



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 8–1

Summer 2018

President's Message	1
A Report from the LWV National Convention	2
Keeping the 'Public' in Public Schools	4
LWVDC Program Survey Results	4
Fundraising Facts	5
Keynote Address – Tracey Robertson	5
Suffrage Run/Walk	6
Adopt-a-Highway	6
Contributions	7
Membership Committee News	8
August 14 Partisan Primary	9
Upcoming Events	10

President's Message

Coming Soon to YOU!!

The Wisconsin Partisan Primary Election is **August 14** followed soon by the Fall Election on **November 6!**

We can and do make a difference as LWV members. It's time to renew our energy and commitment and get involved in voter education to "promote informed and active participation of citizens in government at all levels." What can YOU do to make a difference?

Spread the word about the LWV Primary *Candidates' Answers!*

Forward this link to LWV Primary [Candidates' Answers](#) to friends and groups you belong to. Voters rely on our informative publications to get background on candidates, but the primary edition is only online and not printed for distribution at libraries or in the *Isthmus*. This will serve as a reminder to vote in the August Primary Election, as well as educate citizens with the responses to questions posed by the League.

Sign up to volunteer with Voter Registration!

Sign up for volunteer opportunities to assist with voter registration. If you have already received training, see <http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/voter-service> or the Madison City Clerk Voter Education Ambassadors site. Join our Voter Service registration teams at locations such as food pantries, special events, libraries, high schools and universities. Get trained to become part of the voter registration team. The Madison City Clerk offers excellent Voter Education Ambassador training. Our Voter Service team also provides in-depth training. Check the [LWV Dane County weekly updates](#) for training opportunities.

Remind your friends and neighbors to vote in the August Primary!

The right to vote is a basic tenet of our democracy. Primaries are important. Every vote counts!

Remind friends that Early Absentee Voting has begun!

Voters can check with their local clerk's office to learn how they can vote early by in-person absentee ballot. On myvote.wi.gov voters can check their registration, view their ballot or request an absentee ballot.

Together we make a difference. I look forward to an engaging year with you in my role as your new president.

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

A Report from the LWV National Convention

Brook Soltvedt, soltvedtbrook@gmail.com

Every other year, LWVUS holds a convention of delegates representing Leagues and interleague organizations from around the nation. This year's convention was held in Chicago, which made it more feasible for members of LWVDC to attend. Mary Anglim, Gail Bliss, Consuelo Lopez Springfield and Brook Soltvedt attended, as did LWVWI President Debra Cronmiller and LWVWI Executive Director Erin Grunze.

Days began early with 7:30 a.m. caucuses and workshops and ended late with more sessions running until 9:30 p.m. With 7-10 options at each session, just choosing one to attend was a challenge! Each day included a general assembly chaired by President Chris Carson. We were addressed by outstanding speakers and panels and held plenary sessions to conduct the business of the organization. Many delegates left the Saturday plenary early to participate in the [Families Belong Together rally](#).

Among many other discussions, we voted to continue our current program, the Campaign to Make Democracy Work®. In summary this means ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting. To this program, we added advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact and support for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. We reaffirmed our support for abolishing the Electoral College and approved resolutions on gun control, a constitutional right to privacy in reproductive choice, carbon pricing and bringing energy policy into alignment with current climate science.

A theme running throughout the conference was diversity, equity and inclusion—DEI. To achieve our mission, survive and thrive for another century, the League needs to embrace DEI. All conference participants spent three hours in a DEI workshop, learning about unconscious bias and how to communicate and listen in ways that promote understanding rather than triggering defenses.

National Convention Reflection

Mary Anglim

One of the best features of League events is the opportunity to strike up conversations with and learn from informed and active women. I was lucky enough to chat with a new LWVUS Board member, Julie Hussey, LWV South Carolina, about how the Charleston League got the city council to apologize for slavery. I met the nominee for president of the Sheboygan chapter in the DEI workshop. The meeting of the Resolutions Committee on Thursday night and the subsequent discussions at plenary sessions educated me on how ideas on issues are transformed into League positions and priorities.

A highlight from the list of workshops was a presentation by the Greenwich, Connecticut, LWV on their community forum using one of Professor David Moss' case studies on democracy: James Madison's 1787 proposal to limit state powers by including a "federal negative," that would have given the federal government constitutional authority to limit states' rights. An age-diverse group of high school students, elected officials, seniors, and other citizens were invited to work through the issue. Attendees said that experience "raised the bar on knowledge of American history." Ninety-eight per cent said they would attend another such session, and 70% said they would take a more constructive approach to political conflict in the future. Starting in September, four of Professor Moss' case studies—the federal negative, the secession crisis, Martin Luther King's struggle for Black voting rights, and the ERA—will be available free for the League to use for similar events. I hope that LWVDC can find time and skilled facilitators to offer some of these programs in the next year or two.

The most inspirational presentation to me was by Rosie Rios, U.S. Treasurer under the Obama administration, who spoke about her campaign to increase the representation of real women in public spaces. We all know how important it is to see role models who allow us to imagine ourselves in that role, whether it's a job or profession, a sport or a community or family role. On our currency, in history classes and in the public statues in our major cities,

real men (usually white men of European ancestry) are depicted and honored. Women, when represented at all, are often idealized or fictional (think Lady Liberty, Justice and Wisconsin's Forward). The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are the only nations who do not depict any women on their paper currency. Thanks to Rios, women will be on the \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills beginning in 2020, as well as on a series of

National Convention Reflection *Consuelo Lopez*

Vital to organizational growth is immersion in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). That is why our national leaders offered training in micro-aggression and other barriers to understanding and communicating with diverse communities. Incoming CEO, Virginia Kase, whose background embraced Latinx and immigrant advocacy, praised a renewed focus on DEI. I was moved when she pronounced that "lifting up women of color and bringing more young women into the fold is extremely important." Providing a break in the schedule so that delegates could attend the Chicago rally to unite families demonstrated that commitment.

The caucus on immigration was also memorable. A strong concern for voter intimidation arose due to the upcoming (2020) census questions that may evoke refusals to answer or open doors to census takers. There was strong support for citizen watchers for ICE raids. As we engaged in small group dialogue, initiatives hallmarked offering support at detention centers, endorsing churches as sanctuaries, cooperating with other grassroots groups, writing letters to editors, registering young voters, using radio to reach voters, building a national clearinghouse, and educating representatives about "what's in their backyards."

National Convention Reflection *Gail Bliss*

At a "Get Out the Vote" session, I learned that many leagues are using Opt-in systems to send texts and emails such as:

- Election Day is next Tuesday - see Vote411.org for information on candidates and issues.
- Make a plan to vote tomorrow. Consider taking somebody with you.
- The polls close at 8 PM. Have you voted yet?

LWV South Carolina reported that turnout among new registrants increases with 3 follow up contacts. Later, at a LWVUS Budget meeting, several speakers made the point that data is important to improve fundraising from foundations and large donors. Collecting data about impact is especially helpful, and some of these methods are less expensive than the traditional direct mail LWVUS has been using.

LWV of Kent, Ohio, presented a program on the curriculum they developed to provide Girl Scouts from Daisies to Ambassadors a focused opportunity to earn badges related to citizenship. Girls through middle school could complete the requirements for a badge in 2.5 hours. Older scouts need to finish their badge by shadowing a government leader. The curriculum, which can be licensed for a fee, [is described in more detail here](#).

state quarters, beginning in 2021. Rios spurred a campaign called [Teachers Righting History](#) to identify real women whose roles in history should be taught in school. She negotiated with baseball card company Topp's to create a series of trading cards based on these accomplished women. She worked with Mattel to develop a line of [Barbie dolls depicting inspiring women](#). And she has lobbied the leaders of our ten largest cities to [increase equity in the public art it sponsors](#). What woman would you like to see represented to inspire future generations?

I encourage you to [read the daily briefings](#) from the convention on the LWVUS site. The [entire convention workbook](#) is also online. The events were recorded, and I believe they will be posted on the LWV website. The next convention will be June 25-28, 2020, in Washington, D.C.

Keeping the ‘Public’ in Public Schools

Iris Levitis

The June 8 education forum “Keeping the ‘Public’ in Public Schools” was led by Dr. Julie K. Underwood, former dean of the UW-Madison School of Education. She highlighted the impact of vouchers on state education. First, she outlined that the legislation concerning vouchers passed by the Wisconsin legislature was designed by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). The voucher system purpose is to dismantle public education; therefore, they work against a comprehensive public education.

- They are contrary to the notion of the public purpose of education.
- The goal is to dismantle public education.
- There is a lack of transparency for the public, students and families.
- Vouchers erode funding and support for public schools.

Additionally, she focused on the five voucher programs in Wisconsin. All of these voucher programs are expanding, and their funding is taken off the top of education funding, leaving public schools with what is left.

Despite the significant investment in vouchers, Dr. Underwood described research that shows there is no evidence for improved educational outcomes for voucher students. Considering this evidence, vouchers do not seem to be improving outcomes for students. They extract resources from the public pool and actively contribute to the dismantling of public education.

The 5 Wisconsin Voucher Programs:

- The Milwaukee program
- The Racine program
- The Wisconsin statewide voucher
- The special education voucher program
- The private school tuition tax deduction

LWVDC Program Survey Results

Mary Anglim, program@lwvdanecounty.org

Program Survey Results

- 78 Members Responded
- 41.3% reported attending 3-5 issues forums/year
- 86% reported reading forum study materials

Thanks for the many insightful and exciting ideas expressed in our program survey. ([Our website has details.](#))

The survey asked participants to rate ten forum ideas. The clear winner, garnering a grade of 5 (most interesting) from 60 respondents, was a proposal to discuss **Protecting our Elections in Wisconsin**. We are currently working to prepare this topic for the September forum. Other high-scoring ideas included creating more affordable housing, gun violence, and transportation. Participants also provided a rich list of suggested topics including money in politics, prison reform, immigration, public school funding, environmental problems, decision-making in local government, and overcoming diversity silos.

If you want to be involved in making a forum or similar event happen, please contact the Program Chair, Mary Anglim, at program@lwvdanecounty.org. While we need to plan this fall’s forums soon, there will be more time to add other topics in the spring, so don’t hesitate to make a suggestion for a topic or speaker that you would like to hear.

Fundraising Facts

Christine Clements

How does the Dane County League generate the funds needed to support its work of informing, educating, engaging and advocating on behalf of a healthy democracy? The single greatest source of support comes from general donations. Last year, member general donations amounted to more than \$12,000. In addition, non-members provided \$6,300 in donations.

Did you know that only **\$13** of your \$75 annual membership fee goes to the Dane County League of Women Voters?

In addition to general donations, LWVDC undertakes three annual fundraisers. The first fundraiser is a non-member appeal to help support the publication of *Candidates' Answers*. The publication and distribution of over 55,000 copies of *Candidates' Answers* is funded by directed gifts from the membership in addition to non-member contributions. These combined gifts provided almost \$6,500 in funding in 2017-2018. The two other campaigns, the February Birthday Appeal and the May Member Challenge, provided more than \$13,000 in support. The May Member Challenge creates an opportunity to double the value of donations by meeting challenge grants provided by several committed and far-sighted LWVDC members and friends. This year the challengers put up \$5000, which was matched and exceeded thanks to the generosity of League members.

Over the 2017-2018 fiscal year, total League donations amounted to greater than \$46,000. These funds helped to defray the costs of office expenses including rent and payroll for the part-time office administrator, printing outreach materials, *Candidates' Answers* publication, printing and mailing of study materials and other member communications. As we begin our next year, please consider a gift to support the important work of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Your generous contributions allow the League to grow engagement in the political process and provide reasoned and thoughtful discussion, information and advocacy in a challenging and clamorous political climate.

Keynote Address – Tracey Robertson

Iris Levitis

The keynote address at the Wisconsin League of Women Voters annual meeting was given by Tracey Robertson, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Fit Oshkosh (<https://www.fitoshkoshinc.org/>). Tracey, who moved from Chicago to Oshkosh, had the unpleasant experience of being repeatedly stopped by the Oshkosh police far too many times for random chance. This experience motivated her to create Fit Oshkosh, a nonprofit that promotes Racial Literacy by creating environments where racial issues can be discussed amongst people in productive ways. Increasing understanding with “Color-Brave” discussions aims to create a more just society. Fit Oshkosh provides educational workshops, a lending library and annual book readings.

Tracey began her address by talking about her grandson, who, unsurprisingly is the smartest, handsomest and most lovable five-year-old. But Tracey expressed concern that he is tall for his age. For young black children in America, being tall increases the danger of being treated like an older child. This worry is not something that most white grandparents experience. Only in conversations about race can groups of people learn to see other perspectives and shift their own understandings. Shifting people’s understandings is what Tracey Robertson is working to accomplish with Fit Oshkosh.

Suffrage Run/Walk

Brook Soltvedt, <mailto:soltvedtbrook@gmail.com>



Suffrage Walk participants gather about Forward.



Suffrage Run organizer Jon Marino prepares refreshments for participants.

Wisconsin has the distinction of being the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, granting women the right to vote. To mark the 99th anniversary of this milestone, a group of voting rights enthusiasts at the UW organized the Suffrage Run/Walk on June 10, 2018. The 1.9 km. community walk began at Sterling Hall on campus and ended at the statue of Forward on the Capitol Square. Organizers paid for all the expenses involved in putting on the event, so that all contributions and participation fees (\$1000!) went directly to the ACLU of Wisconsin and LWVWI to support voting rights and voter registration.

LWVWI in turn split their share with LWVDC for our support of the event, which netted \$250 for our league.

Jon Marino, chief organizer of the Suffrage Run/Walk, hopes this year's trial run will serve as a blueprint for a larger event marking the centennial in 2019.

If this interests you, please send a note to our office, and put June 10, 2019, on your calendar today!



Marchers in full Suffragist mode!

Adopt-a-Highway

Drive out Highway 14 west of Middleton and you may notice this sign. Each spring and fall, a crew of League members cleans up a stretch of the highway beginning just beyond Pleasant View Road. This year the Department of Transportation erected shiny new signs to replace the faded originals from 1991. Thanks to all the members who have helped us keep our commitment to care for this patch of our county over the last 27 years!



If you would like to help with this effort in the future, check "Adopt-a-Highway" on your Member Interest Sheet, or let our office or coordinator Doug Johnson know about your interest.

Contributions

These members (bold) and nonmember supporters helped with the office move, in the office, and with preparing mailings. Thank you for your time!

Gail Bliss
Kathy Fullin
Susan Fulks
Eileen Hanneman
Helen Horn
Jesse Kehres
Kim Langley
Cindy Lindquist
Paul Lindquist
Marian Matthews
Clare McArdle
Aileen Nettleton
Kathy Shurts
Brook Soltvedt
Janet Van Vleck

These members (bold) and nonmember supporters participated in our spring Adopt-A-Highway clean-up. Thank you for your effort!

Sally Carpenter
Judi Dilks
Doug Johnson
Janet Kane
Rex Merrill
Lyn Mussallem
Rose Sime
Margaret Stine
Caryl Terrell

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

General or Other Donations

Barbara Andrews
Helen H. Baldwin
Brad Clark
Leah Dudley
Ellen Dunham
Sarah Gavac
Helen L. Horn
Carol A. Kiemel
Dr. Consuelo Lopez
Clare G. McArdle
Elizabeth A. Moore
Kathryn L. Mulligan
Judith K. Munger
Janet Murphy
Aileen Nettleton
Robyn Perrin
Gail B. Shea
Brook Chase Soltvedt
Edith T. Sullivan
Janet Van Vleck
Sandra Wolens

Candidates' Answers

Holly I. McEntee
Eleanor McEntee
Robert E. Persons
Shirley M. Swenson
Sandra Wolens

Memorials

Sue Larson in memory of
John Koch

May Challenge

Alliant Energy
Anonymous
Mary T. Anglim
Janice M. Baldwin
Jeanne Jackson Bissell
June Weisberger Blanchard
Harriette Burkhalter
Joan K. Burns
Christine Clements
Claire R. Dick
Sandra E. Drew
Ivy Dreizin Edelman
Emy Gartzke
Sally Gleason
Ellen Hadidian
Shirley A. Haidinger
Kay Jarvis-Sladky
Elizabeth A. Jensen
Nancy J. Jensen
Andrea Kaminski
Janet Kane
Jesse W. Kehres
William Kelly
Carol A. Kiemel
Maureen E. Kind
Merilyn Kupferberg
Joan A. Lundin
Justine Malinski
Myrna McNatt
Kathryn L. Mulligan
Mary Clare Murphy
Bonnie L. Orvick
Sylvia Armstrong
Poppelbaum
Ruth Robarts
Louise S. Robbins
Ingrid E. Rothe
Nancy Schultz
Kathy A. Shurts
Suzanne A. Smith
Sherie Sondel
Priscilla G. Thain
Tom and Sandi Vandervest
Patricia A. Watson

We would also like to send a big **thank you** to all our hard-working voter service volunteers.

Membership Committee News

Sally Gleason, Mary Ellen Schmit, Co-Chairs

In June we enthusiastically accepted the responsibilities for membership from Mary Anglim who has been graciously serving as our mentor. As co-chairs of the Membership Committee, our primary goal is to integrate new members into the LWVDC. Thanks to Mary and the dynamic leadership of our board, membership numbers are increasing steadily. In the first six months of this year 80 men and women joined LWVDC as new members. We seek to expand the Membership Committee so that each new member can receive a personal welcome to the LWVDC. Let us know if you would be willing to help contact new members to learn of their interests, skills and talents by emailing membership@lwvdanecounty.org.

We would like to spend our time interacting with new members rather than reminding people to renew their membership. **If you haven't renewed for 2018-2019, please mail your dues as soon as possible or renew online at www.lwvdanecounty.org under the heading JOIN/RENEW.** At the same time, please update your contact information and tell us about your interest in various League activities.

We will be at the table when you pick up your nametag at the September Forum, and we look forward to meeting many of you then.

New Members!

We welcome these new members who joined us in April, May and June. 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.

Elisabeth Angelos
Ardina Boll
Steve Bower
Susan Brehm
Waltraud Brinkmann
Amanda Clarahan
Tamarine Cornelius
Susan Dinauer
Heather Dubois
Bourenane
Leah Dudley
Ellen Dunham
Chris Eckerman

Martha Frey
Brian Geiser
Carl Glassford
Laura Gottlieb
Elisabeth Graffy
Debra Hanrahan
Dawn Hayslett
Larry Hayslett
Georgiana Hernandez
Nancy Julien
Jeffrey Kanne
Elizabeth Kanne
Larry Larson

Romney Ludgate
Marilyn McDonald
Ann McHale
Cynthia Mealy
David Nelson
Al Nettleton
Frank Nick
Monica Schwartz
Sharon Seffrood
Shelly Strom
Victoria Wattiaux
Andrea Widner

August 14 Partisan Primary

Paul Lindquist, voterservice@lwvdanecounty.org

Tuesday, August 14, is Wisconsin's Partisan Primary. Primaries are used by political parties to select the candidates who will run for office in the November 6 general election. Offices on the primary ballot include Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, odd-numbered WI State Senate seats, all WI Assembly seats, and some County offices. Voters should only cast votes for candidates in one political party on the ballot.

In-person absentee voting has begun. For city of Madison voters, check these [In-Person Absentee Voting Hours & Locations](#). For other Dane County municipalities, [check here](#). As always, bring a voter photo ID to vote. If you need to register to vote, you can register on Election Day, provided you have proof of residency available that day.



LWVWI and LWVDC members participated in the June 19 Fair Maps Rally at the state capitol. Pictured above: Eileen Newcomer, Debra Cronmiller, Andrea Kaminski, Shirley Haidinger, Aileen Nettleton, Ellen Penwell



Dane County delegates Mary Anglim and Gail Bliss sit with the Wisconsin delegation, including Executive Director Erin Grunze, at the LWV National Convention.

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Open house with snacks – 5:30 p.m.

Program with our speakers – 7:00 p.m.

Protecting Our Wisconsin Elections

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison

(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

Upcoming Events

July 18	Board Meeting, 2:30 pm
Aug. 06	Board Meeting, 2:30 pm
Aug. 14	Partisan Primary
Sept. 05	Open House, 5:30 pm (Capitol Lakes)
Sept. 05	Protecting Our Wisconsin Elections, 7:00 pm (Capitol Lakes)
Sept. 12	Board Meeting, 2:30 pm
Oct. 03	Issues Forum on gun violence, 7:00 pm (Capitol Lakes)
Oct. 10	Board Meeting, 2:30 pm
Nov. 06	General Election
Nov. 07	Issues Forum, 7:00 pm (Capitol Lakes)

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

2018 Elections

August 14 Partisan Primary
November 6 General Election

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.