



# Bulletin

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

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**Dec. 2009/Jan. 2010**

### Executive Committee:

**President** – Kathy Johnson  
**Pres-Elect** – Earnestine Moss  
**Secretary** – Helen LeRoy  
**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

*Kathy Johnson*

Although there was no fall election, the last few months have been very busy. We had three well-attended and informative general meetings. We have asked 131 former members for their support, and have been happy with the results so far. We are closing in on having most of our members returning their membership forms, joining us for another year.

As we look ahead to 2010, we have our Lively Issues Luncheon, featuring the Honorable Shirley Abrahamson and attorney Thomas Basting. I hope you will be able to attend what should be a most LIVELY conversation. January 16th will be here before we know it, so don't delay in sending your reservation! And please invite your friends. The reservation form can be downloaded from our Web site ([www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org)).

Our spring voters’ service cycle will begin with the new year. With every Dane County Board of Supervisors seat up for election, we will all be watching to see if there is a contested race in our district. If you can help with any of the many tasks associated with elections, we will need your time and effort.

I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season, and the best New Year, as we look forward to a busy and rewarding winter and spring.

## Lively Issues Luncheon

**Saturday, January 16, 2010**

**11:30 AM** Social gathering and cash bar  
**12 noon** Luncheon  
**12:45 PM** Program

## Judicial Election or Merit Selection?

**Shirley Abrahamson,**  
chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court  
**Thomas Basting,**  
past president of the Wisconsin Bar Association

The Madison Concourse Hotel, One West Dayton St.

## Recent Board Highlights

Helen LeRoy, [haleroy@wisc.edu](mailto:haleroy@wisc.edu), 244-2377

Approved minutes of Board meetings are available on the League Web site at [www.lwvdanecounty.org/content/lwvdc-board](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/content/lwvdc-board).

**Program** – Carol Dutton reviewed plans for 2010. In February, Karen Timberlake, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, will speak on health care and the impact on Wisconsin of a possible federal bill. UW political science professor Ken Mayer has accepted an invitation to speak at the March general meeting; the focus will be redistricting and/or early voting.

**Communications** – The ad hoc Communications Committee met to recommend guidelines for sending action alerts and other notices to members via email. The Board discussed the recommendations. A final version will be presented for a vote in January. The discussion highlighted the need to revise and update the bylaws.

**Voter's Service** – Priscilla Thain and others are working to develop the questions for the Spring 2010 edition of *Candidates' Answers*. It is likely that the primary edition may be published online only for financial reasons. Thain noted that requests for moderators are already coming in.

**Publicity and Community Outreach** – The upcoming 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the League of Women Voters offers an opportunity to raise awareness of the League and recruit new members, especially in communities with low voter participation. The Dane County League will likely partner with the Wisconsin League on celebration plans.

## 90 Years for the League

Gloria Meyer, 288-8160, [gkmeyer68@gmail.com](mailto:gkmeyer68@gmail.com)

In February 2010 the League will celebrate 90 years as an organization. We would like to have a celebration and we would love to hear your ideas. If you would like to help with the planning, please contact me.

## Dane County Leaguers Help State League

Gloria Meyer, 288-8160, [gkmeyer68@gmail.com](mailto:gkmeyer68@gmail.com)

There has long been a strong relationship between the Dane County League and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. In fact, 12 Dane County members currently serve as officers or board members or work on state committees. Here is a rundown:

### LWWWI State Board of Directors:

Melanie Ramey (president), Pamela Rewey (board member)

### Legislative Committee:

Pamela Rewey, Joann Elder, Carol Kiemel, Margi Kindig, Sue Lloyd, Clare McArdle, Marilyn Slutterback, Caryl Terrell, and Connie Threinen

### Volunteers:

Cynthia Benevenga: Financial management volunteer and many-time Budget Committee Chair.

Kathy Gomes: Grant administration consultant volunteer.

If you would like more information, visit the Wisconsin League's Web site [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org). There you can also sign up for the *League Leader* e-newsletter.

## Great Decisions 2010

Gail Bliss, 231-3511, [gail3511@gmail.com](mailto:gail3511@gmail.com)

The League of Women Voters of Dane County will again be sponsoring an eight-week discussion series based on the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)). **We will meet from 9–11 AM on Thursdays in February and March at the Madison West Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace.**

Please let me know by December 30 if you plan to attend or just want a book. You can contact me at 231-3511, [gail3511@gmail.com](mailto:gail3511@gmail.com), or 5309 Regent St., Madison 53705. I will order books in early January (@~\$20) and have them available for you before the discussions start (I hope to bring the books to the Lively Issues Luncheon on January 16th).

## Spotlight on New Members

*Gloria Meyer, 288-8160, [gkmeyer68@gmail.com](mailto:gkmeyer68@gmail.com)*

The League of Women Voters of Dane County recently enlisted several new members with various backgrounds and reasons for joining. The four introduced below include longtime Madison residents and those new to our area.

**Sabina Smilowitz**, who lives on the east side, moved here a year ago from New Jersey, where she had just retired as a math teacher. She has a daughter in Madison and twin grandchildren. She was a member of a League in New Jersey a number of years ago but quit when she returned to work. Now she has time to renew her membership and looks forward to becoming active.

**Mary Anglim**, also an eastsider, has lived in Madison since 1971 and has often thought about joining the local League. She has been active with Progressive Dane for a number of years but thought the League would broaden her perspective and her acquaintances. She retired from state government in 2005. Although conflicts have kept her from attending the Wednesday forums, she says she is “impressed with the high quality of the materials she receives and is sorry she didn’t join League years ago.”

**Betty Custer**, a lifelong Madison resident, lives on the far west side. She has a financial planning firm with her husband. Betty joined League at the urging of Kathy Johnson, who encouraged her to use her talents on our Finance and Development committee. Betty is also very interested in Voter Service and increasing the voting turnout.

**Peggy Glassford**, who lives in Lake Mills, joined to support the League’s work. She had hoped to get a group of friends interested but the distance is a barrier. Peggy was a member and president of the League in Park Forest, Illinois. She also has municipal government experience, having served as city manager of Flossmore, Illinois.

## Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser

This holiday season, the LWVDC will again be gift-wrapping books and other items in return for contributions to the League. To volunteer at Borders East, contact **Cheryl Furstace Daniels** (255-7513, [cmfdaniels@gmail.com](mailto:cmfdaniels@gmail.com)); for Borders West, **Joann Elder** (255-0533, [elderj@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:elderj@ssc.wisc.edu)).

## Donations Appreciated

### Member contributors since October 10, 2009

Katherine Ahem  
Betty Custer  
Emy Gartzke  
Ed Reid  
Tom and Sandra Vandervest

### Memorial contributions honoring Bettina Diaz Herrera since October 16, 2009

Helen Horn, LWVDC  
Jonathan Ledsky and Jeanne Marie Cole, Chicago

### Additional contributors (\*former member)

Anonymous—for *Candidates’ Answers*  
Jane Eisner\*  
Rosemary Johnson\*  
Anita Krasno\*— for *Candidates’ Answers*  
Louise G. Trubek\*  
Deborah Turski\*  
Deb\* and Michael Turski

## Welcome New Members!

The League of Women Voters of Dane County extends a warm welcome to these new, nationally recruited members:

**Eleanor Munson**  
**Katherine Naherny**  
**Norma Schreiber**  
**Lee Sorensen**  
**Victoria Stauber**

## New Logins for Web Site

*Brook Soltvedt, [soltvedt@tds.net](mailto:soltvedt@tds.net), 274-5184*

In December, I will be sending out new login credentials to members in good standing who have not yet logged into our new site at [www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org). Look for an email from me with the subject “You now have access to the Members Area of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc. Web site.” If you have any problems accessing the site or your member account, please contact me.

## Upcoming Unit Meetings

Some units are holding social gatherings or meetings to discuss the *Lively Issues* topic of *Selection of Justices to the Wisconsin Supreme Court*. Regular unit meetings resume in February.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009

#### Northeastside, 3:30 PM

Social gathering and cookie exchange at the home of Helen LeRoy, 1213 Menomonie Lane, 244-2377, [haleroy@wisc.edu](mailto:haleroy@wisc.edu). Bring cookies to share and exchange.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010

#### Northeastside, 3:30 PM

Lakeview Public Library  
2845 N. Sherman Ave.  
Unit Leaders: Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711; [dorothywheeler@charter.net](mailto:dorothywheeler@charter.net).  
Mary Bean, 222-5783; [marybean@charter.net](mailto:marybean@charter.net)

#### Downtown Dinner, 5:30 PM

Capitol Lakes Retirement Center Restaurant, "The Seasons," 333 Main St.  
Unit Leaders: Sally Phelps, 251-4834; [phelpssa@charter.net](mailto:phelpssa@charter.net). Priscilla Thain, 233-5578; [priscillathain@gmail.com](mailto:priscillathain@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **January 10** – Deadline for February *Bulletin* and study materials
- **January 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 16** – Lively Issues Luncheon (*Selection of Justices to the Wisconsin Supreme Court*)
- **February 3** – General Meeting (**Health care**)
- **February 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **February 10** – Deadline for March *Bulletin* and study materials
- **March 3** – General Meeting (**Early voting/redistricting**)
- **March 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **March 10** – Deadline for April *Bulletin* and study materials
- **April 7** – General Meeting (TBD)
- **April 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **May 6** – LWVDC Annual Meeting
- **May 11** – LWVDC Board Meeting



Yes, I want to renew my membership in the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.  
OR  
Yes, my friend wants to join us in the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

Take advantage of the Special Half-Year Dues Rate for the remaining fiscal year, January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Joined LWV: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership: [Check your selection]

- Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$35
- Second Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$30  
*[same address, shares mailings with first member]*
- Special Rate Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$17.50  
*[of limited income or a student]*
- Scholarship Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$0

#### Member Contribution: [Check your selection]

- \$1,000 – 500       \$499 – 200       \$199 – 100
- \$99 – 50       other \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.  
2712 Marshall Court, Suite 2, Madison, WI 53705-2282