



# Bulletin

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

4513 Vernon Boulevard, Ste 106, Madison, WI 53705 • (608) 232-9447

office@lwvdanecounty.org • www.lwvdanecounty.org

Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

## October 2019

Save the Dates from State	1
You're Invited: Centennial Gala, March 28, 2020!	2
An Observer at Work	2
UW Bus Pass Distribution Fall 2019	3
UMMR Update	4
Census 2020	4
Climate Change is a Public Health Emergency	5
Facing Our Unconscious Bias	7
Committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	8
New Members	9
Contributions	9
Thank You to Volunteers	9
Unit Meetings Schedule	10
Upcoming Events	10

### Executive Committee:

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

### Bulletin Editor

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

## Save the Dates from State

**Issues Briefing: October 19, 2019**  
Madison, WI

**Annual Meeting: June 12-13, 2020**  
Appleton, WI

**LWVUS 2020 Convention: June 25-28, 2020**  
Washington, DC

## Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019

Social Hour with Light Refreshments 6:00 p.m.  
Public Issues Forum 7:00 p.m.

## Census 2020

**Margo Anderson**, Historian and Professor  
Emerita, UW–Milwaukee

**Ben Zellers**, City of Madison Planning  
Department, Complete Census Count project

**Abha Thakkar**, Executive Director, Northside  
Planning Council

A complete count of all residents in the 2020 Census is an essential prerequisite to fair maps by which to allocate equitable distribution of political power and public resources. Join us for the first public issues forum in our Making Democracy Work series! Our speakers will explore how the census has evolved over time, and how we plan to succeed in the coming year.

### Central Library, Room 301, 201 W. Mifflin St., Madison

Parking in the Overture Parking Garage at 318 West Mifflin Street, or the State Street Capitol Garage at 214 North Carroll Street. The Central Library is served by almost all Madison Metro bus routes.

Click here for [study materials](#) or a [flyer to share](#). Or find them on our website [www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org).

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

# You're Invited: Centennial Gala, March 28, 2020!

*President's Letter, Aileen Nettleton, [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)*

## Save the Date!

**What?** LWV Dane County Centennial Gala Celebration

**When?** 5:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28

**Where?** Park Hotel on the Square

The LWVDC Board and Centennial Planning Committee invite all members to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of both the LWV Dane County and LWV US at our Centennial Gala on March 28, 2020.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins will be our keynote speaker for the evening of celebration. Dr. Jenkins served as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of the League of Women Voters of the United States from 1994-2002. In addition to advocacy for campaign finance reform and election reform, she led the League's strategic plan, "The Future Plan," which emphasized keeping the League relevant through diversity, equity and inclusion. Her most recent book, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, will be published in January 2020.



Plan now to join us for the evening of celebration of past accomplishments and reflections for the future through music, food, poetry, speeches and social time with members and friends. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail in early 2020!

If you wish to volunteer to assist with the event, please contact our Office Administrator, Cindy Lindquist, [office@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:office@lwvdanecounty.org). Chair for the Planning Committee is Earnestine Moss.

---

## An Observer at Work

*Marilyn Stephen, [mfs6100@gmail.com](mailto:mfs6100@gmail.com)*

Being an observer at government meetings is a good fit for LWVDC member Waltraud (Wally) Brinkmann. She likes to listen and mull over what she's heard. She likes to approach the members and staff of the committees she observes with a helpful and supportive attitude.

Wally joined the league about a year ago. She is a Professor Emerita from UW–Madison with expertise in the environment and climate change. Since joining the Observer Corps, she has been observing the Dane County Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, which is obviously a perfect fit! While Wally hadn't ever attended government meetings, she quickly learned the process for citizens to present their views to the committee.

When the committee was considering the purchase of land adjacent to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy that is within the Yahara River watershed, Wally saw an opportunity for the league to get involved. She reviewed the LWVDC Natural Resources position as well as the LWVWI's position on the environment and

drafted a letter of support for the proposed purchase. With the approval of the LWVDC Executive Board and the signature of President Aileen Nettleton, the letter was sent to the committee.

This is what being an observer is all about. Wally was the eyes and ears of the league in the room. She understood the processes of the committee and the league's positions on the environment. In this case, the league was supportive of the committee's recommendation, but sometimes it is important to call the committee's attention to a concern. The Observer Corps is one way that the League of Women Voters promotes good government.

---

## UW Bus Pass Distribution Fall 2019

Marian Matthews, [mmatthews4306@gmail.com](mailto:mmatthews4306@gmail.com)

The Voter Service team, working with the UW Associated Students of Madison (ASM), recently completed its voter registration drive at the UW bus pass distribution which occurs at the beginning of each semester. The drive ran from August 26 – September 13. This is a very popular activity with our volunteers, who enjoy lively engagement with students and the opportunity to register large numbers of young voters.

This fall we added a second location. In addition to working at the Student Activity Center, located on East Campus Mall, we had a table at Union South. The UW staff, from building services to program managers, were supportive of our work and helped to make our registration drive a success.

Each year we have a small number of student volunteers who work alongside our community volunteers. We hope to increase the involvement of student volunteers in the future with the help of our soon-to-be-hired UW voting intern, funded through a donation by an LWVDC member.

The results of this fall's bus pass registration drive were impressive:

**2389 registrations**

**113 volunteers who filled 465 shifts**

The ASM Student Council of UW–Madison recognized the hard work by LWVDC's bus pass volunteers with a commendation on 9/18/19.

Read the [full text of the commendation](#).

Planning and executing this three-week event is a demanding task, yet in the end a rewarding one for the Voter Service leadership team, whose goal is to enhance the experience of our volunteers and most importantly, increase the participation of young voters in “making democracy work.”



## UMMR Update

Mary Ploeser, [mploeser@gmail.com](mailto:mploeser@gmail.com)

Steve and Mary Ploeser, both members of LWVDC, accepted the positions of co-chairs of the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization ([LWVUMRRILO](http://www.lwvumrrilo.org)) in June 2019 at the UMRR annual meeting. We planned a board meeting and presentation in Middleton, WI, in August and have recruited one of our Dane County members, Laura Grueneberg, to act as the alternate Wisconsin representative to the UMRR board. Our organization is a group of LWV members from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa (states bordering the upper Mississippi River). We want to protect the Mississippi waters and keep them clean and flowing. For more information, see our website at [www.lwvumrrilo.org](http://www.lwvumrrilo.org).

---

## Census 2020

Mary Anglim, [program@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:program@lwvdanecounty.org)

Join us for our forum on October 2 at 7:00 pm. The October forum will be presented at the **Madison Central Library, Room 301, 210 West Mifflin Street, Madison.**

This year the LWVDC is offering **two** Public Issues Forum Series, one on the Climate Crisis, the other on Making Democracy Work. In October we'll focus on the upcoming U.S. Census—do we still want to count all U.S. residents? Why? Isn't it just too political these days? Don't we have enough information already? Won't it cost a lot? What do we get out of it? Who are the winners and losers?

Our speakers include **Margo Anderson**, Professor Emerita, UW-Milwaukee, a nationally-recognized expert on the history of the US Census; **Ben Zellers**, City of Madison Planning Department, who oversees Madison's Complete Count Project; and **Abha Thakkar**, Executive Director of the Northside Planning Council, a leader in neighborhood outreach. Don't miss this exciting introduction to another dimension of an issue-filled year.

Before the Program, our Campus Discussion Unit will host a social hour to introduce our Discussion Units. Join us from 6:00-6:45 p.m. to meet members you don't know yet.



# Climate Change Is a Public Health Emergency

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

Our September forum, 'Why Climate Change is a Public Health Emergency', held at the American Family Insurance DreamBank, was well-attended and an excellent start to our four-part series on the Climate Crisis. It was informative and thought-provoking. The slides from our presenters, the study materials and a link to a video of the complete forum are on our website at [www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org). If you were unable to attend the forum, I encourage you to look at these.

For me, the most important take-away is that we may have a mere twelve years from October 2018 to make significant changes in our behaviors or we risk a climate catastrophe. I left the forum with a sense of urgency and a glimmer of hope.

Our three presenters provided insight into the climate crisis, why it is a public health emergency, some steps that LWVDC is taking to address this crisis and steps that we as individuals can take.

Ralph Peterson, Ph.D., UW-Madison Space Science and Engineering Center and former NASA and NOAA scientist, provided us with an introduction to the climate crisis – what it is, how we know about it and what is happening because of it.

Most of us are aware that global temperatures have been on the rise for decades, and that the rate of this increase has itself been increasing. To prevent our earth from heating up, our atmosphere needs to be in balance between the heat we receive from the sun and the release of that heat during the hours of darkness. Increases in CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere have been documented since 1958. That increase in CO<sub>2</sub>, along with an increase in other gases, prevents heat from escaping our atmosphere. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, which prevents even more of the heat from escaping, and also contributes to the major rain events we have become familiar with.

One of the facts presented by Dr. Peterson that surprised me was that the average low temperature has been increasing at a faster rate than the average high temperature. That means that the earth is not cooling off as much at night as it did in the past.

Andrea Kaminski, former Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and our current lobbyist at the state level, brought us up-to-date on the league's efforts to address climate change.

For those who are new to the League, or who might not know how the league decides which issues to address, Ms. Kaminski explained how the league develops positions on various issues. These positions are developed at the local level and discussed and voted on at the state and then the national level.

The league has been focused on climate change since 2006. The league positions can be found on our website, the state league website, and the national league website. In our study materials, there is a very good summary of the history of the league positions and actions on climate change. Ms. Kaminski keeps abreast of state legislation that relates to any positions that the league has, including climate change. She lobbies on behalf of the LWVWI to encourage legislation that addresses climate change and against legislation that would likely increase climate change.

Dr. Claire Gervais, M.D., Family Practice Physician and Clinical Associate Director of Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action, addressed why climate change should be considered a national health emergency. Her points were compelling.

We are already seeing major weather disasters caused or exacerbated by global warming. In 2016, we experienced 15 incidents (droughts, floods, hailstorms, tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes) that individually caused at least a BILLION dollars in damages.

It is not difficult to connect health issues to these weather events – injuries, drownings, deaths, respiratory problems, mental health stress, food and water-borne illnesses, etc. As our planet continues to warm, we see other health effects. Asthma has doubled since 1980. Allergy seasons are lengthening and expanding geographically. Certain populations are especially at risk: children, the elderly, urban poor, people with no access to air conditioning, coastal and rural populations, subsistence farmers and outdoor workers.

Policies at the federal level are contributing to climate change and global warming. Examples include withdrawing from the Paris Climate agreement and rolling back environmental regulations.

The Affordable Clean Energy Rule, enacted in June of this year, is estimated to increase carbon dioxide emissions twelve times today's levels by 2028. That excess carbon dioxide in our atmosphere will result in many more health related problems.

Many individuals and groups have been working to address global warming. Dr. Gervais was able to point to several positive actions taking place. Germany has increased renewable energy from 6.3% in 2000 to 25% in 2012 and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% in 2018 (2 years earlier than they planned). Their new goal is to reduce emissions by 55-65% by 2030.

In Wisconsin, solar energy is predicted to increase from 100 MW to 5000 MW in 5 years and 2000 MW of new solar has been proposed. Madison, Middleton, Monona, Eau Claire and La Crosse have set 100% clean energy goals. Individual businesses, including American Family, are working to make all their energy renewable. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a Climate and Health Program to help the state study and prepare for climate effects.

The Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action organization has a very aggressive agenda. Dr. Gervais' slides include ten priority actions they are focusing on. Dr. Gervais suggested several things we can do as individuals to address climate change. For example, we can contact our legislators and encourage them to introduce and support legislation that addresses global warming, [write letters to the editors of local newspapers](#), use alternative transportation (mass transit, walk, bike), reduce our meat and dairy consumption, educate ourselves on this issue and educate and engage others in the discussion.

Our study materials also include steps that we can all take to help contain global warming. If each of us commits to one action that helps to decrease our carbon footprint, and then encourage another person to do that, we can make a difference.

Most of the audience questions were directed to Dr. Gervais. The questions indicated that our attendees were engaged in the topic and concerned about the impact of climate change on health issues. The forum gave us all a great deal to think about.

# Facing Our Unconscious Bias

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

I'm a pattern person. My proclivity to sort and categorize has served me very well in science, editing, and doing puzzles. It doesn't work so well when applied to people. Unconscious bias is a stealthy beast. I share this experience in hopes that it may help you avoid a similar blunder.

The setting: UW-Madison campus, Student Activity Center, voter registration at bus pass distribution one week before classes started in January, 2018. Many of the students coming to pick up their bus passes were international students who had arrived early to complete the SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration) program that local students usually complete during an earlier campus visit. After inviting dozens of students to register with the standard, "Are you registered to vote at your current address?" and receiving many confused and anxious responses, I worried that I was causing anguish to these somewhat overwhelmed newcomers. So, I started asking first, "Are you a citizen?" "No? OK, then. Have a great day!" Seemed practical.

Of course, there was the one blond, blue-eyed guy in a long, red coat who I took all the way through the registration form to the question about citizenship, and then he announced that he was from Germany. Whoops! I hadn't asked *him* if he was a citizen first.

But I still didn't catch on. A group of friends who worked in another part of the building arrived, wearing their employee ID cards on lanyards around their necks. I invited them to register to vote. But I asked one, a native-born Wisconsin resident of Korean descent, if she was a citizen first. The next day the league received a letter from her in which she expressed her appreciation for what we were doing, but also shared the pain my microaggression caused her. The only reason I could have had for singling her out to ask about citizenship first was that she looked different. *This is part and parcel of implicit bias*. She had experienced such treatment her whole life because she doesn't fit the pattern many of us see as what a Wisconsinite looks like.

I was mortified and ashamed. Mortified that I had hurt her. Ashamed that I had been so oblivious to what my "practical" pattern recognition had led to. I was president of our league at the time and I was also deeply concerned that I had damaged the reputation of the organization. I apologized to the student in writing, thanked her for taking the time to educate me, and tried to make this part of our voter service training.

Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl advises voter outreach volunteers to beware of microaggressions. The links she provides in this excerpt from her newsletter are extremely helpful.

At times, efforts to make small talk can do more harm than good. Even if a comment is intended to be a compliment, its impact could be a microaggression. Merriam-Webster defines microaggression as a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group (such as a racial minority). Telling someone, "You speak English really well" or asking, "What kind of a name is that?" would be examples of microaggressions. They send the message, "You do not belong." This isn't a matter of being a good or bad person. As Maya Angelou said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." The challenge before us is to listen, learn, and adjust.

# Committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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

## Read

[You Don't Just "Move On" From Systemic Racism-](#)  
Madison365

[The 1619 Project](#) – New York Times

[When The University Of Wisconsin Persecuted Gay Students-](#) WisCONTEXT

[County Board Members Propose Renaming Squaw Bay on Lake Monona](#) – Madison365

[For Trans Women, Silicone 'Pumping' Can Be A Blessing And A Curse](#) – NPR CodeSwitch

[Should Your Avatar's Skin Match Yours?](#) – NPR CodeSwitch

[American Players artists discuss how to make theater that 'represents the evolving America'](#) – The Cap Times

## Attend

**Sep. 25 – Oct. 30 Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

Racial Justice Documentaries & Dialogue Series presented by Madison Christian Community at 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison

**Oct. 5** [UW Asian American Dept. Film Screenings](#)

**Oct. 8** [Littlefield Leadership Lecture: Health Equity Among Native Americans within a Colonization Context](#)

**Oct. 15-16** [YWCA Racial Justice Summit](#) (fee applies)

**Nov. 7** [Madison College Talks: Yusef Salaam](#)

## Listen

Rough Translation

[Brazil in Black and White](#) (33 minutes)

What happened when Brazil, a country that's always prided itself on its multiple shades of brown, implemented an affirmative action policy based on phenotype: If you look black, you can qualify for special quotas in universities and federal jobs.

This meant creating special panels that would look at prospective job or university candidates and decide whether they were "black enough" to qualify.

The Nod

[Back to School](#) (39 minutes)

Two years ago, Eric had to make a big decision: whether to send his daughter, Eve, to Afrocentric school. It seemed like it should've been a cut and dry choice. Eric hosts a podcast about Black culture. He went to a historically black college. But when it came to choosing a school for his daughter, he wasn't sure if Afrocentric school was the right choice. So he decided to go on a journey to learn more about Afrocentric education. Find out what happened, and stay tuned for an update on how Eve is doing now.

99% Invisible

[Peace Lines](#) (41 minutes)

In 1998, political leaders in Northern Ireland signed a peace agreement. They hoped it would end the sectarian violence between Catholics and Protestants who'd been fighting each other for decades. At the root of the conflict was the question of whether Northern Ireland should reunite with the rest of Ireland — or whether it should remain part of the United Kingdom.

The Stakes

[White Like Me](#) (41 minutes)

Whiteness, as an idea and as an identity, is not as fixed as many people believe. Over the centuries, Western societies have defined and redefined it. But always, it has served to delineate who gets access to rights and privileges and who doesn't. In this episode, we meet an Italian American family as they reflect on a time when they weren't yet white in America and consider how that changed. And we explore the role white identity politics have always played in American elections.



## New Members

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

Connie Bakker  
Nina Bode  
Nancy Dean  
Zach Dorman-Jones  
Sharon Hamilton

Lily Houtman  
Barbara Hundt  
Dana Johnson  
Angela Maloney  
JoAnn Prange

Yvonne Sadler  
Rebecca Tradewell  
Christine Tsubokura  
Hannah Vanderscheuren

---

## Contributions

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

### General or Other Donations

Mary Anglim  
Sybil Better  
Debra Cronmiller  
Jean Espenshade  
Wendy Hathaway  
Barbara Hundt  
Nancy Jensen  
Michael Kane  
Alice Kissling

Judie Kleinmaier  
Joanne Lenburg  
Caroline Liedtke  
Bonnie Magnuson  
Gloria Meyer  
Betty Moore  
Kate Morand  
Mary Clare Murphy  
Lyn Mussallem

Ann Niedermeier  
Peg O'Donoghue  
Bonnie Orvick  
Victoria Robertson  
Ellen Rosborough  
Michael Rosenberg  
Brook Soltvedt  
Caryl Terrell

### Arlene Rotter Memorial

Lisa Rotter

---

## Thank You to Volunteers

Thank you to the many Voter Service volunteers who registered so many UW students at the UW Bus Pass Distribution event this fall. We appreciate your work on this important project to enable more people to vote.

Thank you to the members of the Program Committee, Climate Change Subcommittee and Making Democracy Work Subcommittee for organizing the first two excellent public issues forums for the 2019-2020 year.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

# Unit Meetings Schedule

Pat Kippert, Unit Coordinator, [pkippert@yahoo.com](mailto:pkippert@yahoo.com)

## Oakwood West

**Time:** 12:45 p.m., 10/16 (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 and turn right, following signs to the Garden Terrace Bistro.

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

## Northeast Side

**Time:** 3:30 p.m., 10/16 (third Wednesdays)

**Location:** Lakeview Public Library

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

## Downtown Dinner

**Time:** 5:15 p.m., 10/16 (third Wednesdays)

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

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

## Southern Dane County

This unit is postponed until further notice.

## UW Campus

**Time:** 6:30 p.m., 10/20 (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., 10/21 (third Mondays)

**Location:** Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr., Madison

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

## West / Middleton

**Time:** 6 p.m., 10/21 (third Mondays)

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

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

---

## Upcoming Events

Oct. 2	Public Issues Forum and Social Hour at Madison Central Library, 6 p.m.
Oct. 9	Board Meeting at League Office, 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	LWVWI Issues Briefing at Radisson Hotel
Oct. 26	Info-Social at Northside Goodwill, 10 a.m.
Nov. 4	Info-Social at Fitchburg Library, 6 p.m.
Nov. 6	Board Meeting at League Office, 1:30 p.m.
Dec. 11	Board Meeting at League Office, 1:30 p.m.
Mar. 28	Centennial Gala at Park Hotel, 5:30 p.m.
Jun. 12-13	Annual Meeting for LWVWI in Appleton
Jun. 25-28	LWVUS 2020 Convention in Washington, DC

