



The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

LWVDC Annual Report, 2009-2010
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

[Issued for the Annual Meeting, May 5, 2010]



The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

LWVDC Board July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Officers:

President:	Kathy Johnson
President-Elect:	Earnestine Moss
Secretary:	Helen LeRoy
Treasurer:	Pat Levin

Directors:

Carol Dutton	Program
Teague Harvey	Membership
Gloria Meyer	Public Relations, Membership
Brook Soltvedt	<i>Bulletin</i> and Web site
Priscilla Thain	Voter Service [candidate forums and voter registration]
Tom Vandervest	Investment Committee [until January 2010]
Fred Wade	Fundraising

Off-Board Portfolios, 2009-2010

Laura Chern	Coordinator <i>Candidates' Answers</i> Volunteers
Cheryl Furstace Daniels	Coordinator, "Know Your Candidates"
Maureen Kind	Coordinator, Adopt-A-Highway Project

LWVDC Committee Chairs, 2009-2010

Helen Horn	Investment
Gail Bliss	International Relations/ <i>Great Decisions</i>
Carol Carstensen	Education
Carol Kiemel	Children and Families at Risk
Earnestine Moss	Community Outreach
Connie Threinen	Land-use and Transportation

LWVDC Discussion Unit Leaders, 2009-2010

Diane de Vos	Middleton
Jean Freese and Elizabeth W. Lewis	Tuesday Afternoon
Cristel Gjerde	Tuesday Evening West
Sally Phelps and Priscilla Thain	Downtown Dinner
Dorothy Wheeler and Mary Bean	Northeastside



LWVDC Annual Report 2009-2010

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Statement by the President**Kathy Johnson**

When I had a chance to fill in as president of the LWVDC Board of Directors, it helped me to remember how much I have enjoyed being an active member of League. This past year has been a great experience and I have enjoyed working with the able members of the board.

I want to especially thank program director Carol Dutton for all her hard work in forming new committees, finding speakers and developing study materials. If you had the opportunity to attend any of the 7 forums this year I am sure you will agree with me that she has done a great job of putting topics of county-wide, and sometimes nation-wide interest before us. Be sure to read her program report.

The officers of the board -- Helen LeRoy, Secretary, Pat Levin, Treasurer, and Earnestine Moss, President Elect -- have all contributed to the smooth operation of not only board meetings, but to the functioning of the local League.

Our publicity and Web site have been headed by Gloria Meyer and Brook Soltvedt. Brook also edits the *Bulletin*. We have worked to place more items on the Web site, and that included the primary edition of the *Candidates' Answers*. Our voter service work, headed by Priscilla Thain, was very busy providing accurate information for the community, as well as finding moderators for live forums around the county.

Our membership chair, Teague Harvey, did what most busy students do: she tried to keep all the balls in the air at the same time. Her ideas, especially using technology and reaching younger people, are most valuable. She will remain on the membership committee next year.

Fred Wade has done a great job of helping us with fundraising the past two years. His idea of asking former members and business people for donations has been somewhat successful, and his idea of the challenge grant was very well received.

I want to thank the continuing board members, as well as those who are completing their terms, for all the fine work they have done. I also must thank Sara Markham for going above and beyond what we have any right to expect and for helping us all to stay on track and with our heads above water.

Thank you to all the members who have made this such a great year. I look forward to working with loyal League members in the coming program year.

Adopt-A-Highway**Maureen Kind**

We cleaned the highway on Monday, September 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Joining us were Mary Bean, Gail Bliss, Jesse Kehres, and Grace Richardson. [The May 2009 clean-up, of the previous fiscal year, was handled by Brook Soltvedt.] Thank you to all who participated in this community project.

Bulletin**Brook Soltvedt**

We have been working to keep the *Bulletin* to four pages this year. We want to provide you with useful information while saving printing and mailing costs and your time. A new feature this year has been Gloria Meyer's interviews with new local members. Feedback is always welcome!

Children and Families at Risk Committee**Carol Kiemel**

Our committee was involved in two major efforts. Both will be ongoing issues in the coming program year. The first was active lobbying on the committee's part at the county and city committee level to restore proposed funding cuts in the Dane County Department of Social Services and the City of Madison Office of Community Services. Closer to the votes before the Board of Supervisors and Common Council, all League members were encouraged to call their elected official asking that the funds be restored. The 6% cut in Madison Community Services was restored, but the 3% cut to county Purchase of Services Agencies was not. The League's statements can be found at our Web site. Next year's budgets are sure to contain similar challenges to the delivery of social services in Madison and Dane County.

Representatives from our Committee were and still are part of the collaborative MMSD 4K Planning Committee. In January, the school board voted to begin four-year-old kindergarten in September, 2011. It was hoped it could begin in September, 2010, but the board was unsure about the funding, and some day care providers felt that not voting until January did not leave them enough time to register children and plan adequately for them. The 4K subcommittee on outreach has developed a list of about 64 organizations and agencies that serve families that may be the hardest to reach. In September, we will be asking League members to help us visit about 50 of them with materials about the value of 4K and registration materials. All will be sent e-mails with registration materials. In addition, there is the continuing challenge to keep 4K in the next MMSD budget. Another challenge is increasing the number of school districts providing 4K in Dane County. To increase awareness of the importance of 4K, school board candidates for the Spring 2010 General Election whose districts do not have 4K were mailed the DVD of the LWVDC General Meeting whose focus was 4K (March 4, 2009).

Committee members: Fran Bicknell, Kathy Fullin, Harriet Gorski, Carol Kiemel, Helen LeRoy, Sylvia Poppelbaum, Pam Rewey, and Dorothy Wheeler. The committee does not currently have a chair.

Community Outreach Committee**Earnestine Moss**

The Community Outreach Committee efforts were geared toward increasing the presence and visibility of the League of Women of Dane County (LWDC) in the community through dialogue and partnerships. As the Community Outreach Chair, I helped to promote voter awareness by announcing League efforts regularly on 1670 AM Radio Programs "Let's Go to Church" and "Heart and Soul." Efforts were also made to increase the 2010 Census return by partnering with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to appeal to the

[Community Outreach Committee, cont'd.]

African American community to increase participation through a community forum held at the Urban League of Greater Madison in February. Other efforts included outreach to organizations and community members to join an organization and participate in local government and the decision-making processes through civic engagement. The message was that the participation does not have to be with the League of Women Voters of Dane County, but to join some organization to help engage people in purposeful and peaceful dialogue to help stop the violence. For example, I participated in helping to organize the first Communities Families United event culminating August last year to stop the violence on the southwest side of Madison. The event was held in Elver Park. It was well attended and is to be an annual event. The goals for the coming year would be to meet regularly and to involve more members. I have enjoyed being the Community Outreach Chair and look forward to working as President of the League of Women Voters of Dane County in the coming year.

Education Committee

Carol Carstensen

The Education Committee did not meet in the first half of the year. It is currently meeting monthly to plan the League's General Meeting about charter schools, scheduled for early next year.

Fundraising Committee

Fred Wade

The LWVDC fiscal year runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. As of April 19, 2010, office records reflect we have received a total of \$10,384.30 in donations and contributions.

Membership Renewal Donations: Member contributions during the period of membership renewals came to a total of \$3,970 for 2009-2010, including \$3,730 of donations to the LWVDC General Fund, and \$240 of contributions to the LWV Education Fund. Last year, members contributed a total of \$4,679 with their membership contributions, including \$3,884 to the General Fund, and \$795 to the Education Fund.

Appeal to Former Members: A special appeal was made to 101 former members in November. Eight former members contributed a total of \$670 to the League, including \$570 to the General Fund and \$100 to the LWV Education Fund.

Community Fund Raising Initiative: The LWVDC began an effort to raise additional funds from the Dane County community during the fiscal year. A number of local businesses were contacted by letter, but no contributions were received.

Holiday Gift Wrapping: The Holiday Gift Wrapping at Borders West and East was again coordinated by Joann Elder at Borders West and Cheryl Furstace Daniels at Borders East. This activity raised \$378.30 for the LWVDC in 2009 compared to a total of \$1,153 in 2008. The difference resulted in part from the fact that Borders gave the League fewer time periods to engage in gift wrapping during the 2009 holiday season.

[Fundraising Committee Report, cont'd.]

Valentine-Birthday Letter Appeal: As of April 13, 2010 members have responded to the Valentine-Birthday appeal by donating \$3,745 to the League, including \$2,215 for the LWVDC General Fund, and \$1,530 for the LWV Education Fund. This compares to a total of \$4,233 in total contributions that were made last year in response to the solicitation letter.

Miscellaneous Contributions: As of March 30, 2010, the League has received a total of \$1,621 in miscellaneous contributions. These include \$235 for *Candidates' Answers*, \$245 in connection with the Lively Issues Luncheon, \$455 in Memorial Contributions, \$76 of birthday donations received from the State League, and \$610 in the category of other member contributions. About three-fourths of the miscellaneous contributions were made to the General Fund, with the remaining fourth designated for the Education Fund.

Application for a Grant from the Evjue Foundation: On March 4, the LWVDC applied for a grant from the Evjue Foundation. The application requests \$6,000 to help cover the cost of publishing and distributing *Candidates' Answers*. Last year, the LWVDC applied for a grant, but did not receive an award because the Foundation had "less money available for funding community organizations" due to the "economic recession and fundamental changes in the newspaper business."

May Challenge Grant 2010: Two members have volunteered to donate a total of up to \$2,500 to match the donations of members who may contribute to the LWVDC during the month of May. If member donations permit the LWVDC to take full advantage of these generous offers, we could raise a total of \$5,000 or more.

The May Challenge Grant was initiated in 2009, when one of our members offered to make an anonymous grant of up to \$1,500 to match the contributions of members who might contribute to the LWVDC during the month of May. Members responded to her challenge by donating a total of \$3,675 (including the \$1,500 match), of which \$1,325 was donated to the LWVDC, and \$2,350 was donated to the Education Fund.

Bratfest: In past years, League members have volunteered to work during the Bratfest during the Memorial Day weekend as a way of raising funds for the League. This funding activity raised \$338 for the LWVDC in 2009 and \$454 in 2008.

As this is written, volunteers are still needed to serve as grillers for Bratfest 2010. Instructions for signing up are posted on the LWVDC Web site, and are described in the LWVDC *Bulletin*.

International Relations/ *Great Decisions*

Gail Bliss

Again this year the Great Decisions discussion group met Thursday mornings in February and March at the West Madison Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace (Near Hilldale). Each week participants read the appropriate chapter from the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org) Great Decisions book. We watched the 30 minute DVD presentation that the FPA provides to supplement the written material. One of the members of the group volunteers to make a short presentation and to lead the discussion.

Twenty-four people ordered books, and between 15 and 20 attend the discussion each week. In addition to League members we had a few people who live in the neighborhood who found out about the program from the Senior Center newsletter.

This year the group decided to stay at the Senior Center for lunch once during the series, which allowed us to spend some time socializing after the presentation.

Investment Committee

Helen Horn

The figures in this report are for the calendar year 2009 in order to have a complete year to assess. With the stock market crisis in 2008, LWVDC stocks were down about 37% from the end of 2007 to the end of 2008. For the calendar year 2009, the stocks recovered significantly (up 33%), but did not reach the value they had at the end of 2007. So far in 2010, they have continued to recover at about the same rate as the general markets. We met several times during the year and will continue to watch the market and to evaluate the performance of the portfolio.

No funds were withdrawn from the long term investments during the 2009 calendar year because some of the Barschall bequest is still being held in CDs for balancing what has been an annual budget shortfall. (See treasurer's report.)

Value on:	12/31/2007	\$151,202
	12/31/2008	\$ 95,265
	12/31/2009	\$126,675

	01/01/2009	DIV & CAP	PUR-	WITH-	NET	12/31/09
	MARKET	GNS INC	CHASES	DRAWALS	RETURN	MARKET
	VALUE					VALUE
Calendar Year 2009						
Dodge & Cox Int'l	\$8,170	\$163	\$0	\$0	\$3,715	\$12,047
Dodge & Cox Balanced	\$19,128	\$570	\$0	\$0	\$4,857	\$24,555
Vanguard 500 Index	\$12,479	\$319	\$0	\$0	\$2,986	\$15,784
Vanguard Mid-Cap Index	\$17,172.55	\$574	\$0	\$0	\$6,332	\$24,079
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt	\$9,517.36	\$252	\$0	\$0	\$2,480	\$12,249
Fidelity Puritan	\$16,440	\$421	\$0	\$0	\$3,967	\$20,827
Janus Growth & Income	\$12,358	\$157	\$0	\$0	\$4,617	\$17,133
	\$95,265	\$2,455	\$0	\$0	\$28,954	\$126,675

Committee Members: Sally Carpenter, Helen Horn, Pat Levin, Caroline Liedtke, Carol Toussaint

Land-use and Transportation Committee

Connie Threinen

As always in fast-growing Dane County, there has been considerable study and action taking place. Our committee, small as it is, cannot follow everything: with more members we could keep up with more and newer matters. As it is, we have tried to keep up with those projects that we have followed for the past few years.

We were in charge of the subject for LWVDC's October 2009 General Meeting, the proposed Regional Transportation Authority, a project that fit into existing LWVDC positions and we were able to support at two hearings. In addition to a panel of knowledgeable people (David Trowbridge, Susan Schmitz, Bruce Speight, and Keith Plasterer), we prepared a number of written materials and maps for the meeting and for the Units. The RTA will deserve our continuing attention.

We continue to have a representative on a citizen advisory committee to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the agency that plans the use of federal transportation funds.

We have participated in Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) matters, sometimes as the League of Women Voters and more recently in cooperation with the Capital Region Advocacy Network on Environmental Sustainability (CRANES), in which we are now "Partners." In addition to offering recommendations regarding CARPC policies and practices, we have been especially concerned about their role in approving applications for "urban service area" (USA) extensions, the water and sewer extensions that allow land development. An application from Mazomanie that we opposed was denied. An application from Middleton and Westport that we also opposed has been approved.

Our positions on protecting farmland and open space by keeping development close to existing urban areas will continue to demand considerable attention from this committee.

Libby Lewis; Phil Lewis; Caryl Terrell; Cris Gjerde; Connie Threinen, Chair

Membership Committee

Teague Harvey and Gloria Meyer

As of March 30, 2010, the League of Women Voters of Dane County has 240 members. The total for 2009-10 includes 147 local members, 67 nationally-recruited members, and 26 honorary 50-year members.

Throughout the fiscal year of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010, we have welcomed 9 new local members, and 13 new nationally-recruited members. In order to introduce our new members to the League, short profiles of these individuals were included in various issues of *Bulletin*. As far as potential members, we contacted 5 women and 2 subsequently joined; this is a 40% response rate, which is up from last year's 23% response rate for potential members. Potential members are individuals who either expressed interest in LWVDC or were recommended to us by current members. Member suggestions are highly encouraged, and the Membership Committee will gladly contact any individual who is potentially

[Membership Committee, cont'd.]

interested in learning more about LWVDC!

New activities, in addition to having short profiles of new members appear in LWVDC's *Bulletin*, included encouraging units to involve new members, and using nametags at LWVDC forums.

Given the current economic situation, membership levels have stalled a bit, though we are generally pleased with the numbers. During this fiscal year of July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010, 23 local members did not renew their membership. The Membership Committee thanks all of the League's loyal members for their commitment over the years. Both the September Open House and January Lively Issues Luncheon enjoyed excellent participation. The committee worked to encourage units to involve new members, and use name tags at general meetings. We hope to plan future events which might encourage membership (especially among younger individuals), and involve some of our nationally-recruited members in our local League. As always, anyone who is interested in joining the Membership Committee is more than welcome!

In June, we will be sending out renewal notices encouraging everyone to renew their membership by the end of July.

Program

Carol Dutton

The LWVDC's 2009-2010 program focused on Dane County issues including Dane County Government and the Dane County Criminal Justice System.

Our county executive, Kathleen Falk, kicked off the fall program on September 9th "Looking Ahead to 2020." She discussed a variety of topics, focusing on the Regional Transit Authority and her concern about the substantial problems with the overuse of alcohol in the county.

Members of the Dane County Government Committee have taken action supporting the change from an elected coroner to an appointed medical examiner for the county based on our position that administrative positions should be elected, not appointed. The committee has determined that the 37 member Board of Supervisors may be reduced a few seats after the redistricting which will take place when the 2010 census results become available.

The committee is also in the process of revising the 1989 LWVDC publication *Dane County Government: its services and organizational structure* and plans to post portions of the revision to the LWVDC Web site in the near future. Committee members are looking into the advisability of suggesting a reduction in the 54 boards and commissions currently appointed by the county executive.

October 7th brought an excellent panel of speakers on the Regional Transit Authority who spoke on "A Transportation System that Works for Dane County." The panel included David Trowbridge, Transport 2020 Project Manager, Keith Plasterer, President, Pro-Rail Wisconsin, Susan Schmitz, Executive Director,

[Program, cont'd.]

Downtown Madison, Inc., and Bruce Speight, Field Director, WISPIRG. Thanks to the LWVDC Land Use and Transportation Study Committee for preparing the study materials and arranging the program.

A new Dane County Criminal Justice committee was formed to prepare for the November 4th talk by Dane County Sheriff, Dave Mahoney, on "Increasing Effectiveness in the Dane County Justice System." Sheriff Mahoney discussed alternatives to incarceration as well as the progress being made in his department on implementing the recommendations of the 2007 Criminal Justice Assessment Report. More work needs to be done in both areas.

Our Lively Issues Luncheon on January 16th at the Madison Concourse Hotel focused on the current study issue of the LWVWI: Should Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices be elected or selected on the basis of merit? Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson made the case for election and Tom Basting, former President of the Wisconsin Bar Association, supported merit selection. It was truly a "Lively Issue!"

February's general meeting focused on Health Care Reform in Wisconsin. Since the federal health care legislation had still not passed by February 3rd, Dr. Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, brought us up-to-date on the plan to pass the legislation in Washington. His forecast of a plan to use "reconciliation" to pass the bill gave us renewed hope and eventually was used for passage. Karen Timberlake, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, gave an excellent description of the current programs to provide health care for Wisconsin citizens. Thanks to the LWVDC's Health Care Committee. At the end of the meeting, we celebrated the LWV's 90th birthday with a cake!

Early Voting and Re-districting was the topic at our March 3rd meeting. Robert Ohlsen, Dane County Clerk, reviewed the recent recommendations of the Government Accountability Board on early voting. The legislature needs to take action on the recommendations before they can take effect. Professor Ken Mayer, of the UW Political Science Department, discussed re-districting, gerrymandering, and some guidelines which should be followed in the re-districting process. League members will be following both topics with interest in 2010 and 2011.

On April 7th, our meeting topic was "Too Many Dane County Minorities Incarcerated: What Can We Do?" Recent reports addressing the issue were reviewed by John Bauman, the Juvenile Court Administrator, and Celia Jackson, co-chair of the Dane County Taskforce on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. The taskforces are in the process of organizing to implement the recommendations in their reports. This program was planned by the LWVDC's Dane County Criminal Justice Committee.

All general meetings elicited great questions from the audience. Refreshments were provided by two units at the March and April meetings and seemed to be well received, encouraging participants to stay and visit after the meeting.

Unit meetings were generally well attended. Special thanks to the unit leaders and discussion leaders who enabled discussions on the local level!

We are most appreciative of the fine presentations by our many speakers and also of the good work of the numerous League members who prepared study materials, videotaped the presentations, and contributed in many ways to make the general meetings and unit meetings run smoothly.

Public Relations

Gloria Meyer

Most of the public relations activity this year involved increasing attendance at the monthly forums, promoting *Candidates' Answers*, and writing occasional letters to the editor when significant issues occurred. Additional work involved improving communication within the Dane County League.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Levin

For Fiscal Year 2008-2009(July 1, 2008 – July 1, 2009).

Voter Service

***Candidates' Answers* and Election-Day Phone Staffing**

Laura Chern

We thank the volunteers listed below who helped in Spring 2010 with the production of *Candidates' Answers* [CA], our longstanding voters' guide that provides verbatim responses by the candidates to questions posed by League. The primary CA was on-line only; the general election CA appeared as an insert in *Isthmus*, reaching more than 55,000 readers throughout Dane County. As an ongoing promise to the community, LWVDC tried to staff the office phone on Election Day for both elections.

Proofreading for the online primary edition of CA, January 19 & 20:

▪ Myrna McNatt ▪ Ann Nelson ▪ Sally Phelps ▪ Sylvia Poppelbaum ▪ Beth Ross ▪ Priscilla Thain

Layout, Design, and Posting of the primary edition of CA online:

▪ Brook Soltvedt

Proofreading the primary edition of CA online:

▪ Helen Horn

Answering phones on Election Day, February 16:

▪ Laura Chern ▪ Esther Hedfield ▪ Sally Phelps

Proofreading for the general election edition of CA, March 9 & 10:

▪ Cynthia Benevenga ▪ Laura Chern ▪ Irene Durbak ▪ Mary Ann Halvorson ▪ Priscilla Herman ▪ Betsy Jensen ▪ Nancy Jensen ▪ Doug Johnson ▪ Lois Kiggins ▪ Sue Moline Larson ▪ Clare McArdle ▪ Donna Paske
▪ Sylvia Poppelbaum ▪ Claire Rider ▪ Priscilla Thain

Proofreading the galleys for the general election edition of CA, March 19:

▪ Mary Bean ▪ Laura Chern ▪ Irene Durbak ▪ Priscilla Herman ▪ Barbara Karavolas ▪ Marilyn Kupferberg
▪ Barbara Mortensen ▪ Sally Phelps ▪ Sylvia Poppelbaum ▪ Pam Rewey ▪ Beth Ross ▪ Priscilla Thain

Final Proofreading of the general election edition of CA at Isthmus:

▪ Brook Soltvedt

Pulling CA Inserts from *Isthmus* on March 25:

▪ Laura Chern ▪ Irene Durbak ▪ Betsy Jensen ▪ Doug Johnson ▪ Sue Moline Larson

Distributing CA Inserts on March 25:

▪ Mary Bean ▪ Doug Johnson ▪ Sue Moline Larson

Bulk-Mailing CA inserts at the League Office on March 25:

▪ Mary Anglim ▪ Betsy David ▪ Eileen Hanneman ▪ Helen Horn ▪ Jesse Kehres ▪ Maureen Kind ▪ Barbara Mortensen ▪ Pam Rewey

Layout, Design, and Posting of the general edition of CA online:

▪ Brook Soltvedt

Proofreading the general election edition of CA online:

▪ Helen Horn

Pulling CA Inserts at League Office on April 1:

▪ Doug Johnson ▪ Kathy Johnson ▪ Barbara Mortensen

Answering Phones on Election Day, April 6:

▪ Frankie Locke

***Know Your Candidates* Cable TV-Interview Show**

Cheryl Daniels

LWVDC, in conjunction with Madison Citichannel, taped one primary and several general election *Know Your Candidates* shows this spring election season. The primary was for an open seat on the 4th District Wisconsin Court of Appeals, a first for *Know Your Candidates*. General election tapings included 12 County Board races, the winners from the Court of Appeals primary, and one race for an open seat on the Madison Metropolitan School Board. In addition to coordinator Cheryl Daniels, Carol Carstensen, Diane Martin Liebert, Mona Steele and Kathy Johnson moderated these shows.

Other Voter Service Activity

Priscilla Thain

Health Care Reform: Congressional Health Care Reform was the focus of Voter Service in the fall and winter of 2009. Since there was no fall election, the League did no formal voter registration on Capitol Square or at the West Side Market in the summer and fall of 2009. Gloria Meyer and Lois Kiggins tabled at the Capitol Square with other groups promoting health care reform. Gloria Meyer and Tom Vandervest also worked on a July 25 “Health Care for All” forum sponsored by 25 groups. A letter on the League’s position on health care reform, signed by Kathy Johnson, was sent to the *Wisconsin State Journal*. It appeared on the September 15 Opinion Page.

The National League’s position on health care reform, originally adopted on 1990 for universal health care, evolved during the Congressional deliberations in the fall of 2009 and early 2010. LWVUS advised dropping the League’s support for a single-payer plan, then dropping support for the public option – to support of the final bills that contained neither, but did include some useful health care reform. The LWVUS advised that it wasn’t possible to pass a bill that included universal health care or the public option at the current time. League members were encouraged to contact their legislators to support the reforms that remained in the bill. See LWVDC *Bulletins*, September 2009 and October 2009.

Candidates’ Answers: In November, a committee consisting of Carol Dutton, Kathy Johnson, Clare McArdle, and Priscilla Thain drafted the questions for the *Candidates’ Answers* for the spring 2010 non-partisan election. Since the spring election was estimated to be light, the CA for the primary was put on the LWVDC Web site only. For the spring election, a printed edition was put out as an insert on March 25 in *Isthmus*, as well as on the League’s Web site.

Candidate Forums Moderated by League Members: LWVDC had a number of requests to provide moderators for candidate forums. The following were held:

▪ Spring 2010 Primary Election

Stoughton – Wednesday, March 17, 6 pm to 8:15 pm

- Sponsored by Stoughton Chamber of Commerce, Stoughton Courier-Hub & Stoughton LWVDC members
- Candidates for Stoughton Mayor
- Moderator Earnestine Moss

▪ **Spring 2010 Election**

Village of Shorewood Hills – Monday, March 15, 7 pm

- Sponsored by Shorewood Hills Village Association
- Candidates for Municipal Judge, Trustees
- Moderator – Priscilla Thain

Stoughton – Wednesday, March 17, 6 pm to 8:15 pm

- Sponsored by Stoughton Chamber of Commerce, Stoughton Courier-Hub & Stoughton LWVDC members
- Candidates for Dane County Board, Municipal Judge, Alders, Stoughton Mayor
- Moderator Helen Horn

Monona – Sunday, March 21, 4 pm

- Sponsored by Monona City Cable Access Station
- Candidates for Common Council
- Moderator – Carol Carstensen

Monona – Sunday, March 21, 7 pm

- Sponsored by Monona City Cable Access Station
- Candidates for Monona School Board
- Moderator – Mary Bean

Village of Cottage Grove – Tuesday, March 23, early evening

- Sponsored by Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce
- 5 candidates for Board of Trustees
- Moderator – Pat Levin

Web Site

Brook Soltvedt

The 2009-2010 League year saw big changes for our Web site! We have a new address (<http://lwvdanecounty.org>). Meeting information is posted on a calendar, we have a regularly updated Action Alert news item, as well as information about our forums (with study materials and publicity information linked). Archived copies of Bulletins, study materials, Board minutes and agendas are also available. Remember, you can always use the Search function on the site to find the information you may be looking for. Every member with an email address on record with us can log in to access the members-only area where an updated copy of the member directory is stored. There is also an electronic directory that includes those members who have an email address on file.

The new Web site is a valuable resource for both our members and the public. On the day of the Spring Primary election, our site had 900 "hits" from those looking for voting information and *Candidates' Answers*. I hope to keep the Web site fresh and inviting, a good tool for inviting the broader community to join the League and participate in our events. I would be very happy to have volunteers willing to help me with maintaining the Web site. You should be comfortable with computers, but do not need to have web design experience.