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Our Mission...

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) is a nonpartisan political organization whose main objective is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of all, in government at all levels, especially locally.

The League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties

Find us on

The Leaguer

April - August 2020



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The Tar Sands Storytelling Project

by Sheila Mitchell

This year I have been attending many meetings with the Natural Resources Advocacy Committee and trying to educate myself on Enbridge Line 5 and the tar sands oil in general. While attending the League of Women Voters "Issues Briefing" in the fall, there was a beautiful display of political artwork that was situated in the back of the room where the conference was held. This display was the Tar Sands Storytelling Project, which is a collection of 10 paintings by 10 different artists collaborating to deliver an important visual message about the extraction industry.

The "story" is broken into 4 chapters. Chapter One depicts three paintings showing Extraction (Cutting Down the Boreal Forest,

Mining the Tar Sands, and Adding Chemicals). Chapter Two depicts three paintings showing Moving the Tar Sands (Impeding Treaty Rights, Creating a Path, and Constructing a Pipeline). Chapter Three depicts three paintings showing the End Results (Potential Spill, Oil is Refined and Shipped, and A Future of Climate Change). Chapter Four shows a hopeful last painting of Alternatives (It Doesn't Have to Be This Way).

This visual arts display was completed over the course of 6 months by 10 Wisconsin artists who "re-searched, rendered and reflected upon the cradle to grave story of tar sands oil in Wisconsin." Enbridge Line 61, which is the largest tar sands pipeline outside of Russia, was the original focus of this exhib-



Anne Chartier, President

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Greetings Leaguers!

By Anne Chartier, President

Longer days confirm the welcome presence of Spring! The Board and Committees of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWV/ABC) have met virtually since the beginning of the pandemic. We are fortunate that president-elect Sue Niemi has facilitated such opportunities for us to stay engaged. Such means of communication are particularly useful in these times, but will also help with ongoing efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and driving time. In light of our inability to gather in person, documents for the Annual Meeting are to be shared via email, and voting will take place electronically!

My two terms as president have been rewarding in many ways. I have enjoyed communicating with members and friends, while becoming more immersed in the workings of the League. It is exciting

Greetings from our President

and reassuring that our next LWV/ABC president is so enthusiastic and committed to the important tasks we are responsible for. I will proudly continue to serve on the Board helping Margie Braun with efforts to get out the vote and share information for voters to make informed decisions at the polls.

I will also follow in the footsteps of Linda Jorgenson and Kathy Allen by serving on the State Board of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters. My involvement will ensure a voice for us in matters related to the whole state, and the legislative process that affects our lives and wellbeing.

The leadership and staff of our state organization work diligently to help us achieve our goals. The dues we pay are also well spent in Washington, D.C. where the national League guides and informs our efforts to Make Democracy Work®

The LWV/ABC 2019-2020 year has been one of action and celebration. The potential re-route of Enbridge Line 5 has required endless hours of research and organizing, including a thoughtfully drafted resolution opposing the pipeline in order to protect our watershed and support our brothers and sisters in Bad River who want it off the reservation. The time has come to fully transition to renewable energy!

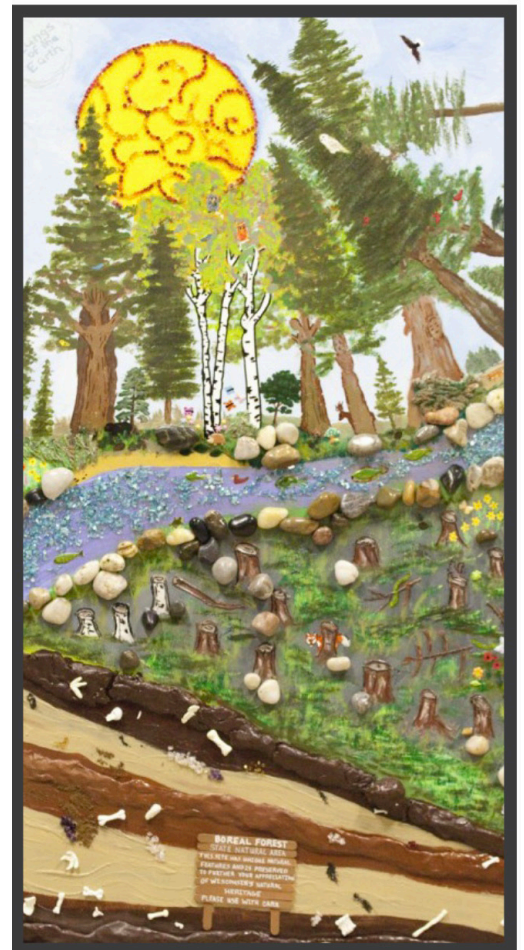
In this issue you will find links to

informative websites. I would like to thank Dianne Judd for her indefatigable commitment to our work. I wouldn't have survived without her.

Finally, our Gala to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the League's 100th Birthday on International Women's Day was fabulous. So many bought tickets at the door that we ran out of food, but the music and conviviality were in endless supply. Among our honored guests were young women we recognized for taking on crucial issues and working for a better future.

May you have happiness and good health during our enjoyable and rewarding months of warmth and beyond!

– Anne Chartier



Words From Our President Elect

As I sit down to write this article, first and foremost on my mind is what's on a lot of member's minds – we are in the midst of a pandemic. I know it is scary and in general just overwhelming. Almost every aspect of how we live our lives is being impacted, down to whether or not we'll have enough toilet paper. That being said, the League of Women Voters has always been an organization that faces a challenge with strength, fortitude and a focus on action. This is one more opportunity for the League to lead in the midst of uncertainty.

As we venture further into 2020, I envision that our chapter of the League will focus primarily on getting people registered to vote and

equally important, out to vote! With the presidential election, and the 7th Congressional District special election in our own backyard, I feel it is critically important to focus much of our efforts on this cause. In addition to continued voter suppression, we have faced new challenges with the impacts of the pandemic on our elections. This challenge will continue to require the collective mind and action of our League to help maneuver through it.

Beyond the focus on Voter Services, we also have critical work continuing in opposition to Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline, assisting in sewage overflow issues in Ashland, educating the public on economic inequality issues, engaging the public in civic activities and supporting local climate change activists. In addition, I feel we need to focus on immigra-

tion reform and elevating league membership engagement. When I looked around the beautiful 100th birthday gala, I was inspired by the level of commitment and excited about the opportunity to engage the group in all the urgent issues we are facing.

In closing, I can't say enough about the incredible people within the League of Women Voters I have come to know over the last year. Under Anne Chartier's inspiring leadership, this league has consistently performed critical social justice work for the community. Those are big shoes to fill, but I am confident that with Anne's mentoring and guidance, along with the collective leadership of our outstanding board members, I am set up to successfully lead and accomplish our imperatives.

– Sue Niemi

OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA WAS A LOVELY HISTORIC OCCASION

About 150 people filled the Washburn Harborview Event Center on International Women's Day, March 8, 2020, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Also marked was the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters founded on February 14, 1920.

It was a balmy spring day and guests were welcomed with daffo-

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LWV CALENDAR

May

Tuesday 12

Special Election for 7TH Congressional District

June

July

Saturday 4

Independence Day

August

Wednesday 26

100TH Anniversary of the 19TH Amendment having been declared in effect

Contact your representatives:

US Senator Tammy Baldwin

<https://www.baldwin.senate.gov>
feedback, (202) 224-5653

US Senator Ron Johnson

<https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/>
email-the-senator
(202) 224-5323

US House Representative

VACANT

WI State Senator Janet Bewley

Sen.Bewley@legis.wisconsin.gov,
(608) 266-3510

WI State Representative

Beth Meyers

Rep.Meyers@legis.wisconsin.gov,
(608) 237-9174



LWV/ABC-Natural Resources Advocacy Committee

The committee has been extremely busy since the beginning of the year. Some of our activities and accomplishments are as follows:

- In January, our LWV/ABC resolution in opposition to Enbridge Line 5 was presented to the Ashland City Council by a council member. The council proceeded to draft a resolution supporting the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's lawsuit to remove Enbridge Line 5 from the Bad River watershed.

- LWV/ABC members participated in the Public Comment period of the January Ashland County Board meeting, during which President Anne Chartier presented our resolution. Members spoke of the necessity and the legal/constitutional responsibility of the County and municipalities to review the history of Enbridge's practices in negotiations, potential risks and liabilities of the pipeline, and implications for all levels of government to be able to represent the best interests of their electorate.

We helped facilitate and participated in a meeting of over 50 key partners from across the region and states of WI, MI and MN, at which we discussed collaborative efforts to oppose the Enbridge Line 5.

- We participated in a meeting with the Public Service Commission (PSC) in Madison clarifying the process of public input in the permitting process.

- We worked with partners to plan 2 community education meetings:

- 2/25 Highbridge Community Homemaker's/Town Hall Potluck

- 2/27 Ashland High School Auditorium program sponsored by Town of Marengo, which was livestreamed by Paul Demain with over 7700 hits ! (See Facebook-IndianCountryTV.Com for edited video).

- With our facilitation, the Ashland County Board passed a resolution asking Governor Evers for legislative review of the Eminent Domain Law and to prohibit the use of eminent domain by for-profit companies and/or foreign-owned companies.

- We sent a letter to Governor Evers, Representative Meyers, and Senator Bewley related to the appointment of a Commissioner to the vacant PSC seat.

- Related to the above bullet, LWV/ABC asked the LWVWI to use positions on Climate, Poverty, Water to address the Governor in considering these shared issues of concern as he appoints the Commissioner.

- We worked with partners to canvass local landowners along Enbridge Line 5.

- We brought the traveling Tar Sands Storytelling project to Salmagundi. While the gallery is closed for now, due to the shutdown of non-essential businesses, the show

2019/2020 LWV/ABC Board & Committee Members

BOARD

Contact the Board at:

info@lwwabcwi.org or

PO Box 175, Ashland, WI 54806

Anne Chartier, **President**

Sue Niemi, **President-elect**

Barb Bell, **Treasurer**

Ginger Quay, **Secretary**

Margie Braun

Joan Elias

Nina Hirth

Bev Lindell

Linda Jorgenson

Dianne Judd

Sheila Mitchell

Jan Penn

Gail Syverud

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Anne Chartier, President

Sue Niemi, President-Elect

Roger Aiken, Treasurer

Sue Niemi, Secretary

Gail Syverud, Membership

Membership Committee

Gail Syverud, Chair

Voter Services

Margie Braun, Chair

Communications Committee

Vacant, Chair

Kate Bortell, Website and Social
Media

Anne Chartier, Email Blasts

Liz Seefeldt, Bottom Line Liaison

Matt Oestreich, G Suites

Pete Skoro, Newsletter

Natural Resources Advocacy Committee

Joan Elias, Chair

Inequality Action Committee

Linda Jorgenson & Jan Penn, Chairs

Civic Engagement Committee

Bev Lindell, Chair

Program & Events Committee

Sheila Mitchell, Chair

Finance Committee

Vacant

Nominating Committee

Joe Bailey, Chair

Gail Syverud, Board Liaison

Natural Resources Cont. From Page 4

will be there throughout the month of April. Hopefully our social distancing and closure of non-essential businesses will be relaxed and we can all enjoy the show.

Currently we are preparing for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Public Service Commission permitting processes for Enbridge Line 5. We continue to partner with neighbors in the Watershed, throughout Wisconsin, and beyond. Our hope is that the WDNR fully addresses the environmental concerns raised by experts across a wide range of disciplines and that the PSC uses a broad and inclusive definition for the "public need" for the pipeline. We can all enjoy the show.

Feel free to visit a committee meeting anytime.

Contact us at:

info@lwwabcwi.org

CHANGE
STARTS HERE.
CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

Welcome to our new G Suites Administrator

By Dianne Judd

I would like to introduce you to our new G. Suites Administrator Matt Oestreich.

Communication within the League has changed tremendously. From League meetings of paper, pencil and pot luck to today's gathering around community tables with our "devices" and our favorite beverages. Even further to "Zoom" meetings so we don't have to drive in storms or pandemics. No more carrying paper as today everything is on our computer. Technology changes and improves year by year and we are so lucky to have someone to help ease the transition.

About 3 years ago we signed up for free G Suites for Non-Profits and have made good use of that, but we need to go further. There are many exciting apps that make our League work easier such as: all our files are in one place that we all

can access; one board calendar available for each committee to post their meetings; each board member can have a dedicated League email....and more.

To keep growing our abilities, we now have a young League member interested in taking over G Suites administration, teaching us and encouraging us to take further steps.

Therefore, I am happy for you to meet Matt Oestreich!

In his words.....

I grew up in Minneapolis, attended college at Michigan Technological University, and ended up starting my career as an engineer in Cumberland, Wisconsin about 6 years ago. As much as I enjoyed living in the Twin Cities, the transition to small town Wisconsin life helped me focus more on nature and appreciate my local community. Besides designing gardening equipment at work, I also maintain our engineering database and contribute to IT improvements on behalf of our engineers. After being introduced

to the League by family in Ashland, I thought I would be a good fit for helping maintain G Suites on the Communications Team. I look forward to bringing my experience to this team and the League to help provide easy ways to communicate, connect, and learn.

The main thing that drew me to the League was the passion of its members to make positive changes locally and across the country while providing people the means to have their voices heard. I got a good snapshot of that passion at the 100th anniversary gala where the speakers were able to not only speak to the crowd, but to also make them feel. Any way I can learn how to understand such experiences allows me to give back and help the fight for social justice and equality.

In my free time I'm usually working on projects at home, taking care of my cat and reptiles, or enjoying a nice bonfire. I also enjoy biking, snowboarding, and spending time with family at the cabin.

Gala Cont. From Page 3

dills and yellow roses and all manner of anniversary posters and banners along with a beautifully appointed silent auction display. Attendees enjoyed food provided by Fat Radish restaurant in Bayfield and a big birthday cake from Coco's in Washburn. Local A-List women musician's provided entertainment and led the crowd in a rousing sing-along of "Bread and Roses", lyrics of which were inspired by suffragist Helen Todd.

The audience was touched by how thoughtfully the program projected the day's theme of "Launching a 2nd century of "Making Democracy Work". All the speakers

had carefully prepared their remarks to honor past struggles for democracy, but also to plead for action on challenges ahead. LWV/ABC President Anne Chartier opened with a welcome and then introduced Philomena Kebec, Ashland Mayor Deb Lewis, Representative Beth Meyers, and Senator Janet Bewley. The program concluded with the presentation of Tokens of Appreciation to six young high school and college women who have founded the local Climate Strike Fridays, 350.org, both vigorous efforts to stop climate change and save our planet, and the Northland College Feminist Coalition.

Gala Cont. From Page 6

One very special item on the League History Table was the framed original front page of the Ashland Daily Press from August 26, 1920 announcing the ratification of the 19th Amendment. It was a tangible connection to the huge 72 year struggle it took for women to win the vote. And a reminder of how much effort has to go into present day advocacy for clean government, good stewardship of our planet's resources, empathy and compassion for all our human family, and justice in our governance.



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“We Stand on their Shoulders: A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting”

by Dianne Judd

The Wisconsin Historical Society's traveling display that was scheduled to come to Dexter Library at Northland College March 30 – April 9 had to be canceled. We are sorry that we cannot experience this in person with you. Click here for an on line look at this **8-panel display** https://wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/localhist/WeStand_banners_%2010-31-19.pdf

Peruse this overview of the Wisconsin Historical Society **Women's History Display** <https://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS16243> page that speaks about resources that will lead you further. At the bottom of the display you will find under the Learn More title: 3 links that will show you the tool kits for the display

Tar Sands Continued from page 1

it. As our area is dealing with the same issues with Enbridge Line 5, it was proposed to bring this exhibit to the Northland.

Funds and organizational leadership for this project were provided by the Clark County Cultural Art Center (CART), The Sierra Club-Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Youth Network (WiYN). Further information and the images themselves can be found at www.tarsandsstorytellingproject.wordpress.com.

The exhibit is presently on display at Salmagundi in Ashland, hopefully through the end of April. Additional material about Enbridge Line 5, the proposed reroute of Line 5 around the Bad River Reservation, and land-owner concerns in relation to the reroute have also been placed at Salmagundi.

If Salmagundi is able to open while the exhibit is in Ashland, please consider stopping by to ponder over it, or share it via the website, with a student who might appreciate learning about this side of our energy production. As the old saying goes, a picture is a thousand words.

one of which is: A **Wisconsin Women's History Classroom Resources** https://wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/whs_suffrage_classroom-resource_FINAL.pdf.

We also share with you Inspiration from LWV of Appleton, WI. **Her Voice, Her Vote, Our History** <https://hervoicervoteourvictory.com/>. Learn about the Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition year-long series of nonpartisan events throughout 2020 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, with the goal of women's empowerment. This Coalition is a collaborative effort of women-run associations, organizations and clubs, all aligned in our desire to celebrate, educate and advocate women's rights.



WOMEN FEATURED ON THE 100th ANNI-VERSARY POSTER:

- **Far Left - Unknown suffragist (1910-1920)**

- **Center-Left - Vel Phillips, noted Milwaukee civil rights activist (1950s and 1960s).**

Velvalea Hortense Rodgers "Vel" Phillips (February 18, 1923 – April 17, 2018) was an American attorney, politician, jurist, and Civil Rights activist, who served as an alderperson and judge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and as Secretary of State of Wisconsin (1978-1982). She was the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School; the first African American, as well as the first woman, elected Alderwoman to the Milwaukee Common Council; and the first African American, as well as the first woman, to serve as a jurist in Wisconsin.

- **Center Right: Canadian Anishinabek Elder Josephine Mandamin (late 1990s and 2000s)**

Josephine Mandamin (Anishinaabemowin: Biidaasige-ba - "The one who comes with the light") (February 21, 1942 – February 22, 2019) was an Anishinaabe First Nations grandmother, elder and founding member of the water protectors movement. She initiated "Mother Earth Walks". She believed that women, as life-givers, have a special responsibility to protect water as a sacred gift from the Creator, as the "lifeblood of Mother Earth."

Introduced to an elder's prophecy warning that "water will cost as much as gold" by the year 2030 - she set out on her first walk in 2003 around the perimeter of Lake Superior to encourage humanity to rekindle

the sacred relationship and connection to Nibi (water). She led Water Walks around the five Great Lakes, and even covered the length of the St. Lawrence River on foot while building awareness about pollution, laws, fracking, and the selling of water. She sparked a movement of water walkers who host their own community walks. In her capacity as the Chief Commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation Women's Water Commission, she was a contributor and leader of the Great Lakes Guardians' Council, established under the Great Lakes Protection Act.

She was honoured with a Anishinabek Nation Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 and the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation in 2016, and received distinctions and honours from the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Sean Atleo, Native Women's Association of Canada, Ontario Native Women's Association and from the Mayor of Duluth Minnesota.

- **Far Right: Ashland High School Climate Striker Ella Syverson (2020)**

Ella originated the Ashland High School -School Strike for Climate. (Swedish: Skolstrejk för klimatet). Inspired by Greta Thunberg, they join an international movement of school students who take time off from class on Fridays to participate in demonstrations to demand action from political leaders to stop climate change and for the fossil fuel industry to transition to renewable energy. The Ashland strikers protest each Friday at the Ashland City Hall from 12:45-1:45 PM. Ella also joined with Eric Morud and Presley Nuutinen to found the Bay Area chapter of 350.org to fight for local action addressing climate change.

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For a full-size 12" x 18" copy of the
100th Year Anniversary Commemorative Poster,
visit the <https://www.bemusedposters.com/wisconsin/suffrage>

