



Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: MWF 9–12; TR 9–12:30

March, 2012

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- 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

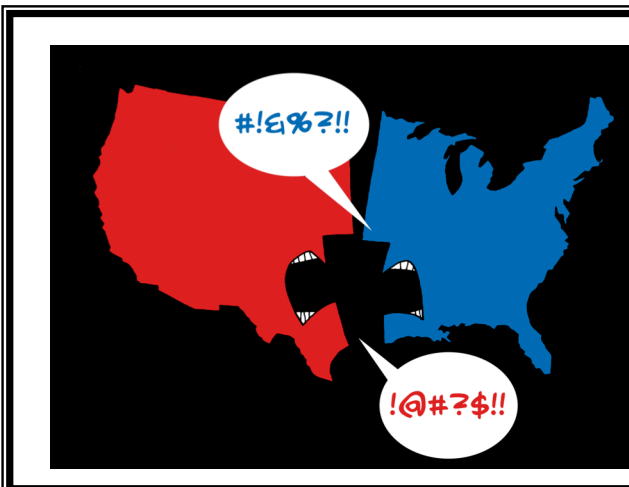
March is National Women’s History Month. Shireen Dodson said, “If we want our girls to benefit from the courage and wisdom of the women before them, we have to share the stories.” “Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul,” said Coretta Scott King. As I look around us today, their spirits are embodied among us. Women in League showed their courage in challenging the Wisconsin Voter ID Law, and I truly believe that women will be the souls that save Wisconsin and the nation as we go “ever forward, and never backward.”

I thank each of you (women and men) for the courage you show every day, as you do the work of League to help empower Wisconsin citizenry to make democracy work. Women gained the right to vote almost 92 years ago, and we are fighting to keep it, not just for women, but for everyone.

On March 7, our Monthly Issues Forum will be the viewing of Brian Malone’s film *Patriocracy* at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ. We need your voice and input. Come, bring friends, and/or family, and join the conversation. Thank you to Kathy Kuntz, Program Director, for the wonderful work she is doing, and bringing us another wonderful program!

April 3 is Wisconsin’s Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary. This is one of the most important primaries of our time, and League is doing everything possible to help educate the public about Voter ID and residency requirements, to ensure that every vote cast will count. Thanks to Gail Bliss and all who have been working on the Voter ID Project. The work you are doing is KEY to empowering voters, one voter at a time.

Many thanks to Sara Markham and all Board members for the excellent work you are doing. Members, thank you for your continued support. We are now recruiting for Board members. I hope you will accept the challenge. Your expertise and input are greatly needed and welcome.



March Issues Forum
Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 6:30 PM

PATRIOCRACY
a film by brian malone

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ
1501 Gilbert Rd., Madison
\$5 donation requested

Lively Issues Luncheon

The Lively Issues Luncheon was attended by more than 80 members and guests and was recorded by the wonderful crew at Madison City Channel. If you were unable to attend or would like to hear the talk again, you can stream the program (and all of this year's monthly forums) through your computer. Visit the LWVDC "channel" at

www.cityofmadison.com/citychannel/ShowDetails.cfm?id=116

Melanie Ramey, LWVWI President, gave a lively and humorous picture of growing up in the south in an era where voter suppression was just part of the culture. She is determined to see that it doesn't happen in Wisconsin. Melanie and **Andrea Kaminski**, Executive Director of LWVWI, described the constitutional basis for their challenge of the Voter ID law. They have had one hearing with Judge Niess. He will rule in March on several factors, including whether the group, and Melanie as an individual, have standing to sue. LWV Wisconsin maintains updated news about the case on its website (www.lwvwi.org).

Following the luncheon and presentation, Madison's City Clerk, **Marybeth Witzel-Behl**, held a training session to deputize about a dozen members and guests to register voters. She also provided brochures about the new voting rules.

Planning for 2012–2013

The Nominating Committee has begun the task of finding members to serve on the Board and on key committees of the League for next year.

We encourage members to offer your services, even if you feel you aren't in a position to take on a major assignment. Can you help plan one program? Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for a new member? Maybe you'd like to arrange for refreshments at a program, or help hang posters about our events. If you have writing or computer skills, maybe you'd like to help write grants, or work on the *Bulletin* or our website. Whatever your skills or talents, League can use your help! Please volunteer to serve. Call our office and let Sara know how you would like to help.

Patriocracy

Kathy Kuntz, kkuntz@chorus.net, 249-5195

In March the League goes to the movies and we hope you'll join us!

The LWVDC will be hosting a special screening of the documentary **Patriocracy** (88 minutes) on Wednesday, March 7, at **6:30 pm** at **Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ** at 1501 Gilbert Road on Madison's west side. (Note the early start time and change of location!) We will follow with a lively discussion of the issues.

Patriocracy, produced by five-time Emmy-award winner Brian Malone, explores how the extreme polarization of politics today prevents government from getting things done. It includes interviews with journalists, commentators, Senators, Congressional representatives, and more. LWV President Elizabeth McNamara screened the film with audiences in Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina after their Presidential primaries to engage citizens in restoring civility to our democratic process.

To learn more about the film and watch a trailer online, please visit www.PatriocracyMovie.com. If you are a Facebook user, you may wish to "like" their page.

Through 'special negotiations' the producer has given Leagues access to this film at a cost of just \$5/attendee. Therefore, **we will be collecting donations (\$5/person recommended) at the event.** We are not attempting to make money from this screening, but we would like to cover our costs. We will be advertising this event widely and we encourage you to **come and bring friends.**

We'll be back at Capitol Lakes with a discussion of affordable housing issues in April.

Mourning Libby Lewis

Libby Lewis, a 50-year member of League, died in February. Libby joined the League in 1956 and was an active member, serving on the board as Action Vice President (while knitting through all the meetings!), and working on environmental issues and the Land Use Committee. LWVDC and friends will miss her.

You may read her obituary online at <http://tinyurl.com/libbylewis>

Voter ID Project

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

Andrea Kaminski (LWVWI) and I met with Dane County Board Chair **Scott McDonell**, County Clerk **Karen Peters**, Register of Deeds **Kristi Chlebowski**, and staff to discuss how the county could facilitate voter ID assistance for Dane County residents. They reported that Milwaukee County has made free birth certificates available to those born in Milwaukee County who need the birth certificate to obtain a DOT photo ID for voting. Milwaukee has provided 65 birth certificates so far this year, but is only able to help about half the people who come in, either because the person already has ID or was not born in Milwaukee County. Dane County is considering a similar program.

Most requests of the LWVDC have been for birth certificates outside of Dane County, with Illinois being the most commonly requested. Chlebowski states that her staff assists people regularly with forms for Illinois birth certificates.

Dane County is considering a targeted mailing to older voters, users of county social service programs, and other groups likely to be at risk of not having driver's licenses. This mailing will include information about LWVDC and our funding and volunteers to assist people in obtaining ID for voting purposes.

For now, Peters will be sending all municipal clerks our flyer explaining the voter ID project, which they will be encouraged to provide to every prospective voter who arrives at the polling place without an ID.

I also provided practical voter ID training at a Dane County United meeting on January 19 for about 20 people who were already Madison special registration deputies, and offered a second Voter ID volunteers training February 14 at the League office. If you would like to volunteer with the program, please call the League office to get on the list for the next training, or if you feel you already have the knowledge about photo ID to get on the list to be assigned clients to assist.

Community Outreach

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

On February 6, I attended the MMSD workshop *Shaping Our Future*, where Superintendent Dan Nerad unveiled *The Plan to Build Our Future: The Preliminary*

Plan to Eliminate Gaps in Achievement in MMSD Students. MMSD has a series of listening sessions planned to get feedback from the community on the proposal. Please visit their website for a schedule, and try to attend at least one session to learn more. <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/thefuture>

I also passed out flyers at my church regarding Voter ID requirements for the upcoming election.

The Community Outreach Committee continues to recruit for members. Your expertise and service can be of great value to League. Please call today with your interest. Thank you for your support.

All Are Welcome

Deborah Speckmann, 445-3426; daspeckmann@charter.net

As the 2012 winter continues its strange beginning, the LWVDC has taken this opportunity to expand its membership. So far as we grow there appears to be more and more work for us to attend to. Welcome, new members, welcome. The survival of the nation needs our vigilance, so with each and every new member we become stronger to fight the good fight. Even as the year marches on, continue to encourage your friends, family, coworkers, and acquaintances to join. Thank you.

Thanks for Your Support!

We appreciate receiving contributions (as of February 13, 2012) from the following non-members:

Jess Anderson Donna McLeod Mrs. Ann W. Lacy

And from members:

Emy Gartzke	Connie Threinen , in memory
Lori and Arlan Kay	of Libby Lewis
Arlene Silveira	Carey Weiler

Valentine/Birthday contributions have been shared by:

Shirley Inhorn	Edith Sullivan
Helen LeRoy	Priscilla Thain
Pam Rewey	Tom and Sandi Vandervest
Suzanne Smith	Barbara Clare Voltz
Margaret Stine	

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

March Unit Locations

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012

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 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, MARCH 19, 2012

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, MARCH 20, 2012

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm

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

TUESDAY EVENING WEST, 5:30 pm

Noodles, 3600 University Avenue
Gloria Meyer, 288-8160; gkmeyer68@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **February 21** – Spring primary election
- **March 5** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **March 7** – Issues Forum, Screening of the documentary *Patriocracy*. Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, 1501 Gilbert Road; 6:30 PM.
- **March 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **April 3** – General election and Presidential primary
- **April 4** – Issues Forum on affordable housing
- **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 Convention, Wash, DC

If you haven't already renewed your membership, OR if you have a friend who would like to join, take advantage of the Special Half-Year Dues Rate for the remaining fiscal year, January 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012!

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 53705-2282*

Membership: *[Check your selection]*

Member _____ \$35

Second Member _____ \$30

[same address, shares mailings with first member]

Special Rate Member _____ \$17.50

[of limited income or a student]

Scholarship Member _____ \$0

Member Contribution: *[Check your selection]*

\$1,000 – 500 \$499 – 200 \$199 – 100

\$99 – 50 other _____

Total: _____