



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

September 2019

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Executive Committee:

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

Bulletin Editor

Maria Spinozzi, 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, Sept. 4, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Why Climate Change Is a Public Health Emergency

Mark your calendars now and don't miss the launch of a new LWVDC Public Issues Forum Series focused on climate change.

Ralph Petersen, Ph.D., UW-Madison Space, Science and Engineering Center
Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI Board Member and previous LWVWI Executive Director
Claire Gervais, M.D., UW Health Clinics

New Location

American Family Insurance
DreamBank

821 E. Washington Ave., Madison

Convenient parking in the South Livingston Ramp, 111 South Livingston St.
Doors open at 6:00 pm.
Program starts at 6:30 sharp
Light refreshments served

Study materials are available at
www.lwvdanecounty.org.

Public Issues Forums are free and open to the public.

President's Message

Aileen Nettleton, president@lwvdanecounty.org

The LWVDC Board of Directors is pleased to announce several initiatives to increase student access to participate in voting and become members of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. The league is co-sponsoring a "Voting Intern" with the Wisconsin Union Social Justice Hub at UW-Madison. The intern will publicize student voting on campus and coordinate with the league in supporting voter registration drives, early, in-person voting on campus, and student voting on Election Day. The league views student engagement in voting as a way to involve students now and as future voters and leaders in society. If you know of a UW–Madison student who might be interested, the [Voting Intern application is available on the Social Justice Hub](#) website now. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled (mid-September).

Students at all colleges and high schools in the area will be granted a free, 1-year "Centennial Student Membership" in the LWVDC. This initiative is in honor of the past and future hundred years of the LWV. We recognize that the future of the LWV and its mission is contingent on embracing younger members of society in our work and dedicate this special year to expanding the membership of younger people. Students who have already joined for 2019-2020 will be reimbursed. Please spread the word!

The Membership Committee will be on hand to promote these initiatives with students at both the UW Public Service Fair and Madison College's Volunteer Fair. And, as in the past, the LWVDC already has a strong presence at the UW with our three-week "bus pass" voter registration drive at the Student Activity Center and (this year) at Union South. Many of you are volunteering at this important registration drive.

These initiatives address the league's commitment to inclusion, in this case, of younger members of our community, as part of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy. The Voting Intern and the free Centennial Student Memberships are possible due to the generosity of several donors to the LWVDC. We thank you for your gifts and commitment to young citizens and the future of the LWV and its mission.

Voter Service Volunteers at Sun Prairie Backpack Distribution

Sue Larson

LWVDC voter service volunteers were happy to provide voter registration during Sun Prairie's backpack distribution. The event, hosted at a Sun Prairie middle school, is open to all children eligible for free or reduced lunches. Children get to choose a backpack, which is filled with school supplies for the year. After getting the backpacks, parents are invited to stop to register their children for the meals program, and then register to vote if they can and have not already done so.



It was a lively event — a volunteer photographer from the Sunshine Place took pictures of the kids with their new backpacks. Prior to the event, Sunshine Place hosted a two-day event for the community to contribute backpacks and supplies. This year 1,400 backpacks were filled.

We are happy that the Sun Prairie School District is welcoming to our voter registration efforts. We registered more people at the event this year than any of the prior three years. We enjoyed talking with and helping so many people there. It also was encouraging to see how many people are already registered to vote!

What Is Lobbying?

Marilyn Stephen, mfs6100@gmail.com

AM I LOBBYING WHEN I CALL MY ELECTED OFFICIAL?

The League of Women Voters takes positions on key public policy issues after study, debate and consensus by our membership. Based on these positions, LWV analyzes and takes action on current bills in the state legislature. The action taken includes lobbying for specific outcomes in the legislative process. This article addresses the specifics of lobbying in the context of Wisconsin government and the differences between lobbying and volunteers contacting elected officials.

The [Wisconsin Ethics Commission](#) administers lobbying disclosure laws and is the source of much of the information in this article.

WHAT IS LOBBYING?

“Lobbying” means the practice of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by oral or written communication with any elected state official, state agency official or legislative employee. A “principal” is an individual who employs a lobbyist and a “lobbyist” is a person who is employed by a principal to lobby on their behalf. A person who contacts state officials either for themselves or on behalf of an organization, but is not paid other than reimbursement of actual expenses, is a volunteer and not a lobbyist.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF LOBBYISTS AND PRINCIPALS?

Lobbyists and principals are required by Wisconsin law to register, file reports and comply with restrictions on their actions. As early as 1957, lobbyists in Wisconsin were not permitted to entertain state officials. They cannot provide meals, drinks, lodging, transportation or other favors or services.

Wisconsin requires more disclosure about lobbying activities than most other states. Lobbying principals are required to report about matters on which they are lobbying. The information is searchable by the public by issue, bill, lobbying principal, keyword and legislative session. [This site displays every principal lobbying on a bill or legislative proposal](#), as well as how much time and money each principal put into their lobbying effort every six months. Lobbyists may lobby about pending bills, pending administrative rules and topics of interest if submitted by lobbying principals.

VOLUNTEERING TO CONTACT STATE OFFICIALS

Anyone can contact any state elected officials about pending legislation or topics of interest. The [Wisconsin Legislative System Notification Service](#) provides the ability to search for specific bills by number or key word. Nightly updates of activity are also available as well for those who wish to immerse themselves in the legislative branch of state government.

[Wisconsin Eye](#) is a non-profit organization that covers current state government actions and activities. You can sign up for various communications and updates.

For details about meetings, calendars and events, [The Wheeler Report](#) covers the Wisconsin legislature, budget process, governor, court actions, state agencies and more.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Bonnie Magnuson—League Member for 50 Years

Meg Gordon, mbgordon721@gmail.com

Anyone who actively volunteers their time to an organization for over 50 years is either extremely dull or profoundly interesting, and Bonnie Magnuson is definitely not dull.

Magnuson has been widowed, survived breast cancer, been illegally escorted off public park grounds by a New Jersey police officer with her young children in tow while collecting signatures, served as a civil patrol/witness to racial unrest in Minneapolis, heard Joan Baez sing in a coffeehouse in Cambridge, Massachusetts, brushed off the unwelcome physical advances—a hand that kept creeping up her knee—of a blind man she was voluntarily reading to weekly, rode a train on her own from Michigan to Massachusetts to attend a private girls' boarding school—sight unseen—as a pre-teen, adopted by a loving family along with her brother as an infant in Michigan.



“I am a very organized person and sometimes I think about what it would have been like if I had not been adopted by my parents and instead brought into a home with an amoral or illegal family ethic—I would have been very good at (crime),” says Magnuson with a laugh. “I have been very fortunate in that I have never done anything for money I wouldn’t have done for free—I have had a lot of fun in my life.”

Born in Michigan outside Detroit, Magnuson and her brother were adopted by older parents who had lost two biological children due to genetic complications. Her father retired when Magnuson entered middle school and the family moved to Michigan’s Grand Traverse Bay area. Unsure of the schools there, Magnuson’s parents sent her, on the recommendation of an aunt, to Northfield, an all-girls boarding school (now coed Northfield Mount Herman) in northwestern Massachusetts.

As anyone who has attended an all-girls academic institution knows, “our language was worse than on a naval ship,” says Magnuson, “and we had a lot of fun.” It was the kind of school where she was allowed to take a medical-quality microscope home to “look at swamp water on weekends,” says Magnuson. Students also had ‘domestic duty’ every day, to maintain the residence halls and classrooms.

“Our housemother was one of those ‘white glove’ people,” says Magnuson, who once found a bat in a bucket while cleaning the chapel and delighted at the thought—just for effect—of showing it to the housemother. Her classmates at Northfield were diverse—a lot of missionary kids, she says. Magnuson remembers the joy of being woken up to a recording of one of her Native American classmates’ father’s chants.

Magnuson attended Pembroke College (the women’s college within Brown University), majoring in art education. While there, she fell in love with and eventually married Paul Magnuson, then a student and young ROTC Naval recruit at Brown.

The couple lived in Minnesota while Paul completed his Ph.D. and then moved to Philadelphia for his first teaching position at the University of Pennsylvania in 1969, and Bonnie joined the League.

In 1975, Paul joined the faculty at New York University, eventually becoming a distinguished scholar of English Romantic Literature, and the family moved to Maplewood, New Jersey, where they raised their two daughters.

Over her years with the league, Magnuson has performed a lot of grunt work and held many leadership positions. She remains very active in church-sponsored efforts to help the disadvantaged. "Life basically is a crap shoot. A loving god cannot pick one person or group over any other, so, if you got the lucky draw, you are responsible for helping those around you. And if I'm not willing to do anything about it, I can't expect anyone else to," she says.

Magnuson moved to Madison ten years ago after her husband passed away and her younger daughter, Katherine, needed help with her two young children.

Like their mother, both daughters are committed to challenging disciplines helping the disadvantaged for peace and justice. Katherine, recently widowed, is a professor at UW-Madison and the next Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty, the only federally funded poverty center in the United States. Magnuson's eldest daughter, Elise, is a forensic psychologist in Portland, Maine.

When it comes to the LWVDC, Magnuson is a bit critical. "You get a lot of opportunities in the league you don't get anywhere else," Magnuson says, but someone has to facilitate the connections. "My experience here these past 10 years with the league in Madison? Not much," she says. "The organization relies entirely on volunteerism and needs to get to know members and where they fit in so you can offer them the job they can't resist." Additionally, having a bit of fun with all the serious work is essential in

Magnuson's opinion. In New Jersey, awards for league members had some flair—Peek Freans Award (for someone who is a very serious cookie), The Folding Chair Award (for someone who is a hard-ass). Benign-sounding names, hard-won awards.

Upcoming Book Groups

Join us as at one of our September meetings as we discuss [The Warmth of Other Suns](#) by Isabel Wilkerson.

September 23, 7 p.m.

Encore Room - Capitol Lakes

Host: Caitlin Schaer

September 26, 9:30 a.m.

Alicia Ashman Library

Host: Betty Cohen

RSVPs to Jean Jacobson at

jeanskobydog@charter.net

or 608-846-7266

appreciated but not required.

"Where in the World" Are Our Voter Service Volunteers?

In the past month, Voter Service volunteers have been out in the community to engage people in registering to vote and informing the community about upcoming elections!

- 100 Black Men Backpack Event
- Sun Prairie Backpack Event
- Catholic Multicultural Center Back-to-School Event
- Disability Pride at Tenney Park
- OutReach Magic Pride Festival at Warner Park

Summer may be vacation time, but Voter Service volunteers continue to pop up wherever they can connect with potential voters! Thank you, voter registration and education volunteers.

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 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

[Sí Se Puede 2019: Wisconsin's 34 Most Powerful Latinos, Part 1](#) - Madison365

[Madison's TeKema Balentine Wins Miss Black USA](#)
- Madison365

['Rarely Represented' in Law Field; Diversity Clerkship Program](#) - Capital City Hues

[The Fight to Redefine Racism](#) - The New Yorker

[Access matters: How rethinking low-cost memberships promoted inclusion and boosted visits at the Madison Children's Museum](#) - The Cap Times

[Better Schools Won't Fix America](#) - The Atlantic

[Don't Get It 'Twis'-ted: Sign Language Interpreter Steals the Show at a Twista Concert and Shows Importance of Access for Deaf People](#) - The Root

Attend

Aug 19 – Sept 8 [Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border | Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!](#) Sun Prairie Historical Museum

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

Listen

Tone Madison

[Bail and the bigger picture in Dane County](#) (62 minutes)

The fight against mass incarceration is a fight to fundamentally challenge the assumptions that drive our systems of policing, jails, and prisons in America. It's also a fight against the practice of cash bail. There are several groups in Madison who have banded together to take that on.

The Nod

[You Don't Make Free People](#) (55 minutes)

Writer Casey Gerald reflects on what we lose when we buy into the promise of the American dream. We first talked to Casey about his book "There Will Be No Miracles Here," back in November of 2018.

Code Switch

[Dora's Lasting Magic](#) (39 minutes)

Nickelodeon's Dora The Explorer helped usher in a wave of multicultural children's programming in the U.S. Our friends at Latino USA tell the story of how the show pushed back against anti-immigrant rhetoric — and why Dora's character still matters.

99% Invisible

[Curb Cuts](#) (48 minutes)

If you live in an American city and you don't personally use a wheelchair, it's easy to overlook the small ramp at most intersections, between the sidewalk and the street. Today, these curb cuts are everywhere, but fifty years ago — when an activist named Ed Roberts was young — most urban corners featured a sharp drop-off, making it difficult for him and other wheelchair users to get between blocks without assistance.

Act

[21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge](#)
- DebbyIrving.com

Seek out a local minority-owned business
[Latino Chamber of Commerce of Dane County](#)
[Madison Black Chamber of Commerce](#)

Letter in Support of Pheasant Branch Conservancy Land Purchase

This letter was sent to the Dane County Board of Supervisors on May 28, 2019, in support of the purchase of land adjacent to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The County Board passed the measure on June 6, and the County Executive signed it on June 11, 2019.

Dear Dane County Supervisors,

The League of Women Voters supports efforts to maintain the environmental quality of both urban and rural parts of the county through actions such as acquiring and preserving wetlands and adjacent uplands. Proper management of water involves not only management of the water itself but also management of the land and watersheds which drain into water bodies such as streams or lakes.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County therefore supports the purchase of approximately 160 acres from Acker Middleton Farms, Inc. This property is adjacent to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and is located within the Yahara River Watershed. Restoration of this property to natural prairie will improve infiltration and reduce sediment and phosphorus runoff. This will have a positive impact not only on nearby Lake Mendota but also on the other downstream lakes (Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa).

The League of Women Voters of Dane County strongly supports a positive vote on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Aileen Nettleton, President

Membership Renewals

Sally Gleason and Mary Ellen Schmit, membership@lwvdanecounty.org

Time is running out, and we hate to see a membership in the league lapse! Since members often overlook their renewal notices, we will call everyone who has failed to pay their dues for 2019-2020. Please save us hours of phone work by paying your dues NOW! The easiest way to renew is with a credit card at www.lwvdanecounty.org/join-renew. While on our Join/Renew page, we hope you will complete the Membership Survey. If you prefer to mail your dues and survey, call the office (608-232-9447) and request that a new set of forms be mailed to you.

If you hesitate to renew because you are not sure the league is right for you, we'd love to hear more. Please email or call Sally (608)238-6876 or Mary Ellen (608)257-1280.

New Members

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

Judith Cardin
Susan Dietzel
Linda Eisele
Julie Fagan
Heidie Feldmann

Eve Galanter
Patricia Giesfeldt
Peter Gottlieb
Barbara Henke
Patricia Hernandez

Kevin Lyles
Elaine Rattunde
Tim Schmit
Annita Wozniak

Contributions

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

General or Other

Aleasha Anderson
Catherine Briggs
Waltraud Brinkmann
Susan Bruckman
Carol Carstensen
Christine Clements
Roger Diggle
Irene Durbak
Christine Einerson
Jean Espenshade
Kathy Fullin
Sue Fulks
Sue Goldwomon
Marcia Griskavich
Erin Grunze
Karen Gunderson
Georgiana Hernandez
Jean Jacobson
Margaret Jacoby

Betsy Jensen
Charlotte Jerney
Kathy Johnson
Janet Kane
Michael Kane
Jesse Kehres
William Kelly
Pat Kippert
Joyce Knutson
Florence Lederman
Pat Levin
Kevin Lyles
Sara Markham
Christine Milligan-Ciha
Aileen Nettleton
Joan Niebauer
Eileen Rabson
Louise Robbins
Sue Salter

Lois Sater
Nancy Schultz
Deborah Sellers
Rose Sime
Marilyn Stephen
Margaret Stine
Edith Sullivan
Lauren Surovi
Robert Terrell
Erica Throneburg
Sandi Vandervest
Tom Vandervest
Janet Van Vleck
Theresa Walske
Julia Weiser
Dorothy Wheeler
Phyllis Young

50 Year in Lieu of Dues

Mary Bean
Harriette Burkhalter
Joann Elder

Shirley Inhorn
Clare McArdle
Claire Rider

Joan Schuette
Carol Toussaint
Amy Gartzke

Marie McCabe Memorial

Hatheway Hasler
Kathy Miner
Ann Ostrom
Ellen Stautz
Linda Zeininger

Arlene Rotter Memorial

Sue Meinholz
Gerilyn West

Jack Mortensen Memorial

Priscilla Thain

Thank you to Sarah Gavac and Paul Malischke for volunteering their time and effort to establish the UW student intern program!

Unit Meetings Schedule

Pat Kippert, Unit Coordinator, pkippert@yahoo.com

UW Campus

Time: 6:30 p.m., 9/15 (third Sundays)

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

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

West / Middleton

Time: 6 p.m., 9/16 (third Mondays)

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

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

NEW Prairie Ridge

Time: 3:30 p.m., 9/16 (third Mondays)

Location: Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood
Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Drive,
Madison WI 53718

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

Oakwood West

Time: 12:45 p.m., 9/18 (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 and
turn right, following signs to the Garden
Terrace Bistro.

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

Northeast Side

Time: 3:30 p.m., 9/18 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Lakeview Public Library

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

Downtown Dinner

Time: 5:15 p.m., 9/18 (third Wednesdays)

Location: Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
private dining room

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

Southern Dane County

Time: 6 p.m., 9/19 (third Thursdays)

Location: Benvenuto's Italian Grill, Fitchburg

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

Upcoming Events

Sept. 4	Public Issues Forum at DreamBank, 6 p.m.
Sept. 9	Observer Corps Training at League Office, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	Board Meeting at League Office, 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	Info-Social at Hungry Badger, 4 p.m.
Sept. 23	LWVDC Book Group at Capitol Lakes, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26	LWVDC Book Group at Alicia Ashman Library, 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 2	Public Issues Forum and League Basics 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.

