



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

2712 Marshall Court, Suite 2, Madison, WI 53705-2282 • Tel: (608) 232-9447 • Fax (608) 232-9464
Email: lwvdc@chorus.net • Web site: <http://www.lwvdanecounty.org>

March, 2010

Executive Committee:

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

Editor – Brook Soltvedt

In This Issue:

President's Message	1
Recent Board Highlights	2
New Members: The Environment and Citizenship	2
Thain Earns Rotary Award	3
Training for Special Voter Registration Deputies	3
Board Directors Needed!	3
Did You Join LWV in 1959–1960?..	3
Healthcare Reform Experts Predict Passage.....	3
Need for Donations Is Great	4
2010 Brat Fest!.....	4
Calendar of Upcoming Events	4
March 2010 Unit Locations	4

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

Spring arrives officially this month, and we are glad to see it. I am happy that we don't live in Washington, DC, where snowfalls of more than 40 inches caused government, mass transit, and airports to shut down for almost a week. Think Spring!

Our March and April general meetings are again on timely and important topics: early voting, redistricting, and justice issues. Our annual meeting will be Wednesday, May 5th, at the Doubletree Hotel on West Johnson Street. Longtime members will remember it as the Howard Johnson's, and it has free parking attached to the hotel. We will be highlighting our 90th anniversary as well as conducting the business of the League, so save the date and join us!

Our nominating committee still needs three directors. Please consider whether you can come to 10 Board meetings per year for the next two years. We welcome your ideas and need a full Board to carry out our mission.

Many of you will be busy with election items as we approach the April 6th general election. If you are registering voters, moderating a forum or television interview, helping to get *Candidates' Answers* ready for publication, or working at the polls, we thank you for helping to empower voters in these nonpartisan elections!

General Meeting

March 3, 2010, 7 PM

**Improving Voting in Wisconsin:
Proposals to Enhance Early Voting and to Make
Redistricting Less Partisan**

Bob Ohlsen,

Dane County Clerk

Ken Mayer,

Professor of Political Science, UW–Madison

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

Recent Board Highlights

Approved minutes of Board meetings are available on the League Web site at www.lwvdanecounty.org/content/lwvdc-board.

Treasurer – Pat Levin reported that the budget is on track. The process of preparing the budget for next year begins now. Meyer suggested that a committee do a publication audit to help us monitor expenses for printing.

Web Site / Bulletin – **Brook Soltvedt** reported that the League Web site is getting much-increased traffic from those seeking *Candidates' Answers*, particularly regarding the Court of Appeals race. She is looking into options for streaming the video recordings of General Meetings that Rose Sime makes. These are now available on DVD, but might be more widely viewed if available online.

Fundraising – It's BratFest time again. See information about how to sign up on page 3. Valentine letters were sent to members.

Membership – Gloria Meyer has been conducting interviews of new members to introduce them to the League in the Bulletin. She advocated involving more members in the committee work of the League. Earnestine Moss proposed that we consider a membership drive involving all members in actively recruiting to build up our ranks.

Program – **Carol Dutton** reviewed program plans for the rest of the year. Bob Ohlsen and Ken Mayer will speak in March on early voting and redistricting. In April, John Bauman and Celia Jackson will speak on racial disparities in the Dane County justice system. The annual meeting in May will be at the Doubletree Hotel. The program will include a celebration of our 90th birthday.

Voters' Service – **Priscilla Thain** has received more requests for the League to moderate forums for the spring election. She is also looking into when the GAB will conduct registrar training again.

President Kathy Johnson reported that rent on the office will increase by \$16/month. She also brought a number of thick, waterproof League signs that can be used at registration tables and other events.

New Members: The Environment and Citizenship

Gloria Meyer, 288-8160, gkmeyer68@gmail.com

Kristine Frater, a new member of our Dane County League, is very interested in the environment. She has worked for the Nature Conservancy and helped with legislative lobbying on environmental issues.

Kris originally joined the League in Iowa in the 1970s, later moved to Watertown, then Middleton, and now the East Side. Like many new Leaguers, she's an empty nester who has chosen the League as one way to get involved with her community.

Martin and Elizabeth David, a new League couple, also are very concerned about environmental issues. Martin is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the UW, and worked on an Assembly bill that raised interest in global warming. He joined League to learn more about local politics and because of his environmental interests.

Elizabeth, who also retired in 2001, went to Washington, DC, along with her husband, as a consultant with the EPA. Her concern was a pesticide used by strawberry and orange growers that is harmful to the environment. Like many Leaguers, Elizabeth originally joined the League as a young mother of 25. Her mother was president of the national League in the mid-1950s. The Davids live in Middleton.

Lisa Bu is a graduate student in journalism who also works at Wisconsin Public Radio. She received a League membership as a citizenship gift last year. The gift was from the family of a friend who joined the League when she became a citizen after emigrating from Germany following World War II.

Lisa, who was unable to vote in China, finds League information invaluable in exercising her right to vote. Lisa says, "Although this country is not perfect, there is no comparison with other countries. I cannot say how lucky I feel to be a citizen and have a say in what happens in my new country."

We are very pleased to welcome these new members of our Dane County League!

Elizabeth Adams, Esther Hedfield, Alice Huebner, Connie Kane, Paula O'Neal, and Judith Zitske have also joined our League in

the last few weeks. Please welcome them at general meetings, unit discussions, and other League events. Look for more information about them in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

Thain Earns Rotary Award

Voters' Service Director **Priscilla Thain** was honored by the Downtown Madison Rotary Club with a Senior Service Award for her work with the League of Women Voters of Dane County as well as her service to the Breakfast Rotary Club. Board members **Carol Dutton, Kathy Johnson, Pat Levin, Gloria Meyer, and Brook Soltvedt** joined Thain for the luncheon at which she received her award.

Those who have volunteered with Priscilla on Voters' Service know how hard she works to arrange staffing of voter registration tables around the city. She fulfills requests for forum moderators and candidate interviewers, is available for media interviews on voting issues, and works to develop appropriate questions for *Candidates' Answers*. And she does it all with graciousness and enthusiasm! Thain has also produced the weekly newsletter for her Rotary club for 10 years, and now serves as its President. Congratulations, Priscilla, on this well-deserved recognition!

Training for Special Voter Registration Deputies

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

The next training for Special Statewide Voter Registration Deputies in Madison is scheduled for March 5, 2010, at 10 am. Those certified before January 1, 2009, must take the class and be recertified. You must register in advance to attend by going to <http://elections.state.wi.us>. In the left column click on **Education/Training**, then **Special Voter Registration Deputies**.

Board Directors Needed!

Barbara Mortensen, 233-7563, morten@charter.net

Your Nominating Committee needs three members to serve on the Board of Directors, starting July 1, 2010. The Board meets monthly, except for December and July, for about two hours, usually in the evening. Three Directors are needed for two-year terms for the **fundraising, membership, and public relations** portfolios.

Did You Join LWV in 1959–1960?

Emy Gartzke and **Don Kanel** will join the ranks of 50-year members this year. In preparation for our Annual Meeting on May 5, LWVDC would like to know if *you too* joined the League of Women Voters 50 years ago, so that we can celebrate your many years of dedicated membership in a brief ceremony.

Please call or e-mail the office, 232-9447, lwvdc@chorus.net, by **March 22**, to notify us of your 50-year status. We will follow up with a short interview form; your responses will be printed in a commemorative booklet to be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Healthcare Reform Experts Predict Passage

Gloria Meyer, 288-8160, gkmeyer68@gmail.com

Two healthcare experts spoke at the Dane County League's February forum about healthcare reform both nationally and in Wisconsin. Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, explained the contents of the current bills before the House and Senate and predicted passage of healthcare reform this spring. He found much to recommend in the current bills. Although not perfect, the reform measures are a big step forward.

Karen Timberlake, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, discussed changes in Wisconsin's healthcare programs, the addition of BadgerCare Plus and plans to handle the waiting list for the program for adults. Both Timberlake and Kraig speculated on the effects of proposed federal healthcare reforms on programs in Wisconsin.

A lively question and answer session followed the presentations. Dr. Gene Farley, a longtime reform advocate, said, "This bill is a building permit. It must be passed."

Kraig suggested that citizens contact their Congressional representatives urging them to complete the task of reform, which is inches away from success. **Contact Senator Feingold** at <http://feingold.senate.gov/contact.html> or call 608-828-1200. **Contact Senator Kohl** at <http://Kohl.senate.gov/contact.cfm> or 608-264-5338. **Contact Congresswoman Baldwin** at http://tammytbaldwin.house.gov/get_address.html or 608-258-9800.

Need for Donations Is Great

You should have received our annual fund-raising letter, which marks the 90th Anniversary of the League. A contribution of \$90—one dollar for each year since the founding—will help us continue our important work.

Please contribute today if you have not already responded. Your contribution to the LWVDC is appreciated, but will only be tax deductible if paid to the LWV Education Fund.

2010 Brat Fest!

Fred Wade, fred.wade@mtownlaw.com

It is time to sign up for the 2010 Memorial Day Weekend Brat Fest! This fundraising event raised \$348 dollars for the League in 2009.

League members, friends, and family should sign up directly on the Brat Fest Web site by April 1 to volunteer for a shift or shifts on Friday, May 28, 5 pm–9 pm, Saturday, May 29, and Sunday, May 30, 10 am–9 pm, and Monday, May 31, 10 am–6 pm.

First go to <http://volunteer.bratfest.com>. Enter the username LWVDC and the password **bratfest**, then click **Log in**. Illustrated instructions for using the Brat Fest site are posted on the League Web site. Look for the link on the League home page.

On April 1, Brat Fest will allow other groups to select available shifts. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a successful fundraiser. Questions? Contact me or Nicole Hall at Nicole.H@ShopMetcalfes.com or (608) 236-2041.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **March 3** – General Meeting (Early Voting and Redistricting)
- **March 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **March 10** – April *Bulletin* and study materials due
- **April 7** – General Meeting (**Racial disparity in the Dane County justice system**)
- **April 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **May 5** – SRD Training (register in advance!)
- **May 5** – LWVDC Annual Meeting
- **May 11** – LWVDC Board Meeting

March 2010 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. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Units meet regularly at different times and locations. Find a convenient meeting and participate! Please let the host know that you plan to attend.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010

Middleton, 7:00 PM

Middleton EMS Building, 2020 Parmenter St.
Use the side door by the ambulance bay.
Unit Leader: Diane de Vos, 836-0070,
djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010

Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM

Helen Bruner, Oakwood D91 West, 230-3642
Unit Leaders: Jean Freese, 230-3540;
giggi@chorus.net. Elizabeth Lewis, 230-3101;
bettyfaylewis@gmail.com

Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM

Merilyn Kupferberg, 271-1130
5754 Meadowood Dr.
Unit Leader: Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638;
crisgjerde@charter.net

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

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 and Priscilla Thain,
233-5578, priscillathain@gmail.com
Please RSVP, as reservations are required!