



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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October 2009

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: 8:30 AM–11:30 AM
TR: 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Office Administrator:

Sara Markham

President’s Message

Kathy Johnson

The League year is off and running and we are glad you will be a part of our efforts this year. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as you can. Please invite your friends to join you in attending our exciting program of General Meetings and unit discussions. In October a panel will discuss our transportation needs; in November the sheriff will talk about alternatives to being in jail; and our Lively Issues Luncheon in January will feature a former president of the State Bar Association and the chief justice representing the pros and cons of electing or appointing Wisconsin Supreme Court justices. It should be memorable!

If you were at the general meeting on September 9th, you heard Kathleen Falk praise the League. Falk, the first woman to serve as Dane County executive and the person to hold the office longest, said, “I never forget that the reason I can be the first is that I stand on all of your shoulders, because of all the work that you have done.” We all stand on shoulders as well... Carrie Catt, Susan B. Anthony, Faith Mote, Carolyn Wild, Bettina Diaz Herrera, Eleanor Barschall, and Mrs. Walter Ayer, the first president of the League of Women Voters of Madison (in those days women did not have first names). Connie Threinen, still active in our League, was the first president of the Middleton League (1958-59) before the Dane County League was formed in 1972.

Each of you is a valuable part of the League. Your membership keeps us strong. Thanks for being a member!

General Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 7 PM

A Transportation System that Works for Dane County

David Trowbridge, Transport 2020 Project Manager

Keith Plasterer, President, Pro-Rail Wisconsin

Susan Schmitz, Executive Director, Downtown Madison, Inc.

Bruce Speight, Field Director, WISPIRG

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St. in Downtown Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

August Board Highlights

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

Treasurer Pat Levin presented interim financial reports and reminded us that we net approximately \$7/member from member dues. The annual investment balance a year ago was \$154,000, compared to \$103,000 as of June 30, 2009. The loss reflects the current state of the economy.

Bulletin/Web Site – Brook Soltvedt thanked those who had reviewed and/or offered suggestions for the new Web site <http://www.lwvdanecounty.org>. Calendar events and news should be sent to Brook for posting. The Board approved the Web site and final payment to the developer.

Voter's Service – Priscilla Thain led a discussion on the League's position on health care reform and the public option. She wrote an item on the topic for the September *Bulletin*.

Community Outreach – Earnestine Moss invited members to attend an August 29 event at Elver Park, with activities designed to improve community relations in southwest Madison. Moss reported on her attendance at the NAACP convention in New York City and thanked the League for its support.

Fundraising – Fred Wade is attempting to recruit volunteers to help with fundraising, and will present a fundraising plan in the near future.

Membership – Teague Harvey informed us that 60% of the 253 members had renewed, with 5 new members, including 3 recruited nationally. Carol Kiemel and Harvey have information about the ten scholarships that are still available. Other organizations and local publications might help us to identify potential new members.

Publicity – Gloria Meyer briefly described the July 25 rally in support of health care reform at the State Capitol. Meyer has spoken with television reporter Carleen Wild and will talk to David Wahlberg of the *Wisconsin State Journal* concerning local coverage of this issue. Meyer wants to assemble a public relations committee and train others to handle these functions so that she can help Harvey with membership matters.

Program – Carol Dutton reviewed upcoming plans. Connie Threinen is involved with planning the October program on the Regional Transportation Authority. In November, Sheriff Mahoney will speak about alternatives to incarceration and progress on implementing recommendations of a 2007 Criminal Justice Assessment report. A new criminal justice committee will prepare the study materials. Fred Wade will help plan the January Lively Issues program on the selection of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices.

Old Business – The structure and composition of the Finance and Development Committee is still being worked out. The Board reiterated the importance of both continuity of membership and bringing in new advisors.

New Business – The State League will hold its issues briefing in Madison on October 10, and the State annual meeting will be June 18-19, 2010, in LaCrosse.

In Memoriam

We have learned of the recent deaths of three current or former League members. Shirley Uphoff was involved in many civic organizations, including the League. Gloria Berman, who was particularly devoted to environmental protection and women's rights, was still active with the League, as was former League president Bettina Diaz Herrera. We are sad to lose them.

New LWVDaneCounty Web Site

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

We hope you've had a chance to visit www.lwvdanecounty.org and explore the League's new Web site. Current League members who provided an email address should have received an email with instructions for logging in to the members-only areas of the site. Please log in and update your profile. If you need help, or if you have calendar items, committee information, or other League news to share, please contact me. Suggestions, complaints, kudos are all appreciated!

Contact Senators Feingold and Kohl on Health Care Reform

Priscilla Thain, 233-5578

As of this writing, 4 of the 5 Congressional committees considering health care legislation have passed bills and it is time to focus on the Senate. League members are asked to contact Senators Feingold and Kohl and urge them to pass effective Health Care Reform. The Senators' contact information is on the new League Web site www.lwvdanecounty.org. Messages should also be copied to the President at www.whitehouse.gov.

The following letter was sent to *The Wisconsin State Journal* and appeared in edited form on September 15. Part or all of it may be used in your messages to the Senators. Specific points are also listed on the League Web site.

Health Care for All Citizens

After careful study, the League of Women Voters of Dane County decided a number of years ago to support legislation that guarantees quality, affordable health care for Americans. We knew then and we know now that it is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a public insurance plan. The public plan must be run by the U.S. government, not by the states, and include reproductive health care. It is also essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions.

The League urges the Senate to take action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Legislation must also provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key to achieving this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform and controlling costs.

Kathy Johnson, president
League of Women Voters of Dane County

Highway Cleanup

Maureen Kind, dmkind@sbcglobal.net, 274-6754

It's time again to clean up "our" stretch of Highway 14, west of Middleton. Join us at the first turnoff for Wayside Road on Monday, September 28, at 10:30 AM, wearing sturdy shoes or boots and protective gloves. Please let me know if you plan to come so that I can have enough snacks and supplies. In case of rain, we'll meet on Wednesday, September 30.

WYOU Needs Our Help

Rose Sime, jrsime@chorus.net, 831-9297

WYOU, Madison's Community Access Station, allows us to use their equipment and expertise to videotape and edit our General Meetings and then airs the programs each Friday at 10:00 AM on Charter Channels Analog 95 and Digital 991. They are in danger of losing funding due to actions of the state legislature, which cut PEG (Public, Government, and Education) funding for WYOU in 2011. WYOU receives PEG funding from Charter Cable TV subscribers via a franchise fee administered by the City of Madison (about \$140,000). In December, 2007, Wisconsin Act 42, often referred to as the "video competition act," was passed. Act 42 will eliminate Charter's requirement to pay the franchise fee to the city, ending PEG funding for WYOU, Madison's City Channel and, all public access, educational, and government broadcasting across Wisconsin. However, Mayor Cieslewicz has told WYOU that in 2010 they will receive only half of their prior funding, to prepare for 2011. You will be paying to support WYOU through your cable bills through 2011; don't let the city take the funding away prematurely!

Please call or email the Mayor (266-4611 or mayor@cityofmadison.com) before the end of September and/or contact your Alder to say how important WYOU is to the League of Women Voters of Dane County and to all citizens. I'm certain I don't have to give you arguments or talking points as to why people should hear the speakers at our forums or why the other content at WYOU is vital to our community.

Donations Appreciated

Member contributors during the membership renewal period for fiscal year July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

[Donations received as of September 15, 2009, totaling \$3,305]:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Beatty, Ellouise | Lloyd, Sue |
| Benevenga, Cynthia | McArdle, Clare |
| Bernbeck, Lois | McCabe, Marie |
| Burns, Joan | Navarre, Helen |
| Carpenter, Sally | Nelson, Ann |
| Chern, Laura | Palmer, Carol |
| Daniels, Cheryl Furstace | Palmer Smalley, Connie |
| Durbak, Irene | Paske, Donna |
| Elder, Joann | Phelps, Sally |
| Foster, Jeanette | Poppelbaum, Sylvia |
| Fullin, Kathleen | Ramey, Melanie |
| Gomes, Kathy | Rewey, Pam |
| Gorski, Harriet | Rider, Claire |
| Halvorson, Mary Ann | Ross, Beth |
| Horn, Helen | Schuetz, Joan |
| Jensen, Betsy | Seif, Barbara |
| Jensen, Nancy | Sime, Rose |
| Kaminski, Andrea | Simmons, Miriam |
| Karavolas, Barbara | Slautterback, Marilyn |
| Kehres, Jesse | Smith, Suzanne |
| Kerndt, Miriam | Soltvedt, Brook |
| Kiemel, Carol | Steele, Miriam |
| Kippert, Pat | Thain, Priscilla |
| Kupferberg, Merylyn | Threinen, Connie |
| LeRoy, Helen | Townsend, Marilyn |
| Lersch, Nancy | Vitense, Yvonne |
| Levin, Pat | Wade, Frederick |

Memorial contribution honoring the memory and friendship of Anne Herb

Bicknell, Fran

In-kind contribution of a party-size coffee maker

Ashman, Alicia

Membership Renewal

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

Thank you to those who have already renewed their LWVDC membership for 2009–2010! If you find a blue dot on your mailing label, please submit your membership dues as soon as possible. Please use the membership form below or request a form from the office. Only renewals received by November 13 will be included in the 2009–2010 directory mailed to members.

We also hope you'll consider inviting friends and acquaintances to join the League. Perhaps there's a young adult in your life who would benefit from the gift of a League membership. Scholarships for a one-year LWVDC membership are also 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.



Yes, I want to be a part of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

[Please remit payment by November 13, 2009, so that your name will appear in the 2009-2010 Member Directory.]

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Year Joined LWV: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

Membership: [July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010]

Member _____ \$70

Second Member _____ \$60

[same address, shares mailings with first member]

Special Rate Member _____ \$35

[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: _____

October 2009 Unit Locations

League members meet monthly in one of five units to discuss the topic of that month's General Meeting, using study materials provided by the program planners to guide the conversation. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Units meet regularly at different times and locations. Find a meeting that is convenient for you and participate! Please let the host know that you plan to attend.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009

Middleton, 7:15 PM

Middleton Fire Station
7600 University Avenue
Park on the east side of the station and enter through the side door of the EMS building.
Unit Leader: Diane de Vos, 836-0070,
djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM

Jean Freese
D76, The Oaks, at Oakwood West
6225 Mineral Point Rd.
Unit Leaders: Jean Freese, 230-3540;
giggi@chorus.net. Elizabeth Lewis, 230-3101;
bettyfaylewis@charter.net

Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM

Gloria Meyer, 13 Jacobs Ct.
288-8160
Unit Leader: Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638;
crisgjerde@charter.net

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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 Main St.
Unit Leaders:
Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578;
priscillathain@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **October 7** – General Meeting (**Land use and transportation**)
- **October 10** – Deadline for November *Bulletin* and study materials
- **October 10** – State League issues briefing
- **October 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting (5 PM)
- **November 4** – General Meeting (**Criminal justice**)
- **November 10** – December/January *Bulletin* deadline
- **November 10** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **November 13** – Deadline to renew membership and be in 2009–2010 Membership Directory
- **December 8** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **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**)
- **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