



The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

LWVDC Annual Report, 2010-2011

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

[Issued for the Annual Meeting, May 4, 2011, at the Edgewater Hotel in Downtown Madison]



The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

LWVDC Board July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Officers:

President:	Earnestine Moss
President-Elect:	Donna Norton
Secretary:	Barbara Mortensen
Treasurer:	Kathy Johnson

Directors*:

Gail Bliss	Fundraising
Brook Soltvedt	<i>Bulletin</i> and Web site
Deborah Speckmann	Membership
Priscilla Thain	Voter Service

*[Lisa Bu, Publicity, resigned in Fall 2010, due to work commitments.]

Off-Board Portfolios, 2010-2011

Laura Chern	Coordinator <i>Candidates' Answers</i> Volunteers
Cheryl Furstace Daniels	Coordinator, "Know Your Candidates"
Carol Kiemel	Coordinator, 4K Outreach Project
Maureen Kind	Coordinator, Adopt-A-Highway Project
Pat Levin	Accountant

LWVDC Committee Chairs, 2010-2011

Helen Horn	Financial Advisory
Gail Bliss	International Relations/ <i>Great Decisions</i>
Carol Carstensen	Education
Earnestine Moss	Community Outreach
Connie Threinen	Land Use and Transportation

LWVDC Discussion Unit Leaders, 2010-2011

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



LWVDC Annual Report 2010-2011

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Statement by the President Earnestine Moss

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. It has provided me with an extraordinary growth opportunity, and for that, I owe the League a debt of gratitude. I look forward to serving you in the coming year and working with each of you and the new Board. Why? Because I love the League and the work it does. I want to help to continue League tradition, while helping to diversify, and to increase the membership, as we renew League's energy. Since becoming a League member in 2004, I have served on the LWVDC Board and the state League Board. Both LWVDC and state League are on the cutting edge and are efficiently run organizations, encouraging, promoting, enriching, and providing the necessary tools needed to develop and foster new leadership. I am one of those new leaders.

Thank you, **Clare McArdle**, for encouraging me to join the League, and to you, **Carol Kiemel**, for my first Board assignment as the Outreach Chair. It is my hope that I will be a League member for many years to come.

During the 2010-12 Program Year, we had many accomplishments and successes by all committees. I encourage you to read the summaries that have been provided to you. I wish to thank all Board members, committee and project chairs, for their support and innovative leadership. I also want to give special recognition to our Voters Service Chair, **Priscilla Thain**, who will not be returning to the 2011-2012 Board. She has done a yeomen's job in providing questions for the *Candidates Answers*, in coordinating, and sometimes moderating, the candidate forums in our community, and in organizing the summer and fall farmers' markets. She has been an indefatigable member of the LWVDC Board. Priscilla, you will certainly be missed, not only for your work, but for the beautiful spirit you bring to League. I also want to give hearty thanks to **Sara Markham**, our Office Administrator, and to **Brook Soltvedt**, our Webmaster and *Bulletin* Editor, for their patience and assistance. I couldn't have survived without you.

My vision is to take the League to even greater heights in 2011-2012 Program Year. It is my hope that we will work toward the following goals:

- Increase membership by 20% (40 new members)
- Increase community outreach and visibility by building collaborations by 15%. This will include developing a strong Go Vote Coalition.
- Increase internal development, starting this summer with a retreat to enable members to come together and to develop a strategic plan. All Board members and interested members would be invited to participate. My goal as LWVDC President is to attend at least one committee meeting of each committee. I will make an effort to get on each committee's calendar, and hope that perhaps we might be able to plan at least one meeting after work, so that I can attend.
- Increase our fund development and sustainability. As a 501 (c) 3, our goal will be to increase our donations by at least 50%.
- Ensure that all committees are staffed and functioning optimally, including the Fund Raising and Outreach committees.
- Become more knowledgeable about environmental issues, and become more computer literate. I knew that I needed to do work in this area, but when Connie Threinen invited me to befriend her on Face Book, I had to say, it's time for me to do some real work in this area. Brook, we'll be setting up some appointments. I am sure that one won't do.
- To continue to support the studies and efforts of the state and US Leagues.

I encourage you, League of Women Voters of Dane County, to continue to help to educate the citizenry of Wisconsin, to register voters, and to encourage them to be informed and to participate fully in the political process to help democracy work. After all, democracy only works if we all participate.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with each of you.

Bulletin**Brook Soltvedt**

This year's *Bulletin* was more streamlined. Less is more, I hope. Summaries from the unit meeting reports were also published, so keep those reports coming into the office! I am also looking for someone to take over as *Bulletin* editor in 2012-2013. Please let me know if you are interested.

Community Outreach Committee**Earnestine Moss**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the League of Women Voters of Dane County (LWVDC). It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Outreach Chair. It has been interesting. While the committee did not meet, we have participated in activities to keep LWVDC visible in the community.

As committee chair, I reached out to the community on a regular basis (almost weekly) through the 1670 AM Radio program, "Let's Go to Church," targeting African Americans, and listening audiences in Madison, surrounding communities, and neighboring states. **Carol Kiemel**, among many other LWVDC members, reached out to parents of four-year old kindergartners in communities of color, to ensure that they were aware of the process, and to encourage enrollment into the program. The chair participated in a forum at the Urban League of Greater Madison (ULGM) to encourage more people of color to join city and county boards and commissions, in an effort to have a government that is representative of the people it serves. We partnered with the Madison Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (DST), Inc., the Grassroots Leadership College, and the ULGM to establish LWVDC's February's monthly Issue Forum, entitled, "Community Outreach: Finding Common Ground in Troubled Times." The forum emphasized the need for us to work together. The chair connected with Floyd Rose, Ph.D, of 100 Black Men, who has added us to his mailing list, and LWVDC looks forward to working with them in the coming year; in addition, the chair attended the African American History Bowl, sponsored by the 100 Black Men. LWVDC partnered with Communities United to increase participation of communities of color in candidate forums and voter turnout in the spring elections. The chair participated on a panel at the People's Assembly, sponsored by WAVE - post election. Discussion ensued there about the next steps for civil discourse and continued political engagement from the electorate, and how to demand accountability from our elected officials in a democracy. LWVDC was successful in efforts to diversify our membership, when we welcomed Patricia Williams, who has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for the coming year.

For the coming year, our goal is to start early (connecting in the summer, and convening regular committee meetings, starting in August 2011), to increase committee membership, to continue our outreach to communities of color, and to strengthen collaborative efforts with various community organizations.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you.

Committee members: **Carol Kiemel, Rose Sime, Deborah Speckmann** [and non-member Elizabeth Molin]

Education Committee**Carol Carstensen**

The Education Committee spent the year researching the issue of charter schools in preparation for the League meeting and discussion in March, 2011. We had presentations from representatives of DPI, UW-Madison, the Charter Schools Association and WEAC. We also gathered a lot of articles and opinion pieces.

4K Outreach Project

Carol Kiemel

During the month of January 2011, 55 community service providers were personally delivered four-year-old kindergarten brochures and flyers to give to families of children turning four on or before September 1, 2011. This was a joint effort of the Madison Metropolitan School District and the League of Women Voters of Dane County.

Participating in this most rewarding effort were League members: **Merilyn Kupferberg, Gloria Meyer, Kay Ahern, Mary Bean, Maureen Kind, Pam Rewey, Carol Kiemel**, former League member, **Bonnie Webber**, and two members of Dane County United, Barbara Larsen and Helen Madsen. MMSD school staff delivered the materials to three of the providers.

Spanish and Hmong translations of the brochures and flyers were delivered later and two additional League members to help distribute them: **Mary Anglim** and **Edith First**, as well as **Gloria Meyer, Carol Kiemel, Maureen Kind** and **Mary Bean**.

In March, the League received a letter of thank you from Scott Zimmerman, Director of Early and Extended Learning in recognition of the work we did to help the Madison Metropolitan School District announce 4K to the community. Scott states, "Your efforts and support has had a significant impact on the success of 4K registration." On the first day of registration February 7, 1,300 students registered and the district is well on its way reaching its goal of 1,500 students.

This effort to provide 4K information to ALL families is the culmination of the LWVDC Children and Families At Risk Committee study and program of March, 4, 2009 - FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN FOR ALL DANE COUNTY CHILDREN: Its Value, Current Status and Future.

Financial Advisory Committee

Helen Horn

The figures in this report are for the calendar year 2010 in order to have a complete year to assess. With the stock market crisis in 2008, LWVDC stocks were down about 28% from the end of 2007 to the end of 2008. For the calendar year 2009, the stocks recovered significantly (up 16%). In 2010, they recovered another 16%, almost to the value at the end of 2007. In 2011, they are currently continuing to increase in value. We will continue to watch the market and to evaluate the performance of the portfolio and rebalance it as needed. No purchases or withdrawals were made during the 2010 calendar year.

Value on	12/31/2007	\$151,202
	12/31/2008	\$109,228
	12/31/2009	\$126,675
	12/31/2010	\$146,319

	12/31/2009	Div & Cap	Net	12/31/10
	Mkt Value	Gains	Return	Mkt Value
Dodge and Cox Intl	12,047	187	1,462	\$13,696
Dodge and Cox Balanced	24,555	588	2,413	\$27,556
Vanguard 500 Index Adm	15,784	311	2,044	\$18,139
Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Adm	24,079	340	5,784	\$30,203
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt Adm	12,249	242	1,855	\$14,346
Fidelity Puritan	20,827	496	2,428	\$23,751
Janus Growth & Income	<u>17,133</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>1,290</u>	<u>\$18,628</u>
	\$126,675	\$2,369	\$17,275	\$146,319

Financial Advisory Committee Members:

Sally Carpenter, Helen Horn, Pat Levin, Caroline Liedtke, Carol Toussaint, Kathy Johnson

Fundraising

Gail Bliss

While the LWVDC fiscal year runs from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, this report includes information since April 2010. The May member challenge for a second year raised significant funds. In May 2010 two anonymous donors challenged members to match \$2,500. The final result raised \$5,345, (\$1,120 for the General Fund and \$4,325 (including the \$2,500 from the anonymous donors) for the Education Fund). Thanks to one returning, and one new anonymous donor, in May 2011 there is a \$2,000 challenge, which would provide us with \$4,000 or more if fully matched.

Special thanks to Louise Fisher and her family. The LWVDC received \$5,000 through her daughter Ann from her estate, and a second \$5,000 gift from her son Paul.

2010-11 Fundraising:	General Fund	Education Fund	2010-11 Total	2009-10 Report
Membership renewal donations	\$ 3,413	\$ 519	\$ 3,932	\$3,970
Memorial Gifts	10,000		10,000	455
Valentine Appeal (to date)	1,223	1,531	2,754	3,745
<i>Candidates Answers</i>	150	395	545	235
Bratfest* 2010 (paid in fall 2010)	52		52	
Borders gift wrapping**	80		80	378
Other member contributions	345	510	855	931
Other nonmember contributions	375	55	430	670
Subtotal (9.5 months)	\$15,638	\$3,010	\$18,648	\$10,384
May Challenge	To be	determined		5,345

* The Board determined in fall 2010 that we would not participate in the Bratfest for 2011.

** Borders West provided significantly more donations in previous years, so in 2010 we only wrapped gifts at Borders West. Since the store is now closed we will need to revisit whether to seek shifts at Borders East, or try something else.

Some new fundraising methods were tried this year. In October 2010 we applied, through a competitive program offered by the UW Association of Fundraising Professionals, for assistance from UW students with fundraising. LWVDC was not chosen as one of the organizations to receive student help with our fundraising. The fund raising committee sought member contacts with larger employers through a newsletter article, but did not make any contacts with corporate donation programs through that avenue. CUNA and MG&E were contacted about donating to the LWVDC but no contributions were received.

The fundraising chair took a grant writing workshop with Tom Linfield, of the Madison Community Foundation. The Foundation helps to start new programs, but requires maintenance of the expanded programs; so long-term funding availability must be carefully considered prior to seeking such grants.

International Relations / *Great Decisions*

Gail Bliss

This year the *Great Decisions* discussion group met Thursday afternoons in February and March at the West Madison Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace (near Hilldale). Each week a different member of the group volunteered to make a short presentation and to lead the discussion. All participants read the appropriate chapter from the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org) *Great Decisions* book. The FPA provides discussion questions and a series of DVD presentations to supplement the written material.

Twenty-eight people ordered books, and between 12 and 20 attended the discussion each week. In addition to League members we had participants who live in the neighborhood and who found out about the program from the Senior Center newsletter.

Helen Horn has agreed to join Gail Bliss as co-chair for next year's *Great Decisions* program.

Land Use and Transportation Committee

Connie Threinen

The major activity of the LUT committee this year was to plan and present the General Meeting in April, 2011. The subject was the two regional bodies that may have a major effect on Dane County's future –The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

It was called "Wiskileaks Reveals the True Story of Land Use and Transportation in Dane County." County Executive Kathleen Falk and RTA Commissioner and former CARPC Commissioner Kristine Euclide presented the issues facing those bodies. A packet of materials was distributed to members in advance of the General Meeting and was available for Unit meetings also. The General Meeting was well attended. About 50 informational booklets from Kristine Euclide were distributed.

Our partnering with the Capital Region Advocacy Network (CRANES) has made it easier for us to be more politically active. We appeared before the CARPC in opposition to Urban Service Area applications (usa) for Mazomanie, Middleton- Westport, and DeForest. As partners with CRANES, we were part of several other usa's, all of which we opposed as unnecessary sprawl.

We attended many CARPC meetings so that we could be knowledgeable about the issues.

Regarding transportation, we appeared before the Dane County Board in support of creating a Regional Transportation Authority, and subsequently we supported the first draft proposal of the RTA, including funding it with a .5% sales tax.

LWVDC member **Chris Gjerde** represents us on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Present Committee members are: **Cristal Gjerde, Libby and Phil Lewis, Caryl Terrell, and Connie Threinen**, Chair. Additional members would be most welcome.

Membership

Deborah Speckmann

Each year the League of Women Voters for Dane County hopes to both increase its membership and to add more youthful and enthusiastic members to our cause whether they be men or women. This year we were able to accomplish both, due to the controversial political climate, current programming topics, and outreach through the excellent work of our executive committee and office administrator. With the help of our office administrator the written correspondence to our prospective new members was expanded, and telephone contact was added. In addition, an Ambassador Program was introduced through our newsletter whereby members were encouraged to bring a prospective member to an LWVDC event, and then to become a mentor for that person. Finally, to encourage renewals, people were asked through the newsletter to answer the question, "Why Am I Renewing My LWVDC

Membership?"; this has proven to be a well received and inspiring endeavor. Member responses to this central question appear in the Appendix, pages 14-15.

Program

Donna Norton

The 2010-2011 programs for LWVDC highlighted many of the issues that are of special concern to Dane County residents. The following review shows these important concerns:

- **September:** "Behaving Sustainably: Enabling You to Do Your Part" was presented by Kathy Kuntz, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Change Action Initiative.
- **October:** "Campaign Finance Reform" was presented by Jay Heck, Executive Director of Common Cause in Wisconsin.
- **November:** "How Changing Demographics are Affecting Dane County Schools and Human Services" was presented by Dane County educational leaders Tim Culver, District Administrator of the Sun Prairie Area School District; Lynn Green, Director of the Dane County Department of Human Services; and Daniel Nerad, Superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District.
- **January:** The Lively Issues program focused on national and state issues. The speaker, Terese Berceau, Wisconsin State Representative, 76th Assembly District, discussed a list of issues that she believed would be part of the 2011-2012 Wisconsin Assembly session, in labor, social, economic, educational, and health-care areas.
- **February:** "Community Outreach: Finding Common Ground in Troubled Times" was led by Kaleem Caire, President and CEO, The Urban League of Greater Madison; Amy Mondloch, Executive Director, Grassroots Leadership College; and Alda Preston, Political Action Chair, Madison Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.
- **March:** "Charter Schools: Current Status. Prospects for the Future" was led by Margaret McMurray, Charter Schools Consultant, School Management Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; Julie Mead, Professor and Chair, UW-Madison Educational and Policy Analysis, School of Education; and John Witte, Professor, UW-Madison Public Affairs and Public Service.
- **April:** "WISKILEAKS Reveals the True Story of Land Use and Transportation in Dane County Wisconsin" was led by Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive, and Kristine Euclide, Member, Regional Transit Authority Board.

Thoughts for the future: A *New York Times* article by Leslie Kaufman (April 16, 2011) brings to mind many of the issues identified by Terese Berceau in our Lively Issues Luncheon. Kaufman reports the following national and state efforts to cut funding for the environment and other regulatory groups: "The strategies have been similar across the affected states: cut budgets and personnel at regulatory agencies, prevent the issuing of new regulations, roll back land conservation, and, if possible, eliminate planning boards that monitor, restrict, or permit building development" (A3). The article does provide some hope for citizen groups. Protesters in Maine have forced the governor to rethink some of his proposals including opening thousands of acres of protected woodlands to development. It will be a very interesting year ahead for members of LWVDC as we consider some of these important issues.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Johnson, Treasurer; Pat Levin, Accountant, 2010-2011, and Treasurer, 2009-2010

Treasurer's Report for Previous Fiscal Year 2009-2010 (July 1, 2009– July 1, 2010)
Federal Tax Form 990 EZ. March 10, 2011.

REVENUES

1. Contributions	\$11,900
2. Program Service Revenues (CA)	\$ 7,040
3. Membership Dues	\$10,038
4. Investment Income	\$ 3,180
5. Net Income Special Events	\$ 363
6. Other Revenue (sublets, etc)	\$ 3,993
7. Total Revenue	\$36,514

EXPENSES

10. Grants	\$ 340
11. Membership Payments	\$ 8,595
12. Employee Benefits	\$15,528
13. Professional Fees	\$ 1,188
14. Occupancy	\$14,614
15. Printing, Postage, Publications	\$ 5,148
16. Board Expenses, Insurance	\$ 1,752
17. Total Expenses	\$47,165

Excess or (Deficit) for the year **(\$10,651)**

NET ASSETS

19. Fund Balance Beginning of Yr	\$160,353
20. Unrealized Capital Gain	\$14,658
21. Net Assets end of year	\$164,360

League of Women Voters of Dane County – Education Fund
Fiscal Year 2009-2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)
March 10, 2011

Beginning Balance	\$4,179.27
Donations	\$7,520.00
Withdrawals	(\$7,039.80)
Ending Balance June 30, 2010	\$4,659.47

Voter Service

Priscilla Thain

Drafting the Questions for Candidates Answers:

- **Mary Bean, Carol Carstensen, Kathy Johnson, Ernestine Moss, Brook Soltvedt, and Priscilla Thain** helped to draft the questions for the fall and/or spring *Candidates' Answers*.

Voter Registration:

The following members registered voters at the West Side Farmer Market and at the Downtown Capitol Square in the summer and fall of 2010:

- **Helen Horn, Maureen Kind, Clare McArdle, Marie McCabe, Myrna McNatt, Gloria Meyer, Barbara Mortensen, Sylvia Poppelbaum** and husband, **Claire Rider, Brook Solvedt, Priscilla Thain, and Tom Vandervest**

Moderators of Candidate Forums:

For the Fall Partisan Primary 2010:

- **Helen Horn, moderator**, September 9 at Shorewood Village Hall, candidates for the 77th State Assembly District

For Fall Election 2010:

- **Diane Martin, moderator**, October 12 at Marshall Public Library, candidates for the 47th State Assembly District
- "Why Vote" Program, October 13, at Colonial Club Senior Center, in Sun Prairie (the League sent printed materials including "Voting in Wisconsin")
- UW-Madison, Global Affairs Forum, Candidates for the 2nd Congressional District, October 17, at Grainger Hall, moderated by Professor Pevehouse (the League was one of 12 sponsors)
- **Mary Bean, moderator**, October 19, at DeForest Senior Center, candidates for the 47th State Assembly District
- **Ernestine Moss, presenter**, October 20, Graduate Student Housing Organization program on elections
- **Carol Carstensen, moderator**, October 27, at Sequoia public Library, candidates for state Assembly District 77, sponsored by Middleton Action Team and WORT
- **Helen Horn, moderator**, October 28, at Shorewood Village Hall, candidates for the 77th State Assembly District

Spring Primary 2011:

- **Mary Bean moderator**, February 4, candidates for Dane County Executive, at the Goodman Community Center, sponsored by the Sierra Club and CRANES (Capital Regional Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability)

Spring Election 2011:

- **Pat Levin, moderator**, March 13, candidates for 3 seats on the Monona City Council, at Monona Public Library, sponsored by Monona City Cable
- **Lori Kay, moderator**, March 16, candidates for Mayor of Monona, at Monona Public Library, sponsored by Monona City Cable
- **Priscilla Thain, moderator**, March 19, candidates for Madison City Alder, District 20, at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, sponsored by the Midvale Heights, Orchard Ridge, and Meadowood Neighborhood Associations

- Forum for Madison mayoral candidates and Dane County Executive candidates, moderated by a WORT radio moderator, March 22 at the Barrymore Theater, sponsored by Communities United, with LWVDC also a sponsor
- **Gloria Meyer, moderator**, March 24, candidates for Marshall School Board, at Marshall High School, sponsored by the Marshall School PTA
- **Mary Bean, presenter**, March 26, South Madison Voter Education Program, at South Madison Library
- **Priscilla Thain, moderator**, March 29, candidates for Madison City Council District 1 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, sponsored by Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association
- **Priscilla Thain, moderator**, April 3, candidates for president and positions on the Shorewood Village Board, at Village Hall, sponsored by the Shorewood Hills Association

Candidates' Answers – LWVDC's Volunteers

Laura Chern

▪ **Fall 2010 Partisan Primary (online CA only) and General Elections:**

Proofreaders:

- **Mary Bean, Fran Bicknell, Sally Carpenter, Mary Ann Halvorson, Nancy Jensen, Doug Johnson, Barbara Karavolas, Maureen Kind, Pat Kippert, Marilyn Kupferberg, Helen LeRoy, Joan Lundin, Marie McCabe, Barbara Mortensen, Ann Nelson, Sylvia Poppelbaum, Pam Rewey, Beth Ross, Brook Soltvedt**

Designing and Posting the Online Primary and General Election CA: **Brook Soltvedt**

Proofing the Online Primary and General Election CA: **Helen Horn**

Pulling Inserts from Isthmus at the Walsh Road Location:

- **Laura Chern, Irene Durbak, Betsy Jensen, Doug Johnson, Joan Lundin**

Bulk Mail: ▪ **Doug Johnson, Joan Lundin**

Pulling Remaining Inserts at League Office: ▪ **Joan Lundin, Deborah Sellers**

Distribution and Delivery of CA's: ▪ **Mary Bean, Laura Chern, Kay Davis, Joan Lundin**

▪ **Spring 2011 Primary and General Elections:**

Proofreaders:

- **Mary Anglim, Mary Bean, Fran Bicknell, Irene Durbak, Edith First, Mary Ann Halvorson, Nancy Jensen, Doug Johnson, Barbara Karavolas, Pat Kippert, Marilyn Kupferberg, Helen LeRoy, Elizabeth Lewis, Clare McArdle, Marie McCabe, Barbara Mortensen, Ann Nelson, Sally Phelps, Sylvia Poppelbaum, Pam Rewey, Claire Rider, Beth Ross, Suzanne Smith, Brook Soltvedt, Edith Sullivan, Priscilla Thain**

Designing and Posting the Online Primary and General Election CA: ▪ **Brook Soltvedt**

Proofing the Online Primary and General Election CA: ▪ **Helen Horn**

Pulling Inserts from Isthmus at the New Femrite Road Location:

- **Laura Chern, Irene Durbak, Doug Johnson, Joan Lundin, Deborah Sellers, Pat Watson**

Bulk Mail: ▪ **Mary Bean, Maureen Kind**

Pulling Remaining Inserts at League Office: ▪ **Laura Chern, Deborah Sellers**

Distribution and Delivery of CA to City Clerks; Libraries; Several Community Centers; Union Cab and Badger Cab (for the April 5, 2011 General Election Day free rides to the polls):

- **Laura Chern, Kay Davis, Edith First, Mary Ann Halvorson, Lynn Klessig, Myrna McNatt, Deborah Sellers**
- Distribution went smoothly for the April 5 election edition thanks to volunteers who responded to an email.

Election-Day Phone Staffing

Laura Chern

Fall 2010 Elections: Answering Phone in the LWVDC office on Election Day:

- **Fran Bicknell, Barbara Karavolas, Lois Kiggens, Barbara Mortensen**

Spring 2011 Elections: Answering Phone in the LWVDC Office on Election Day:

- **Fran Bicknell, Marilyn Kupferberg, Frankie Locke**

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

Cheryl Daniels

In 2010-11, several long-time League members and two new persons joined our group of moderators handling the elections. In the fall, **Diane Martin Liebert** handled all of the primary tapings, while **Lynn Klessig, Mona Steele** and I moderated the general election shows. For the busy spring elections, we had several moderators including **Kathy Johnson, Lynn Klessig, Diane Martin Liebert, Melanie Ramey** and **Michael Rosenberg**.

As part of gearing up for the busy 2012 election season, League will be holding a **training in the fall** for those who are willing to be on a list of possible moderators for *Know Your Candidates* tapings in January (spring primary), March (spring election), Summer (new fall partisan primary date), and October (fall general). In addition, we can always use help in developing questions for the candidates.

Web Site

Brook Soltvedt

The LWVDC Web site continues to be a valuable resource for voters, who increasingly rely on our site for voting information and *Candidates' Answers*. In the fall, we had over 1400 unique visitors to our site around the primary election and again around the general election. In the spring, our numbers were up to more than 4000 unique visitors around the spring primary and again around the general election. We weren't able to get a "Donate" button added in time for the spring election, but we plan to use Network for Good to make it easy for members of the public to make donations online when they are most appreciative of our services.

For members, the Web site continues to have a calendar of events, information about past, current, and future issues forums, including study materials and any additional materials that speakers provide. The site also houses copies of the *Bulletin*, board meeting agendas and minutes, annual meeting information, policy positions and statements, and much more. Members can log in to access the member directory as well. In the coming year, I hope to push more of our content out to Facebook, where the social network makes it easy to spread our information to many more potential new members.

2011-2012 will be my last year as the Web site manager. I am looking for someone who is willing to learn how to update the site. No special software or computer skills are required. Please let me know if you are interested! It would be fantastic to have several people involved who could share the work. For example, some could be responsible for regular updates of the directory, board documents, etc., while someone else might update the calendar and post action alerts and news.

-- APPENDIX --



"Why Am I Renewing My LWVDC Membership?"

Membership Survey Question initiated by Deborah Speckmann
LWVDC Board Member and Membership Chair
Spring, 2011

Mary Bean

I believe in nonpartisan politics at the local level and LWVDC's Voter Service fits right in with that. I believe citizens need to be in contact with their elected officials at all levels and all levels of the League encourage members to do that through Action Alerts.

Also, I am approaching the 50-year member mark and plan to continue as a member – perhaps more and more "of counsel" but still participating in Unit discussions.

Gail Bliss

With the very polarized political climate in this country today I appreciate being part of a serious deliberative organization that seeks to provide nonpartisan information and voter services.

Sally Carpenter

I am renewing my membership for the 36th year because the League is one of the very few non-partisan, political organizations around. I also belong to Common Cause for the same reason. I love the educational programs and have made many long time friends who share similar interests. I have been very impressed recently with the LWVWI informative emails concerning the new governor's proposed budget and the legislature's proposed bills.

Laura Chern

I believe in voter education.

Hathaway Hasler

Why I Belong to LWVDC:

The League encourages participation in causes and civic duty. In 1955 or so Ann Hoover (then Cleary) and I, neophytes that we were, agreed to create a radio program about fair housing in Madison. We plunged in and the effort gave me a lifelong interest in justice and racial disparity. In this day of quick stabs of information, the League's thorough study of issues is inspiring. I admire the friends I have who have devoted much more time and effort than I have to carrying out the League's mission.

Sue Hoffenberg

The League of Women Voters is the most impartial voice in politics. The League's voter guide *Candidates' Answers* and public forums for candidates are the most objective way of finding out the candidates' true stands on issues.

The issues the League tackles are not limited to those selected by one or the other main political party. It can take on complex issues such as reducing the racial disparity in Dane County.

Kathy Johnson

I am renewing my membership in LWVDC because I believe in supporting good government and being an advocate for community good. I can't imagine not being a League member.

Lois Kiggins

The rights of citizens have never been so threatened. Non-partisan education is vital.

Pat Levin

To learn about local issues and engage in reasonable discussion about the issues which gives me a wider perspective.

Beats doing the dishes and talking angrily to myself.

Clare McArdle

I plan to continue my membership in LWV.

Myrna McNatt

I have been renewing my membership for almost 40 years because it's an organization where I don't just socialize, but also get educated on many topics. Over the years I have learned not only from the study topics, but also from members in our group.

Helen Navarre

More than 40 years ago, I joined LWVDC because, as a newcomer to the community, I wanted to become a more knowledgeable, responsible, and active citizen. The League continues to provide a unique opportunity for me to study local and national issues in depth, to make my voice heard, and to meet others who share my interests and who inspire and motivate me. That is why I consider it a privilege to renew my membership each year.

Eileen Schutte

Whereas I have had many personal issues this past year and have not been very involved in the League, I still feel that it is very important to support an organization that continues to fight for democracy, especially in light of the current political environment. Much of what the League stands for is in jeopardy – fair election law, equitable access to education, women's rights, the environment and healthcare as a right. But most importantly, the League stands for promoting democracy and assuring that the government represents the people, not large corporations. This is going to be a tough year in politics for Wisconsin and the League needs all the support that it can get. That is why I am renewing my membership.

Connie Threinen

I am renewing my LWVDC membership because I consider the League an inseparable part of my life. Since my graduation from the university the League has been an extension of my education and a base for much of my civic participation.

