



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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September, 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

Greetings! Welcome to the 2011–2012 program year. This summer has been hot, busy, and exciting. Public access to our Capitol was restricted, an investigation was launched into allegations of violence between two Supreme Court Justices, Wisconsin’s redistricting plan was adopted and legally challenged, and Wisconsin held unprecedented recall elections, shattering campaign spending records.

The LWVWI State Convention and the LWVUS National Council were interesting and invaluable experiences. The three top concerns were transparency, voter ID implementation, and redistricting. Many Leaguers (state and national) were concerned that LWVUS violated its own policy of transparency when it failed to disclose funding sources for two Issue ads aired on TV against one Republican and one Democratic legislator.

On **August 27, 2011**, LWVDC will hold its first **Summer Retreat Workshop**, facilitated by **Helen Marks Dicks**, Associate Director for Advocacy–State Issues with AARP. Come and learn about: *How to Be an Effective Board Member*, *Voter ID*, *Community Outreach*, and much more. On **September 7**, our first monthly issues forum features WI Supreme Court Justice **Patience Drake Roggensack**. 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.” Many thanks to Kathy Kuntz, Program Director, for bringing us excellent programming.

I extend best wishes and our great appreciation to Carol Carstensen, who is stepping down as chair of our Education committee. And special thanks to Sara Markham for her patience, tireless work, and devotion. Members, thank you for your continued support. I encourage each of you to become involved in initiatives being advanced by your hard-working Board (fundraising/grant-writing, outreach, publicity, voter service, and program development). Your expertise and input are needed and welcome!

Condolences

We express our condolences to **Janice Baldwin**, whose husband, Robert, died in April, and to **Mona Steele**, who recently lost her mother.

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Open House with Refreshments 6:00 pm

Issues Forum 7:00 pm

The Many Factors of Judicial Independence

WI Supreme Court Justice Patience Drake Roggensack

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

Summer Board Highlights

Your outgoing board met in May and the incoming board met in August; both boards met jointly at the end of June. Minutes will be posted on our Web site when they are approved.

President Ernestine Moss reported on the state and national League conferences, and a poverty conference that she attended. Moss also led discussions planning the August retreat (see flyer). She also raised a number of outreach opportunities where LWVDC could provide voter education. **Gail Bliss**, who staffed the League's table at Juneteenth Day, recommended that circulating around the event with a clipboard would offer better results.

Moss also reported that our 501(3)(c) status is still pending final IRS approval. Until then, tax-deductible contributions must be made to the Education Fund.

Web site–Brook Soltvedt 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 was fairly high for three days preceding the election and peaked on Election Day at about 2,000 unique hits. Many who accessed a link to our page from another site were referred from Facebook.

Fundraising–Gail Bliss reported on the Challenge Grant (see related article). Very few League members have volunteered at BratFest in recent years, and the closing of Borders 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. The board approved three grant applications (see related article).

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 feasibility of expanded coverage, given the expense of printing a larger voter guide and the time involved for the office administrator and volunteers to solicit, track, assemble, and proofread the materials. More research is needed. Incoming Voter Service Director **Lynn Klessig's** report is in a separate article.

Program–Kathy Kuntz proposed topics and speakers for the rest of the calendar year. With board approval, she has engaged speakers.

Publicity–Lois Kiggins informed the board about Wisconsin Women's Network Equality Day. She has arranged for Madison City Channel to record our fall issues forums.

Thanks for Your Support

We thank the following for their contributions to LWVDC (from April 19 to August 12, 2011).

Bequest:

The League of Women Voters of Dane County received a bequest of \$20,000 from the estate of **Nellie McCannon**, who died in March. She had been living in Wheaton, Illinois since 1997. Nellie was on the faculty in the Agricultural Journalism Department at UW–Madison and worked with UW-Extension in Milwaukee County. Her generous bequest ensures that the work of our League will continue in future generations.

Donation on the Occasion of the Annual Meeting:

Arneita Halle

May Member Challenge Donors:

Ellouise Beatty	Diane Martin Liebert
Cynthia Benevenga	Barbara Mortensen
Sybil Better	Ernestine Moss
Gail Bliss	Ann Nelson
Heather Cunningham, honoring her grandmother, Mary Cunningham, a long-time LWW member in Tennessee	
Mary Fulton	Joan Neubauer
Helen Horn	Pam Rewey
Kathy Johnson	Joan Schuette
Andrea Kaminski	Brook Soltvedt
Jesse Kehres	Deborah Speckmann
Maureen Kind	Edith Sullivan
Merilyn Kupferberg	Caryl Terrell
Florence Lederman	Priscilla Thain

Donations with Membership:

Mary Bean	Sue Lloyd
Ellouise Beatty	Marie McCabe
Lois Bernbeck	Kathryn Mulligan
Fran Bicknell	Helen L. Navarre
June Weisberger Blanchard	Aileen Nettleton
James Cain & Miriam Simmons	Sally Phelps
Sally H. Carpenter	Melanie G. Ramey
Cheryl Furstace Daniels	Elizabeth Ross
Irene Durbak	Joan L. Schuette
Joann Elder	Rose Sime
Kathleen Fullin	Suzanne Smith
Nancy Jensen	Rose Stephenson
Doug and Kathy Johnson	Priscilla Thain
Barbara Karavolas	Georgene Vitense
Carol Kiemel	Yvonne Vitense
Kathy Kuntz	Fred Wade &
Merilyn Kupferberg	Marilyn Townsend
Nancy Lersch	Pat Watkins
Diane Martin Liebert	Dorothy Wheeler
Caroline Liedtke	

Voter Service

Lynn Klessig, lyklessig@charter.net, 691-1012

This summer has been busy due to the new Voter Photo ID Law and other legislation affecting Wisconsin's elective process. Under a less-publicized provision of the Voter ID law, the Government Accountability Board lost its authority to appoint statewide Special Registration Deputies ("SRDs"). It's now more important than ever for LWVDC members to become SRDs in one or more communities so we can register voters throughout Dane County. The City of Madison has an on-line training video that is easy to complete and helpful for those who register voter at farmers markets and other venues.

Voter registration at the farmers' markets has been slow, but citizens have many questions about the new voting requirements. Education about new requirements for registration and voting is key to voter participation in upcoming elections.

LWVDC's TV-interview program on Madison City Channel, "Know Your Candidates" appeared this summer covering candidates for State Assembly District 48. The summer program was coordinated by **Cheryl Daniels** and moderated by **Mona Steele**.

With the many voter-related activities coming up this year, we need more help. Please contact me (or call Sara in the LWVDC office) if you are interested in joining a voter service committee. Help us write questions for candidates for *Candidates' Answers*. Help with outreach activities. Help form a committee to work with the coalition to register 18-year-old high school students. Work with us on the voter ID pilot (see related article). There is much to do and we need member talents and input to accomplish our goals. Let us hear from you!

Voter ID Pilot Project

Gail Bliss, gail3511@gmail.com, 231-3511

With the requirement for photo ID for voting, people eligible to vote who do not have a drivers license or other acceptable ID are eligible for a free WISDOT (Dept. of Transportation) ID. To get that ID, one needs a valid, certified copy of their birth certificate. Each state has a different process for obtaining one, but a single resource includes links to all the relevant information (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>). Many states require the applicant to send a photocopy of a photo ID. You can see the difficulty!

The LWVDC board approved **\$500 for a pilot project** to help a limited number of people obtain birth certificates, and WISDOT IDs. Based on the lessons we learn, we plan to apply for a grant of **up to \$10,000 from the Evjue Foundation** to expand the work. If you want to work on this project, or know of groups that might be interested in partnering with LWVDC, please contact me.

Lots Is Happening with Fundraising!

Gail Bliss, gail3511@gmail.com, 231-3511

Thanks to the two anonymous members who provided \$2,000 for our 2011 **May Member Challenge Grant** and to the 23 members who met that challenge. It was a complete success, **raising \$4,015**—\$1,290 for the General Fund, and \$2,725 for the Education Fund. Thanks to all who participated!

The board approved three grant applications!

The **Program Committee** has secured a pass-through programming grant of **\$400 from LWVWI from Joyce Foundation funds** to cover publicity and refreshments for our September 7th forum, *The Many Factors of Judicial Independence*, with Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Patience Drake Roggensack.

The **Voter Service Committee** is seeking a grant of up to **\$1,000 from the LWVUS Education Fund** for voter registration in Dane County high schools.

The board also approved **\$500 to fund a pilot project** to help voters without photo IDs obtain the birth certificates needed to get their "free" WISDOT ID (see related article).

Community Outreach

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

On July 28, I attended the first "Fighting Poverty Locally" meeting, sponsored by Progressive Dane. Their goal is to build a diverse coalition of groups and individuals committed to pushing an anti-poverty agenda. I volunteered to be on the outreach committee, as I see this as an opportunity for the League to help identify issues faced by those in poverty with getting a Voter ID, housing, etc.

I invite you to join the League's Community Outreach Committee. It has a critical role to play as we try to increase and diversify our membership and our service. Your input and expertise are needed and welcome. If you are unable to help, please encourage a friend or family member.

September 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, SEPTEMBER 19, 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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm

Oakwood Village Retirement Community
Elizabeth Lewis, 6225 Mineral Point Rd., C57
230-3101; bettyfay1916@gmail.com

Jean Freese, 230-3540; jfreese7@gmail.com

TUESDAY EVENING WEST, 7:30 pm

Gloria Meyer, 13 Jacobs Ct
Gloria Meyer, 288-8160; gloria.meyer@juno.com

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **August 27** – LWVDC Retreat
- **September 7** – Open house and Issues Forum: WI Supreme Court Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, *The Many Faces of Judicial Independence*
- **September 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **September 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **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 10** – 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 10** – *Bulletin* deadline
- **November 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **January 14 or 21** – Lively Issues Luncheon (TBA)
- **February 1** – Issues Forum (TBA)
- **February 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **February 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **March 7** – Issues Forum (TBA)
- **March 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **March 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **April 4** – Issues Forum (TBA)
- **April 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **April 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin*
- **May 2** – LWVDC Annual Meeting (tentative)
- **May 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting



GREAT News: The Prest Building where LWVDC rents its office space is no longer for sale, which means we can stay put for the foreseeable future!