



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

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March Forum - Child Care in Wisconsin

Parents can't afford to pay,
Providers can't afford to stay.
What if we fixed it?

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Program – 7:00 p.m.

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

Why is child care so hard to find and so hard to afford? What barriers do providers and families face? What else in Wisconsin would work better if every child had the quality of care they need to grow and succeed? How can we get there?

Demand is high and the need is greater than the supply. Yet we are losing, not gaining, providers, especially in infant care.

Peggy Haack, Outreach Coordinator at the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, will look at the problem from the perspective of a longtime child care provider in Madison, discuss the evolution of childcare in Wisconsin since the late '90s and the impact of government support and regulatory structures. **Jen Bailey**, Executive Director of Reach Dane, will look at the problem from the perspective of families in Dane County. Together they will focus on what is currently being done and how others in the community are coming together to help find solutions.

We all have a stake in high quality, affordable childcare that helps parents work and helps children develop in safe and stimulating environments. Our speakers will identify some organizations, projects and legislative initiatives that you may want to support.

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

Forums are free and open to the public



President's Message

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

Spring Elections Are Coming! Think Local and Vote!

Wisconsin voters will elect a new Supreme Court Justice on April 2. Local races for mayor, alder and school board are also on the ballot. This is an important election that will affect the future of Wisconsin and your community. Check www.myvote.wi.org to see what will be on your ballot and be sure you vote absentee, vote early absentee in person, or vote at the polls on election day. "Your vote is your voice" is the motto on the LWVWI website. Be sure YOU VOTE!

What can you do ensure that more Dane County citizens exercise their right to vote?

- Send your family, friends, neighbors and members of your organizations our LWVDC *Candidates' Answers* link, www.lwvdanecounty.org, or give them the *Isthmus* copy and encourage them to vote. Contact the League office to help distribute copies in the community.
- Do you know someone who has moved and needs to register to vote with their new address? Help them register online or take the appropriate documentation to register at the polls on election day. The deadline for online registration is March 13.
Madison residents: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/elections-voting/voter-registration>
Wisconsin residents: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/RegisterToVote>
- Can you be a poll worker on April 2 in your community? Contact your city clerk right away and sign up for training and to become a poll worker. You'll be assisting people vote and find it an educational and rewarding experience.
- Check for opportunities with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition to assist voters obtain appropriate Wisconsin ID in order to vote: <http://www.voteridwisconsin.org/> The League is an important part of the Coalition.
- Sign up for LWV Dane County voter registration and voter education outreach at the St. Vincent Food Pantry, senior centers or libraries. Go to the blue box at end of your weekly LWVDC email and UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INTERESTS. Or go to the Voter Services link for the outreach calendar: <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/voter-service>. The site also gives links for training.

Thank you !

Info-Socials in March

Mary Ellen Schmit,
membership@lwvदानecounty.org

Come to one, or come to all
Bring your ideas, bring a friend

Winter Warmth
Liliana's Restaurant
2951 Triverton Pike Dr., Fitchburg
Sunday, March 3
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



It's been a long cold snowy winter, and New Orleans is closer than you think. LWV Dane County is hosting an Info-Social at Liliana's Restaurant with New Orleans cuisine appetizers and cash bar. Meet new and experienced members. Learn about what we are doing. Join in the Mardi Gras carnival spirit.

High Tea
Sun Prairie Library
1350 Linnerud Dr., Sun Prairie
Friday, March 15
2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Arrive for an afternoon tea open house Info-Social in the beautiful Sun Prairie Library Community Room. Partake in sweet and savory treats including scones, while conversing with new and old LWV Dane County neighbors. Learn about what the League is doing in Sun Prairie and throughout Dane County.

March Monday
The Sow's Ear Yarn Store and Coffee Shop
125 S. Main St., Verona
Monday, March 18
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Spring is coming. In fact the University of Wisconsin-Madison is on Spring Break, but the LWVDC is in full planning mode. We will be convening our Info-Social meeting among skeins of yarn at The Sow's Ear and possibly needling on some persistent concerns, while grabbing a bite to eat.

TGIF
The Hungry Badger Cafe
540 State Street Upstairs
(call 608-232-9447 if accessibility is an issue)
Friday, March 29
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thank God It's Friday on March 29. It is springtime in Wisconsin and UW-Madison Students are back from Spring Break. The Hungry Badger Cafe is our happy place on Friday March 29. Start the weekend with us, talking about how the League is working with young people. Comfort food specialties of the Hungry Badger include momos, veggie fritters and more.



We hope to see you in March!

Gloria Meyer – Forum Moderator Coordinator

Meg Gordon, mbgordon721@gmail.com

Gloria Meyer has a background that can only be described as eclectic. She is also a woman who knows what she likes—constant learning, preferably hands on. After a long career developing and applying communications skills for physicians, lawyers, engineers, business people, educators and even a funeral director, Meyer is now donating her time to the LWVDC as candidate forum moderator coordinator.

“This is a service the League can do,” explains Meyer. The League is non-partisan so the only caveats are that all candidates must be invited and “We can’t moderate an event where candidates are being endorsed,” she explains.

To enlist help, an organization simply calls the League office and Meyer will walk them through the process and provide advice and a volunteer moderator.

The moderator is the MC of the forum—conducting the sessions as someone impartial. Typically they will work with the group prior to the event to determine how the forum will be organized and how questions will be handled (on cards, predetermined or directly from the audience). The moderator introduces each candidate and ensures each candidate has a turn with equal time to speak. If needed, the moderator can interrupt those who speak out of turn or over their allotted time. The moderator also wraps up the event and thanks everybody.

LWVDC is well equipped with experienced moderators, but Meyer is also cultivating those who would like to learn. She believes the best training for novices is to shadow an experienced volunteer.

Meyer gravitated naturally to communications. “It was sort of accidental, but it goes along with my personality and interest,” she says. “I was in debate in high school and am fine with public speaking.”

Meyer grew up in Northwestern Illinois in the town of Sterling that sits along the Rock River. She graduated from the University of Denver with a bachelors in English Literature, earned a masters from the University of Illinois and was ABD at Northwestern.

Meyer has found herself calling many places home over the years. These include Galesburg, Wheaton and Chicago in Illinois; Wausau, Middleton and Madison in Wisconsin; and for a year and a half, a kibbutz in Israel with her then husband and young children. She has experienced a full family life, divorce, single parenthood, layoffs, commute fatigue and the fickle nature of the job world.

That said, this mother of four, grandmother to nine and great grandmother to four, is passionate about applying her skills where needed. In addition to the LWVDC, Meyer is very active within the Teresa Terrace Neighborhood Center and is actively helping neighborhood residents find grant funding for their community projects.



Gloria with her grandson, Camden.

"Communications is a very flexible thing," says Meyer. "You have a set of skills but the subject matter changes, so you learn a lot, which keeps it interesting. The content is external—you just bring your set of skills and apply them anywhere."

Observer Corps Orientation

Ruth Brown

On Saturday, March 23, 2019, LWVDC will hold its first Observer Corps Orientation and Training workshop. While observing government in action has been a part of LWV since its inception, the Observer Corps is a fairly recent development. The name refers to a more formalized approach to observing and reporting on government meetings. The goal remains the same—to promote fair and transparent governance.

Observer Corps Orientation

LWVDC Office

March 23, 2019

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

RSVP to Coordinator, Marilyn
Stephen, mstephen@prodigy.net
or office@lwvdanecounty.org

According to LWVDC President Aileen Nettleton, the local League has been fortunate to have a few individuals with expertise, who regularly follow a committee or a topic. The increase in membership this past year presents an opportunity for the League to expand its presence in local government. In December, the Board decided to build a local Observer Corps program to engage more members as "eyes and ears."

Coordinating the effort will be Marilyn Stephen. Stephen is new to LWVDC, but describes her membership as a "homecoming." It was through volunteer work for the LWV in Michigan in the 1970's that Stephen discovered her passion for understanding the workings of local government and for problem solving. That experience and the connections she made motivated her to pursue a degree in law, followed by a 24-year career in county and state government. Stephen will be responsible for training, orientation, coordinating volunteers' efforts in the field and reporting findings to the Board.

At the upcoming workshop, participants will be introduced to the duties, benefits and the process of the Observer Corps from LVWUS and regional literature and examples. Volunteers will choose topics to observe that match their interests and fall within the five areas in which LWVDC holds a formal position (Social Policy, Natural Resources, Government Responsibilities and Procedures, Administration of Justice and Schools). They will gain guidance in how and where to best spend their time.

Save the date, March 23, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the LWVDC Office, for this productive and empowering morning!

Imagine Our Next Steps

Mary Anglim, program@lwvdanecounty.org

"I love the League!" We often hear people say that, and with good reason. The League is widely identified with civic good deeds like voter registration and poll work, and sometimes with taking a public stand on a government issue or filing a lawsuit on voting rights. Our reputation for non-partisanship is attractive. We are generally polite, as well as persistent. Yet most of our work is done by volunteer individuals and ad hoc groups, often low-key and behind the scenes. Even long-time League members might have a hard time answering questions we are hearing more frequently these days: "What is the League working on? How can I get involved?"

It's not always easy to find one's place in an organization as active, complex and historic as the League. Preparing for 2019-2020, the Dane County League and its Program Committee hope to make the critical work of the League more immediate, accessible and engaging to its members by reinventing an old practice: explicitly selecting our Program, the issues and activities we choose to emphasize in the coming year.

The League has a large collection of "positions." Our positions are our public policy recommendations on a wide variety of subjects, arrived at after study and consensus by the local, state and/or national LWV. We cannot take action on any issue on which we have no position but we can rely on the state and national positions in addition to our local ones. See [Our Positions](#).



Mary Anglim, Program Director

These positions are reaffirmed or, potentially, amended or withdrawn every year or two at the national convention or state or local annual meetings. At the same meeting, each level of the League should choose its Program, a few positions on which to take action, or issues to study in depth, over the coming year(s). *These choices should reflect member input and consideration.*¹

"Program" includes much more than a series of forums, though our forums should be relevant to our high-priority subjects and goals. "Program" could include other study and action formats that support our positions and the Programs adopted at the state and national conventions—book groups, films, partnering with other organizations on lectures and community outreach, enabling voter rights, monitoring government, and celebrations such as the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters. A person who looks at our "Program" will be able to see what the LWVDC is doing, and where she or he can plug in.

Our planned General Membership Meeting to develop Program proposals and gather volunteers, scheduled for February 23, was cancelled due to weather. Thanks to those who emailed their suggestions. Because we need to have a proposal ready for the Board meeting on March 13, the Program Committee is going to solicit member input with an online or paper survey instead. Please watch your email for your survey or contact the office for a paper copy. Surveys will also be available at the March 6 forum on Child Care in Wisconsin.

A meeting will be scheduled for March 9 to review member responses and draft the Program proposal for the Board. If you would like to help, please contact Mary at program@lwvdanecounty.org. The calendar dictates some of our decisions—along with the centennial, the 2020 primaries are sure to absorb a lot of energy in Voter Services. But this is a member-driven process and it's up to the members to reach consensus on where LWVDC will put its efforts.

A report on our progress will appear in the April Bulletin. The Board-approved proposal will be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting in May and will be subject to amendment. The Program Committee hopes that this process will inspire you to volunteer for a piece of the work, however small. We will need many hands for the Program Committee, for planning and executing the forums and other study or social events, for Voter Services, and for every other project we choose to pursue in the coming year.

Thank you for helping!

¹ More information about Program is contained in [League Basics](#), a guide to League policy and organization.

Statement to Sun Prairie City Council

LWVWI, through their election observer program, has been a partner with the Wisconsin Elections Commission in a pilot of the use of electronic poll books. Sun Prairie has been a pilot participant. The Sun Prairie Clerk's office used data from LWVWI election observers at the November election as part of her proposal to the City Council requesting additional funding to double the number of polling sites in Sun Prairie. LWVDC member Sue Larson, a Sun Prairie resident, spoke in support of the proposal, reading the statement below, which was approved by the Executive Committee. The unanimous vote of the Sun Prairie Council's Committee of the Whole was to direct staff to draft a resolution to amend the budget to fund the proposed expansion.

If you would like to watch Clerk Hilby's presentation you can find the video [here](#) or go to the [Sun Prairie Media Center](#) and click on Playlists > City Meetings > Committee of the Whole 02-05-19. Hilby's presentation begins at 46:25. Sue Larson's presentation begins just after her introduction at 1:13:15.

February 5, 2019

Statement to Sun Prairie City Council in support of Election Improvement Plan.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County urges the City of Sun Prairie to approve the budget amendment to fully fund the very reasonable Election Improvement Plan proposed by Clerk Elena Hilby to address long waits experienced by citizens wishing to vote. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration recommends voters wait no longer than 30 minutes to cast a ballot. The number of registered voters at Sun Prairie polling sites is nearly double the number recommended by MIT elections experts to ensure that voters will not wait longer than 30 minutes to cast their ballot. Doubling the number of polling places in Sun Prairie to eight would bring the city into compliance with recommended practice and address the concerns identified by League of Women Voters election observers at the November 2018 election. Hilby's request to increase the rate of pay for election officials is a key part of the proposal that we also support. Polling places must have competent, well-trained election officials to accurately and efficiently serve voters. A higher rate of pay could encourage a larger pool of applicants to manage the public-facing, complex, detail-oriented work and long hours required.

The costs associated with this expansion are significant, but the alternative—denying the citizens of Sun Prairie the opportunity to vote without significant hardship in terms of wait time—is not acceptable. Those most affected by long wait times include parents with young children, people with disabilities, people with inflexible work schedules, and the elderly. The League of Women Voters is confident that the City of Sun Prairie wants to ensure that all its citizens have an equal opportunity to vote, regardless of age, disability status, work commitments, or family situation.

In volunteering to pilot electronic pollbooks, Sun Prairie has demonstrated its commitment to efficiently serving voters. Clerk Hilby's proposal, employing more electronic pollbooks, will allow Sun Prairie to achieve the goal of meeting election administration standards, in a cost-effective way.

The citizens of Sun Prairie deserve no less.

50 Year Member Nominees Sought

Sally Gleason, membership@lwvdanecounty.org

At our annual meeting in May, we honor anyone who has been a member of the League for 50 years. If you joined the League in 1969 or before and have not been recognized as a life member, please call the office (608-232-9447) or email office@lwvdanecounty.org by March 15. All members are encouraged to contact the office if they know someone in our League who reaches their 50-year anniversary this year.

New Members

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

Myra Enlo

Judith Guyot

Stacey Oliker

Contributions

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

General or Other Donations

Christopher Alfeld
Lori Cayton

Myra Enloe
Glenn Reinl

Nancy Tubesing
Google Employee Match

Thank You to Volunteers

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

Jan Anderson
Christine Einerson

Margaret Fuguitt
Elisa Graffy

Merilyn Kupferberg
Susan Sweet

Thank you to **Joy Cardin, Bonnie Chang, Margaret Fuguitt, Joan Martin, Vicki Tobias** and **Leah Ujda** for their time and energy volunteering for the **Wisconsin High School Civics Games**.

Thank you to the 57 volunteers from Dane County who assisted the Wisconsin LWV as **Election Observers** in the November election! Many of these are members of the Dane County LWV. We appreciate your contributions to the work of the League to strengthen our election process. You can find the full report at <https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin>.

Unit Meetings Schedule

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

Southern Dane County

Time: Regular Time TBD

Location: Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road

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

UW Campus

Time: 6:30 p.m., 3/17 (third Sundays)

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

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

West / Middleton

Time: 6 p.m., 3/18 (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., 3/19 (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., 3/20 (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., 3/20 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
private dining room

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

Upcoming Events

Mar. 3	Info-Social at Liliana's, 6 p.m.
Mar. 6	Issues Forum, 7 p.m.
Mar. 13	Board Meeting, 2 p.m.
Mar. 15	Info-Social at Sun Prairie Library, 2:30 p.m.
Mar. 18	Info-Social at Sow's Ear, 6 p.m.
Mar. 23	Observer Corps Orientation, 10 a.m.
Mar. 29	Info-Social at Hungry Badger, 5:30 p.m.
Apr. 3	Issues Forum, 7 p.m.
May 15	Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.

2019 Elections

Apr. 2 Spring Election

