



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

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President's Message

Aileen Nettleton,
president@lwvdanecounty.org, 608-238-6053

On June 10, 1919, Wisconsin became the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. The LWV Dane County will be a part of two events to celebrate this landmark occasion in June.

The LWV Dane County will be highlighted with the Forward Theater's "Two Steps Forward Monologue Festival" as their "Pay It Forward" partner. This partnership is in recognition of the work of our League in promoting voting rights and access. We will be inviting theater-goers to join us in our centennial celebrations. The monologue series will feature original pieces written to celebrate progress in women's rights to coincide

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Threats and Rescue Strategies for Wisconsin's Water

Gretchen Sabel, LWV Minnesota
Chair of the Upper Mississippi River Region
Interleague Organization

Ms. Sabel brings both scientific credentials and experience with legislation, state regulation, and community education. She will discuss some well-known threats to Wisconsin's water—CAFOs (concentrated agricultural feeding operations), high capacity wells, contamination, flooding, Foxconn, climate change, and what next?

**Capitol Lakes Grand Hall,
333 West Main St., Madison**
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

Study materials will be available at
www.lwvdanecounty.org.

Forums are free and open to the public.

with the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment. The production runs Thursday, June 20-Sunday, June 23. Tickets may be purchased at <https://forwardtheater.com/show/two-steps-monologue-festival>.

Join us at noon on Sunday, June 23, at the Forward Statue for the "Wisconsin First to Ratify" parade around the Capitol with the State LWV. There will be a skit to re-enact Ada James convincing her father to take the ratification papers to Washington, DC, by train so Wisconsin would be first to ratify the amendment, and the Raging Grannies will lead singing. Watch for details in the LWVDC weekly email updates.

These events are only the beginning of our "Centennial Year" of events. February 14, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and August 26, 2020, is the centennial of the certification of the 19th Amendment as part of the US Constitution. We will be celebrating these events in honor of our foremother suffragists who fought tirelessly for the rights we enjoy today and which we continue to extend to all citizens. We hope you will come celebrate with us.

Check out these additional resources and organizations
celebrating women's history.

[LWVUS overview](#) of League's founding and highlights by decade.

[National Women's History Museum](#)

[2020 Women's Vote Centennial](#), a consortium of organizations with this mission: The mission of the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative (WVCI) is to serve as a central organizing and information-sharing entity for programs, projects, and activities that commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, educate the public on the legal and social advances resulting from the amendment, and stimulate dialogue to address the ongoing fight for women's rights.

Needed: Census Count Liaison

Do you believe all people should be counted in the 2020 Census? Can you commit to a year-long project to encourage all local residents participate in the census?

We need a committed LWVDC member to work with other local community organizations in conjunction with the City of Madison and the county to represent the League at planning meetings and get involved in community outreach. The project will begin in April and continue through March 2020.

Please contact Aileen Nettleton at president@lwvdanecounty.org if you are interested or if you would like further information about this important project.



Cities for CEDAW

Monica Schwartz, monica.j.schwartz@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters of Dane County is joining the campaign for Madison to adopt the United Nations' "bill of rights for women."

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the only international treaty focused on women's rights. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, the treaty gives a definition to discrimination against women, effectively ruining all excuses used to discriminate on the basis of sex.

CEDAW requires committed parties to take "all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men." It is a roadmap to equality for women.

189 countries (97.9% of UN member nations) have adopted CEDAW; the United States is not one of them.

Even though the United States signed CEDAW in 1979, the Senate has still not ratified it. Cities for CEDAW is a grassroots campaign that found a work-around to this gridlock. They help local organizations pass ordinances establishing the principles of CEDAW in local government. In 1998, San Francisco was the first city to implement and enforce CEDAW. Now 40 cities enforce the treaty.

Madison's two United Nations Association (UNA) chapters, UNA of Dane County and UNA UW-Madison, are joining the Cities for CEDAW campaign. With the help of 17 sponsoring agencies, the local UNA chapters are petitioning the City Council to make Madison the 41st city to adopt a CEDAW resolution. The League of Women Voters of Dane County is a co-sponsor of the resolution in support of CEDAW.

Help LWV and UNA of Dane County make this CEDAW resolution become Madison law. Here's what you can do now:

- Sign the petition! Circulate a petition! At the April 3 Issues Forum at Capitol Lakes, there will be petitions you can sign and petitions you can take and circulate. Or you can read and sign the petition online at <https://www.unadane.org/>.
- Contact your alderperson and ask them to support the adoption of the resolution by the Madison City Council. Send an email to all alders at allalders@cityofmadison.com, or find your own alder [here](#).
- Attend the City Council meeting where the resolution will be discussed. The meeting date is currently uncertain but is projected to be in late April or early May.

The League of Women Voters of the United States' position on the United Nations is to "Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people." Please join LWV of Dane County in supporting this position to help ensure fair legal rights for women in Madison.



Child Care in Wisconsin

Karen Gunderson, jokarjen@gmail.com

Photos by Ingrid Rothe

Our LWVDC March 6 forum titled 'Child Care in Wisconsin: Parents Can't Afford to Pay, Providers Can't Afford to Stay' was very informative. I did not know that we had child care deserts in Wisconsin, including Dane County. I knew that child care workers were underpaid, but I didn't realize we had a child care crisis in Wisconsin.

Our speakers, Jen Bailey, Executive Director of Reach Dane, and Peggy Haack, Outreach Coordinator for Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, were engaging and informative. Their dedication to quality child care was evident and heartening. The statistics they presented were not quite so heartening.

Wisconsin, including Dane County, has areas of the state that qualify as 'child care deserts,' defined as an area where there is one (1) child care slot for three (3) children who need the slot. Statewide, 54% of our population and 68% of our rural residents live in an area that qualifies as a child care Desert.



Speakers Jen Bailey and Peggy Haack

There is a 35% annual turnover of child care workers. Child care workers make between \$10 and \$13 an hour, which is not a living wage. Fifty-four percent (54%) of child care workers access one or more public supports, such as FoodShare, BadgerCare, Earned Income Tax Credit, etc. Although the educational requirements for child care workers have increased over the years, their pay has not.

There are compelling reasons for providing quality child care and early childhood education. Neuroscientists have shown that a child's brain undergoes incredible development from birth to three years old, creating more than a million neural connections each second. There is mounting evidence that quality child care and early childhood education have a significant, positive effect on childhood outcomes. Children who have a quality early childhood education have higher rates of high school graduation and attain a higher level of post-high school education. James Heckman, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, and his colleagues have found that comprehensive, high-quality early childhood care provides a 13% return on investment.

Reach Dane is a non-profit organization providing early child care services to low-income families. It is the only organization in Dane County that provides Head Start and Early Head Start services. They serve over 1,000 children ages 0-5 in Dane and Green counties. Eighty-two percent (82%) of those enrolled are minorities. Over the past four years, they have seen the number of homeless infants and toddlers in their programs triple.

Reach Dane is not able to support all of the children who are eligible for its programs. Because of limited funding, only 2% of children eligible for Early Head Start are enrolled in the program. Head Start funds come from the county and federal government. Federal funding has not increased for years.

Reach Dane sees the same issues that other child care providers are encountering, including finding and maintaining qualified staff and not enough funding for families who are eligible for services.

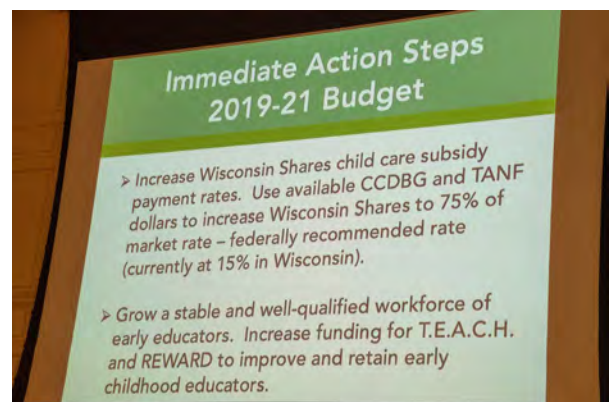
Reach Dane has seen a 50% annual turnover of staff working in infant/toddler classrooms; the most commonly cited reason for leaving is low wages. Reach Dane centers achieve the gold standard for infant care – one caregiver for every four babies. That is quite a workload for a child care provider.

Because of the strict income limits to qualify for Reach Dane services, parents have to seriously consider if even a small raise in their wages would put them over the limit, resulting in the loss of their child care support. Parents have had to turn down raises for this reason.

Seventy-four per cent (74%) of children in Wisconsin live in a household where all parents are employed. Those families require child care for the parents to remain employed. It is estimated that U.S. businesses lose \$3 billion a year due to child care breakdowns.

Questions from the audience were answered thoughtfully by our two presenters.

- **How many employers provide on-site child care?** Very few. Those who have tried soon discovered that it is very expensive. The more successful programs support local child care providers in the community.
- **What can local lawmakers do?** The city of Madison is very supportive of quality child care and early childhood education. It is important to get support from state lawmakers. The state could put more dollars into the Wisconsin Shares program, which subsidizes part of child care costs for eligible families.
- **Would 3K programs (providing early childhood education to 3-year-olds) help to solve the problem?** These programs are community-based and part of the local school district. There is some controversy about implementing 3K programs – it will cost the school districts and taxpayers more and it will impact the current child care providers.
- **Why do European countries have better support for early childhood education and child care?** Many European countries look upon child care as a responsibility for the entire community, whereas the U.S. has a more individualistic outlook, seeing child care as a family responsibility
- **What can we do?** For the 2019-2021 Wisconsin state budget, encourage our representatives to push for an increase in Wisconsin Shares funding. This program funds a portion of child care costs for eligible, low-income families. Governor Tony Evers has put an increase in his budget, which is a good start. Also, encourage them to support additional funding for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships and REWARD. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are for child care providers who want to continue their education. REWARD provides salary supplements to child care providers based on their educational achievements and longevity in the field. Another way to help is to volunteer at REACH DANE or other child care providers.



This forum provided good information about a crisis that some of us didn't even realize existed. The powerpoint presentation and an audio recording of the speakers will be available on our website.

Program Planning Advances

Mary Anglim, program@lwvdanecounty.org

Fifty-five members participated in a survey of recommendations for 2019-2020 Program activities, and several others made suggestions on specific topics. This was a very helpful response to a last-minute request, and I'm grateful to all who took time to respond. The Program Committee will continue to draw on your ideas as we develop specific events. On March 9, Bonnie Chang, Chris Clements, Janine Edwards, Georgiana Hernandez, Judy Landsman, Mary Ellen Schmit, Marilyn Stephen, and I met to review the surveys and draft recommendations for Board approval.

Making Democracy Work at the Dane County Level was the first choice in the survey, with a focus on redistricting, election education, increasing voter participation, access for marginalized communities, resisting voter suppression, etc. *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* (DEI) and *Addressing Climate Change in Dane County* were close second and third choices. The Planning Committee recommends forming a work group to apply a DEI lens to all LWVDC program activities and a subcommittee on Climate Change to lead education, policy, and action initiatives, possibly in cooperation with other environmental and governmental organizations. A subcommittee on Making Democracy Work is proposed to support and collaborate with the work of the Voter Services Committee.

* * *

The Board has approved the following recommended motions which will be presented for membership approval at the Annual Meeting on May 15:

1. The LWV Dane County reaffirms its support for the positions agreed to by the local, state, and national LWV in the past.¹
2. Under the general oversight of the Board and the Program Committee, LWV Dane County will establish two subcommittee in 2019-2020 to implement program activities associated with:
 - a. *Making Democracy Work at the Dane County Level*. This subcommittee will support and coordinate with the work of the Voter Services Steering Committee and the Dane County Voter ID Coalition by, for example, helping to recruit Voter Education Ambassadors, sponsoring forums on subjects such as redistricting or lame duck legislation, and monitoring/recommending action on local government decisions related to voting rights.
 - b. *Addressing Climate Change in Dane County*. This subcommittee will focus on education, policy changes, and realistic actions that can be carried out by LWV Dane County.
3. Recognizing that *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* should be part of our organizational practice, LWV Dane County will establish a working group that coordinates with the Program Committee to apply a DEI lens to all LWVDC program activities.

* * *

Please consider whether you agree with these motions or have changes to suggest. These broad Program areas present enormous opportunities to learn and take action—obviously too many and too big to finish in a single year. We will need to be creative and selective to design a few projects that are achievable and that move our goals forward. Defining the year's Program allows all of us to reflect on where our interests lead us and how we want to be involved. Lead or serve on a subcommittee, help to prepare a forum or brown-bag event, write a letter to the editor or to your representative, draft a statement to a government committee, review a League position, study how to evaluate our DEI efforts, staff the LWVDC table at a food pantry or civic event, make connections with another community organization that shares our values—even a small gift of time and energy can have unforeseeable long-term results.

¹ This reaffirmation is a regular part of setting Program priorities for the future. National, state, and LWV Dane County positions are posted on our website, <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/our-positions>

What is “Making Democracy Work”?

Mary Anglim, program@lwvdanecounty.org

At its June, 2018 Convention, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) voted to continue *The Campaign for Making Democracy Work*® for the next two years. It’s a great slogan, but what exactly does it mean? Here are some notes drawn from the 2018 LWVUS Leaders’ Guide on Program Planning. Obviously, many of these examples apply in Dane County and in the State of Wisconsin.

- Voting Rights - Advocating for proactive reforms such as expanded early voting and online voter registration, ensuring existing pro-voter laws are being followed and challenging all efforts that limit the ability of voters to exercise this basic right. Actively opposing voter photo ID laws, advocating against barriers to the voter registration process, working to prevent last-minute Election Day obstacles and helping voters get the information and any required documentation they need to vote.
- Improving Elections – Modernizing our voting systems and making it easier for all eligible voters to become active participants in the electoral processes; establishing permanent and portable statewide voter registration, expanding early voting, improving polling place management, expanding online voter registration and implementing electronic streamlining. Ensuring compliance with laws like the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).
- Campaign Finance/Money in Politics – Supporting positive campaign finance reform proposals, such as small dollar fundraising, disclosure, defining coordination and overhauling the Federal Election Commission (FEC); fighting attempts to cut back on existing campaign finance laws
- Redistricting – In 2016 LWVUS adopted a new position on redistricting which enables state Leagues and the LWVUS to call for fair representation in the redistricting process. LWVUS and state Leagues are working in the courts to challenge state laws that enable partisan gerrymandering.

Read more at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/program-planning-2018-2020-leaders-guide>

Observer Corps Training

Marilyn Stephen, mstephen@prodigy.net

The next Observer Corps training will be held on April 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the LWVDC office. Please RSVP to mstephen@prodigy.net or office@lwvdanecounty.org.

Remembering Phyllis

Diane Adams

Phyllis Reisdorf was a true friend to the LWV, her American Baptist progressive church, the community, her poetry writing friends, and people living and working at Oakwood Village University Woods. When she died recently, family and friends gathered for a commemorative service, during which her daughter Lesa reminisced about Phyllis' sense of justice and desire for a peaceful world. And her stubborn streak! When Phyllis first moved to an independent living apartment at Oakwood (at about age 90), she told her daughter that it was OK, "but everyone there is so old!" We will miss the indomitable spirit of Phyllis Reisdorf.

Info-Social March Madness

Mary Ellen Schmit, membership@lwvdanecounty.org

Photos by Tim Schmit, Mary Ellen Schmit and Sue Ann Larson

Before April showers bring May flowers, we enjoyed our March Madness in the form of four Info-Socials, each with a slightly different flair and focus. Elected officials, library staff, League members and others gathered to discuss local issues and explain League positions and activities.

Starting off the month on a frigid Sunday evening before Fat Tuesday, we met at Liliana's where New Orleans is closer than you think. The Sun Prairie Library high tea was presided over by Kathy Krusiec, who literally wrote a book on high teas. Sue Ann Larson and Pat Kippert were guides to all LWV actions in Sun Prairie. Verona welcomed a more intimate group at the Sow's Ear, a knitting, coffee and yarn establishment with some Epic staff in attendance. The final "March Madness" Info-Social was held at the Hungry Badger on State Street – a great street, meeting over Nepalese comfort food.

Board members were present at each Info-Social. Discussion unit leaders also described their unique functions within the League. New and prospective members asked insightful questions. New program emphases were highlighted including the Book Club (1st meeting April 30, 7 p.m. at Espresso Royale, 224 State Street), Observer Corps Training (April 15), and centennial celebrations. Local issues permeated the discussions including voters' timely access to the ballot box and obtaining proper identification for registration and voting. The Sun Prairie Library event had an advantage of welcoming Info-Social goers who were able to vote on location at the library for the April 2 election.

March Madness is over until 2020; April will be filled with voter activity before and after the election. We will continue to welcome new members and attempt to integrate them into LWVDC. If you know of potential members, please contact one of our Membership Co-chairs: Mary Ellen Schmit 608-257-1280 and Sally Gleason 608-238-6876.



Valentine's Day Appeal

Christine Clements, fundraising@lwvdanecounty.org

Thanks to your generous contributions, the 99th birthday Valentine's Day appeal raised \$8,786 in member donations, a 222% increase over last year's appeal! Your gifts celebrate the fact that members of the League have so much to be proud of as they *Make Democracy Work*™, not the least of which is the 244 election-related events held throughout the community and the 288 volunteers who provided 2,600 hours of volunteer time. Your contributions helped to defray these accomplishments' monetary costs, including office expenses and the publication of outreach materials, including *Candidates' Answers*. We are very grateful for a large gift provided by an anonymous member as well as all of your gifts, whatever the amount.

This year's May Member Challenge will soon get underway, and Challenge donors have already put up \$3,500 in seed money to be donated if matched by other members by the end of May. These gifts put us on solid ground as we begin to develop the program and define new initiatives for our 100th anniversary year and long-term future of LWVDC. Thank you!

League Book Club

Kathy Krusiec, kkrusiec@hotmail.com, 608-381-4314

Jean Jacobson, jeanskobydoq@charter.net, 608-846-7266

Ready, Set, READ! The League of Women Voters of Dane County is kicking off our 2019 BOOK CLUB. Our spring selection is [*The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*](#) by Dan Egan.

So far, we have one discussion scheduled.

Host: Caitlin Schaer

Where: Espresso Royale Coffee, 224 State Street.

When: 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 30

Interested in hosting additional book club meetings for this season or future seasons? Contact our volunteer coordinator, Kathy Krusiec, at 608-381-4314, to discuss setting one up.

Our summer read will be [*The Warmth of Other Suns*](#) by Isabel Wilkerson. This book tends to have long wait times at libraries due to its popularity, so you may want to request your hold soon.



New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in February. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. If you have forgotten the password, there is a link to contact the webmaster for help.

Audrey Damon-Wynne
Charlotte Farin

Victoria Frank
Barbie Jackson

Dorothea Ledin
Jennifer (Jen) Neuls

Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these members (bold) and nonmember supporters who donated in February.

Valentines

Janet Anderson
Elisabeth Angelos
Susan Bohlman
John Boyer
Harriette Burkhalter
Carol Carstensen
Mike Casey
Christine Clements
W. Emy Gartzke
Sally Gleason
Erin Grunze
Reta Harring

Elizabeth Jensen
Nancy Jensen
Kathryn Johnson
Andrea Kaminski
Janet Kane
Patricia Kippert
Sue Larson
Joanne Lenburg
Helen LeRoy
Joan Lundin
Clare McArdle
Mary Clare Murphy

Aileen Nettleton
Margaret O'Donoghue
Karen Peterson
Edwin Reid
Louise Robbins
Joan Schuette
Nancy Schultz
Rose Sime
Suzanne Smith
Melissa Sosman
Edith Sullivan
Priscilla Thain

Candidates' Answers

Tracy Benton

Hildy Feen

Ryan Pewowaruk

General or Other Donations

JoAnn Boushon

Thank You to Volunteers

Thank you to the following members who volunteered in the office in February.

Judi Dilks

Margaret Fuguitt

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Unit Meetings Schedule

Diane Liebert, dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com, 608-698-4143

West / Middleton

Time: 6 p.m., 4/15 (third Mondays)

Location: LWVDC Office

4513 Vernon Boulevard, Ste 106

Leaders: [Priscilla Thain](#) (608-233-5578)
and [Merilyn Kupferberg](#) (608- 831-3267)

Oakwood West

Time: 12:45 p.m., 4/16 (third Tuesdays)

Location: 6205 Mineral Point Road

Parking on grounds. Enter through the unlocked doors in the Tower, located near the intersection of Mineral Point Road and Island Drive. Take the elevator to 2nd floor and turn right, following signs to the Garden Terrace Bistro.

Leader: [Kathy Johnson](#) (608-238-1785)

Northeast Side

Time: 3:30 p.m., 4/17 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Lakeview Public Library

Leaders: [Karen Gunderson](#) (608-729-4351)
and [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608-244-4711)

Downtown Dinner

Time: 5:15 p.m., 4/17 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Capitol Lakes Retirement Center private dining room

Leader: [Ingrid Rothe](#) (608-556-3174)

Southern Dane County

Time: 6 p.m., 4/18 (third Thursdays)

Location: Benvenuto's Italian Grill, Fitchburg

Leader: [Diane Liebert](#) (608-698-4143)

UW Campus

Time: 6:30 p.m., 4/28 *fourth Sunday
(regularly meets on third Sundays)

Location: Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St, Madison; check Today in the Union for room
Leader: [Laura Grueneberg](#) (502-235-0023)

Upcoming Events

Apr. 3	Issues Forum, 7 p.m.
Apr. 10	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
Apr. 15	Observer Corps Training, 10 a.m.
Apr. 30	Book Club, 7 p.m.
May 8	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
May 15	Annual Meeting, Social Hour 5:30 p.m., Program 6:30 p.m.
June 8	State Annual Meeting, 8:30 a.m.

2019 Elections

Apr. 2 Spring Election

