



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

## **LWVDC Annual Report, 2018-2019**

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

**[Issued for the LWVDC Annual Meeting, May 15, 2019, at Grand Hall, Capitol Lakes in Madison, WI.]**



# LWVDC Annual Report 2018-2019

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## **LWVDC Board, Off-Board Portfolios, Committee Chairs & Discussion Unit Leaders**

### **Board Officers**

President	Aileen Nettleton
Vice-President	Brook Soltvedt
Secretary	Gail Bliss
Treasurer	Helen Horn

### **Directors**

Assistant treasurer (appointed)	Helen Horn
Bulletin Editor	Maria Spinozzi
Fundraising	Christine Clements
Program	Mary Anglim
Publicity	Susan Fulks
Membership	Sally Gleason & Mary Ellen Schmit
Voter Service	Paul Lindquist

### **Off-Board Portfolios**

Adopt-a-Highway	Doug Johnson
Candidates' Answers Volunteers	Brook Soltvedt
Candidates' Answers Questions	Kathleen Fullin
Candidates' Forums	Gloria Meyer
Candidates' TV Interviews	Louise Robbins
Discussion Unit Coordinator	Diane Martin Liebert
Farmers' Markets	Priscilla Thain & Gail Bliss
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Betty Cohen
Webmaster	Brook Soltvedt

### **Committee Chairs**

Financial Advisory Committee	Helen Horn
Nominating Committee	Kathleen Fullin

### **Discussion Unit Leaders**

Monday Evening, West/Middleton	Priscilla Thain and Marilyn Kupferberg
Tuesday Afternoon, Oakwood	Kathy Johnson
Wednesday, Northeast Side	Dorothy Wheeler and Karen Gunderson
Wednesday, Downtown Dinner	Ingrid Rothe
Wednesday, Dane County South	Diane Martin Liebert
Sunday, Campus	Laura Grueneberg

President [Aileen Nettleton]

2018-2019 has seen many accomplishments and new initiatives with two election cycles and new members engaging in the work of the League. Here are highlights of the year. Details of many are in the individual reports.

- The Voter Services and High School Committees coordinated very successful voter registration campaigns at the UW Madison, Madison College, area high schools and numerous community events prior to the Fall Elections. As co-leaders with NAACP and ACLU of the Dane County ID Coalition, we assisted many individuals obtain a Voter ID. In addition, library liaisons, the Candidates' Answers team and many other members contributed to a record high turnout of voters for the Fall Election. Media coverage, noted in the Vice-President's Report, recognized the impact of the League.
- At a Board Retreat facilitated by member Georgiana Hernandez, the Board set several priorities around ways to get to know our expanded membership better, orient new members, and engage members in our work to address our positions through an Observer Corps, book group and volunteer coordinators. Watch for our revised Membership Inventory that will accompany your membership renewal. Planning was initiated for funding an internship to facilitate coordination between Voter Services and the UW Madison.
- We have expanded ways members can become engaged. Two new Unit Discussion Groups have been formed (campus and Fitchburg) thanks to the leadership of Laura Grueneberg and Diane Liebert. A book group was initiated by Betty Cohen and Marilyn Stephen has taken the leadership for an Observer Corps to engage more members in monitoring several government/school meetings for the League. The Membership Report describes additional activities.
- The Board adopted the LWVUS statement for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to guide our local programs and outreach. A committee with representatives from the Membership, Program and Voter Services is being formed to help us incorporate the "lens" of DEI in our work.
- Program Director, Mary Anglim, developed a rigorous Program Planning process which involved board members, a widened Program Planning Committee and member input for determining major areas of focus for study and action for the upcoming year.

We were challenged by the January-February winter, which postponed many meetings and planning events. However, with flexibility and ingenuity, we worked around the challenges to meet goals in other ways.

In all of our work we have been adeptly supported by our talented Office Administrator, Cindy Lindquist. Thank you, Cindy. I would also like to thank the members of the Board for all their support, knowledge of "how things work" in the LWV and patience for me in my role as president this year. Thank you, also, to committee chairs, project coordinators and the many volunteers who have contributed to a productive year.

We look forward to a year of celebration for the Centennial of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment by the Wisconsin Legislature and the US Congress plus the League of Women Voters!

**Vice-President [Brook Soltvedt]**

The following chronicles some of our activities in the news this past year. The PDF of the annual report to be posted on our website (<https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/board-2019-2020>) has live links that allow you to view most of the news items listed below.

- The *Wisconsin State Journal* published a letter to the editor by president Aileen Nettleton encouraging investments in early childhood wellbeing as a means of preventing gun violence. July 25
- Brook Soltvedt and Eileen Newcomer, LWV voter education coordinator, appeared on "A Public Affair" on WORT-FM for a program entitled, Election Prep: What You Need to Know When You Head to the Polls. August 13
- Beth Alleman, vote coordinator for Associated Students of Madison, the UW-Madison student government, was featured in an interview with *The Daily Cardinal*, an independent student newspaper. September 27

- An extensive article, “Voter ID Lowered Turnout, Studies Show” by Cameron Smith from the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism that appeared in Urban Milwaukee, featured Gail Bliss on our senior liaison program and Kathleen Fullin on our outreach to City of Madison provisional voters. The original piece is on WisconsinWatch.org. October 3
- Brook Soltvedt and Eileen Newcomer, LWV voter education coordinator, appeared on “A Public Affair” on WORT-FM for a programs Voting Overview: Get Ready To Vote In The General Election. October 15
- Badger Report, a newscast produced by journalism students at UW–Madison, quoted Marian Matthews (as Marianne Matthews) on the opportunity that voting offers students. October 19
- Neil Heinen, in a WISC-TV/Channel 3000 editorial, lauded our *Candidates’ Answers* voter guide and bemoaned candidates who disrespected voters by not responding to our questionnaire. October 23
- A front-page article in The Cap Times, “The Epic vote,” several times mentioned our voter registration drives with their employees. October 24
- The Capital City Hues published Andrea Kaminski’s op-ed on why people should vote. October 29
- Ingrid Rothe, representing our League as co-chair of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition, spoke at an Urban League press conference encouraging African Americans to vote. The event was covered in the Capital City Hues. October 29
- The Cap Times reported on West High School students organizing to register and vote with help from our League. October 31
- Brava magazine featured our League as their nonprofit of the month in “Empowering Democracy” (page 71). November 2
- WKOW-TV filmed a segment about the B1G voting challenge at the Student Activity Center during in-person absentee voting. Many League volunteers were pictured assisting voters at this polling place that our League organized and staffed for two weeks. November 2
- Julia Gilden was profiled in the Wisconsin State Journal’s Know Your Madisonian feature. November 2.
- Democracy in Peril: The War on Voting Rights, a CNN special report on voter suppression, focused on Wisconsin. Ari Berman and UW professors Ken Mayer and Barry Burden were interviewed, and Mayer’s study on voter suppression is explained. Long segments feature Molly McGrath and other coalition members doing voter ID outreach work. Nick Stephanopoulos and Ruth Greenwood, who spoke at National Convention, discussed their role leading the legal team for the Wisconsin partisan gerrymander case, *Gill v. Whitford*. November 2
- Ingrid Rothe, co-chair of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition, spoke about voter suppression in Wisconsin on two WORT-FM programs: Labor Hour on November 2 and Her Turn News November 4
- NBC 15 reported on UW medical students who assisted hospitalized voters to cast ballots after being trained by LWVDC volunteers. November 6
- Ingrid Rothe was recognized as a Community Shares Backyard Hero for her work as co-chair of the Voter ID Coalition and as chair of the LWV Wisconsin Legislative Committee. February
- Neil Heinen again used his WISC-TV/Channel 3000 editorial to champion *Candidates’ Answers*. March 14
- Emily Hamer from the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism published Civic Education Makes a Power Difference in Creating Young Voters, which featured a League voter registration event held March 6 at West High School. March 31
- Our public visibility was also seen as volunteers
- interviewed 28 candidates in March, 19 candidates in January, and 4 candidates in July for the Madison City Channel program *Know Your Candidates*.
- moderated candidate forums around the county, many of which were recorded and available online.
- distributed about 5000 copies of the November *Candidates’ Answers* and about 4000 copies of the March *Candidate’s Answers* (in addition to the 10,000 copies on *Isthmus* newsstands each time).

# League of Women Voters of Dane County

## Income and Expenses

	Jul'17 - Jun'18	Jul'18 - Mar'19
<b>Ordinary Income/Expenses</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
4000 - Dues	\$23,030	\$26,365
4030 - Contributions	\$47,420	\$39,632
4070 - Special Projects	\$72	\$0
4100 - Grants	\$5,498	\$21,241
4300 - Fund Raising	\$0	\$275
4400 - Rental Income-sublet	\$4,531	\$2,959
4500 - Publication Sales	\$15	\$0
46400 - Other Types of Income	\$0	\$101
4700 - Miscellaneous Income	\$1,481	\$1,374
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$82,047</b>	<b>\$91,948</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
5000 - Rent	\$9,880	\$8,797
5100 - Gas & Electric	\$1,170	\$0
5200 - Equipment Maintenance	\$2,502	\$5,637
5210 - General Supplies	\$3,066	\$1,127
5230 - Communications/phone/internet	\$1,552	\$1,580
5240 - Office Cleaning	\$445	\$400
5255 - Committee Expenses	\$202	\$340
5260 - Web Page Expenses	\$192	\$0
5261 - Software	\$314	\$223
5270 - Publication Expenses	\$4,550	\$8,124
5280 - Special Projects expenses	\$4,086	\$20,934
5300 - Meeting costs	\$2,844	\$1,899
5400 - Fund raising costs	\$75	\$0
5500 - Insurance	\$1,907	\$201
5600 - Postage	\$966	\$995
5700 - Membership Payments	\$15,525	\$16,648
5850 - Office Furniture	\$305	\$393
5900 - Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,081	\$709
60900 - Business Expenses	\$687	\$653
62100 - Contract Services	\$296	\$870
65000 - Operations	-\$22	\$0
6560 - Payroll Expenses	\$13,524	\$16,640
66900 - Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$1	\$0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$65,149</b>	<b>\$86,169</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$16,899</b>	<b>\$5,779</b>
<b>Other Income/Expenses</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
7000 - Short Term Interest	\$19	\$80
9000 - Memorial Mutual Funds	\$33,256	\$12,127
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$33,274</b>	<b>\$12,207</b>
<b>Net other Income</b>	<b>\$33,274</b>	<b>\$12,207</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$50,173</b>	<b>\$17,986</b>

# League of Women Voters of Dane County

## Balance Sheet

	<u>Jun 30, 2018</u>	<u>Mar 31, 2019</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000 - Old National checking account	\$28,877	\$32,654
1050 - Old National payroll account	\$3,501	\$4,288
1200 - Memorial Fund	\$327,615	\$339,743
1250 - Old National Money Market account	\$40,122	\$40,476
1300 - Petty Cash	\$100	\$99
Total Checking/Savings	<u>\$400,215</u>	<u>\$417,260</u>
Accounts Receivable		
1201 - Accounts Receivable	\$199	
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>\$199</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>\$400,414</u>	<u>\$417,260</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$400,414</u></u>	<u><u>\$417,260</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
2000 - Accounts Payable	\$264	
Total Accounts Payable	<u>\$264</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Credit Cards		
0339 - OfficeMax	\$42	\$0
2300 - Visa credit card	\$373	\$60
Total Credit Cards	<u>\$415</u>	<u>\$60</u>
Other Current Liabilities		
2100 - Payroll Liabilities	\$971	\$427
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>\$971</u>	<u>\$427</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$1,650</u>	<u>\$487</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$1,650</u>	<u>\$487</u>
Equity		
3000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	\$348,406	\$398,786
3900 - Retained Earnings	\$15	\$0
Net Income	\$50,343	\$17,986
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>\$398,764</u>	<u>\$416,773</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>\$400,414</u></u>	<u><u>\$417,260</u></u>

**Financial Advisory** [Helen Horn]

The figures in this report are for calendar year 2018, the last complete year. The committee met once and decided not to change the makeup of the investment portfolio. League funds are conservatively invested in five Vanguard and two Dodge & Cox mutual funds. The total value of the mutual funds at the end of 2018 was **\$302,026**. This was a **-\$33,279** net change in market value (-10%) from the previous year, due to general losses in the stock market during the year. In addition to the stock portfolio, LWVDC has \$40,000 in a savings account, which originally was part of Eleanor Barschall's bequest in 2007.

Board policy is that up to 4.5% of the value of a 5-year average of the stock investments (after removing the highest and lowest years) may be withdrawn annually based on LWVDC needs. Because it is based on an average over five years, a single year market drop will not significantly change the amount. The 12/31/2018 withdrawal calculation from the stock investments is \$12,230. Because the portfolio has reached a sufficient level, the board has decided to use this income on a regular basis as part of our annual budget.

Stock	# shares	Value 12/31/2017	Dividends & Capital Gains	Net return	Value 12/31/2018
DODFX	465	<b>\$20,945</b>	\$488	-\$4,255	<b>\$17,178</b>
DODBX	584	<b>\$57,128</b>	\$4,863	-\$7,500	<b>\$54,491</b>
VFIAX	184	<b>\$44,618</b>	\$865	-\$2,841	<b>\$42,642</b>
VIMAX	367	<b>\$69,101</b>	\$1,127	-\$7,505	<b>\$62,723</b>
VTSEX	869	<b>\$56,920</b>	\$1,085	-\$4,028	<b>\$53,977</b>
VBIAX	1054	<b>\$35,792</b>	\$794	-\$1,816	<b>\$34,770</b>
VHCOX	634	<b>\$37,658</b>	\$3,921	-\$5,333	<b>\$36,246</b>
		<b>\$322,161</b>	<b>\$13,144</b>	<b>-\$33,279</b>	<b>\$302,026</b>

\*DODFX - Dodge & Cox International Stock Fund DODBX - Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund  
 VFIAX - Vanguard 500 Index Fund Inv VIMAX - Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Inv  
 VTSEX - Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Inv VBIAX - Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Inv  
 VHCOX - Vanguard Capital Opportunity Fund Inv

Committee: Sybil Better, Sally Carpenter, Kathy Fullin, Helen Horn, Caroline Liedtke, Ingrid Rothe



**Fundraising [Christine Clements]**

Over the last year, the LWVDC has conducted two member fundraising appeals (Valentine's Day/Birthday and the May Member Challenge) and two appeals soliciting non-members for funds to pay for the spring and fall editions of *Candidates' Answers*. The 2019 Valentine's Day/99th birthday appeal raised \$8,786, a 222% increase over last year. The 2018 May Member Challenge raised \$10,928, consisting of \$5,678 in donations and \$5,250 in matching seed funding. Challenge donors have put up \$3,500 in seed money as a match for the May 2019 Member Challenge.

Two separate *Candidates' Answers* appeals were conducted for the Fall and Spring Elections. The fall appeal raised \$2,775, including a \$1,000 matching grant provided by an anonymous member. A spring non-member appeal is currently underway with an additional \$1,000 matching gift. Publication costs for the fall 2018 and spring 2019 *Candidates' Answers* will be approximately \$8,000, with an increase in the number of copies printed for expanded distribution and a spring edition that is four pages longer than usual.

The LWVDC was also the recipient of \$1,832 in donations from fifty-year members, \$9,535 in general donations from members, \$1,500 in member donations to *Candidate' Answers* and \$8,179 in non-member contributions separate from the *Candidates' Answers* fundraiser. Combined, these donations support voter services and education, community forums and our operating costs. We are grateful for all donations we receive, whatever the amount. We ask members to please remember the LWVDC when estate planning and by keeping a Memorial Gift Designation form in one's files to designate the league as a recipient of memorial gifts. Memorial Gift Designation forms are available on the LWVDC website. Thank you for your generous support of the League.

**Program [Mary Anglim]**

In 2018-2019, LWVDC sponsored five timely and important forums and a very thought-provoking talk at our Lively Issues luncheon in January. Although impeded by bad weather, we also held a meeting to consider proposals for Program themes for 2019-2020.

**2018-2019 LWV Dane County Forums**

Date	Subject	Speakers	Planners
September	<b>Protecting Our Wisconsin Elections</b> Do insecure voting machines, inadequate audits, or voter fraud threaten the reliability of election results in Wisconsin?	Barry Burden (UW Elections Research Center), Dee Hall (Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism), and Richard Rydecki (Wisconsin Elections Commission)	Karen McKim, Ellen Rosborough, Brook Soltvedt
October	<b>Safety in Schools – Challenges and Responses</b> State and local efforts to fund safety improvements, instill trust in the student community, and teach gun safety	Kristen Devitt (Wisconsin Department of Justice), Joe Balles, (Coordinator of School Safety and Security, Madison Metropolitan School District) and Jack Larsen (Student, UW-Madison)	Gail Shea, Ellen Hadidian
November	<b>The Electoral College – Bad for Democracy?</b> Analysis of arguments for and against the abolition of the Electoral College	A powerpoint presentation created by LWV Wilmette IL and neighboring chapters	
January	<b>Lively Issues Luncheon – Infamous Mothers</b>	Sagashus Levingston, Ph.D., founder of Infamous Mothers, LLC	

February	<b>General Membership Meeting to consider 2019-2020 Program</b> Originally scheduled for Feb. 23, rescheduled for March 9		Mary Anglim, Aileen Nettleton, Georgiana Hernandez, and others
March	<b>The Crisis in Child Care</b> High-quality, reliable care for our youngest children is critical to their development, but too costly for most parents to pay out of pocket. Regulatory standards, stagnant wages, and inadequate government funding all result in a Child Care desert in Wisconsin and nation-wide.	Peggy Haack (Wisconsin Early Childhood Association) and Jen Bailey (Reach Dane)	
April	<b>Threats and Rescue Strategies for Wisconsin's Water</b> Concentrated agricultural feeding operations (CAFOs), high-capacity wells, contamination, flooding, Foxconn, climate change, what next?	Gretchen Sabel, Chair of LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO	
May	<b>Annual Meeting – Updates on LWVWI Issues</b>	Erin Grunze, Executive Director, LWV Wisconsin	Aileen Nettleton, Christine Clements

The members of the 2018-19 Program Committee are Joy Cardin, Sue Ann Larson, Katie Mulligan, Brook Soltvedt, and Dorothy Wheeler. Ex-officio: Aileen Nettleton, Mary Anglim (chair). Thanks to the efforts of Sue and Terry Larson, Kelly Warren, and Brook Soltvedt, video and/or audio recordings and supporting materials for our forums which are available on our website.

In Spring 2018 I asked members for ideas for the upcoming year's forums. At a July meeting of all interested members, we agreed to focus our first two meetings on threats to Wisconsin elections and gun safety, two topics prominent in the news at the time. For the day after the mid-term elections in November we took advantage of LWV Illinois' excellent work on the Electoral College. Our programs for January through May were harder to predict but proved to be equally timely.

Meanwhile at the urging of the Board, I undertook to revive the old practice of asking the membership to select a few priority issues on which we want to concentrate our education, study, and advocacy in the coming year. The process is described in recent issues of the *Bulletin* and in the Proposed Program document presented at this Annual Meeting.

### **Adopt-A-Highway [Doug Johnson]**

In 2018, volunteers again worked to support the twice-a-year commitment of LWVDC to Adopt-A-Highway along US Hwy 14 just west of Middleton. On May 2 nine participants picked up 18 bags of debris and on October 2 nine participants picked up 20 bags. Nearly half of the bags contained recyclable objects.

### **Bulletin [Maria Spinozzi]**

The focus of the Bulletin this year was purpose and engagement. The League has many means of communication including weekly emails and social media platforms. The Bulletin needs to provide a unique purpose that does not duplicate these other communications.

This year the Bulletin included many profiles of experienced League members, as well as topical articles. These included an article about the National Popular Vote Compact and another on the security of elections in Wisconsin. When possible, the topical articles were timed to pique members' interest in a subject prior to an upcoming related forum. Of course, the Bulletin continued to include information about upcoming events, unit meetings, forums, new members, volunteers, memorials and contributions.

Engagement is something to consider on both sides of the Bulletin, production and consumption. To increase engagement on the production side, and to ensure a variety of voices in our Bulletin, we focused on growing our pool of writers. We had many 'regular' contributors. I am very grateful for their consistent willingness to contribute. We also had many 'when available' contributors, which added fresh perspectives to each issue. Perhaps most excitingly, we had many new members join our writing pool. Writing opportunities for new members have allowed them to connect with experienced members, learn about existing programs and projects, and feel more connected to the League.

### **Membership [Mary Ellen Schmit and Sally Gleason]**

Membership in the Dane County League doubled in the past four years with 435 members as of mid-March. New members since July 2017 numbered more than 200! The non-renewal rate for last year was 11.3%. New member outreach initiated this year will ideally reduce the number of lapsed memberships in the future.

With a substantial increase in membership this year, outreach efforts have been made to engage with diverse needs of our Dane County membership. Info-Socials, New Member Orientations open to the public, drew prospective members from north, east, south and west Dane County.

New members Jean Jacobson, Kathy Krusiec, and Donna Van Bogaert have taken lead positions as Volunteer Coordinators. They have been instrumental in creating a more streamline Member Interests & Activities survey that includes greater possibilities of getting to know our members through demographic information, organizational skills, and interests relating to our 2019-2020 Program focuses of 1) Making Democracy Work and 2) Climate Change.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been and will continue to be a lens through which membership outreach will be done. Sally Gleason and Mary Ellen Schmit have learned from and contributed to the Community Alliances Committee through the League of Women Voters Wisconsin. Our record-breaking increase in membership has been a testament to the League's work. The high percentage of new members provides an opportunity for greater outreach and engagement by the Membership Committee in the year to come.

### **Observer Corps [Marilyn Stephen]**

The Observer Corps is off to a strong start with nine women attending the first orientation on March 23. Having LWVDC observers in local governmental meetings builds trust and respect between the members of the board or committee and the League. Also, the observer will come to understand how the committee functions and the context of any issues that would be of interest to the League. The volunteer observers will choose which boards or committees they wish to attend based on their interests. Their observations will be reported back to the League with special notation of hot topics. As we go forward, the Observer Corps would like to set up a mentoring process for new volunteers. We thank everyone who has helped in getting this new project started!

**Publicity [Susan Fulks]**

Publicity for LWVDC issue forums and meetings consists of flyers, press releases to Madison and Dane County news media, and posting on online event calendars and social media. Flyers are posted on the LWVDC web site, and members are encouraged to download and forward to colleagues and other groups who might be interested in the topic. Press releases are emailed to Madison and Dane County community newspapers, television and radio stations, and non-profit community organizations with common interests. Madison and Sun Prairie newspapers and the Isthmus print our events in their weekly calendar listings. Meeting information is also posted on area web-based calendars, Facebook, and Twitter. Voter ID and voter registration information was also submitted this past year to Madison neighborhood organizations. Press releases announcing publication (web-based and print) of Candidates' Answers were submitted to media and neighborhood organizations in August, November, and March.

**Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization [Mary Ploeser]**

The Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization has been active in 2018 – 2019. Members have joined many other environmental groups in order to act on our philosophy that healthy land produces healthy water. We joined with the Lake Michigan Region ILO to present a water caucus at the LWV US Convention last June. Along with LMR ILO, we continued urging rejection of the Foxconn proposal to divert water from Lake Michigan for the Foxconn Technology Group industrial project. UMRR has paired with the Isaac Walton League to host workshops for farmers and fishers in Minnesota and Iowa. We plan to include Illinois and Wisconsin soon. We continued our outreach to different groups, namely the Scouts and Rotary clubs. We offered them the opportunity to learn about water quality by sharing the Watershed Game with them.

We have been advocating for clean water legislation in our four states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Our concerns include CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) which affect the water quality, especially in private wells; the farming practice of spreading unnecessary fertilizers in the fall; nitrates getting into water through drain tiles; and the US Farm Bill and its impact on water quality.

**Volunteer Coordinators [Kathy Krusiec, Jean Jacobson, and Donna Van Bogaert]**

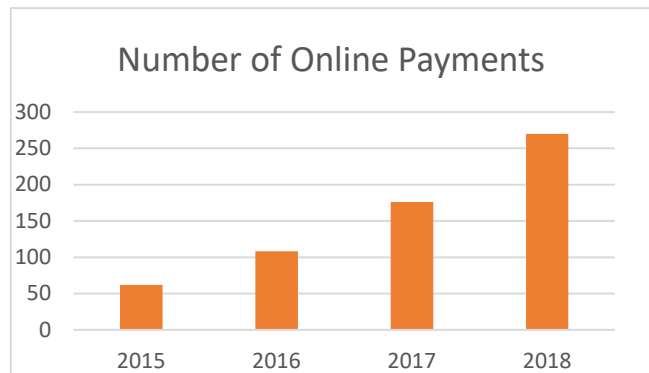
The Volunteer committee has met several times since December. Several of the meetings have been to work on developing the demographic survey and revising the member interest inventory for the Membership Form. We have worked collaboratively with the Membership Committee on the survey and inventory as well as developing a plan of how the two committees can complement and support each other. A collaborative (Volunteer and Membership Committees) proposal for a new demographic survey and proposal for developing and implementing a communication plan, new inventory and member orientation was presented at the March 4 Membership Team meeting. The Volunteer Committee has also reviewed and analyzed member comments from a portion of the membership database. This analysis was used to identify and secure volunteers for Bulletin writing, Program Committee planning, Observer Corps members and a new Book Group. Volunteer Committee members attended the March Info-Social at Lillian's and plan to attend as many coming Info-Socials as possible in support and collaboration with the Membership Committee.

**Webmaster [Brook Soltvedt]**

The website design was unchanged this year, although the content was updated regularly. Many thanks to our office administrator, Cindy Lindquist, who now helps with the website updates. Member Philip Heckman has also been a valued assistant in this work.

Each year members (and nonmembers) use our website more frequently to join, renew memberships and make donations.

In addition to maintaining the website, I produce the weekly email to members (and others who subscribe). The emails are opened by 35–49% of the recipients, on average.

**Voter Service [Paul Lindquist]**

The Voter Service team was very active during the elections of 2018. This year we added new volunteer training opportunities, more community outreach venues, and many new League members joined the team.

We helped voters to register, acquire a voter ID, find their polling place, learn about candidates on the ballot, and assisted provisional voters to cure their ballot. We trained dozens of volunteers, scheduled over 200 events, and assisted over 7000 voters.

In partnership with other community organizations in the Voter ID Coalition, we offered a helpline where hundreds of voters got help with a wide range of challenges, from a ride to the DMV, to advocacy in acquiring a voter ID.

I would like to thank the Voter Service Steering Committee members, Mary Anglim, Gail Bliss, Kathy Fullin, Sue Fulks, Shirley Haidinger, Marian Matthews, Paul Malischke, Ingrid Rothe, and Brook Soltvedt for all of their leadership and hard work. Thank you also to all of the volunteers who pitched in to help your fellow citizens exercise their right to vote.

**Voter Service Individual Reports*****Candidates' Answers Volunteers* [Brook Soltvedt]**

Kathy Fullin contacted all the city clerks and school districts to obtain the names and contact information for all candidates, and developed a spreadsheet for use by the office and webmaster. The office sent letters to all the candidates instructing them to respond to an email from Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster, soliciting their responses to our questions, which had been incorporated into online forms. Soltvedt tracked all candidate responses, sent confirmations and reminders to candidates and created web pages with the responses. Rachel Davidson, Diane deVos, Kathy Fullin, Helen Horn and Lauren Surovi proofread the responses on the website. Soltvedt created a manuscript from the proofed web pages, sent it to *Isthmus* and proofread for layout and formatting issues. Volunteers who proofread the galleys from *Isthmus* against the manuscript: Linda Dietrich, Barbara Mortensen, Barbara Wolf, Caryl Terrell, Kathy Dutilly, Janet Kane, Philip Heckman, Georgiana Hernandez, Judi Dilks, Pat Levin, Aileen Nettleton. Doug Johnson picked up copies of CA at the warehouse. Marian Matthews, Kathy Fullin, Shirley Haidinger, Gail Bliss, Ingrid Rothe and Brook Soltvedt distributed copies to libraries, clerks, community centers and Union Cab.

***Candidates' Answers Questions* [Kathleen Fullin]**

Priscilla Thain, Brook Soltvedt, Mary Anglim, Paul Lindquist, and Ingrid Rothe met on Dec. 10, 2018, to draft the questions for the spring 2019 candidates. Carol Carstensen contributed suggestions via email.

### **Library Liaisons [Marian Matthews and Kathleen Fullin]**

In the last couple of years, we have worked with volunteers to encourage Dane County libraries to assist patrons by providing voter registration information and resources. Our long term goal is that all Dane County libraries become voter registration sites. Thanks to members Georgia Kaftan, Carla Galler, Robin Downs, Theresa Walske, Victoria Robertson, Carol Hermann, Gail Krc, Linda Orr, Barbara Feeney, Christine Clements, Christine Milligan-Ciha, Sue Ann Larson, and Julie Gocey. Non-members help with some libraries, and we are still looking for liaisons for the Black Earth, Marshall, Mazomanie, McFarland, and Waunakee libraries.

### **Provisional Voter Contacts [Kathleen Fullin, Coordinator]**

Marian Matthews, Shirley Haidinger, Justine Malinski, Andrea Kaminski, Molly McGrath, Julia Gilden, Mary Anglim, Gail Bliss, Ingrid Rothe, and Janet Murphy contacted City of Madison provisional voters after the August, November and February elections to help them provide an ID in time for their vote to be counted. Brook Soltvedt helped track the results. Gail Shea contacted provisional voters in the City of Middleton.

### **High School Voter Education Action Team [Susan Fulks, Action Team Facilitator]**

LWVDC High School Voter Education Action Team meets regularly to promote two major goals:

1. To assist eligible high school students in registering to vote
2. To help students become informed Wisconsin voters

Our primary goal this year was to establish and support several pilot projects to train student groups to promote and organize peer voter information/registration drives within their schools. We created a student training program with video/print resources and handouts to facilitate registration activities. Action team volunteers also provided in-school support for student registration prior to each election. Future goals are to expand our outreach within Dane County high schools and to continue to promote student leadership registration activities.

### **Westside Farmers' Market [Priscilla Thain]**

Westside Farmers Market - LWV members gave out voter information at the Farmer's Market (in the UW Digestive Center parking lot) every other week from July 9 - October 27 on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Because space is limited at the market, the market coordinator wanted only one voter table at a market, so league people alternated with The Progressives from Middleton. Marjorie Schuett and Priscilla Thain worked most of the Saturdays. Paul Lindquist did it twice. Priscilla Thain, who lives near the market, keeps an old league bridge table plus a Voter Service banner that fits the table at her house. Workers bring their own chairs.

### **Know Your Candidates TV Interviews [Louise Robbins]**

Know Your Candidates had a busy 2018-2019 Madison election season. The Know Your Candidates interviews are jointly sponsored with Madison City Channel. Because of the large number of contested seats for mayor, alder person, and school board, five interviewers conducted thirty-four interviews in late January, and three interviewers did twenty-two interviews in early March. With a total of 5 mayoral candidates, we conducted 5 interviews for the primary and 2 for the general election. We conducted 15 interviews for alder primary candidates and 12 interviews for the general election (two were unable to participate). In addition, 9 interviews were conducted of Madison School Board candidates. Interviewers were Joy Cardin, Brook Soltvelt, Maria Spinozzi, Kathy Johnson, and Louise Robbins.

Questions were developed by chairperson Louise Robbins with the help of members of the board and Candidates' Answers participants. Interviews were 15 minutes each.

Weather and candidates' scheduling problems were the only issues encountered. The LWVDC appreciates the work of the Madison City Channel, especially Tanya Anderson.

### **Moderators for Candidate Forums [Gloria Meyer]**

The Dane County League had moderators scheduled for two forums this spring: one on March 16 for the Village of McFarland (Diane Liebert moderating) and one on March 18 for the Midvale Heights Community Association (Gail Bliss moderating). We had two requests that did not work out and supplied forum information to two other groups. We have 20 people signed up to moderate with about half experienced and half not.

### **St. Vincent de Paul [Betty Cohen]**

During the past year, we conducted 4 outreach campaigns lasting approximately 4 weeks each prior to the primaries and elections held in the Summer 2018, Fall 2018 and January 2019, and February 2019. There were 33 volunteers who worked one or more shifts at SVDP in this time period including: Janine Bessemer, Carol Blemker, JoAnn Boushon, Christine Clements, Emily Colo, Susan Dinauer, Robin Downs, Janine Edwards, Nancy Feingold, Kathy Fullin, Jamie Gale, Sarah Gavac, Sally Gleason, Nancy Gloe, Carol Hermann, Diane Kean, Ginny Kester, Gail Krc, Marsha Landretti, Julie Loehrl, Justine Malinski, Gloria Meyer, Ellen Rosborough, Marjorie Schuett, Eric Seifriz, Kathleen Shanovich, Ronald Shanovich, Marjorie Schuett, Melissa Sosman, Erica Throneburg, Leah Ujda, Bonnie Van Overbeke, Carol Weiss. During the four campaigns combined, according to the data submitted by many of the volunteers, we were able to complete 65 registrations online and 30 on paper, which were then submitted to clerks by mail or in person. In addition, we provided information about voting to 78 clients of the pantry and information about registration or voter ID to 127 clients of the pantry.

### **Epic Systems [Marian Matthews]**

Marian Matthews and Epic employee (and this year's Outstanding Voter Service Award winner) Beth Morgan, organized voter outreach information for all Epic employees and also a registration event on the Epic campus. Thanks to LWVDC volunteers Paul Lindquist, Shirley Haidinger, Elizabeth Kohl, Brook Soltvedt, Kathy Fullin, Justine Malinski, JoAnn Boushon, and Marian Matthews who registered over 100 voters.

### **UW Madison Outreach [Marian Matthews]**

Paul Lindquist, Beth Alleman and Marian Matthews, working with the UW Associated Students of Madison and the Morgridge Center, organized voter outreach activities where students registered to vote and were provided with information about voter ID. Over 100 volunteers staffed these activities, 50 of whom were LWVDC members. Activity locations included the UW bus pass distribution at the Student Activity Center (SAC), a Convocation at the Kohl Center, the School of Education, Natatorium, and Health Sciences Learning Center.

Kathy Fullin and Marian Matthews organized volunteer support for voter registration at In-person Absentee Voting (IPAV) at the UW Student Activity Center. A number of LWVDC volunteers also assisted with voter registration for IPAV at the Memorial Union and Union South. Paul Lindquist created an electronic system for printing registration forms that greatly increased the efficiency of these activities.

Paul Malischke created a training module for registering students at the UW, which Marian Matthews, Ingrid Rothe and Sara Gavac presented to the volunteers working at the UW.

### **VS Volunteer Training [Marian Matthews]**

Marian Matthews and Paul Lindquist created a training program, Everything You Wanted to Know About Helping Voters but Were Afraid to Ask, which was a follow-up to the Madison City Clerk's Voter Education Ambassador training. The program was conducted 5 times with approximately 130 attendees. The training modules were also available for viewing at the LWVDC website.