



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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November 2008

Executive Committee:

President – Pam Rewey

Pres-Elect – Donna Norton

Secretary – Janet Kane

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Office Hours:

MWF: 8:30 AM–10:30 AM

TR: 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Office Administrator:

Sara Markham

President’s Message

Pam Rewey

It is election time, as you know! The day after the election, November 5, is the General Meeting at the Capitol Lakes Grand Hall. The topic is serious. Domestic abuse is rising along with bad economic news. Helen LeRoy, program chair, is enthusiastic about the topic. Hope to see you there.

The Board congratulates the League on its huge turnout to register voters this fall. Six members were at the Naturalization Ceremony on October 9 and registered 86 voters. Priscilla Thain, Voter Services Chair, reports that we registered an extraordinary number of new voters as well as changes of address at multiple locations around the city.

At the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, a woman said, “I am 51 and have never registered, and have never voted, and I’m not going to start now. Besides, it doesn’t make any difference.” Her daughter said, “Mom, why do you think we’re waiting in line at the food pantry?” The woman thought about it and decided to register! The League of Women Voters of Dane County does make a difference.

Remind voters to bring their Wisconsin Driver’s License or State of Wisconsin Identification card with them to the polls—even if they have registered. Be certain that everyone eligible will get to vote. Vote on November 4 (or earlier!) and we hope to see you on November 5.

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

7:00 PM

**Domestic Violence:
Emerging Issues in Our Community**

Shannon Barry

Executive Director,

DAIS—Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall

333 West Main Street in Downtown Madison

(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

September Board Highlights

Janet Kane, kanefam@tds.net, 831-1845

At its September meeting, your Board:

- Planned for the October and November General Meetings;
- Discussed strategies for publicizing League events and *Candidates' Answers*, and promoting membership;
- Discussed applying for an Evjue Foundation grant to help with the cost of disseminating voter information, such as *Candidates' Answers*.

Know Your Candidates Schedule

Your League and Madison City Channel present the 2008 General Election edition of *Know Your Candidates*. Log onto www.madisoncitychannel.com/kyc.html for streaming video or watch the programs on Madison City Channel at the times below.

Dane County Supervisor, District 10

Sat. 10/26 at 11 AM & Sun. 11/2 at 11:30 PM.

State Senate, District 26

Sat. 10/26 at 10:30 AM & Sun. 11/2 at 11 PM.

US Congress District 2

Sat. 11/1 at 11 AM & Sun. 11/2 at 10:30 PM.

State Assembly, District 79

Sat. 11/1 at 10:30 AM & Sun. 11/2 at 10 PM.

Be Prepared!

The Voter Public Access website (vpa.wi.gov) allows voters to check the status of their registration, find their polling place, and preview a copy of their ballot. We urge all voters to verify their registration *and* to bring identification to the polls in case of unexpected problems with the new electronic voter registration database. If your registration has been stricken from the rolls, you can still register on the spot if you come prepared. You will need a Wisconsin Driver's License (or ID card) or another government ID, such as a passport. If the ID does not show your current address, bring something official (such as a lease or utility bill) to show your address.

Volunteer on Election Day for the Quality Assurance Team

Priscilla Thain, priscillathain@gmail.com, 233-5578

The Madison City Clerk's office is looking for eligible voters to volunteer to serve on the Quality Assurance Team for the November 4 General Election and has specifically asked the League for volunteers.

Members of the Quality Assurance Team would take three absentee ballots at a time, stand in line (timing how long it takes a voter to get through the line), and present the absentee ballots to the Election Officials stationed at the poll books for processing. The Quality Assurance Team members would then feed the ballots through the tabulator, making sure the number of ballots fed through the tabulator matched the number of voter slips given out by the Election Officials. If it takes more than 20 minutes to get through the line, the Quality Assurance Team member would ask the Chief Inspector to contact the Clerk's Office for additional staff. Members of the Quality Assurance Team volunteering before the polls opened would conduct an accessibility survey of the polling location. Members of the Quality Assurance Team volunteering after the polls closed would help double-check that security procedures are followed, with seal numbers verified and the proper documentation signed by the Election Officials.

Election Day is divided into two-hour shifts at each polling place for the Quality Assurance Team. You are free to sign up for more than one shift. Volunteers can sign up online at http://www.cityofmadison.com/isevents/event_detail.cfm?eid=63. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Gallagher at tgallagher@cityofmadison.com, or at 266-4602.

Feed the Hungry on Election Day

Every polling place in Dane County will have a collection bin for Second Harvest. Please spread the word and bring canned or dry goods to polls. Hunger is a significant and growing problem in Dane County!

Voter Services News

Priscilla Thain, priscillathain@gmail.com, 233-5578

Forum Moderators

Two forums were held in the hotly debated campaign for Assembly District 47 for retiring Representative Eugene Hahn's seat. Pam Rewey moderated a second forum in Columbus on October 2, and Mona Steele moderated a forum in Marshall on October 16. Mona Steele also moderated a televised debate for the 2nd Congressional District between Representative Tammy Baldwin and Peter Theron, to be shown on the public access channel.

Voter Registration

The League turned out enthusiastically in numbers to register voters before the General Election. Thanks to all those who said yes when called. I especially thank those who set up sites on their own where needed. The following coordinated our regular sites, new sites, and those that were special requests: Capitol Square Farmers' Market (Myrna McNatt); Monona Farmers Market and several food pantries (Mary Bean); St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry (Carol Kiemel); Northside Farmers' Market (Margi Kindig); Naturalization Ceremony (Sue Hoffenberg); MATC (Kathy Fullin); Sheboygan Avenue Farmers' Market and Hilldale Shopping Center (Priscilla Thain)

Special request sites included the Salvation Army Women's Shelter, Sebring Assisted Living; Wynnwood Assisted Living; Edgewood High School, Madison Children's Museum (Rose Sime and Barbara Karavolas); Madison Historical Society.

Voter Education

We had a number of requests for voter education at schools. Bonnie Webber has been working on these.

We'd like to compile a summary of all of the League registration and education sites. Please let me know if you organized a site not mentioned above.

Your Efforts Appreciated

Myrna McNatt, mdmcnatt@netzero.net, 831-5759

A big thank you to all who helped at the League table during Farmers' Market on the Square this year. It takes a special effort to get downtown with all the supplies, and many volunteers helped more than one Saturday as well as helping at other sites. Helpers this year were: Rosa Garner, Mary Ann Halvorson, Teague Harvey, Esther Hedfield, Linda Holthaus, Barbara Karavolas, Lois Kiggins, Maureen Kind, Pat Levin, Frances Locke, Joan Lundin, Clare McArdle, Myrna McNatt, Gloria Meyer, Barb Mortensen, Penny Mory, Sylvia Popplebaum, Jeannine Ramsey, Pam Rewey, Rose Sime, Pat Watson, Dorothy Wheeler and Phyllis Reisdorf.

Praise for League Forum

Carla Koltes of Fall River wrote a letter to the editor of the *DeForest Times-Tribune* (9/4/2008) that was highly complimentary of the forum held in Windsor Township for candidates running for the open seat in the 47th State Assembly district. Koltes wrote "It was especially refreshing to have Ms. Rewey with the League of Women Voters run the debate to keep things non-partisan. Why isn't the League asked to do this more often? Aren't we all a little tired of all these special interest groups... staging their own 'forums' and not so subtly pushing their own agendas and views?"

Thanks to Teague Harvey for bringing the editorial to our attention.

Air Quality in Dane County

Diane Martin, dwmartin@charter.net, 298-0370

I am setting up a committee to study the quality of air in Dane County, our program topic for April, 2009. If you are interested in learning about this issue and helping educate the membership, please contact me or call the League office.

Join a Discussion Unit

Most of the programming work of the League takes place in the Unit discussions and Committee meetings. Each month, Unit members meet to discuss the program topic for that month. At times this involves coming to agreement on a position and planning some action. Unit members also help plan future programs by making recommendations to the Board and serving on committees.

Unit meetings are not just about work. Most members find that their Unit is the source of many fine friendships and a lifelong supportive network.

If you have not participated in a Unit discussion, we strongly encourage you to do so. Notify the Unit Leader or the host of the next meeting of your intention to attend, and be sure to bring the study materials and questions with you. Some Units meet in public locations; others meet in members' homes.

If none of the times or locations is convenient for you, consider forming your own Unit! Contact Sara at the League office if forming a new Unit appeals to you.

Blue Dot Reminder

Teague Harvey, tbharvey@wisc.edu, 770-0660

If you find a blue dot on your mailing label, please remember to submit your membership dues by November 14, 2008, so that your name can appear in the Membership Directory issued in December. Contact the LWVDC office for a membership form.

Scholarships for a one-year LWVDC membership are still available. Contact the League office or Carol Kiemel, 286-1446, ckiemel@sbcglobal.net, to obtain more information, a copy of *A Process for Awarding An Eleanor Barschall LWVDC Scholarship Membership*, and the *Membership Form* for you to complete with the new member.

November 2008 Unit Locations

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Middleton, 7 PM

Mary Fulton

1365 Boundary Rd., 836-6059

Unit Leader: Diane de Vos, 836-0070,
djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008

Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM

The Oaks, B37

Oakwood Village–West

6225 Mineral Point Rd.

Park on grounds or in P1 Heritage Oaks ramp

Unit Leader: Ann Nelson, 230-3128

Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM

Location to be determined

Contact *Unit Leader:* Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638;
crisgjerde@charter.net

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Northeastside, 3:30 PM

Lakeview Public Library

2845 N. Sherman Ave.

Unit Leaders:

Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711;

dorothywheeler@charter.net

Mary Bean, 222-5783;

marybean@charter.net

Downtown Dinner, 5:30 PM

Capitol Lakes Residence Season's

Dining Hall

333 W. Main St.

Unit Leaders:

Sally Phelps, 251-4834;

phelpssa@charter.net

Priscilla Thain, 233-5578;

priscillathain@gmail.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- November 4** – Election Day
- November 5** – General Meeting (Domestic violence)
- November 10** – *Bulletin* deadline
- November 10** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- November 14** – Deadline to renew and be in 2008–2009 Membership Directory
- January** – Lively Issues Luncheon (Predatory lending)
- January 10** – *Bulletin* deadline
- January 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- February 4** – General Meeting (The popular vote)
- February 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- February 10** – *Bulletin* deadline
- March 4** – General Meeting (Four-year-old kindergarten)
- March 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- March 10** – *Bulletin* deadline
- April 1** – General Meeting (Air quality in Dane County)
- April 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- May 6** – LWVDC Annual Meeting