



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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November, 2011

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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, 244-0422

On October 5, an excellent panel shared their insight with us about *The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education*. It was exciting and thought-provoking. Professor **Gloria Ladson-Billings** led with a historical overview of the federal government’s role in public education, starting with 1867, highlighting the major decisions and legislation that have helped to shape our educational system, including, but not limited to, Brown v Board of Education, Title IX of the Education Action of 1972, Title 1, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She pointed out that the federal government has no constitutional role in public education. Associate Professor **Doug Harris** shared his views on more recent federal influence: No Child Left Behind. This program is up for reauthorization, but Congress can’t seem to agree on how to reshape the law. Deputy Superintendent **Michael Thompson** indicated that the federal government’s role has generally been one of determining policies by offering funding with strings attached. Although the federal government only provides about 10.2% of the total education funding, it is critical to ensuring that the most vulnerable students are educated. So schools take the federal money and the rules that come with it.

We hope you will join us for November’s forum, *Politics and Public Opinion in Wisconsin and the Nation*, featuring Professor **Charles Franklin**.

Thank you to **Gail Bliss** for submitting the Evjue Foundation grant application and to **Rose Sime** for submitting the 18th birthday pass-through LWVUS grant application. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to all board members for the excellent work you do. Special thanks to **Sara Markham** for all that she does for us. I thank members for their support and encourage each of you to become involved in initiatives being advanced by your hard-working board. Your expertise and input are needed and welcome!

November Issues Forum

Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 7 PM

Politics and Public Opinion in Wisconsin and the Nation

Professor **Charles Franklin**, Department of Political Science, UW–Madison

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

October Board Highlights

Minutes of board meetings are posted on our Web site when they are approved.

Because we have adopted an earlier schedule for publishing the *Bulletin*, we are unable to report on the October board meeting at this time.

Voter Service

Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl has a voter ID presentation that you can view online at

www.cityofmadison.com/citychannel/Details.cfm?Id=860.

Clerk Witzel-Behl and her staff will be bringing this presentation to locations around the city. You can find the schedule at www.cityofmadison.com/citycalendar.

Search the calendar for the category Elections. You

can also contact the City Clerk's office by email at voting@cityofmadison.com or by phone at 266-4601.

At the 11/10/2011 meeting the clerk will also deputize individuals to register City of Madison voters. You also may become a special registration deputy for the City of Madison by taking the online training at

www.cityofmadison.com/election/deputyRegistration

If you want to help with the birth certificate project, registration of 18-year-olds, or other voter registration efforts, please contact Sara at the office.

Community Outreach

Earnestine Moss, emosse@aol.com, 244-0422

The Community Outreach Committee is recruiting members to increase our outreach and collaboration efforts with other groups in the community. If you are interested, please call the LWVDC office, or contact me directly at the number listed above. Please encourage your friends and family members to become involved and support LWVDC in our efforts to educate the public, and to increase awareness about the importance of voter participation.

October is National **Breast Cancer** Awareness Month, **Domestic Violence** Awareness Month, and **Hispanic Heritage** Month. I encourage you to help recognize and share in these observances.

Remembering Cynthia Fokakis

We received news of the death of longtime Dane County League member, **Cynthia Fokakis**, who served as Dane County Clerk of Courts from 1976 to 1992. We send our condolences to her friends and family.

Don't Forget to Provide Your Input!

Kathy Kuntz, kkuntz@chorus.net

The League's October Issues Forum, *The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education*, was planned to solicit our members' input for an LWVUS consensus study on this topic. We invite all members to submit their input to LWVDC on the questions from LWVUS.

You can provide your responses online at the website, fill out and mail a copy of the questions provided with the October study materials, or provide input at one of the unit meetings this month. **All input is due to the League office by Monday, October 31.** The Education Committee will compile the input into a report for the Board and the Board will provide Dane County's input to the national League.

We look forward to getting your thoughts on the consensus questions and hope to see you at the November forum where UW-Madison Professor **Charles Franklin** will talk with us about electoral trends in Wisconsin and nationally.

Membership Is Power

Deborah Speckmann, 444-2965; daspeckmann@charter.net

Membership is a powerful tool. Turn on any news report and you will see the powerful impact groups of people are having in today's society. The LWV is one of the most influential groups in the changes that are taking place both here in Madison and in Washington.

The LWVDC continues to bring the voice of the League of Women Voters to bear on the agenda before the 2011-2012 Wisconsin legislature. How can this be? It is through the hard work of our to-date 204 hardworking members; through their letters to the editor, testimony at public hearings, and all their correspondence with their elected officials at the local, state, and national levels.

As of this writing, 73% of our members have renewed their membership, and our deadline of November 15th for inclusion in our 2011-2012 directory is still a month away. What does this represent? A true belief that there is power in membership, and that we are not afraid to stand up for the principles set forth in our mission statement.

So, a **blue dot** on your name label is your signal to **please renew** to ensure that the voice of the LWVDC continues to be heard.

Great Decisions 2012

Join the International Affairs group within the League for eight weeks of discussions based on the materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association's (FPA) Great Decisions 2012 series. Topics for 2012 include:

- Middle East Realignment
- Promoting Democracy
- Mexico
- Cybersecurity
- Exit from Iraq & Afghanistan
- State of the Oceans
- Indonesia
- Energy geopolitics

One of the members of the group volunteers to lead the discussion each week. The FPA provides a DVD presentation, and a book, which includes articles on the 8 topics chosen for the series. Each chapter includes discussion questions. This year's co-chairs are **Gail Bliss** and **Helen Horn**. If you have a special interest or expertise in any of the topics, please let us know.

Each participant needs a copy of the Great Decisions book, which can be ordered (\$22) through Gail Bliss, 231-3511 or gail3511@gmail.com. **Please place your order by December 20, 2011.**

Again this year, we will be meeting at the West Madison Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace from **1 to 3 PM on Thursday afternoons in February and March**. Our first meeting will be February 2. The Senior Center is just west of Hilldale Shopping Center. Sawyer Terrace is accessed from Segoe Road (next to the Hilldale post office). On-street parking is free.

Thanks for Your Support!

We appreciate receiving contributions from the following members:

Pat Kippert
Sue Moline Larson
Caryl E. Terrell

Your contributions allow us to continue our important work. We are most grateful!



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

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 53705-2281*

Membership: *[Check your selection]*

- 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 _____

____ *Please list anonymously as member contributor(s).*

Total: _____

November Unit Locations

League members meet monthly in one of five units to discuss the topic of that month's Issues Forum, 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.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm

Oakwood Village Retirement Community
Please contact Elizabeth Lewis, 230-3101;
bettyfay1916@gmail.com

TUESDAY EVENING WEST, 7:30 pm

Please contact Gloria Meyer, 288-8160;
gloria.meyer@juno.com

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011

NORTHEASTSIDE, 3:30 pm

Lakeview Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.
Mary Bean, 222-5783; marybean@charter.net
Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711; dorothywheeler@charter.net

DOWNTOWN DINNER, 5:30 pm

Capitol Lakes Retirement Center Restaurant "The Seasons"
333 W. Main St. – Free parking across the street
Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578; priscillathain@gmail.com

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011

MIDDLETON, 7 PM

Community Room, Gardd Parc Condos
6767 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr.
Park behind building; walk through courtyard to lobby; Ring buzzer to # 221 if inside door is not open
Diane de Vos, 836-0070; djdevos@chorus.net

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **November 2** – Issues forum: UW Professor Charles Franklin, *Politics and Public Opinion in Wisconsin and the Nation*
- **November 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin*
- **November 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **January 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 14 or 21** – Lively Issues Luncheon (TBA)
- **February 1** – Issues Forum (TBA)
- **February 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **February 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **March 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **March 7** – Issues Forum (TBA)
- **March 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **April 4** – Issues Forum (TBA)
- **April 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin*
- **April 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **May 2** – LWVDC Annual Meeting (tentative)
- **May 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **June 18–20** – LWVUS 50th Convention, Washington, DC

Blue dot on your label? Please renew!