



# Bulletin

## The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: MWF 9–12; TR 9–12:30

### October, 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](mailto:emosse@aol.com), 244-0422

We are off to a great start with our 2011–2012 programming! We had a wonderful turnout at our open house and September Issues Forum, where WI Supreme Court Justice **Patience Drake Roggensack** shared her insight with us about *The Many Factors of Judicial Independence*. She indicated that judicial independence protects the rule of law. She discouraged us from concentrating on the money aspect of judicial campaigns, because the Supreme Court has ruled on that score.

September has been a busy month. **Lynn Klessig**, Voter Service Director, has worked tirelessly on a grant from the US League, passed through LWVWI, for Youth Voter Registration. Unfortunately, Lynn has tendered her resignation, for health reasons. Thank you, Lynn, for your service, and we wish you a speedy recovery and good health. **Gail Bliss** continues to work on a grant proposal to the Evjue Foundation. If you have grant-writing expertise and are willing to help with future grant applications, please contact our office.

October’s forum will feature a panel of experts to facilitate reaching a consensus on the national League study on The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. I encourage all members to attend this forum and a unit meeting so that we can provide an accurate consensus to the US League. Many thanks to **Kathy Kuntz**, Program Director, for bringing us excellent programming.

Many thanks to all board members for the excellent work you are doing. Keep up the good work! Special thanks to **Sara Markham** for her patience, tireless work, and devotion. 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!

**Blue dot on your label?  
Please renew!**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 7 pm**

### The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

- Deputy Superintendent **Michael Thompson**, WI Department of Public Instruction
- Professor **Gloria Ladson-Billings**, Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction, UW–Madison
- Associate Professor **Doug Harris**, Dept. of Education Policy Studies, UW–Madison

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

## September Board Highlights

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

**President Moss's Report**—The August retreat was a great success. Participants recommended that we have a retreat annually. The open house was well-attended, and included several new members and a few non-members.

**Web/Bulletin**—The board adopted more aggressive schedules for members to submit *Bulletin* articles, study materials, and agenda items. **Soltvedt** will organize a committee to review our Policies and Procedures document. She requested information about all current committees so she can keep the website updated. She is trying to determine how best to get information from the unit meetings into the *Bulletin* to share with the broader membership.

**Publicity**—Using funds from the Joyce Foundation passed through the LWVWI Education Fund, **Lois Kiggins** was able to advertise our September Open House and Issues Forum in *The Madison Times* and in smaller newspapers serving 7 communities in Dane County. *Isthmus* and Madison Newspapers carried small items; Channel 3000 (online) and Channel 3 (broadcast) publicized the event.

**Program**—As a means of engaging more members in the consensus study on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, **Kathy Kuntz** will create an online survey for members who cannot attend a unit meeting to submit their opinions. She will also have paper copies of the questions for members to complete at the October forum. The November program has been arranged. The Lively Issues topic will be the Voter ID law.

**Voter Service, Membership, Community Outreach**—See separate articles.

## Voter Service

Our Voter Service chair, **Lynn Klessig**, has resigned her position on the board because of health issues. We wish her a speedy recovery and thank her for all that she accomplished in her short time on the Board.

The status of a proposal to fund a project to register 18-year-olds is uncertain at this time. But, with or without funding, the project has significant volunteer support, and will continue. If you are interested in helping, please contact our office.

## Thanks for Your Support

We appreciate receiving contributions from **Peggy Weaver**

and from the following members:

<b>Mary Anglim</b>	<b>Sylvia Armstrong Poppelbaum</b>
<b>Laura Chern</b>	<b>Claire Rider</b>
<b>Mary Ann Halvorson</b>	<b>Connie Palmer Smalley</b>
<b>Dr. Margaret Lacy</b>	<b>Mona Steele</b>
<b>Earnestine Moss</b>	

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

## August Retreat

Approximately 20 members and non-members attended the August 27th retreat. **Helen Marks Dicks**, Wisconsin AARP Advocacy Director for State Issues, led a discussion emphasizing the need to protect our most precious resource: our reputation. She provided many excellent examples of how to pursue our efforts on positions, while remaining non-partisan.

Breakout sessions in the afternoon focused on efforts to educate the public about the changes brought by the Voter ID law; community outreach to assist people in obtaining the Voter ID they now require to vote; registering 18-year-olds. Another session was devoted to streamlining procedures to improve our ability to share information about our programs with members and the public.

## A New Year

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

Welcome, to our past LWVDC members, and especially to all of our new members! This year looks to be significant for our country and our state. Many changes have occurred during the last year that will require the continued vigilance of the League. To accomplish all that needs to be done, we need to be at full membership strength. Please continue to invite your friends and neighbors of like beliefs to join us in our major educational pursuits this upcoming year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, you will see a **blue dot** on the mailing label for this Bulletin. **Please renew** promptly to be sure you are included in this year's printed member directory. A membership form is included on page 3 of this *Bulletin*.

## Voter ID Pilot Project

The voter ID project, led by **Gail Bliss** (231-3511 or [gail3511@gmail.com](mailto:gail3511@gmail.com)), has elicited a lot of interest from members and community groups, including the Middleton Action Team. Please contact her if you would like to help. Volunteers will work in the following areas: Publicity (to solicit volunteers, “clients,” and funding), assisting clients with applying for birth certificates, problem-solving difficult cases, arranging transportation for clients to the DMV, and registering voters.

Using data from a 2005 UW-Milwaukee study (<http://www4.uwm.edu/eti/barriers/DriversLicense.pdf>) and the 2010 census, Bliss estimates that at least 50,000 otherwise eligible voters in Dane County do not have a voter ID.

**Kathy Stella** has been in contact with officials from the UW-Madison, Madison College, and Edgewood College about their plans for issuing student IDs that would comply with the requirements of the new voter ID law. None of the schools has a plan at present.

Bliss has met with a liaison from the Evjue Foundation to learn how to improve our application for support of this project. Successful proposals generally have multiple sources of funding, and few receive the maximum \$10,000 funding. Our proposal will include a promise that LWVDC will raise \$2000 in support for this project, backstopped by the League’s own funds.

## Community Outreach

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

On August 23, I attended an Outreach Committee meeting for the Poverty Coalition. Outreach is critical to our mission, and to the diversity of our organization. The Community Outreach Committee reaches out to a variety of organizations and leaders, to ensure that a broad spectrum of Dane County is aware of LWVDC activities in voter education and voter assistance.

The tentative date for our first Community Outreach meeting is Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 6:00 PM in the League office conference room. If you are interested in attending, please contact me. If the date and time don’t work for you, let me know when you are available, and I will choose a date that is most convenient for the majority.

Please encourage your friends and family members to become involved and support LWVDC in our efforts to educate the public to increase awareness and voter participation of all Wisconsin residents.



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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).*

*Please make check payable to:  
 The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.  
 2712 Marshall Court, Suite 2, Madison, WI 53705-2281*

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

## October 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.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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](mailto:djdevos@chorus.net)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm

Oakwood Village Retirement Community  
Elizabeth Lewis, 6225 Mineral Point Rd., C57  
230-3101; [bettyfay1916@gmail.com](mailto:bettyfay1916@gmail.com)

Jean Freese, 230-3540; [jfreese7@gmail.com](mailto:jfreese7@gmail.com)

#### TUESDAY EVENING WEST, 7:30 pm

Merilyn Kupferberg, 5754 Meadowood Dr.,  
271-1130, [joelmerkup@charter.net](mailto:joelmerkup@charter.net)  
Gloria Meyer, 288-8160; [gloria.meyer@juno.com](mailto:gloria.meyer@juno.com)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011

#### NORTHEASTSIDE, 3:30 pm

Lakeview Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.  
Mary Bean, 222-5783; [marybean@charter.net](mailto:marybean@charter.net)  
Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711; [dorothywheeler@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:phelpssa@charter.net)

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **October 2** – LWVWI Issues Briefing
- **October 5** – Issues Forum: Panel on the national League study topic, *The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education*
- **October 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **October 10** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **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

We're approved! 

The League of Women Voters of Dane County now has 501(c)(3) status.  
YIPPEE!!!