



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

720 Hill Street, Ste 200, Madison, WI 53705 • (608) 232-9447

office@lwvdanecounty.org • www.lwvdanecounty.org

Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m. –1 p.m.

February 2020

The Promise of Ag Stewardship	1
Unlocking the Vote	1
Volunteer Request – Gala	2
President’s Message	2
Come One, Come All – Open House!	2
An Improvised Lively Issues Luncheon	3
The Apartment Project – Volunteers Needed	4
High School Voter Education Action Team	4
Day of Action – Make a Pledge	5
Winter Book Group Reminder	5
In Memoriam – Susan Byrns	6
An Update from UMRR ILO	6
LTE Regarding the Madison Fire Department	6
Girl Scout Day of Service	7
Committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	7
New Members	9
Contributions	9
Thank You to Volunteers	9
Unit Meetings – March	10
Upcoming Events	10

Executive Committee:

Aileen Nettleton, President
Brook Soltvedt, Vice President
Mary Anglim, Program Director
Christine Clements, Fundraising Director

Bulletin Editors

Maria Spinozzi, bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org
Lauren Surovi, Copy Editor

If you missed our Feb. 1
forum **Unlocking the Vote**, you
can [learn more on our website](#) and
watch a Facebook Live recording.

Sunday, February 16, 2020

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The Promise of Ag Stewardship

Climate Crisis Series

Ralph Petersen, Ph.D., UW-Madison Space Science
and Engineering Center and former NASA and NOAA
scientist

George Crave, Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese

Kristen Kordet, Blue Moon Community Farm

Richard L. Cates, Jr., co-owner of the Cates Family
Farm, LLC, member of the Iowa County Uplands
Farmer-Led Watershed Project and the Lowery Creek
Watershed Initiative.

A panel of local farmers will come together to
share their experiences of managing crops,
livestock and land while juggling government
policies, incentives and farmland development
pressures, amidst the ever-changing weather
conditions climate change precipitates.

E.D. Locke Public Library
5920 Milwaukee St.
McFarland, WI

**Forums are free and open to the
public.**

President's Message

Aileen Nettleton, president@lwvdanecounty.org

Centennial Celebration Coming!!

Register now for our gala Centennial Celebration on March 28!

You will soon receive your special invitation to celebrate 100 years of service and action by the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Members will receive an "early bird" invitation to get the first opportunity to make a reservation. Be sure to make your reservation by mail or online in advance of community partners, friends and the general public.

We are very pleased that Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins will be our keynote speaker. She was the first African-American president of the LWVUS, and is an advocate of voting rights and author of *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*. Our own former Madison poet laureate, Fabu, will present a poem commissioned by the League in honor of the occasion. And the evening will begin with live music by Brianna Ware and close with dancing to the spinning of tunes by DJ Clinton Scott. Celebrate with us!

One of our themes for our 2020 anniversary year is **LWVDC: Past, Present, Future**. Our history team has been uncovering fascinating facts and figures about our League's initiatives over our 100-year past. We have gained an immense appreciation of the impact our leaders and members have made on our local, county and state government and in the lives of our residents. Did you know that it took over 60 years of work for marital property laws to be enacted on behalf of women in Wisconsin? Or that our League was instrumental in the City of Madison establishing the Equal Opportunity Ordinance and fair housing in the 1960s?

If you've "been around a few years," as I have, there are many personal connections to be made, such as remembering participating in the Equal Rights Amendment March in Chicago in the 1970s. If you are younger, our League history will inspire you to take on the challenges we face today and join in future efforts to "Create a More Perfect Democracy" for everyone.

We hope to see you on March 28 as we celebrate our past and prepare for our next 100 years.

Come One, Come All – Open House!

Marilyn Stephen, mfs6100@gmail.com

We invite you to an **Open House** at the new office of the League of Women Voters Dane County. At this special event, you will be able to **make your Day of Action pledge** either online or on paper, participate in honoring the many volunteers in our organization, especially in voter services, and help commemorate the birthday of Susan B. Anthony. And yes, there will be cake! Please join us and bring a friend!

When: February 14, 2020, from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Where: 720 Hill Street Suite 200, Madison

Parking is available in the Whole Foods parking lot.

Volunteer Request – Gala

Kathy Krusiec, kkrusiec@hotmail.com

Are you interested in a unique volunteer opportunity? Here is your chance to share your time and talents to make our centennial gala a memorable event. We have several areas that could use your contributions including set-up, clean-up, greeters, book signing assistants, cake design and delivery, way finders and help making beautiful backdrops.

Please email [Kathy](#) and indicate your area of interest and your availability prior to and during the event.

An Improvised Lively Issues Luncheon

Karen Gunderson, jokarjen@gmail.com

Photos by Ingrid Rothe available on our online [gallery](#).

On January 18, right after a winter storm dumped nearly six inches of snow on Madison, over 60 LWVDC members and guests met at the new Madison College Goodman South Campus in Madison for our 2020 Lively Issues Luncheon. Students from the catering program prepared a delicious taco bar luncheon, with some excellent desserts to conclude the meal. After lunch and lively conversation, we settled in for the main event.

Because of questionable road conditions outside of Madison, our featured speaker, Dee (Denise) Sweet, a poet, environmental activist, and First Nations organizer, was not able to make it to Madison. On extremely short notice, members of our Program and Advocacy Committee came up with an alternative for the presentation. We first watched a video overview of the LWVDC voter service 2019 activities. It's incredible how much voter service volunteers accomplished in twelve short months! View the video on our website at <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/voter-service-overview>.

Next, we watched a video titled, ['Reclaiming Their Voice: The Native American Vote in New Mexico and Beyond.'](#) This film highlights some of the most shameful periods in the history of the mistreatment of Native Americans by Europeans.

It wasn't until 1924 that Native Americans were granted citizenship, and they were not allowed to vote in New Mexico until 1948. Gaining the right to vote, however, did not mean that Native Americans were easily able to exercise that right. The 2010 film by Dorothy Fadiman documents examples of voter suppression in the early 2000s in New Mexico. Native Americans organized and made a strong effort to register their people and encourage them to vote. It was inspiring to see the perseverance of the organizers.

Numerous barriers prevented Native Americans from being able to exercise their right to vote. Many voters who registered found they were not on the voter rolls on Election Day. And there were highly suspicious results attributed to alarming number of undervotes. It was disheartening to realize how many people worked to deny Native Americans the vote.

We all need to be aware of this history. Some of the same techniques of voter suppression are currently being used against other groups of voters. Notably, these struggles happened prior to 2013, when the US Supreme Court found that the Voting Rights Act, which had helped the Pueblo peoples win their case, was no longer needed. It is quite likely that the suppression continues today against Native Americans and others.

At the end of the video, several audience members shared experiences and thoughts on the issue of voter suppression, especially against Native Americans, and how the League might partner with Native American groups to ensure that they can exercise their right to vote.

Other recommendations by the Program Committee include "Ma'iingan: Brother Wolf," a Wisconsin Public Television documentary, and "The Story of Act 31," by J.P. Leary, about how Native American history and culture were added to the Wisconsin school curriculum. Search "Act 31 Wisconsin" for many more resources.

If you missed the Lively Issues Luncheon this year, plan to attend next year. The topic and conversation are always interesting and thought-provoking.

The Apartment Project – Volunteers Needed

JoAnn Boushon, aptproject@lwvdanecounty.org

Are you seeking a new and unique voter service opportunity in your neighborhood? Consider **The Apartment Project**. Volunteers will:

- inform apartment residents about voter registration and Voter ID requirements
- conduct voter registration events at apartment complexes
- facilitate the addition of addresses for new apartment buildings into MyVote.wi.gov

Volunteers are known as “Adopters.” They will identify and adopt apartment complexes and provide registration and Voter ID assistance to residents and building managers.

With help and training from the project’s volunteer coordinator, adopters will negotiate with site-managers and management companies to engage in activities that include:

- the manager emailing information about voter registration and ID to all residents
- the manager posting voter registration and ID information in shared spaces of apartment buildings
- the manager including voter registration and ID information in packets for new residents
- the adopter conducting a literature drop or sharing information directly with residents, door to door
- the adopter conducting voter registration events in the complex

Online tools are available to help volunteers to identify apartment complexes. Sign up to be an Adopter and report progress with voter outreach activities.

Contact the volunteer coordinator at aptproject@lwvdanecounty.org

High School Voter Education Action Team

Susan Fulks, Action Team Facilitator, <mailto:suefulks@lwvdanecounty.org>

The High School Voter Education Action Team began in January 2020 with a two-day registration event at Monona Grove Senior High School. We successfully assisted over thirty students as they registered online or via paper forms and answered many student questions about registering, voting and voter ID. Thanks to enthusiastic volunteers Pat Giesfeldt, Margaret Fuguitt, Judy Landsman, Marjorie Schuett, and Carol Weiss, and thanks to the staff of MGHS Student Services for their support.

The high school action team is presently scheduling winter voter registration events at the following high schools: DeForest, Deerfield, MMSD Memorial, MMSD West, Marshall, McFarland, Verona, and Waunakee. All Dane County high schools are eligible for our registration assistance. Interested teacher contacts should email Sue Fulks, High School Action Team Facilitator, at suefulks@lwvdanecounty.org.

Day of Action – Make a Pledge

Marilyn Stephen, mfs6100@gmail.com

Celebrate our history by pledging action in the future. On February 14, Valentine's Day, the League of Women Voters of Dane County, along with Leagues in more than 600 communities across America, will be participating in a *"Day of Action"* coordinated by the League of Women Voters United States. It will be a celebration of the League's 100th birthday with a theme of *"Women Power the Vote."*

The League was founded by suffrage leaders to educate, inform and encourage women to exercise their brand-new right to vote. We honor them by following in their footsteps. We are asking our members to *pledge their time* to encourage their families, friends and co-workers to be informed participants in democracy and, most importantly, to *VOTE*. We've set an ambitious goal of 75% participation by our membership!

Members can pledge to take any or all of the following actions to improve voter turnout and contribute to an informed electorate:

- ☐ Contact five friends to remind them to vote
- ☐ Take a friend to the polls or to vote early
- ☐ Encourage others to vote on social media accounts
- ☐ Work at the polls (training required)
- ☐ Wear LWV VOTE button
- ☐ Attend a "new" League event (Forum, Unit Meeting, DEI Café, Book group)
- ☐ Invite a friend to the next Forum or to join LWVDC
- ☐ Send Valentines to elected officials to thank them for their service
- ☐ Go to the Vote411 or MyVote websites

[A link to the pledge card](#) will be on the League of Women Voters of Dane County website by February 3. Paper pledge cards will be available at all League events during the month of February.

Our Day of Action is part of a grassroots event reaching across America!

Winter Book Group Reminder

Book: *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*

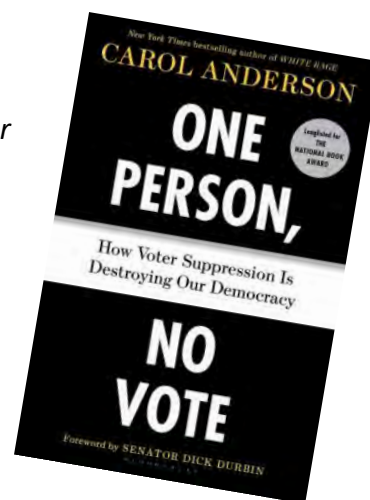
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

Host: Sally Gleason

RSVP: membership@lwvdanecounty.org



In Memoriam – Susan Byrns

Sue Fulks

Susan Byrns was an educator, a library media specialist in Oregon School District and a volunteer at the Wisconsin Historical Society cataloging old photos of Madison. She was an early, enthusiastic advocate for voter registration through LWVDC activities. Susan initiated lunchtime voter registration at West High School and was one of the founding members of the League's High School Voter Education Action Team. She combined her love of reading and libraries with voter registration events at Goodman Library and assisted voters in senior centers at election time. Her passion for students and support for voting rights for all will be missed.

An Update from UMRR ILO

Mary and Steve Ploeser

Happy 2020! The LWV UMRR (Upper Mississippi River Region) ILO has had an incredibly busy year. So far, we have held meetings in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and are hoping to meet in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, in April. As our bylaws state, we would like you to read about what we have done and offer any feedback that will help improve our organization. We welcome recommendations of relevant topics that you and your League members would find of interest. You are always welcome to attend any of our presentations. Check our website, www.lwvumrr.org, for our latest plans. Your input will help us plan for 2020 -2021 presentations and activities. Please get back to us with any recommendations by the end of February.

LTE Regarding the Madison Fire Department

This letter to the editor was sent by LWVDC to the Wisconsin State Journal to acknowledge the positive step the Madison Fire Department has taken by ending the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS compounds. Madison.com published the letter on January 13th, 2020.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County thanks the Madison Fire Department for ending the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS compounds.

We support efforts to protect the environmental quality of the county, including the quality of its drinking and recreational waters. It is the League's position that access to clean water that supports life and a healthy environment is a public trust, a fundamental human right, and is the shared responsibility of all who live or do business in Wisconsin.

We therefore commend the Fire Department for making the switch to a PFAS-free foam and for destroying the existing stock of foam containing PFAS. Further contamination of Dane County's waters from at least one source of PFAS will be ended by this decision. It will also be beneficial to our firefighters, who will no longer be exposed to those toxic chemicals.

Aileen Nettleton, Madison, president, League of Women Voters of Dane County

Girl Scout Day of Service

Gail Bliss, gail3511@gmail.com

On Saturday, December 7, Jan Anderson, Susan Sweet, Gail Bliss, Aileen Nettleton and her Girl Scout granddaughter staffed the LWV table at the Girl Scout Day of Service. The purpose of the day was to introduce girls and troops to service opportunities. Our primary message to the mostly grade-school-age girls was: talk to the adults in your life about the importance of voting. We provided bookmarks and other handouts for each girl to take home. They also made buttons or sashes, while we talked about the 100th anniversary of winning women's right to vote.



Susan Sweet, Girl Scout Volunteer, and Aileen Nettleton

A couple of leaders asked about the possibility of the girls handing out bookmarks or other literature during the cookie sale season (February 15 to March 22). There was some interest in the Voter Girl program, but mostly for the younger girls (Daisy, Brownie and Junior). Anybody interested in working with the Girl Scouts over the next few months, please contact [Gail Bliss](mailto:gail3511@gmail.com).



Girl Scouts making sashes.

Committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Maria Spinozzi, bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org

LWVDC is committed to applying a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion to all of our work. As part of this effort, we hope to encourage our members to seek out a variety of sources of news, information and ideas. Maybe there's a community paper you haven't had the opportunity to read yet, a new type of media, a topic or issue that doesn't directly affect you, a perspective or experience that differs from your own or an author that is dissimilar to most of those whose work you've read in the past.

Read

[Mayor Calls for Action after Survey Results on City Work Culture](#) – City of Madison

One out of four survey respondents (25 percent of 913 respondents) said they had experienced workplace harassment, bullying or discrimination in the past year on the job.

[The Big Business of Unconscious Bias](#) – NYTimes

[Her father was called 'the most dangerous racist in America.' She wants a different legacy for her sons](#) – CNN

[‘Turn Off the Sunshine’: Why Shade Is a Mark of Privilege in Los Angeles](#) – NYTimes

The lack of trees in some poorer communities is also connected to a history of abusive policing. For years, the city kept tree growth to a minimum in some neighborhoods because police officers were worried that trees could be places to stash drugs and guns.

Attend

Feb. 1, 9 a.m. [Cultural Significance of Nature and Gardening to Indigenous Tribal Peoples](#), \$15

Jan. 12 – Feb. 2 [Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees](#)

Jan. 10 – Mar. 12 [Creative Life on the Spectrum](#)

Feb. 24 – May 4 Witnessing Whiteness Course at Sennett Middle School on Monday evenings. Requires a commitment to attend 10 sessions. Contact orrc@beloit.edu by Feb. 14 to inquire.

Mar. 4 – May 15 Witnessing Whiteness Course on Wednesday evenings at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. Requires a commitment to attend 10 sessions. Contact nichole.fromm@gmail.com by Feb. 14 to inquire.

Listen & Watch

[Why Cities Are Still So Segregated](#) (7 minutes) – NPR

Video by NPR on the history and persistence of redlining, voiced by Gene Demby of Code Switch.

[There Goes the Neighborhood: Miami Series](#) (each episode lasts ~20 minutes) – The Stakes

The sea level is rising – and so is the rent. A three-part series on “climate gentrification.”

[Native Mascots: Really, Still?](#) (1 hour, 13 minutes) – All My Relations

There are still over 2000 schools and professional sports teams with Native mascots, despite decades of activism and academic research demonstrating the harms of these images.

[The Non-United States of Asian America](#) (40 minutes) – Self Evident

Self Evident tells Asian American stories — but that term itself, “Asian American,” can mean many different things to different people. In this episode we present three stories from our listener community to explore the ways “Asian American” reflects both representation and exclusion, empowerment and stereotyping, under the diverse umbrella of Asian American identity.

New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in December. 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.

Lauren Biro
Karl Broman
Aimee Broman
Jane Collins
Johnston Connelly
Dain Frisby-Dart
Rosa Garner

Karen Holden
Becky Kaiser
Jonathon Kaiser
Debora Kennedy
Serena Larkin
Meghan Mackey
Barbara Malone

James Murphy
Ellie Nelson
Carol Ottenstein
Rebecca Romine
Eliza Siebers
William Taylor

Contributions

Financial contributions beyond membership dues support our work. Thank you to these members (in bold) and nonmember supporters who donated in December.

General or Other Donations

Tina Abert
Karl Broman
Johnston Connelly
Claire Dick
Susan Dottl
Emy Gartzke
Susan Hoffman

Michael Kane
Debora Kennedy
Maureen Kind
Alice Kissling
Mary Kunkel
Merilyn Kupferberg
Madelyn Leopold

Judith Lyons
Robert Persons
Rose Sime
Ruth Sybers
Estate of Barbara Voltz

Thank You to Volunteers

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

Joy Cardin
Judi Dilks

Kathy Dutilly
Margaret Fuguitt

Jan Van Vleck

Thanks to High School registration volunteers Pat Giesfeldt, Margaret Fuguitt, Judy Landsman, and Marjorie Schuett.

Thanks to all 150 volunteers signed up to assist with “Bus Pass Registration Drive” at the UW Student Activity Center and Union South.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Unit Meetings – March

Pat Kippert, Unit Coordinator, pkippert@yahoo.com

*** Units will meet again in March. ***

UW Campus

Time: 6:30 p.m., March 15 (third Sundays)

Location: Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.,
check Today in the Union for room

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

Prairie Ridge

Time: 3:30 p.m., March 16 (third Mondays)

Location: Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood
Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Drive,
Madison

Leaders: [Waltraud Brinkmann](#) (608-216-4201)
and [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608-630-5163)

West / Middleton

Time: 6 p.m., March 16 (third Mondays)

Location: Lussier Community Center
55 S. Gammon Rd., Madison

Leaders: [Merilyn Kupferberg](#) (608-831-3267)
and [Gloria Meyer](#) (608-288-8160)

Oakwood West

Time: 12:45 p.m., March 18 (third
Wednesdays)

Location: 6205 Mineral Point Rd., Madison
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 the 2nd floor to the
Oak Leaf Room.

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

Northeast Side

Time: 3:30 p.m., March 18 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Lakeview Public Library

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

Downtown Dinner

Time: 5:15 p.m., March 18 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
private dining room

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

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Feb. 10 | Winter Book Group, 1:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 12 | Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 14 | Open House - LWVUS 100 th Birthday |
| Feb. 16 | Issues Forum in McFarland, 1 p.m. |
| Mar. 11 | Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 28 | Centennial Gala at Park Hotel, 5:30 p.m. |
| Jun. 12-13 | LVWWI Annual Meeting in Appleton, WI |
| Jun. 25-28 | LWVUS 2020 Convention in Washington, D.C. |

2020 Elections

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 18 | Spring Primary |
| Apr. 7 | Spring Election and
Presidential Preference
Primary |
| Aug. 11 | Partisan Primary |
| Nov. 3 | General Election |