



# Bulletin

## League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

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### Executive Committee:

Aileen Nettleton, President  
Brook Soltvedt, Vice President  
Helen Horn, Assistant Treasurer  
Mary Anglim, Program Director

### Bulletin Editor

Maria Spinozzi, [bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org)

## Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Program – 7:00 p.m.

### Day Care in Wisconsin:

Parents can't afford to pay,  
Providers can't afford to stay

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](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org).

Forums are free and open to the public.

Planning Committee: Mary Anglim, Gail Shea, Ellen Hadidian

### Connect with us



## Member Meetings

*General Membership Meeting: 2019-20 Program Planning*

*Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m., Capitol Lakes*

Please join us for a general membership meeting. All members are invited to help set priorities for LWV Dane County's 2019-2020 Program, including activities, study topics, forums and policy issues. Coffee and snacks provided. Our goal is to prepare a proposal to present at the Annual Meeting in May. Watch for more information in our weekly email bulletins. Contact [program@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:program@lwvdanecounty.org) with questions.

*Save the Date: Member Info-Social, Sunday, March 3, 2019, 6 p.m. Liliانا's*

*Save the Date: Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 7 p.m. Capitol Lakes*

## President's Message

Aileen Nettleton, [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org), 608-238-6053

What's coming for 2019? Can you commit to observing a city, county or school committee to follow issues for the League? Are you interested in a book group related to current League issues? Can you assist the Program Committee and Board plan for our focus for the 2019-20 program year? Watch for notices in the LWVDC weekly email updates and attend those that interest you.

At the Board Planning Retreat in December, we developed several initiatives in which to engage members during the upcoming year. We will provide expanded opportunities and structures for members to observe local government bodies in action, specifically in the areas in which we currently have positions: <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/our-positions/>

- Government Responsibilities and Procedures
- Administration of Justice
- Social Policy
- Natural Resources
- Schools

Interested observers will choose one committee to attend, focus on process and issues, report important trends observed and alert the board when positions need to be addressed. Training for observers will be provided to help you choose a committee you are interested in and guide you in League positions and procedures for being an observer.

If you prefer to lead or participate in a book group to expand your understanding of current issues or positions of the League, we plan to set up book groups that address League issues through titles such as *Dark Money*, *One Person No Vote*, *Death of the Great Lakes*, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* or *The Warmth of Other Suns*.

You are also invited to attend a membership program planning meeting with the Program Committee to engage in planning Forum topics and other program initiatives for the 2019-20 program year.

Or if you would like to lead or plan for LWV Centennial Celebrations, please contact our office!

As we participate, we will ask you to incorporate the lenses of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our work.

How do we plan to accomplish these ambitious activities? We are very fortunate to have new member volunteers who are working with board members behind the scenes. Georgianna Hernandez was our skillful facilitator for the Board Planning Retreat and will assist Program Chair, Mary Anglim, facilitate the membership program planning meeting. Marilyn Stephen has stepped up to apply her background in government to train new observers. Jean Jacobson, Donna Van Bogaert and Kathy Krusiec are taking on roles of Volunteer Coordinators and teaming with the Membership Co-chairs to match members with interests. We appreciate their generosity in sharing their talents and time to assist the League in these endeavors. Together we can make a difference!

**Watch your email each Monday for a weekly update from LWV Dane County with a roundup of action alerts and upcoming events.**

## Dr. Sagashus T. Levingston

Maria Spinozzi, [bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org)

Listening to Dr. Sagashus T. Levingston, founder of Infamous Mothers, LLC, at our Lively Issues Luncheon on January 12 was both engaging and thought-provoking. She discussed her past and present experiences in civic engagement. One of her main points was that people and communities pay the cost of being uninformed citizens and the price is high when we are being governed by people who don't have our best interests in mind. She mentioned that she didn't remember anyone coming into her community of color to inform people of what was truly in their best interest.



Some of the questions she posed to us were:

- Who benefits when we are not informed?
- Who benefits when specific communities are not well informed on how to be a citizen?
- Who benefits when we vote for someone or something that is not actually in our best interest?

### Did you know?

You can watch the video of this event and past League events [online](#).

I think many of us were reminded during the talk that we are also not as informed as we'd like to believe. We are League members who believe in informed and active participation in government, but simply being a League members does not mean we are experts. We should keep this in mind when talking to others and make sure people know we aren't all experts and that they don't have to be an expert to join us. We are all life-long learners on how to be better citizens.

During the Q&A session there was much discussion of how to incorporate Dr. Levingston's idea of hosting salons, small informal groups to discuss issues, as a starting point to engage members of diverse communities. These small groups would help build individual connections, which would lead to a more organic growth and outreach effort.

We are honored that Dr. Sagashus T. Levingston is planning to join the League to help engage citizens, empower voters and defend democracy.

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## Voter Service Award – Beth Morgan

Kathleen Fullin, [kathyfullin@gmail.com](mailto:kathyfullin@gmail.com), (520) 398-5679

On January 12, the League of Women Voters of Dane County presented its annual Voter Service award to Beth Morgan. The award is presented annually to a non-member who has made significant contributions to voter outreach, registration and education during the previous year.



Beth has worked at Epic for nine years and currently works on the MyChart team doing Quality Assurance--making sure the software released is secure, functional and user friendly.

During 2018, Beth handled the logistical arrangements with Epic to send all Wisconsin-based Epic employees communications from the League explaining how to find their polling place, register to vote online, or register in person at on-site voter outreach events organized by League member Marian Matthews. She was the liaison between Epic and the League, arranging for the outreach tables at Epic and for campus guides (and free lunches!) for the League volunteers.



Beth's explanation of how she became interested in voter service will warm the hearts of all League members who are parents – she was inspired to become a special registration deputy (back when that was an option) by her mother, who became an SRD around 2012. In 2016, Beth assisted with the League registration efforts at Epic, and in 2018 took over lead responsibility as the liaison from Epic to the League.

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## Seeking League Leaders!

Kathleen Fullin, [kathyfullin@gmail.com](mailto:kathyfullin@gmail.com), (520) 398-5679

Have you been thinking you'd like to get more involved in the League? Do you know a member we should ask to serve on the Board?

The Nominating Committee needs to fill the following positions for the new League year, which begins on July 1:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Publicity Chair (includes print and social media)
- Voter Service Chair

We are also looking for members who would be willing to serve on *next year's* Nominating Committee, and our webmaster would appreciate help managing the website.

If you, or someone you know, would be a good fit for the Board or Nominating Committee, let us know! Contact any of the following Nominating Committee members:

Kathleen Fullin (Chair)	(520) 398-5679	<a href="mailto:kathyfullin@gmail.com">kathyfullin@gmail.com</a>
Ingrid Rothe	556-3174	<a href="mailto:irothe@ssc.wisc.edu">irothe@ssc.wisc.edu</a>
Andrea Kaminski	957-2865	<a href="mailto:akaminski842@gmail.com">akaminski842@gmail.com</a>
Brook Soltvedt	274-5184	<a href="mailto:soltvedtbrook@gmail.com">soltvedtbrook@gmail.com</a>
Mary Ellen Schmit	257-1280	<a href="mailto:maryellentim@gmail.com">maryellentim@gmail.com</a>

## Candidates' Answers

Brook Soltvedt, [soltvedtbrook@gmail.com](mailto:soltvedtbrook@gmail.com)

*Candidates' Answers* for the February 19 Primary Election will be published online on January 29. There are no statewide or countywide primary races in this election cycle. In Dane County, only voters in the City of Madison, the Madison Metropolitan School District, Fitchburg District 4 and the Village of Brooklyn will have primary elections. Note that *Candidates' Answers* does not cover municipal elections for villages, towns, or townships.

After the Spring Primary Election results are tallied, the Spring General Election edition of *Candidates' Answers* is planned to be available online by February 26.

The print edition of *Candidates' Answers* will be available in *Isthmus* the week of March 14. Thank you to Kathy Fullin for the time she volunteers towards *Candidates' Answers*.

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## Know Your Candidates

Louise Robbins, [louise.s.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:louise.s.robbins@gmail.com)

The League is pleased to work with Madison City Channel to produce *Know Your Candidates*, interviews with Madison candidates facing contests in the spring elections. All Madison mayoral, aldermanic, and school board candidates in the February 19 primary were invited for interviews. A second round of interviews will be conducted after the primary with the winners of the mayoral primary, and with all aldermanic candidates facing a contest in the April 2 election. The video recordings will be broadcast on cable television and will be available for on-demand streaming on the [Know Your Candidates channel of Madison City Channel's website](#). We will link each interview to the candidate's profile in our online *Candidates' Answers*.

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## Gail Bliss – League Member Extraordinaire

Karen Gunderson, [jokarjen@gmail.com](mailto:jokarjen@gmail.com)

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Gail Bliss, current LWVDC Secretary, to find out what she's been up to. She is one busy woman! Along with being secretary, answering voter registration questions at the Saturday Farmers' Market, helping people get the proper documents so they can register to vote and driving people to the polls on Election Day, she works part-time in the Activities Department at Capitol Lakes. She drives a 14-passenger bus part-time at Capitol Lakes, along with driving the same size bus for the Beacon (Dane County's homeless day shelter). She serves breakfast at the women's homeless shelter on Sunday mornings year-round. She sings in her church choir, she enjoys travel (Africa and Antarctica are two memorable trips), hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, camping and kayaking. And, I haven't even listed all the activities we talked about!

## Action Alerts

*Get on board the Madison Bus Rapid Transit*

- Learn more [on the website](#)
- Watch the [public kickoff meeting](#) (held December 12)
- Take [the survey](#)

*Support H.R. 5308 – Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act*

Legislation has been introduced that proposes a series of quarters featuring a 19th Amendment icon on one side and a noteworthy woman from each state and territory. The legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House by Rep. Barbara Lee. [A template is now available](#) on the League Management Site for those wishing to contact their Representative in support of this bill.



I asked how she got involved with the League and working with homeless people, two passions that she has combined. Gail retired in 2008, after 30 years of state service. That fall, she joined a PLATO class on International Affairs and learned about the LWVDC Great Decisions discussion group. The next year, she organized a Great Decisions group. In 2010, the LWVDC Nominating Committee asked her to run as Fundraising Chair. She agreed and served until 2012, when she became Voter Services Chair. She served in that position until 2018, when she moved to the Secretary position.



In the past, Gail cooked and served meals at the men's homeless shelter. She also chaperoned at The Road Home, where families stayed overnight in Sunday school rooms at local churches. She got more involved with the city's homeless population through her church during the Occupy movement in 2010 when the church opened its doors for three nights during the freezing weather to provide shelter to homeless people. Now, her church has 8 volunteers that help out at the women's homeless shelter. Gail serves Sunday breakfast there year-round. While the Madison Central Library was being rebuilt, and after legislation was passed requiring specific identification to vote, Gail volunteered at the day shelter, SHINE608, to help participants obtain the necessary documents so they could obtain a voter ID. She organized League members to drive participants to the DMV.

Some of Gail's stories of difficult situations she worked through to help people get their documentation led me to tell her she was tenacious. She agreed with my assessment.

Volunteering at the Beacon, she has driven participants to the DMV for photo IDs and to the polls on Election Day. While doing that, she discovered that people's registrations need to be verified ahead of time so they are not driven to the wrong polling place, because homeless and others who move frequently may not realize where the polling place for their current address is.

Gail attended the LWV state and national conferences this year, both for the first time. She enjoyed learning about what other leagues are doing. A presentation she found particularly interesting was the 'Voter Girl' project, where Leagues collaborate with their local Girl Scout councils, using the League members' knowledge of voting and advocacy to help scouts earn citizenship badges. Gail is interested in working on this type of project for our local League.

At the end of our discussion, I asked Gail if she had recommendations for League members, especially new members. Gail responded that she is very glad that she said 'yes' when the Nominating Committee asked her to serve on the board. She has found it a great way to find out more about the League. She also encourages members who are interested in specific areas to get involved in those areas. And, she said that we can use more volunteers for the Saturday markets, especially starting in August this year.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

## Testimony to Joint Finance Committee

*The following testimony, prepared by member Ingrid Rothe on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, was submitted to the Joint Finance Committee on Tuesday, December 3, 2018, regarding the December 2018 Extraordinary Session Bills.*

The League of Women Voters of Dane County believes that the legislature must be responsible to the citizens of Wisconsin, and that its leaders, committees, and members represent the state as a whole, as well as their own districts. We believe in the system of checks and balances that ensures no single branch of government becomes so powerful that it can act without regard for the well-being of all Wisconsin residents. We also believe in open, transparent government, so that residents can understand what the legislature proposes and are given opportunity for input; ultimately, we believe in the right of citizens to change the government leaders and legislators through fair and open access to the vote. We expect all parties to assist in the orderly transition of one government to the next.

We have just had an election in Wisconsin, in which the voters changed the leaders in the Executive Branch of the government. We should not be here, today, at a hastily called meeting of the Joint Committee of Finance, to discuss ways in which the legislature can usurp state powers that have largely been the prerogative of the Executive Branch. Nor should we be discussing complex bills that were drafted so hurriedly that the Legislative Reference Bureau did not have the time to provide thorough descriptions of the proposed bills. Bills drafted in secret and in haste are more likely to result in bad law.

But we are here discussing these bills, even though we all know they are likely to result in increased inefficiency, haphazard implementation and look very much like an effort to repudiate the will of the voters.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County opposes AB 1071 in its entirety, on the grounds that it will mostly increase confusion, reduce turnout and exceed the capacity of the election system to provide for secure, accessible elections.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County opposes AB 1070, 1072 and 1073 on the grounds that they disrupt the system of checks and balances on which we rely to ensure that no branch of the government becomes overweening. Among the most shocking provisions of AB 1070 is the creation of s. 13.124, which mandates full payment by tax-payers of costs of legal representation from sources beyond the Department of Justice, for any member of the Assembly or Senate, or any staff member thereof, who is sued for acts or allegations that are "arguably within the scope" of the individual's duties. In other words, no one can be held accountable for efforts to subvert representative government, no matter how reckless.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County has grave concerns about AB 1069, on the grounds that it may tend to undercut the principles of "complete streets," which provide for consideration of all forms and consumers of transportation, including cars, trucks, buses, intercity transit and pedestrians. If it is so important for the good of the state and its residents to pass these bills, the League of Women Voters of Dane County believes this body should take them up using standard procedures, and after the people's chosen leaders have taken office in January.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aileen Nettleton, President League of Women Voters of Dane County

## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us since November. 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.

**Doreen Adamany**  
**Aleasha Anderson**  
**Kelly Bryant**  
**Nancy Chybowski**  
**Patricia Heiser**

**Cornelia Hempe**  
**Gloria Fullerton**  
**Judith Landsman**  
**Donna Moreland**  
**Eileen Rabson**

**Henry Rattunde**  
**Pamela Tobey**  
**Carol Weiss**

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## Contributions

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

### General or Other Donations

**Janice M. Baldwin**  
**Carole Blemker**  
**Harriette Burkhalter**  
**Carol J. Carstensen**  
Johnston Connelly  
Christopher Dolan  
Susan Dotti  
Mary Frey  
**Judith Guyot**  
**Patricia Heiser**  
**Georgia J. Kaftan**  
Debora A. Kennedy

**Maureen E. Kind**  
**Merilyn Kupferberg**  
Allen R. Liegel  
**Susan S. Lloyd**  
**Kate M. Morand**  
**Helene Nelson**  
Barbara Olson  
**Ruth M. Saecker**  
Ava Schroedl  
**Joan L. Schuette**  
**Kathleen A. Shurts**  
**Rose C. Sime**

**Edith T. Sullivan**  
**Caryl E. Terrell**  
**Geraldine Torti**  
**Carol T. Toussaint**  
**Dorothy C. Wheeler**  
David Whitcomb  
Beth Whittemore  
Alliant Energy Employee Match  
Google Employee Match  
Let's Go Democracy Fundraiser  
Timothy R. Lopez  
Willy Street Co-op

### Candidates' Answers

Kerman Eckes

Mary Elizabeth Kunkel

Susan Hoffman

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## Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to the following members who volunteered in the office in November and December.

**Cara Lee Braithwait**  
**Judi Dilks**  
**Margaret Fuguitt**  
**Eileen Hanneman**

**Pam Hennessey**  
**Kate Lauth**  
**Joan Lundin**  
**Ann McHale**

**Ellen Rosborough**  
**Allison Trapp**



## Unit Meetings Schedule

Diane Liebert, [dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com](mailto:dwliebertlwvdc@gmail.com), 608-698-4143

Not all unit meetings are planned to be held in February. **Contact your coordinator to find out when your unit's next meeting will be held.**

### Southern Dane County

**Time:** 7 p.m., February 20

**Regular Time** TBD

**Location:** Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road

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

### West / Middleton

**Time:** 6 p.m., third Monday of the month

**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., third Tuesday of the month

**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., third Wednesday of the month

**Location:** Lakeview Public Library

**Leaders:** [Karen Gunderson](#) (608-729-4351)

and [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608-244-4711)

### Downtown Dinner

**Time:** 5:15 p.m., third Wednesday of the month

**Location:** Capitol Lakes Retirement Center private dining room

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

### UW Campus

**Time:** 6:30 p.m., third Sunday of the month

**Location:** Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St, Madison; check Today in the Union for room

**Leader:** [Laura Grueneberg](#) (502-235-0023)

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## Upcoming Events

Feb. 13	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
Feb. 23	General Membership Meeting, 10 a.m.
Mar. 3	Member Info-Social, 6 p.m.
Mar. 6	Issues Forum, 7 p.m.
Mar. 13	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
May 15	Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.

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## 2019 Elections

Feb. 19	Spring Primary
Apr. 2	Spring Election

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