



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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April 2009

Executive Committee:

- President** – Pam Rewey
- Pres-Elect** –
- Secretary** – Janet Kane
- Treasurer** – Pat Levin

Editor – Brook Soltvedt

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Office Hours:

MWF: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

TR: 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Office Administrator:

Sara Markham

President's Message

Pam Rewey

Remember to vote on April 7! The Supreme Court and County Executive races are important to all of us, as are the many important local races such as school board seats. Priscilla Thain has been busy arranging for moderators for candidate forums. Thanks to all of you who serve as moderators. One thing that hits home when I moderate is that voting is a sacred right that people appreciate and use when they believe they can make a difference. Thank you, Laura Chern, and your volunteers who make *Candidates' Answers* happen. You make a difference to many voters.

Speaking of making a difference, the March General Meeting chaired by Carol Kiemel was most informative and, as she notes in this *Bulletin*, well attended. Our panelists led a lively discussion of 4-year-old kindergarten. The Monona Grove School District has implemented 4K, and the Madison Metropolitan School District is on the road toward implementing it. The Red Caboose Day Care is an important part of Madison's ongoing discussion. My unit meeting discussion was lively, too. We broke into small groups to discuss the questions. We decided that planning and collaboration are important to making 4K a success.

I took some time off in March and am indebted to Gloria Meyer for taking my place at the LWVDC Board meeting. Much happened in my absence and, thanks to Gloria, all the issues have been resolved.

Spring seems to have sprung, and I hope to see you at the April 1 General Meeting on air quality in Dane County.

Air Quality in Dane County

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

7 PM

Dave Merritt

Director of Policy and Development,
Dane County Executive's Office,
Executive Director, Dane County Clean Air Coalition
Former Director of Citizens Utility Board (CUB)

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall

333 West Main Street in Downtown Madison

Free parking in the ramp across the street

Recent Board Highlights

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

At the March Board meeting:

Treasurer Pat Levin reviewed the current budget and the proposed budget for next year. The Board will print a Spanish edition of *Candidates' Answers in La Comunidad* this spring, but in the future will likely publish the Spanish edition only on the web. Half of the cost of the new website has been paid and development is well on its way. The Board also incurred a new expense for liability insurance, which is a condition of our lease. Levin's proposed budget for next year was passed unanimously.

Gloria Meyer presented the **Nominating Committee's** proposed slate of candidates for the coming year. The Board approved the report, which will be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Connie Threinen spoke to the Board about the relationship between the Land Use committee, which she chairs, and the Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability (CRANES), a group with several League members, whose goals align with League positions. CRANES has requested permission to use the League office for regular meetings. Following Threinen's presentation, the Board adopted a policy on non-League groups meeting at the office.

Voter Services director Priscilla Thain reported that she has received many requests for moderators for candidate forums for the spring election.

Gloria Meyer, **Public Relations**, circulated a revised version of a letter to be used in a fundraising appeal. Meyer described publicity for the March General Meeting. She felt that targeting groups with an interest in the topic helped boost public attendance. Meyer has also publicized the April edition of *Candidates' Answers*.

Teague Harvey, **Membership** director, reported that since the Lively Issues Luncheon, six new members have joined and one has renewed. The Board noted that the local League receives \$5 for each national member, but \$14 for each local member, and discussed

whether national members expect to receive mailings about local League activities.

The Board discussed plans for the Annual Meeting. **Rose Sime** is arranging the venue and the meal. **Meyer** agreed to work with **Mary Bean** to develop a program for the meeting.

Helen LeRoy, **Program**, will canvass the active committees about their interest in presenting programs in 2009–2010. The Board agreed that the September General Meeting should be social and focus on recruitment.

Voter Service News

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

Candidate Forums

The League received a number of requests for moderators for candidate forums for the spring general election:

March 11 at Monona Public Library

Moderator: **Helen Horn**

Sponsor: Monona City Cable Access Station

Four candidates for three seats on the Monona City Council

March 12 at Stoughton Council Chambers

Moderator: **Beverly Jambois**

Sponsor: Stoughton Courier-Hub

Candidates for Dane County Executive

Candidates for Township Chairs of Dunkirk and Pleasant Springs

Candidates for City Council for District 1, 2, 3

March 15 at Monona Grove High School

Moderator: **Sue Larson**

Sponsor: Monona City Cable Access Station

Four candidates for three seats for Monona School Board

March 18 at Cottage Grove Village Hall

Moderator: **Diane Martin**

Sponsor: Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce

Two candidates for President of Cottage Grove

Five candidates for three Trustee positions

March 29, 3 PM, at Shorewood Village Hall

Moderator: **Pat Levin**

Sponsor: Shorewood Village Association

Five candidates for three seats on the Board of Trustees of Shorewood Village

President (uncontested) of Shorewood Village

Sue Larson's name was left off the list (in the March *Bulletin*) of moderators who attended the January training. Earlier, **Mary Bean** and **Pam Rewey** moderated forums for the spring primary election.

Coordinator for Capitol Square Voter Registration Needed

We thank **Myrna McNatt** for her service as coordinator of voter registration at the Capitol Square Farmers' Market. Myrna is stepping down now, and we need a volunteer to replace her as coordinator. This involves recruiting members to register voters at the Square from June through September. The table/chairs and materials are kept in the office. Please consider volunteering for this important job. For information contact Priscilla Thain (233-5578).

Over 50 Attend Forum on 4K

Carol Kiemel, ckiemel@sbcglobal.net, 286-1446

Over 50 people attended the March 4th General Meeting on Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in Dane County, which was presented through the team efforts of the Children At Risk and Education Committees. Besides League members, participants included members of many other organizations and agencies, including: Dane County United, Madison Area Accredited Early Childhood Association, Dane County Parent Council (Head Start), Madison Teachers Union, Bright and Early Public Education Campaign, City of Madison Community Services Department, Madison School Board, YMCA, UW Waisman Center, UW Preschool Lab, Madison Jewish Community Council, and parent teacher organizations. Teachers from a number of preschools and daycares, including family daycare, parents, and at least one school board candidate also attended.

A special thank you to **Gloria Meyer**, Public Relations director, and **Rose Sime** for their work in getting the word out to the community at large. In addition, the information shared in this meeting will go out to the wider community because of the videotaping done by **Pat Watson** and **Rose Sime**, and because **WYOU** makes the video available on their cable channels and on wyou.org.

Gifts to LWVDC

LWVDC gratefully acknowledges the members who have contributed since mid-August, 2008. As of March 10, LWVDC has received 31 Valentine-Birthday gifts, totaling **\$3,644**, from:

Baldwin, Janice
Benevenga, Cynthia
Berkner, Sharon
Bicknell, Fran
Cain, Jim, and Miriam Simmons
Carpenter, Sally
Chern, Laura
Elder, Joann
Farley, Gene and Linda
First, Edith
Gartzke, Emy
Goebel, Karen
Halle, Arneita
Halvorson, Mary Ann
Inhorn, Shirley
Jensen, Nancy
Kindig, Margi
Kupferberg, Merilyn
Lacy, Margaret
Lee, Barbara
Lewis, Barbara
McCabe, Marie
Meyer, Gloria
Nelson, Ann
Rewey, Pam
Rider, Claire
Schten, Marilyn
Silveira, Arlene
Symon, Mary Louise
Thain, Priscilla
Wade, Fred, and Marilyn Townsend

An additional **\$1170** came in donations from:

Bowles, Dean
Diaz Herrera, Bettina, and Don Kanel
Durbak, Irene
Inhorn, Shirley
Larson, Sue
Lewis, Libby
Lewis, Phil
Moss, Earnestine
Nelson, Ann
Ramey, Melanie
Reinl, Glenn
Sater, Lois
Terrell, Caryl

Members made **\$773.50** in targeted donations:

Bean, Mary – in memoriam: Becky Young
Benevenga, Cynthia – Lively Issues Luncheon
Farley, Gene and Linda – shared LWVWI birthday gift
Gartzke, Emy – *Candidates' Answers*
Gartzke, Emy – shared LWVWI birthday gift
Mortensen, Barbara – LWV Tea
Soltvedt, Brook – website

Thank you for your generosity!

Program Planning Notes

Helen LeRoy, haleroy@wisc.edu, 244-2377

While the program review for the current year will be distributed at the Annual Meeting in May, we are looking forward to developing program topics for 2009–2010 and would greatly appreciate member input.

We would like to establish a Program Committee, whose members would help select program topics and make arrangements for the Lively Issues lunch and the Annual Meeting. The committee might ideally include a representative from each unit and from each active committee, as well as any other interested members.

We ask that members: **(a)** bring ideas for program topics to the Annual Meeting or contact me (haleroy@wisc.edu); **(b)** discuss choosing a representative to the Program Committee at unit meetings this month.

In January we invited members to join us following the monthly Board meeting to propose and discuss future program topics, but the weather interfered, making it impossible. We did, however, receive these suggestions:

LWVUS

1. Health care reform
2. Climate change
3. Immigration policy
4. Growing inequity in wealth and income distribution

LWVWI

1. Campaign finance reform. Continued pressure on Wisconsin Supreme Court to establish recusal rules.
2. Review of state apportionment position and the need for a redistricting commission for the 2010 census. With computerized mapping, the state League should undertake map-making and again attempt to move the process out of the legislature.
3. Re-institution of a progressive income tax.
4. Follow up on LWVDC's domestic abuse topic by proposing that LWVWI look at the current state Administration of Justice position for a way to advocate for more Assistant District Attorneys to handle domestic abuse cases. Or do a focused study of that situation within Justice.

LWVDC

1. Review the LWVWI position on Dane County Government, looking at whether the size of the county board is appropriate. 2011, when the districts are changed to reflect the results of the 2010 census, would be an appropriate time to consider changes to the size of the board.
2. Revise LWVDC's outdated booklet on Dane County Government. LWVDC could spend 2009 preparing for citizen education about the county in time for the 2010 spring election of the County Board *or* use that research to take up a new study of services to consolidate or coordinate between local municipalities and the county.
3. A joint LWVDC-LWVWI study to explore returning 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system. This involves State Legislative action (LWVWI) and learning how the "new" Dane County Jail and Juvenile Detention facilities are functioning compared to LWVDC's Administration of Justice—Juvenile Justice position.
4. Regional transportation authority study.
5. Convictions. Alternatives to incarceration.
6. Follow-up on 4-year-old kindergarten.
7. Health care and veterans' issues.
8. Health care status.

Please let us know your thoughts. They will be appreciated!

Community Fundraising

Fred Wade, mtownlaw@execpc.com, 255-5111

LWVDC is considering reviving a fundraising approach that was successful for a number of years. Teams of two or three League members visit local businesses and professionals to share what the League has done during the past year and solicit contributions. In the past, teams contacted one to three businesses a year, developing a rapport with contributors over several years. Teams became very effective as they became familiar with donors' priorities and funding cycles. This approach may be more effective than a simple mailing.

This initiative is important because the League has had budget shortfalls for a number of years, and the proposed budget for 2009–2010 projects a large deficit as well.

If you could serve on such a team or can suggest business leaders or professionals who might be amenable to such an appeal, please contact Sara at the League office.

Volunteers Needed for Bratfest

Fred Wade, mtownlaw@execpc.com, 255-5111

Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer at the Memorial Day Bratfest on behalf of LWVDC. Bratfest volunteers raised \$450 for the LWVDC in 2008, but we have far fewer volunteers for 2009. Bratfest still needs hundreds of volunteers for May 22 –May 25, so there is still time to sign up.

We have been asked to sign up online at <http://volunteer.bratfest.com>. Use **LWVDC** for the user name, and **bratfest** as the password. Then click on **My Group**, which lists all the LWVDC volunteers who have signed up for specific shifts. Complete the **Add Volunteer** information, and then use the following procedure to sign up for a specific task and shift. First, click on **Edit Volunteer**, next click on the arrow at **Select an Event**, and then click

on **Bratfest 2009** when it appears on the drop-down menu. A **task box** will appear. Click on the arrow and a new drop-down menu will list the tasks open to us: **griller, cashier, cashier runner, or wrapper**. Then click on the **Show Shifts** box and choose a shift by clicking on the **Assign Shift** box. Scroll back up the page and click on the **Update** button under your volunteer information. You will then be assigned to both that task and that shift.

If you have questions, or would like assistance in signing up, contact Fred Wade (255-5111) or Nicole Hall, the Volunteer Coordinator for Bratfest (236-2041).

LWVDC Website to Move

Development of our new website is progressing smoothly. The new site will have all the content of our current site, plus an online calendar, member-only areas where members can access an online directory and other League materials, and the ability to make contributions and renew membership online using PayPal. We expect to launch in May!

Supplementary Membership Directory Listing

LWVDC welcomes new and returning members listed below! Please add the following members to your LWVDC Membership Directory:

Anderson, Dorothy	201 Morningside Ave. Madison 53716	
Benson, Libby	35 N. Park St. Madison 53715	715-573-6343 lbenson2@wisc.edu
Feiner, Theresa	35 N. Park St. Madison 53715	577-8992 tfeiner@wisc.edu
Moss, Earnestine	1729 Browning Rd. Madison 53704	244-0422 emosse@aol.com
Schnoor, Maurita	2801 Dryden Dr., #209 Madison 53704	
Stromovsky, L.	7710 Brule St. Madison 53717	829-0238
Townsend, Marilyn	1121 Wellesley Rd. Madison 53705	231-2448

April 2009 Unit Locations

Monthly discussion groups, convening in neighborhood homes or in public venues, focus on the monthly program topics addressed at the General Meetings throughout LWVDC's program year. Please seek out a discussion group that best fits your schedule and location. Welcome!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009

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 Retirement Center restaurant,
"The Seasons"
333 West Main St.; free parking across the street

Unit Leaders:

Sally Phelps, 251-4834, phelpssa@charter.net;
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578,
priscillathain@gmail.com

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

Middleton, 7 PM

Margi Kindig, 5714 Bittersweet Place
233-9891, mkindig@charter.net

Unit Leader:

Diane de Vos, 836-0070; djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009

Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM

Ann Nelson, 6225 Mineral Point Rd, # B37

Unit Leader: Ann Nelson, 230-3128

Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM

Gloria Meyer, 13 Jacob's Court
288-8160; gloria.meyer@juno.com

Unit Leader:

Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638, crisgjerde@charter.net

Upcoming Events

April 1 – General Meeting (Air quality in Dane County)

April 7 – Election Day

April 13 – LWVDC Board Meeting

May 6 – LWVDC Annual Meeting