



# 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](mailto:lwvdc@chorus.net) • Website: <http://www.lwvdaneconomy.org>

Office hours: MWF 9-12; TR 9-12:30

### May, 2011

SAVE THE DATE!!! ..... 1

President’s Message ..... 1

Annual Meeting ..... 1

April Board Highlights ..... 2

Thanks for Your Support ..... 2

Announcing \$2000 Challenge Grant! ..... 2

Voter Service ..... 2

Calendar of Upcoming Events 3

Why I Belong to LWVDC..... 3

#### Executive Committee:

- President** – Earnestine Moss
- Pres-Elect** – Donna Norton
- Secretary** – Barbara Mortensen
- Treasurer** – Kathy Johnson

#### Office Administrator –

Sara Markham

#### Bulletin Editor – Brook Soltvedt

### President’s Message

Earnestine Moss, [emosse@aol.com](mailto:emosse@aol.com), 244-0422

Our 2010–2011 program year has come to a close. It seemed like a marathon, yet exciting, as the year came and went so quickly with the thoughtful programming that our capable members created. We kicked off with *Behaving Sustainably: Enabling You to do Your Part*, followed by *Campaign Finance Reform, How Changing Demographics Are Affecting Dane County Schools and Human Services, Lively Issues: Legislative Update, Community Outreach: Finding Common Ground in Troubled Times*, and lastly, *Wiskileaks Reveals the True Story of Land Use and Transportation in Dane County, Wisconsin*. Unfortunately we were unable to record our programs this year, because our valued partner WYOU lost funding. Please continue to support the station in any way you can.

At our Annual Meeting on May 4 we will vote on the budget, on the slate of officers and nominations from the floor, on program topics, and on the proposed by-law changes to achieve a 501(c)3 status. This status will allow LWVDC to receive tax-deductible donations directly. After the business meeting, we will have our program, where we will honor new 50-year members, present a Certificate of Appreciation, and present the Carrie Chapman Catt Award. Fabu, Madison Poet Laureate, will provide us poetry to round out the evening. I hope everyone will enjoy this segment.

Although there is no general election this fall, the year will see a statewide recount, special elections to fill vacancies created by appointments and, of course, many recall elections. We need to keep the public informed about the processes and procedures. More than ever, we must educate the public and register voters, to make democracy work.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President this year, and I look forward to 2011–2012. Thank you to Sara, the Board members, committee chairs, and volunteers who helped in any way to deliver the programs and services for the LWVDC. Keep up the good work!

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

LWVDC will have a planning “retreat” on **August 27**. The Board, committee members, and any members interested in planning program events, voter service projects, or fundraising activities, please try to attend! Want to help with the *Bulletin* or the Web site? Please try to attend. More details will be forthcoming over the summer.

**Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**  
5 pm Social Gathering  
5:30 pm Business Meeting  
6:30 pm Dinner  
7:30 pm **Fabu**, Madison Poet Laureate

**The Edgewater Hotel Madison**  
**The Atlantic and Mediterranean Room**  
666 Wisconsin Avenue, in Downtown Madison  
(Free parking available underground)

## April Board Highlights

**President's Report**—**Earnestine Moss** requested (and the Board approved) that the League again have a table at the Juneteenth Celebration in Penn Park to do voter registration and provide information about the League in the underserved south Madison area.

**Web site**—**Brook Soltvedt** reported that she was not able to get the “Donate” button on our Web site in time for the April election, but will continue to pursue this option. Web traffic peaked on Election Day at about 2,000 unique hits, with fairly high traffic in three days preceding the election. Many who accessed a link to our page from another site were referred from Facebook, which shows the importance of our using Facebook as a tool to reach voters.

**Fundraising**—**Gail Bliss** reported on the Challenge Grant (see the article in this Bulletin). Very few League members have volunteered at BratFest in recent years, and the closing of Border's West means the end of the gift-wrapping fundraiser in December. Grants and donations from members and the public will need to sustain us for the near future.

**Voter Service**—**Priscilla Thain** reported that a resident from McFarland is interested in having LWVDC expand *Candidates' Answers* to include villages and towns. The Board discussed the issues around funding for such coverage on an ongoing basis. Funding includes not only the expense of printing the larger voter guide, but the time involved for the office administrator and volunteers to solicit, track, assemble, and proofread the materials. More research will be required to determine the feasibility of expanded coverage.

## Thanks for Your Support

We thank the following LWVDC members and members of the community for their recent contributions to LWVDC (as of 4/19/2011):

**Edith First**  
**Hathaway Hasler**  
**Ilse Hecht**  
**Lynn Schten**

Donations in support of *Candidates' Answers*

**Welcome Fawcett**  
**Frankie and Louis Locke**  
**Eleanor Munson**

## Announcing \$2000 Challenge Grant!

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

For the third year in a row we have a challenge grant to help raise the funds we need to maintain and improve our services. Two generous anonymous donors are offering a total of \$2,000 to match your gifts. During the month of May your money goes twice as far! Let's match every dollar and bring in \$4000 or more for our programs. Thanks to our fundraising efforts it was possible to fund a printed version of *Candidates' Answers* for the hotly contested spring primary. For the past several years printed versions of *Candidates' Answers* have only been available for the general election, relying on the Web site to provide information for primary voters. Funds also support our office, which is essential to our voter service and member service activities.

Donations can be made to the LWVDC General Fund (not tax-deductible) or to the LWV Education Fund (tax-deductible). Please mail your donations to the League office or bring your checkbook to the annual meeting. Please be generous!

## Voter Service

*Priscilla Thain, [priscillathain@gmail.com](mailto:priscillathain@gmail.com), 233-5578*

### Candidate Forums

Thanks to all who volunteered to moderate candidate forums, often on short notice!

### Voter Registration

LWVDC has permits to provide voter registration and information tables at the Dane County Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square and at the West Side Farmers' Market on Sheboygan Avenue. Please contact me if you can help at one of the markets.

Since the Government Accountability Board has not continued the Special Registration Deputy program, if you wish to continue to register voters, you must become certified by a city clerk. To register voters in Madison, you can watch a video online at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/election/deputyRegistration/index.cfm>. After you watch the 15-minute video, you complete a form and a brief quiz, sign it, and send it in. Your certification will be good for two years for registering Madison voters ONLY. To register residents of villages, towns, and other cities, contact the relevant clerk. The Voting Information page on our Web site has contact information.

League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.  
2712 Marshall Court, Suite 2  
Madison, WI 53705

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #917  
Madison, WI



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **May 4** – LWVDC Annual Meeting
- **May 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **June 10–11** – LWVWI Annual Meeting
- **June 18–20** – LWVUS Council Meeting
- **August 27** – LWVDC Planning Retreat

## Why I Belong to LWVDC

*Deborah Speckmann, 444-2965; [daspeckmann@charter.net](mailto:daspeckmann@charter.net)*

When I asked our ambassadors to explain “Why I Belong to the League of Women Voters of Dane County (LWVDC),” I had no idea that so many of you would respond (14!). The responses were inspiring and show the dedication that people have to LWVDC. Further, it explains why LWV has been sustained for 90 years, and why it is such a powerful and effective lobbying force. Thank you for your submissions; they were greatly appreciated. We’d like to share two more responses:

**Hathaway Hasler**—The League encourages participation in causes and civic duty. In 1955 or so Ann Hoover (then Cleary) and I, neophytes that we were, agreed to create a radio program about fair housing in Madison. We plunged in and the effort gave me a lifelong interest in justice and racial disparity. In this day of quick stabs of information, the League’s thorough study of issues is inspiring. I admire the friends I have who have devoted much

more time and effort than I have to carrying out the League’s mission.

**Helen Navarre**—More than 40 years ago, I joined LWVDC because, as a newcomer to the community, I wanted to become a more knowledgeable, responsible, and active citizen. The League continues to provide a unique opportunity for me to study local and national issues in depth, to make my voice heard, and to meet others who share my interests and who inspire and motivate me. That is why I consider it a privilege to renew my membership each year.

We hope to see all of you, our ambassadors, at our Annual Meeting. What better time is there to bring a friend to a meeting to communicate our powerful message? Our annual meeting is where we focus on our accomplishments of the past year, which could encourage your friend to join. This two-pronged approach, I believe, is a sure way of increasing our membership for the upcoming year.

I look forward to seeing you and your potential members at the Annual Meeting.