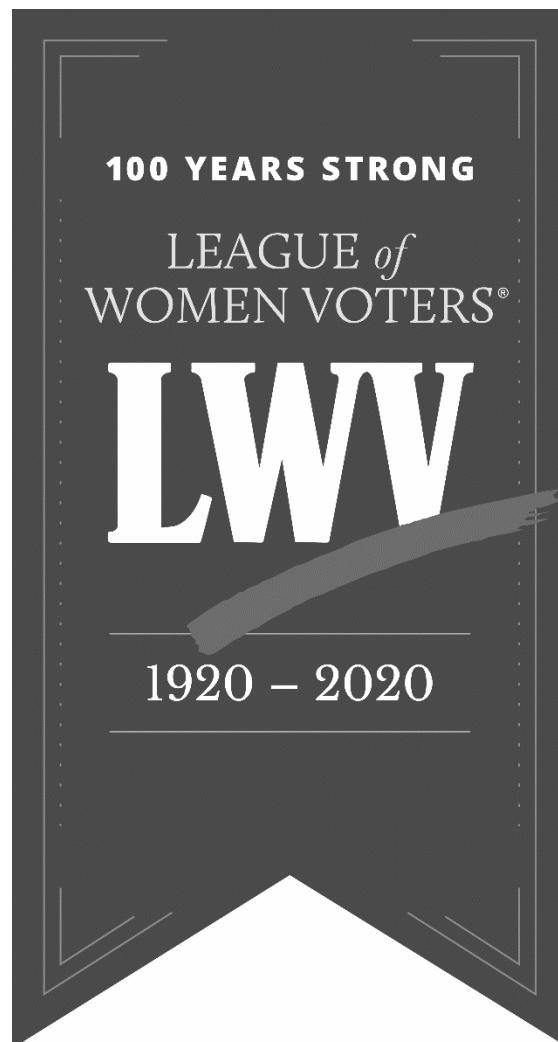




Annual Meeting Report
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



[Presented via USPS May 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Safer at Home directive]



LWVDC Annual Report 2019-2020

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

President	Aileen Nettleton
Vice-President	Brook Soltvedt
Secretary	Joan Provencher
Treasurer	Helen Horn

Directors

Action*	Marilyn Stephen
Bulletin Editor	Maria Spinozzi
Fundraising	Christine Clements
Program	Mary Anglim
Publicity	Donna Van Bogaert
Membership	Sally Gleason & Mary Ellen Schmit
Voter Service	Paul Lindquist & Marian Matthews

Off-Board Portfolios

Discussion Unit Coordinator	Pat Kippert
Volunteer Coordinator	Kathy Krusiec
Webmaster	Brook Soltvedt

Committee Chairs

Adopt-a-Highway	Doug Johnson
DEI Committee	Maria Spinozzi
Financial Advisory Committee	Jean Jacobson
Nominating Committee	Janet Van Vleck
Upper Mississippi River ILO	Mary & Steve Ploeser

Discussion Unit Leaders

Monday Evening, West/Middleton	Merilyn Kupferberg & Gloria Meyer
Monday Afternoon, Oakwood Prairie Ridge	Wally Brinkmann & Dorothy Wheeler
Tuesday Afternoon, Oakwood University Woods	Kathy Johnson
Wednesday, Northeast Side	Karen Gunderson
Wednesday, Downtown Dinner	Ingrid Rothe
Sunday, Campus	Laura Grueneberg

*Board Appointed

President [Aileen Nettleton]

2019-2020—the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Dane County-- has been a challenging year. The year began with an increase in our membership and expanding opportunities for membership engagement. We are ending with the necessity to postpone or cancel events due to the current coronavirus pandemic. Highlights of the year are included here and in more detail in the individual reports:

- Our membership increased to over 500 with the high interest and support for voter service volunteer projects for UW student and community outreach voter registration and publicity about the work of the League.
- Generous support of several anonymous member donors allowed the League to establish two UW student internships through the UW Social Justice Hub for voter education projects with the League Voter Service team.
- An Action Chair, Marilyn Stephen, was appointed to the Board. She recruited and trained members to a new Observer Corps to be the eyes and ears of the League at local government meetings.
- Book Discussions were coordinated by Jean Jacobs and led by interested Book Discussion members with titles selected to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and our program areas of Climate Crisis and Making Democracy Work.
- Active Program Committee subcommittees added more members to plan for the excellent public forums and other events conducted around the focus areas of Climate Crisis and Making Democracy Work.
- A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee was established with Maria Spinozzi appointed chair, involving more members and encouraging and monitoring ways all projects of the League can include aspects of DEI.
- A Board Retreat focused attention on what is working and what needs improvement with the structure of the board, communication and involvement of members and need for additional office staff to better address our mission. Ad hoc committees took steps to develop plans to implement changes to bring back to the board and membership in the future. Special thanks to our capable member facilitator, Georgiana Hernandez, for shepherding us through this process, on hold for the moment.
- We moved our office – again!! We were informed in October that the property we rented had been sold for development. We were able to relocate to a remodeled office suite on Hill Street. Our able office administrator, Cindy Lindquist, along with Brook Soltvedt and Paul Lindquist, negotiated and organized the move that took place in December. My great thanks to them for completing the move and setting up in our new location with extreme competence on our behalf.
- We held an Open House on February 14 to celebrate our move, the 100th Anniversary of the LWVUS and Susan B. Anthony's birthday and carried out a "Month of Action" with members to encourage all members promote voting in our Wisconsin February Primary Election. Thanks to Mary Ellen Schmit and Marilyn Stephen for coordinating this successful event.
- The Centennial Planning Committee set up many details for a March 28 Gala event at the Park Hotel, with US past LWV president Carolyn-Jefferson-Jenkins as keynote speaker and Fabu to share a commissioned poem; invitations were designed and mailed, detailed plans made for the program, Historic Highlights of our 100 years were compiled and plans for décor and arrangements with Park Hotel were made. Then came the Coronavirus Pandemic, and with the necessary decision by the Board to postpone the Celebration, the committee "undid" all the notification and planning arrangements for postponing the event. Many thanks to committee members: Earnestine Moss, chair, Jan Anderson, Kathy Krusiec, Cindy Lindquist, Melanie Ramey, and Brook Soltvedt.

- The Board also postponed the two remaining spring public forums and the Voter Service Team canceled registration events and moved to promote absentee ballot voting for the April Primary Election in response to public health concerns.

On a personal level, I wish to thank all the members of the Board for their dedication and commitment to the mission of the LWVDC. They are competent, conscientious, and take on many tasks to complete the work of the League. I wish to thank board members for mentoring me and stepping in for me when needed. They have represented you, the members, with diligence. Thank you to the Executive Committee, Mary Anglim, Brook Soltvedt, and Chris Clements, for your wisdom and responsiveness for quick decisions when needed. I especially wish to thank Cindy Lindquist, our extremely competent and personable Office Administrator, for her initiative, cooperation, flexibility and diligence in an “overwhelming” year. It has been an honor to serve you as president for the past two years. In this time of crisis, I wish you well and hope you are enjoying the calls of sandhill cranes, the return of the cardinal, and daffodil leaves poking up. (March 25)

Vice-President [Brook Soltvedt]

As Vice President I had no specific duties. In addition to my role as Webmaster (see separate report), I served on the board, the Executive Committee, the Program Committee, the DEI Committee, the Voter Service Committee, the Centennial Committee, the Budget Committee, and was the fill-in bookkeeper/assistant Treasurer for much of the year.

The sale of the Vernon Boulevard office building took place while President Nettleton was out of the country in October. In her absence, and following her return, with much assistance from our office administrator, Cindy Lindquist, I negotiated the early termination of our lease agreement in exchange for assistance in finding a suitable new location and a cash payment to cover our expenses and subsidize the higher rent. A search committee consisting of Hannah Fisher, Executive Director of Wisconsin Physicians for Social Responsibility (our sub-lessors), Cindy Lindquist, Mary Ellen Schmit, Marilyn Stephen, Donna Van Bogaert, and I looked at several properties and made the recommendation to the board that resulted in our current office location. Paul Lindquist, though not formally on the committee, made measurements, drew plans, and in many other ways helped the committee to assess the feasibility of locations.

Treasurer's Report [Helen Horn]

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
Income and Expenses

	July 2018- June 2019	Actuals thru 2/29/2020
Ordinary Income		
Member Dues	27,455	31,426
Contributions	49,677	48,600
Grants	1,302	150
Ogg Fund Distribution	5,157	197,454
Dane County Contract Reimbursement	20,439	0
Sublet Rental Income	3,959	2,837
Miscellaneous Income	1,625	36,662
TOTAL INCOME	\$109,614	\$317,129
Operating Expenses		
Office Rent	12,147	11,933
Communications/phone/internet	2,047	1,539
General Supplies & Postage	3,614	2,560
Software/Office Equipment & Maintenance	6,477	4,128
Government & Bank Fees	930	1,110
Insurance	1,234	272
Contract Services	870	1,459
Payroll Expenses	23,515	15,574
Miscellaneous	1,172	2,310
Subtotal	\$52,006	\$40,885
Committee/Program Activity Expenses		
Board	678	3,745
Membership	822	647
Voter Services	10,577	9,820
Program Expenses	2,385	1,170
Subtotal	\$14,462	\$15,382
External Membership/Contract Program Expenses		
LWVWI and LWVUS Payments	16,648	23,559
Dane County Contract Expenses	20,105	0
Subtotal	\$36,753	\$23,559
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$103,221	\$79,826
OPERATING OVERAGE	\$6,393	\$237,303

Treasurer's Report [Helen Horn]

LEAGUE OF WOMENT VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

Balance Sheet

	June 30, 2019	February 29, 2020
Cash		
Old National Checking Account	33,671	67,777
Old National Payroll Account	3,934	10,112
Memorial Fund	351,464	383,560
Old National Money Market Account	40,507	242,001
Petty Cash	100	100
Total Cash	\$429,676	\$703,550
Total Assets		
	\$429,676	\$703,550
Liabilities and Equity		
Office Max Credit Card	0	321
Visa Credit Card	112	4,440
Payroll Liabilities	424	150
Total Current Liabilities	\$536	\$4,911
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	398,786	429,139
Net Income	30,354	269,500
Total Equity	\$429,140	\$698,639
Total Liabilities and Equity		
	\$429,676	\$703,550

Financial Advisory [Jean Jacobson]

This report provides a summary of the Memorial Trust Fund through the end of December 2019, the last full year for comparison to previous years, as well as a brief discussion of the changes to the portfolio in the spring of 2020.

The investment portfolio for LWVDC consists of five Vanguard and two Dodge & Cox mutual funds. The total value of the mutual funds at the end of 2019 was \$383,560. This was a 27% increase in value over the prior year. The portfolio had experienced a 10% decrease in value in 2018. For reference, the current value of the portfolio (in late March) is down 20-30%, in line with the rest of the stock market.

In January 2020 the League of Women Voters of Dane County received \$195,700 as the final payout from the dissolution of the Frederick A. Ogg Trust. This trust has been part of our annual budgets since the 1950s when we received a few hundred dollars per year. Professor Ogg was a nationally known political scientist, and his wife was a suffragist and later president of our local league in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The trust fund grew over the years and LWVDC received 5% of the final value. Income from the new assets will continue to help fund future budgets.

The Financial Advisory Committee has been meeting to decide how to invest the new funds and to rebalance the entire portfolio. The Committee proposed and the Board has approved a policy to invest funds into Environmental, Sustainable, Governance (ESG) funds. The Committee will begin to slowly move funds into the ESG category over the next year as we rebalance our portfolio.

Stock	# shares	Value 12/31/18	Dividends & Capital Gains	Net Return	Value 12/31/2019
DODFX	465	\$17,178	\$797	\$3,116	\$21,091
DODBX	584	\$54,491	\$4,015	\$6,672	\$65,178
VFIAX	184	\$42,642	\$1,036	\$12,377	\$56,056
VIMAX	367	\$62,723	\$1,200	\$18,263	\$82,187
VTSEX	869	\$53,977	\$1,231	\$15,396	\$70,604
VBIAX	1054	\$34,770	\$715	\$6,860	\$42,345
VHCOX	634	\$36,246	\$2775	\$7,079	\$46,099
		\$302,026	\$11,770	\$69,764	\$383,560

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

Jean Jacobson chair, Sally Carpenter, Helen Horn, Caroline Liedtke

Fundraising [Christine Clements]

Fundraising during the 2019-20 fiscal year has been strong and relatively consistent with previous years. The fundraising target for 2019-20 was \$52,800, including \$4,800 in revenue from the Ogg Fund. The Ogg Fund was cashed out and distributed during the fiscal year, leaving a giving target of \$48,000. Historically, one of the greatest single sources of gift revenue for the Dane County League is contributions from the annual general member appeal. This was true again in the current fiscal year with \$10,087 in donations. It should be noted that the increase in members has sustained total giving in this category, but the percentage of members contributing has declined.

The greatest fiscal year success to date is the combined annual Valentine's birthday appeal and Centennial Celebration appeal. Thanks to a generous \$10,000 Centennial matching gift from an anonymous donor, current birthday Centennial giving levels are at \$18,060. The celebration had to be postponed due to the coronavirus, an occurrence that is impacting associated fundraising activity. Another \$1,940 is needed to complete the pledge. The board made the decision in the fall to suspend the May Challenge appeal for FY19-20, so we hope remaining Centennial and birthday contributions will fill the gap.

Total contributions to date are \$48,600, including \$848 in memorial gifts, \$4,000 from 50-year member giving, and \$8,524 in non-member gifts. The fundraising committee expanded over the last year and is actively planning to meet the League's fund needs in the next fiscal year. Committee members contributing to this year's success include Linda Dietrich, Georgiana, Hernandez, Jean Jacobson, Sue Grace Krokosz and Caryl Terrell.

We are grateful for all donations we receive, whatever the amount. We ask members to please remember 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 2019-2020 LWV Dane County launched an expanded, energetic, and exciting series of educational events. Two over-arching themes were approved by the membership: Making Democracy Work and the Climate Crisis. Our events were designed to explore aspects of these two themes.

Partly because Capitol Lakes Grand Hall was closed for remodeling, we experimented with new venues for our forums, both in downtown and south side Madison and in other Dane County municipalities. With the Program and Advocacy Committee to provide oversight, the two subcommittees were able to plan and present a few more events than in the past. The Climate Crisis group developed four fascinating sessions on the impact of climate change on Dane County. Making Democracy Work offered an excellent forum on the Census and three sessions on how democracy is not fully working for certain groups in our community.

Climate Crisis Series

Making Democracy Work Series

Why the Climate Crisis is a Public Health Emergency -September 4 Speakers: Ralph Petersen, Ph.D., UW-Madison Space, Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison; Andrea Kaminski, former Executive Director, LWVW; and Claire Gervais, M.D., UW Health Clinics.	Census 2020 - October 2 Speakers: Margo Anderson, Professor Emerita, UW-Milwaukee; Ben Zellers, City of Madison Planning Department; and Abha Thakkar, Executive Director, Madison Northside Planning Council.
Why Local Governments Matter - November 6 Speakers: Ralph Petersen; Dave Merritt, Director of Policy and Program Development, Dane County Department of Administration; Sherrie Gruder, Sustainable Design Specialist, UW Extension; Stacie Reece, Sustainability Program Coordinator, City of Madison.	Lively Issues Luncheon -January 18 Due to weather, we showed Dorothy Fadiman's film, "Reclaiming Their Voice, The Native American Vote in New Mexico and Beyond," in place of our scheduled speaker.
The Promise of Ag Stewardship - February 16 Speakers: Ralph Petersen; George Crave of Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese; Kristen Kordet of Blue Moon Community Farm; and Richard L. Gates, Jr., of Gates Family Farm, LLC.	Unlocking the Vote - February 1 Speakers: Frank Davis and Jerome Dillard, of EXPO (EX-Incarcerated People Organizing); Carl Fields, Executive Director of the Racine Hospitality House.
Revenge of the Marshes - Preserving the Wetlands that Protect Us – Postponed	Who We Are, What is Ours: Getting Out the Vote in Native America - March 4 Speakers: Denise (Dee) Sweet, First Nations Organizer, and AnJali Bhasim, Civic Engagement Director, both of Wisconsin Conservation Voices.
	Women's Rights in America and the Fight Over the ERA – Postponed

The last two planned events had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 outbreak, but we still hope to hold them later, along with informal presentations on several other topics during the summer.

With the assistance of Kelly Warren and Sue and Terry Larson, most of our forums were audio- and video- recorded and are available on our website. Beginning in September, we initiated live-streaming of our forums with the help of Brook Soltvedt, Laura Grueneberg, and Bonnie Chang. Audiences in La Crosse and at Capitol Lakes were able to view some events remotely. Program Committee members researched our equipment needs to improve audio quality at the forums themselves and we purchased several microphones and a public address system to expand our choices of venues. For several forums, members living at Oakwood East were able to use Oakwood's bus to attend forums in person. The Climate Crisis subcommittee contributed a regular column, "Climate Corner," to our weekly email.

The Program Committee worked with the Board to clarify our policies on collaboration with other organizations to offer events. This work was codified in amendments to Section XVII of our Policies and Procedures.

Program's wish list for 2020-2021 might include providing training for facilitators of unit discussions and committee meetings; attracting volunteers who are willing to function as "forum coordinators" to concern themselves with arrangements with host locations and equipment logistics; reaching out to new members to join our subcommittees; and getting better at event planning and community outreach. Among other ideas, some survey respondents encouraged us to include conservative points of view in our Program

events, to give more attention to League positions, and to create opportunities to meet informally with our elected officials. How to assure that most or all of our events can be reached by public transportation remains a substantial question. Our Unit meetings may need some changes to respond to the needs and interests of our new members. Historically, the Units are the place where members discuss and formulate their opinions on issues of the day, and where League positions are shaped. What new format would fill this function?

Program drew on the support and expertise of other parts of the organization, especially Donna Van Bogaert for professional-level publicity and Cindy Lindquist for peerless office support. Many members of the Program Committee and its subcommittees gave generously of time and energy to make this year successful. Thanks to Carol Barford, Sybil Better, Wally Brinkmann, Joy Cardin, Bonnie Chang, Christine Clements, Janine Edwards, Meg Gordon, Laura Grueneberg, Helen Horn, Sue Larson, Pat Levin, Aileen Nettleton, Pat Patterson, Ralph Petersen, Pam Pfrang, Mary and Steve Ploesser, Janie Riebe, Louise Robbins, Mary Ellen Schmit, Brook Soltvedt, Marilyn Stephen, Caryl Terrell, Marilyn Townsend, Margy Walker, Jim Youngerman, and especially Georgiana Hernandez, for their thoughtful and creative contributions.

Action [Marilyn Stephen]

2020 has been an interesting year of learning for me. I've learned the very substantial differences between the LWV 1970s and the LWV 2020. So many changes and improvements! I've met some amazing people both on the board and off. I've also learned and then helped others to learn about the importance of attending local government committee meetings through the Observer Corps (OC).

Observer Corps member Laurie Egge, who has routinely attended two monthly local government meetings with topics ranging from criminal justice to homelessness, said the reason she likes OC is that she chose the topics that interest her, it is low stress because she is not required to do more than sit in on meetings and report back, and she can alert LWVDC leaders when something important is happening in a committee.

Wally Brinkmann, another OC member, said that she loves being an observer for the same reasons cited by Laurie, but also because she learned what specific topics the community is struggling with and why decisions are made. By being present at the meetings, Wally said she reminds committee members that the public is watching what they are doing. She has routinely attended two monthly county meetings focused on the environment. In addition, she requested and obtained League support to write a letter and to make a statement at a government meeting endorsing a position the League had already taken at the state level.

Between now and the end of the year, I hope to recruit a member volunteer to assist in organizing an Advocacy Corps to respond to action alerts at the local, state and national levels. For some members it is challenging to commit time to attending meetings, registering voters or serving on committees. This may be because of family and work requirements, or because the member has health concerns or doesn't choose to drive anymore. The Advocacy Corps members will be trained on the best ways to effectively voice their opinions to elected officials from the comfort of their own homes.

Finally, in the future the LWVDC could establish a LWVDC Speakers Bureau to share the wealth of knowledge and expertise of our League with organizations across the county.

If anyone is interested in helping with any of the projects I've mentioned, please contact me.

Adopt-a-Highway [Doug Johnson]

In 2019, volunteers again worked to support the twice-a-year commitment of LWV-DC to Adopt-A-Highway along US Hwy 14 just west of Middleton. On April 26 eight participants picked up 23 bags of debris and on October 17 only five participants picked up 11 bags. Nearly half of the bags contained recyclable objects.

Bulletin [Maria Spinozzi]

Many members contributed to the *Bulletin* this year. Members wrote detailed reviews of our forums, sharing that information with those who could not attend. We had profiles that ranged from a 50-year member to our two new student interns. Fundraising contributed pieces highlighting some of our donors' reasons for giving. The Action Committee contributed some very informative articles, including one on lobbying. Voter Service members kept us in the know by writing about their wide variety of activities such as the Sun Prairie backpack distribution and UW Bus Pass distributions. The Membership Committee kept us abreast of upcoming info-socials, book groups, and other member events.

In addition to all of the articles keeping us up-to-date on League activities, we were able to include a couple of articles focusing on the impact of the League's work. This focus on impact is on display in an article featuring UW–Madison's voting statistics. We hope to be able to include more articles focusing on impact in the coming year.

As part of the League's focus on DEI, the *Bulletin* added a page dedicated to DEI issues and resources for our members. This page includes articles, books, videos, podcasts, upcoming training courses and upcoming community events.

This winter, we brought on a new volunteer assistant copy editor, Lauren Surovi. Lauren's help with editing is much appreciated. We are thankful for all of our *Bulletin* contributors; whether you contributed to one article or many articles, your voice has made the *Bulletin* a valuable resource for the League.

DEI [Maria Spinozzi]

The newly formed DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee is off to a great start this year. While committees and leadership within the League have been thinking about DEI for a while, we now have a committee focused on this area. The purpose of the LWVDC DEI Committee is to ensure that league leaders and members have the understanding, information and tools they need to promote the values of our DEI policy throughout all League activities.

As I'm sure you'll see in the reports by each committee, the focus on DEI is visible throughout LWVDC's activities this year. It can be seen in the increased variety in when and where events are offered by the program committee. It can be seen in the new books selected for discussions by membership. It can be seen in the articles in the *Bulletin* and our Twitter feed.

The DEI Committee holds DEI Cafes a few times a year, where members come together and discuss issues related to DEI. These discussions range from issues directly affecting the League to those affecting the broader community/nation/world. We have appointed Laurie Egge as the new DEI Café coordinator to ensure that these valuable opportunities for our members to reflect on these topics continue.

As this year continues, the DEI Committee will revisit its goals and come up with specific, measurable goals for different areas within the League.

Centennial Planning Committee [Earnestine Moss]

100 Years of Service! The 2020 LWVD Centennial Planning Committee convened its first full meeting July 9 to begin planning a historic celebration of the League's efforts of encouraging women to be informed and active participation in government to mark this milestone in our history.

- After meeting a couple months and much discussion, we reached consensus that the 100th Birthday celebration would be on a grand scale, inviting the public, league members, friends and the community!
- In late May, we selected our venue, the Park Hotel, and March 28, 2020, from 5:30 p.m.- 10:00 p.m., which would include a social hour, a program and a dance.
- The celebration had all the makings of a gala, a trait that the League is not known for nor appreciates for the most part. (That is to just to say that potlucks are fine, but extravagance is not part of its tradition.) It is best known for its hard work and as a trusted resource.
- We selected as our theme, *Creating A More Perfect Democracy*, in keeping with our program thrusts for the 2019-2020 Program year (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with Making Democracy Work).
- With assistance from the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), we were grateful to get Past President, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, author of *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, as our keynote speaker to commemorate 100 years of service to the Dane County community. Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins was also the first African American to be elected president of the LWVUS.
- The committee had planned a great event that reflected diversity, equity and inclusion.
- To encourage full member-participation, student ticket pricing was implemented and transportation arrangements made to accommodate those who expressed a need.
- Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19, the LWVDC 2020 Centennial Celebration was postponed. Thus, we don't know what the outcome would have been.
- However, we do know that as of March 12, approximately 150 registrations had been received and only 75 or so were League members. The League has 535 members. We hope to reschedule our Centennial Celebration later this year and hope that more members will participate. If you would like to attend and it is cost prohibitive, we encourage you to contact the office and express your interest. The League wants every member who desires to attend and participate in this historic event to do so. The League continues to exist because of you!
- In addition to the March 28 Centennial Celebration, the Committee scheduled a public book signing to be held on March 30 for Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins to promote her NEW book *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters* at the First Unitarian Society. The event was to be sponsored by the LWVDC, FUS, the African American Council of Churches and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Of course, none of the planning for this momentous occasion could have happened without the league members' unselfish spirit of volunteerism and hard work invested. It was only with the invaluable contributions of each individual and subcommittees that the project was able to be realized.

I extend a heartfelt Thank You to Cindy Lindquist, President Nettleton and each committee member and subcommittee member for your unrelenting efforts and contributions in planning the LWVDC Centennial Celebration gala. Each of you played a critical role, and I appreciate you for sharing your wisdom, time, talents, expertise, and your patience. More importantly, I wish to thank the Board for having the confidence to allow me to chair this historic event. It has been an honor and a privilege to chair the LWVDC Centennial celebration! I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity and would be honored to continue through completion of the project once the COVID-19 Pandemic guidance is lifted.

Committee: Jan Anderson, Margaret Fuguitt, Cindy Lindquist, Aileen Nettleton (President/Co-chair), Kathy Krusiec, Melanie Ramey and Brook Soltvedt (Vice President/Webmaster).

Membership Annual Report [Sally Gleason and Mary Ellen Schmit]

Membership in the Dane County League doubled in the past two years with 554 members as of March 24. Student membership is an example of gains through flexible fee structure and outreach. Student membership total for 2018-2019 was 12 and for 2019-2020 is 57, with multiple students finding leadership roles within the organization.

The redesigned Interests and Activities survey enhanced the ability to pair member's expertise and concerns with volunteer opportunities. For example, survey lists were used to enlist a team of volunteers to facilitate membership renewals.

A project was developed to identify and engage new league members. LWVDC leaders volunteered to be Welcome Agents for new members attending forums and other events.

A long term goal is a more diverse LWVDC membership. Activities to move us towards that goal include participation in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion activities at the local and state level. We are able to brainstorm with members of our local DEI committee and with the state Community Alliances Committee which includes representatives from leagues throughout Wisconsin. Local DEI activities include book discussions, cafes and multiple sponsorships for members to attend racial equity courses. Outreach includes participation in community fairs, educational programs and voter education/enfranchisement events. Member Info-Socials were held in three distinct geographic locations to serve as a presence in diverse communities.

February was Month of Action for LWVUS and LWVDC. The proposal to seek members' pledges for action "to get out the vote" won a drawing by LWVUS of a \$1,000 prize. We celebrated the National Day of Action and Susan B. Anthony Birthday Celebration at an Open House in our new office.

This past year emphasis was placed on spreading leadership roles with a broader base of support. Strategic planning for future new membership integration will need to be flexible in approach and format. Barriers of physical distance with our county-wide membership will require easier access to web-based integration and social connections. Membership will continue to seek ways to facilitate engagement in underrepresented communities, diversify membership composition, and reach out to broader audiences through diversifying media use and publicity.

Publicity [Donna Van Bogaert]

During 2019-2020, the Publicity Committee maintained outreach efforts for LWVDC activities and programs through flyers, press releases to Madison and Dane County news media, and posting information to online media and community event calendars and social media. This year, the existing media database was reviewed and updated with current information and expanded to include Dane County libraries and a curated list of environmental contacts. Design templates for press, social media and poster/flyers were also created to develop a more strategic and coordinated branding for the League's outreach efforts. Additionally, new promotional materials were created to coordinate with the templates. These included bookmarks promoting the Climate Crisis Series and postcards promoting Action Committee initiatives. Press releases were 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 printed League events in their weekly calendar listings. Meeting information was 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. Specific outreach efforts included promotion of Candidates' Answers, bookmarks for voter information in Spanish, *Making Democracy Work* and *Climate Crisis* forum events, voter information for primaries, and the LWVDC Centennial Celebration. Additional efforts for the Centennial, Book Signing, and April forum events were placed on hold due to the pandemic. On an organizational level, Publicity built a committee structure engaging new members and supported

strategic planning efforts to further develop coordination of public relations with other communication activities.

Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization [Mary & Doug Ploeser]

The Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR) Interleague Organization has been busy this year with many partnerships. We partnered with the Izaak Walton League (the Ikes) and the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) to design flyers for Non-Operating farm Land Owners (NOLO) and then distributed them across Minnesota and Wisconsin at various conferences. We recruited an advisor, Anna Cates, from the University of Minnesota Agriculture Department. We attended a conference with the Mississippi River Network, and other conferences on agricultural runoff, carbon storage, clean water and habitat. We helped to plan the LWV Dane County Climate Crisis Forums.

We held 5 board meetings/presentations at locations in our region. The presentations focused on how global warming affects our rivers, healthy soil and carbon storage, getting the lead out of drinking water, and the impact of high capacity wells on ground water. COVID-19 forced us to postpone our April meeting in Soldiers Grove where experts were going to discuss moving the downtown away from the Kickapoo River to prevent flooding.

We continued to advocate to Congress for a strong Interior and Environmental Appropriations Budget and for permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Volunteers [Kathy Krusiec]

The Volunteer committee has gone through transition over the past year. Jean Jacobson, the co-chair, has taken a position on the Board of Directors, as has Donna Van Bogaert. The Volunteer Committee chair continues to work collaboratively with the Membership Committee. We continue to review the membership demographics survey “area of interest and membership comments” to determine what League activities might be of interest for volunteer recruitment.

Over the last year volunteers were recruited and provided support to the Civic Games, LWVWI Ratification March on June 23, supported the membership committee in making calls to members and are heavily involved in the activities of the Centennial Celebration. We attended several Info-Social and discussed volunteer possibilities with new members.

Volunteerism is the backbone to any organization.

A recruitment effort is needed to expand the number of members serving on the Volunteer Committee as it is difficult for one person to support the volunteer needs of the League. The position description should be reviewed and potentially modified to accurately state the role and responsibility of this committee and committee chair.

Voter Service [Paul Lindquist and Marian Matthews]

The Voter Service team has been very active this past year. In addition to our long-standing practices of helping voters register, acquire a voter ID, find their polling place, learn about candidates on the ballot, and assisting provisional voters to cure their ballots, we expanded our programs and experimented with new approaches:

- Posted *Candidates' Answers* on the Vote411.org website
- Employed 2 interns for voter outreach on the UW campus
- Expanded voter registration to a 2nd UW bus pass distribution site - Union South
- Expanded volunteer support to 4 UW Madison campus in-person absentee voting locations

- Expanded outreach to 12 high schools
- Expanded our use of tablet computers for voter registration
- Created a new voter outreach approach through the Apartment Project
- Expanded our community partnerships to include Faith Voices for Justice
- Revised the format of our volunteer training to include videos which continue to be posted on our website
- Created the POR@lwvdanecounty.org email address to simplify submission of voter registrations and proof of residence outside of the city of Madison

We would like to thank the Voter Service Steering Committee members, Gail Bliss, Kathy Fullin, Sue Fulks, Shirley Haidinger, Paul Malischke, Bonnie Chang, Mary Anglim 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 Questions [Kathleen Fullin, Coordinator]

Mary Anglim, Brook Soltvedt, Marilyn Stephen, Barbara Feeney, Bonnie Chang, and Kathleen Fullin met on Dec. 9, 2019, to draft the questions for the candidates in Dane County's spring 2020 municipal, court, county and school races. Tom Vandervest, Sally Gleason, and Kathy Dutilly submitted suggestions via email for Middleton, Monona, and Stoughton.

Candidates' Answers Volunteers [Brook Soltvedt]

This year Wisconsin had only spring elections. We worked with the state League using the national Vote411.org database system to send our questions to candidates, collect our candidate responses, and publish our guide in a format that allows a voter to put in their address and see only candidates and questions that will be on their ballot.

We published online editions for the February primary on our website and on Vote411.org. For the April 7 election we also published our insert in Isthmus, and we purchased 3,000 additional copies for distribution in the community.

Thank you to all who made our voter guide happen:

- Kathleen Fullin chaired the committee that developed the questions.
- Kathleen Fullin assembled the list of candidates and contact information for municipal, judicial, and school board candidates and questions; Philip Heckman assembled the information for county board candidates.
- Brook Soltvedt entered the information into the Vote411.org database, communicated with candidates, created the online version for our website, and created the manuscript used to produce the Isthmus insert.
- Locally, 135 candidates were contacted and 114 responded. There was one local school board referendum.
- Kathleen Fullin, Philip Heckman, and Lauren Surovi proofread the website pages.
- Carol Barford, Susan Dietzel, Philip Heckman, Maureen Kind, and Brook Soltvedt proofread the Isthmus galleys.
- David Michael Miller at Isthmus designed and laid out the print edition, including creating the maps.
- Brook Soltvedt picked up the extra copies at the Isthmus warehouse.
- Cindy Lindquist and Paul Lindquist did the bulk mailing (under pandemic restrictions).
- Eileen Newcomer at LWVWI provided invaluable assistance with using Vote411.org. LWVWI also provided candidate questions and responses for the state-level candidates and information about the constitutional referendum question.

- Megan Brown at LWVUS provided technical support for Vote411.org and LWVUS also provided Presidential preference primary information.
- Kathleen Fullin, Marian Matthews, and Ingrid Rothe distributed several hundred copies of our print edition at Capitol Lakes and several grocery stores. Most of our usual distribution locations were closed due to the pandemic.

Provisional Voter Contacts [Kathleen Fullin, Coordinator]

Marian Matthews, Shirley Haidinger, Justine Malinski, Andrea Kaminski, Kathy Shurts, Julia Gilden, Mary Anglim, Gail Bliss, Ingrid Rothe, Kathleen Fullin, and Janet Murphy contacted City of Madison provisional voters after the February and April elections to help them provide an ID in time for their vote to be counted. Brook Soltvedt helped track the results. Gail Krc contacted provisional voters in the City of Middleton. We are seeking volunteers for other communities.

Library Liaisons [Marian Matthews and Kathleen Fullin, Coordinators]

In the last several 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 Robin Downs, Theresa Walske, Victoria Robertson, Carol Hermann, Gail Krc, Susan Dietzel, Barbara Feeney, Christine Clements, Sue Ann Larson, Katherine Kvale, Kim Miller, Helena Mannarino, Christy Stewart, and Linda Yeager. Voter ID Coalition activist Janet Mills works with the DeForest Library, and we are still looking for a liaison for the Cambridge Library.

These volunteers have ensured that Dane County libraries make available to patrons League bookmarks about voter registration and voter photo ID. Many libraries also have hosted voter registration events, staffed by these and other volunteers, and most provide the bookmark whenever an adult applies for a new library card.

High School Voter Education Action Team [Susan Fulks, Coordinator]

LWVDC High School Voter Education Action Team works within schools 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 the training of students who then promoted and organized peer voter information/registration drives within their schools. Action team volunteers also provided in-school support for student registration prior to each election. By mid-March, we had worked in partnership with twelve Dane County High Schools, training student groups in six schools and registering over 300 students in total. We also partnered with the UW-Madison Precollege Enrichment PEOPLE program at MMSD West High School. Future goals are to expand our outreach to additional Dane County high schools and to continue to promote student leadership registration activities.

Downtown Farmers' Market [Gail Bliss, Coordinator]

Westside Farmers' Market [Marjorie Schuett, Coordinator]

LWV members provided voter information and on-line registration assistance to shoppers at the farmers market, which is located in the UW Digestive Center parking lot near University Ave and Whitney Way. We were present every other Saturday, August 3 to October 26, 2019, from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. A different organization, the Teal Team Voter Education Ambassadors, had a voter registration table at the Market on the alternate Saturdays.

Know Your Candidates TV Interviews [Louise Robbins, Coordinator]

Following a busy 2018-19 election season, only two new sets of Know Your Candidates interviews have been carried out in 2020. Three people competing in the primary for School Board seat 6, were interviewed by Louise Robbins on January 22. Two of four County Board of Supervisor candidates signed up to participate in the March 5 interviews prior to the general election, as did the two candidates for each of seats 6 and 7 on the Madison Metropolitan School Board.

Issues for Know Your Candidates interviews are identified by a team of interested people, who send ideas to Louise Robbins. She drafts the questions and sends them back to the team members, who provide feedback. After several drafts, final questions are distributed to the interviewers and to Madison City Channel's Tanya Anderson. Each candidate is asked exactly the same questions. Following the taping, videos are edited and then made available all at the same time.

March Interviewers were Louise Robbins, Joy Cardin, and Marilyn Townsend. Thanks to Tanya Anderson and the Madison City Channel.

Moderators for Candidates Forums [Gloria Myer, Coordinator]

So far this year, there have been nine inquiries about the Dane County League helping with or moderating candidate forums. Some inquiries sought League participation in developing a forum. For those inquiries, the League provides a handout with useful information on holding a forum.

Five forums have either had League moderators or are scheduled to before the close of the year. Usually, the requests come from smaller communities in the Madison area. This year that includes Middleton, Waunakee, Monona, Marshall, McFarland, Cambridge and Jefferson County. League members who have or will serve as moderators include: Joy Cardin, Consuelo Springfield, Kathy Johnson and Caryl Terrell.

More than 20 league members have volunteered to serve as moderators this year.

St. Vincent de Paul [Carole Blemker, Coordinator]

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry outreach started on January 10 and continued until March 5, at which time we stopped due to concerns about the spread of Coronavirus. During this outreach effort there were thirteen volunteers who worked one or more shifts, including: Diane Kean, Carole Blemker, Carol Weiss, Jim Youngerman, Pamela Palmer, Lynn Freeman, Shirley Smith, Susan Deitzel, Randy Coloni, Maggie Dugan, Ron Shanovich, Steve Davis, and Ellen Rosborough. According to the data submitted by volunteers, we completed 21 online and 1 paper registrations. We provided voter information and materials to 91 individuals and referred 4 to the Voter ID Helpline.

Epic Systems [Marian Matthews, Coordinator]

Marian Matthews and Epic employee Beth Morgan organized voter outreach information for all Epic employees and also a registration event on the Epic campus in March 2020. Thanks to LWVDC volunteers Shirley Haidinger, Kathy Fullin, Leah Dudley, Sue Fulks and Marian Matthews who registered approximately 80 voters.

VS Volunteer Training [Marian Matthews, Coordinator]

Marian Matthews and Paul Lindquist revised the format of the training program, Everything You Wanted to Know About Helping Voters but Were Afraid to Ask, to use videos during the workshop. With the help of volunteer Sarah Gavac, an additional module was created to address Appropriate Behavior and Communication. One hundred and thirty-seven (137) volunteers were trained.

Senior Liaisons/Special Housing [Shirley Haidinger, Coordinator]

The senior liaison program matches LWVDC volunteers with senior centers and senior housing complexes. Our goal is to help seniors vote by providing information and assistance to the people who frequent the senior centers or live in senior housing. We now have liaisons at 30 facilities and our volunteers have been doing a good job of keeping seniors informed. We still have a few locations where we need volunteers and would be happy to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a senior liaison. We are also happy to add more senior apartments if there is someone who wants to adopt a facility in their area or where they live.

Prior to the February 2020 election, I submitted a “What Seniors Need to Know” article to several Dane County senior centers and asked them to publish it in their next newsletters. Several of them, including the Downtown Madison Senior Center, published either the full article or a condensed version. I also worked with NewBridge Senior Coalition to coordinate voter outreach with activities at some senior locations. Unfortunately, that effort had to be cut short due to the coronavirus outbreak.

UW - Interns [Marian Matthews, Coordinator]

Two UW student interns, Angela Maloney and Makayla Pesch, were hired to assist in creating and conducting voter outreach opportunities on campus. They were housed in the Union South Social Justice Hub and were supervised by Jim Rogers and Sarah Gavac. Angela and Makayla created The Voting Team but had limited success in attracting other students to join. They were far more successful in arranging for registration events at the School of Education (which hired a limited term employee, Thatcher Spero, to assist) and other locations on campus. Angela and Makayla trained other student volunteers to register through Associated Students of Madison (ASM) and conducted an education session called *The Student Vote at UW-Madison: How the Voting System Works and the Impact of the Student Vote* for the Badgers Volunteer program.

UW - Bus Pass [Paul Lindquist and Marian Matthews, Coordinators]

Paul Lindquist and Marian Matthews, in coordination with ASM, organized voter registration during the 3-week bus pass event at 2 locations, the Student Activity Center and Union South, in January 2020 and August/September 2019. We registered approximately 4400 voters with the help of approximately 150 volunteers. We registered voters almost entirely using tablets for online registration, and to complete and submit registration forms and submit proof of residence. All volunteers were required to attend a training session. Two levels of training were offered: a longer, more in-depth training for volunteers new to the bus pass event and a shorter review session for returning volunteers.

UW - In-Person Absentee Voting [Paul Lindquist, Coordinator]

In February, 42 volunteers from the Voter Service Team provided volunteer assistance at four in-person absentee voting sites on UW-Madison campus. We greeted voters as they entered the polling place, answered questions about voter ID, helped them complete a voter registration application if needed, explained how to use the ExpressVote voting station, and witnessed their ballot signature.

Technology [Paul Lindquist, Coordinator]

Over the last year we've used more technology in our voter outreach initiatives. We've used online volunteer scheduling solutions, conducted video conference meetings, purchased and trained our volunteers to use tablet computers for accessing the MyVote website and sent more voter registrations and accompanying proof of residence to municipal clerks via email than we have using paper. There are still plenty of places where a clipboard and a pen are the right tool, but when appropriate we used technology.

Apartment Project - Volunteers [JoAnn Boushon, Coordinator]

The Voter Service Team created The Apartment Project in the summer of 2019. In the fall, JoAnn Boushon was named Volunteer Coordinator. Shirley Haidinger was named Reporting Coordinator with the responsibility for facilitating the addition of new apartment complexes into the MyVote database. Marian Matthews and Paul Lindquist are working closely with JoAnn to establish this project.

The Apartment Project seeks volunteer “adopters” to provide apartment residents with access to voter registration and voter ID assistance. Because apartment dwellers are often difficult to reach with door-to-door canvassing, adopters work with apartment complex managers to inform and assist residents. In some locations adopters conduct registration events to assist residents with the registration process and provide information about the Voter ID for those who need it. Adopters also identify new construction so Shirley Haidinger can facilitate the addition of apartment addresses into the MyVote database.

Paul Lindquist created extensive online tools to enable volunteers to identify complexes and new construction, sign up to be adopters and report progress reaching apartment managers and residents. JoAnn Boushon created materials for adopters and training sessions. With the help of Marian Matthews and community contacts of the Voter Service Team she recruits adopters.

The Apartment Project is cooperating with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition (DCVC) to reach people in seven low voter turnout wards. The wards were selected by the Coalition Steering Committee based on an analysis conducted by Julia Gilden, a Coalition Steering Committee member.

Quantifiable results: 295 complexes have been identified; 20 adopters have volunteered, some for multiple complexes; 5 events have been held in apartment complexes.

Apartment Project - New Apartments [Shirley Haidinger, Coordinator]

In order for voters to use the online registration function of MyVote, the residence address they enter must be in the MyVote database. If no one has voted at an address in the past, the new apartments or homes are not automatically added. When notified of a new apartment complex, the coordinator researches the address and notifies the municipal clerk that the address is not on MyVote and needs to be added. In the past year information was provided for 25 complexes to be added to MyVote. Some were brand new where all of the apartments in the building needed to be added. Some required the addition of selected apartment units only. The largest complex added had 161 units. There were 4 instances where individual homes in new developments were added.

Absentee Ballot Witnesses [Marian Matthews and Paul Lindquist, Coordinators]

When Governor Evers issued the Safer at Home order in late March, it became clear that voting absentee by mail was the best strategy for many voters. This left several voters with no obvious peer to witness their ballot certificate before mailing it back to their municipal clerk. We recruited 65 volunteers willing to act as witness for voters from Madison and surrounding communities who called our Voter ID Helpline. The Madison City Clerk provided guidelines for how to act as a witness while maintaining a safe distance between everyone involved.

Webmaster [Brook Soltvedt]

This year our weekly member update e-newsletter, sent via MailChimp to members and subscribers, has largely supplanted the news/alert function that the website once offered. The weekly email to members (and others who subscribe) currently has 700 subscribers. On average, the emails are opened by about 39% of recipients.

The website provides resources for members and for the public, including:

- an archive of weekly e-newsletters, the Bulletin, statements made to government agencies, and minutes of board meetings;
- a calendar of our League's meetings and events;
- announcements of programs before they occur, and a repository of slides, study materials, video and audio recordings after they occur;
- a blog from the climate crisis program team, called Climate Corner, which has been publishing weekly;
- information, training materials, reporting forms, outreach calendar, and more for the Voter Service team's extensive activities and projects;
- an e-commerce portal for memberships, donations, and event sales;
- general information about voting and voting processes;
- *Candidates' Answers* in an online format for each election.

We have a presence on Facebook (League of Women Voters of Dane County), Twitter (@LWVDaneCounty), and Instagram (LWV Dane County). If you use social media, please like or follow us and share our posts to help expand the reach of our messages.