



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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February 2009

Executive Committee:

President – Pam Rewey

Pres-Elect – Donna Norton

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

Happy 2009! The new year is upon us. The League had its January luncheon and is busy preparing *Candidates' Answers*. I know you won't forget to vote in the primary February 17th.

The primary edition of *Candidates' Answers* will be in *Isthmus* on February 5th. We especially note the five candidates running statewide for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Think and vote. With more than 150 candidates running for office on Dane County ballots this spring, local races should generate a lot of interest. We expect to be busy with voter registration and candidate forums.

State Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) spoke about predatory lending at our January 17 luncheon, which was attended by 71 League members and guests. The Senator is drafting legislation that will, in part, provide a moratorium on foreclosures to allow for mediation. She invited League members to share their ideas on what should be included in the bill, to appear when hearings are held, and to voice their support when the bill comes up for a vote in the Senate and Assembly. Her office will keep you informed of the progress of the legislation if you contact them. The Senator also addressed the drinking problem in Wisconsin, especially drunk driving.

We look forward to our General Meeting on February 4, a discussion of the National Popular Vote Compact. Priscilla Thain and I heard our speaker, David Canon, at the State Historical Society before the November election. He's very informative. Unit meetings return, offering opportunities for great discussion about how we handle elections.

Thanks to everyone who helps in any way to keep the LWVDC a lively and thoughtful organization.

General Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 7 PM

National Popular Vote Compact

David Canon

Professor of Political Science, UW-Madison

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall

333 West Main Street in Downtown Madison

Free Parking in Ramp Across the Street

January Board Highlights

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

- **President-Elect Donna Norton** updated the board on Dean Bowles's invitation to make a presentation on immigration at the annual conference of the Wisconsin Council for Social Studies. In 2010 the conference will be a Midwest regional event. Norton will be the keynote speaker, and the League was asked to conduct a panel presentation about its consensus approach and conclusions about health, education, and legal issues for immigrants.
- **Fred Wade, Fundraising**, reported on the success of the Borders gift-wrap fundraiser (see details, this page). He also noted that if the state League's 501(c)3 status has been settled by the IRS by late March, our grant application can be submitted to the Evjue Foundation in time for their March 31 deadline.
- **Wade** circulated a draft of the annual Valentine's Day fundraising letter for Board approval.
- **Program director Helen LeRoy** reported that the programs for February and March are in place. The Board canceled a planned session with members to discuss state program-making because of inclement weather. Instead, copies of the state form were made available at the January luncheon for members to return to the LWVDC office with their comments by January 27.
- **Gloria Meyer, Publicity, and Pam Rewey** wrote an editorial encouraging people to get involved in local government. In response to the column, which was published December 27, 2008, in *The Capital Times* and January 2, 2009, in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, the League office received three requests for our publication on how to run for office. You can read the article at <http://www.madison.com/archives/read.php?ref=/tct/2008/12/27/0812270067.php>

Borders Gift Wrapping Raised a Bundle!

Joann Elder, elderj@ssc.wisc.edu, 255-0533

Twenty-two LWVDC members wrapped holiday gifts at Borders West in December. We received **\$953.21 in donations**. This broke our 2007 record of \$857.79! Thank you to Leaguers and friends participating at the Borders West Holiday Gift Wrap: Sybil Better, Gail Bliss, Bernadette Brunner, Maya Cole, Joann Elder, Cristel Gjerde, Helen Horn, Nancy Jensen, Janet Kane, Joyce Knutsen, Sue Lloyd, Marie McCabe, Myrna McNatt, Barbara Mortensen, Beth Moss, Barbara Park, Mary Ploeser, Rose Sime, Priscilla Thain, Connie Threinen, and Pat Watson.

Meanwhile, Cheryl Furstace Daniels coordinated the League's first gift-wrap effort at Borders East. Thank you to Leaguers and friends who volunteered at Borders East: Laura Chern, Cheryl Furstace Daniels, Elizabeth Daniels, Owen Daniels, Louise Lund, Clare McArdle, Pam Rewey, and Miriam Simmons. They raised **\$200.02 in donations**.

We can report a grand total of \$1153.23 in donations!

Two Editions of *Candidates' Answers* in Progress

Although the November General Election seems barely behind us, the Spring Primary is just around the corner on February 17. The team responsible for *Candidates' Answers* already has been hard at work preparing the Primary Election edition of *Candidates' Answers*, which will be an insert in the February 5th edition of *Isthmus*.

The LWVDC is including 156 candidates in its spring publications. Eight of these candidates are competing for statewide office. This makes Assembling *Candidates' Answers* for the General Election an enormous job! It will be inserted in the March 26th edition of *Isthmus*, in advance of the Spring Election on April 7.

Moderator Training

Mary Bean, marybean@charter.net, 222-5783

Here's your chance to learn how to moderate candidate forums! Leaguers will be conducting a training session for moderators on **January 28 from 6 to 8 PM at the LWVDC office**. Please contact me if you are interested in being trained or in playing the part of an actor or audience member at a mock candidate meeting.

Requests for Forum Moderators

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

The League has had requests to provide moderators for the following forums:

- **Cottage Grove**, Jan. 31, Candidates for Village President and for Trustee
- **Marshall**, Feb. 3 or 5, Primary candidates for Marshall School Board, and Mar. 26 or 24, Candidates for Marshall Village Board
- **Stoughton**, Mar. 12, Candidates for Stoughton City Council, for Dunkirk and Pleasant Springs Town Chair, and for Dane County Executive.

LWVDC Website

Brook Soltvedt, soltvedt@tds.net, 274-5184

Because our website must move to a new host, we have formed a committee to research our options and plan for a redesigned site. If you have suggestions or would like to be on the committee, please contact me. Our first meeting will be in early February.

In Memoriam

Betty Smith died in December. She was a champion of women's rights, family planning, and quality childcare. She helped found the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971. And as a member of the Madison Common Council from 1973–1979, she led the effort to establish the first program to certify city childcare centers. Betty ran unsuccessfully for Mayor in 1977, and later ran against Fred Risser for a seat in the State Senate. She was a strong supporter of efforts to revitalize the downtown through the State Street Mall, the Civic Center, and Overture Center.

Great Decisions 2009

Diane deVos, djdevos@chorus.net, 836-0070

A brief reminder that the *Great Decisions* discussion group will meet Thursday mornings, **February 5 to March 26, 9:15 – 11:15, at the Westside (Madison) Senior Center**, 602 Sawyer Terrace. More information can be found on the Foreign Policy Association's website, www.fpa.org.

February 2009 Unit Locations

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009

Middleton, 7 PM

Harriet Gorski, 836-8302; hfgorski@tds.net
6633 Boulder Lane
Unit Leader: Diane de Vos, 836-0070,
djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009

Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM

Helen DeBardleben, 238-2357
6209 Mineral Point Rd., #620
Unit Leader: Ann Nelson, 230-3128

Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM

Donna Norton, 271-2598; vwn837skip@aol.com
1301 Whenona Dr.
Contact Unit Leader: Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638;
crisgjerde@charter.net

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 Residence Season's Dining Hall
333 W. Main St. (Free parking across the street)
Unit Leaders:
Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578;
priscillathain@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 28 – Training for moderators of candidate forums

February 4 – General Meeting (National Popular Vote Compact)

February 5 – *Candidates' Answers* Spring Primary insert in *Isthmus*

February 9 – LWVDC Board Meeting

February 10 – *Bulletin* deadline

February 17 – Spring Primary Election

March 4 – General Meeting (Four-year-old kindergarten)

March 9 – LWVDC Board Meeting

March 10 – *Bulletin* deadline

March 26 – *Candidates' Answers* Spring General Election insert in *Isthmus*

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

April 7 – Spring General Election

April 13 – LWVDC Board Meeting

May 6 – LWVDC Annual Meeting

Supplementary Membership Directory Listing

Please add the following members and make the changes in bold in your LWVDC Membership Directory:

Bussey, Mary	4116 Kewatin Trl. Verona 53593	meb4116@chorus.net
Gomes, Kathy	1030 Rooster Run Middleton 53562	824-0639 kgomes46@gmail.com
Herman, Priscilla	4002 Zeno St. Madison 53704	241-4156
Jambois, Beverly	3901 Lexington Dr. Middleton 53562	203-5731 bjambois@charter.net
Kehres, Jesse	8 Classic Cir. Madison 53719	845-2458 jkehres@tds.net
Kupferberg, Merilyn	5754 Meadowood Dr. Madison 53711	271-1130 joelmerkup@charter.net
Larson, Diane	1025 Bultman Rd. Madison 53704	279-7966 dianemlarson@yahoo.com
Lee, Barbara	1240 Drake St. # 3 Madison 53715	354-9302 ClearLeeBarbara@hotmail.com
Lindgren, Ellen	6621 Maywood Ave. Middleton 53562	217-5938 emlindgren@yahoo.com
McKinney, Barbara	1209 Dayflower Dr. Madison 53719	829-0635
Ramsey, Jeannine	2710 Willard Ave. Madison 53704	246-8967
Winston, Colleen Jo	230 Meadowside Dr. Verona 53593	848-4664 mckeown@tds.net