:	21,027
Adult Asthma:	51,245
Chronic Bronchitis:	27,458
Emphysema:	10,054
Cardiovascular Disease:	225,999
<u>Diabetes:</u>	<u>44,920</u>
TOTAL	380,703 = 40.7% of popul. at risk!!!!
Total Population:	933,221
Population Under 18:	247,083
Population 65 & Over:	115,135

Do your part to reduce air pollution and asthma!

- Plant a deciduous tree, mature height of 25' +
- Drive a higher mpg vehicle
- Turn off lights and appliances
- Walk, bike, carpool, or ride the bus when possible
- Act to DEFEND THE CLEAN AIR ACT from the national administration's "CLEAR SKIES" proposal and follow developments of the ENERGY BILL.

“CLEAR SKIES”

The current national administration has proposed revisions to the “Clean Air Act” dubbed “Clear Skies.” While this plan would result in cleaner air than currently, it in fact weakens the “Clean Air Act” (CAA) and means poorer future air quality than if current CAA provisions were enforced. The American Lung Association states that the “Clear Skies” proposal would ‘weaken public health protections by delaying and diluting cuts in power plants’ sulfur, nitrogen and mercury pollution. ... Tens of millions of people would be denied clean air, even as late as 2020 and beyond.’ A comparison of “Clear Skies” provisions related to mercury illustrates the consequences of one aspect of the proposal.

PROVISIONS RELATED TO MERCURY EMISSIONS FROM POWER PLANTS COMPARED

CLEAN AIR ACT – Current Law. Calls for a reduction in mercury emissions from 48T/year to 5T/ year by 2008 (a yearly reduction of 43T or 90%).

CLEAR SKIES - voted down 2x by a very narrow margin in U.S. Senate; likely to be reintroduced. Calls for a reduction in mercury emissions from 48T/year to 15T/ year by 2018 (a yearly reduction of 33T or 69%).

Year	CLEAN AIR ACT	CLEAR SKIES
2004	48T	48T
2005	38T	46T
2006	27T	44T
2007	16T	41T
2008	5T	39T
2009	5T	37T
2010	5T	34T
2011	5T	32T
2012	5T	30T
2013	5T	27T
2014	5T	26T
2015	5T	23T
2016	5T	20T
2017	5T	18T
2018	5T	15T
Total	184T	479T

What does this mean? In both instances the mercury load to the environment will increase. All environments carry a mercury load from past emissions. Because mercury is a heavy element and most of it remains in the place it is deposited, the amount in a particular environment simply continues to increase. More mercury will recycle in the food chain, result in increased fish contamination, cause further fish consump-

tion advisories, and human exposure will probably increase as will mercury-related, neurological health problems. Note, if enforced, the “Clear Skies” proposal would result in 295 more tons of mercury in the environment by 2018, 2.65 times more mercury than if the current CAA provisions were enforced. As Pogo said in the comics, “we have met the enemy and they is us!” Clearly the Clean Air Act mercury provisions are far preferable “Clear Skies” provision.

ENERGY BILL - In line with League Positions?
Jennifer Runquist

The Energy Bill has cleared the Senate and goes to House-Senate conference, where the legislation died in the last two Congressional sessions. Major differences between the two versions of the legislation involve:

- 1) liability protections for producers of MTBE, an additive for cleaner fuel burning (House provides for protections, Senate does not).
- 2) Requirement for renewable energy sources (House has none, Senate has a 10% requirement by 2020).
- 3] Provision of tax incentives (House includes \$8bn mostly for oil, coal and natural gas, Senate includes \$18 for production of fossil and renewable fuels).
- 4) Opening the Arctic Natural Wildlife Refuge to drilling (House would open it, Senate has no provisions, but had approved drilling in the budget process).

The June 29th Wall Street Journal (WSJ) editorial stated the current Energy Bill “repeats most of the subsidy mistakes of the Carter years” and if passed would make “consumers pay twice for high gas prices by also saddling them with billions of dollars of extra costs for an energy bill laden with corporate welfare.” “The billion-gallon ethanol mandate will actually increase gas prices by as much as a dime a gallon on the East and West coasts.” The WSJ says a free-market energy policy is what is needed today. That policy enacted by Pres. Reagan brought a boom in production and exploration and low prices.

It is important to note that energy analysts state that at most 30% of the energy value of ethanol is available as new energy; 70% of its energy value is used in its production.

Rather than a boom, the League position on energy supports reduction of energy growth rates, use of a variety of energy sources with emphasis on conservation and energy efficient technologies, predominant reliance on renewables, limits on nuclear fission, policies to reduce demand, and mandatory energy-conservation measures among others. Watch the news for further details on the Energy Bill.
Action team – get ready!

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 place a check () by 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

P.O. Box 100785
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414-273-8683
www.Milwaukee-voters.org

Annual Dues are DUE!
Send in membership form on back with dues.

