

Bulletin

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

September 5, 2012, 7:00 pm

Clean Water in our Lakes: How do we get there?

Sue Jones, Dane County Land and Resources Department

Chief Engineer Michael Mucha, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Join us at 6:00 for Open House and New Members' Reception

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison

(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

September, 2012

Help Wanted.....	2
Meet the Board.....	2
Voter Registration Program.....	2
Marilyn Slautterback.....	3
Planning Retreat.....	3
Short Takes.....	3
Unit Meetings.....	4
Calendar.....	4

Executive Committee:

President – Donna Norton

Secretary – Barbara Mortensen

Treasurer – Helen Horn

Directors:

Gail Bliss

Kathy Johnson

Lois Kiggins

Pat Kippert

Katie Mulligan

Steve Ploeser

Office Administrator:

Sara Markham

2712 Marshall Court Suite 2

Madison, WI 53705-2282

lwvdc@chorus.net . 232-9447

Website: www.lwvdanecounty.org

Hours: MWF 9-12; TR 9-12:30

President's Message

Donna Norton, Ph.D. wn837skip@aol.com . 271-2598

A headline in a recent article stated, "Thank God for Strong Women!" Although the author was referring to the Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, he could have been describing any of the strong women (and men) in the LWVDC. I think of the recent loss of Marilyn Slautterback, a 50-year-member of the League. In her words, "The League is not for sissies, but it offers opportunities for participation at whatever level is comfortable at any time in a member's life. The benefits accrue in proportion to one's involvement."

Senator Russ Feingold recently stated that he had never seen a state or nation more divided than in 2012. Consequently, there has never been a more important year for the involvement of strong women and men. We need answers to questions such as: what happens to health care as a result of the Supreme Court decision? Why are some governors waiting until after the election in hopes of defeating Obama Care? What happens to the environment if supporters can cut regulations for businesses and industry? What happens to K-12 education if taxes are cut and cities are required to eliminate more teachers and educational program? What happens to universities if funding for research is not available?

I was challenged last week by two concerned citizens. They stated that the LWVDC does an excellent job with *Candidates' Answers*, BUT we do not do a good job defining the issues and revealing the consequences of various positions on health care, education, and the environment. This is the challenge for all of us in the coming year? Our investigations into and answers related to the above questions require strong women and men who do not believe that the coming election is the best election that money can buy.

Help Wanted

katiemulligan@yahoo.com , 250-1896

You'll find reports of varied experiences with League membership in this issue of the newsletter. In her letter to members, **Barbara Mortensen**, LWVDC secretary, points out that her history shows, "there is something for everyone who has joined."

Marilyn Stutterback, who had been in the League for 55 years when she died in June, remembered being "shocked and completely captivated" by the "smart, determined, and aggressive way" [League members] "addressed issues that were important to them." **Steve Ploeser** was not certain he was eligible for membership but quickly became active in Voter ID activities and has agreed to serve as membership chair—all in less than a year.

We are beginning a "Meet the Board" series that will add to this rich history of League membership.

We hope that you will suggest members we should interview for a future "Meet the Member" column.

We are also planning to provide more thorough and immediate coverage of the monthly forums and the discussions and recommendations that emerge from the unit meetings.

As the new newsletter editor, I will attend as many unit meetings as possible, but would be delighted to have volunteers provide reports by phone.

Thanks to **Brook Soldvedt**, who has been newsletter editor for four long years. I am just beginning to understand what a contribution she has made.

Fortunately, Brook will continue as the webmaster. I hope she will continue to help me.

Meet the Board

Outrage was the impetus for **Steve Ploeser's** first step toward League membership.

"I was so disgusted with the Voter ID law that I looked around for some way I could mitigate the damage."

He figured that if any organization were doing something positive, "it would be the League."

Steve doubted he was eligible for membership, but he called the LWVWI office, hoping for advice on where he might become involved.

Voter Services Chair **Gail Bliss** encouraged him to undergo the training to become a voter registrar and to become involved in the Voter ID project.

Steve quickly found practical ways to put his training to use. He met with members of a breakfast group at Joining Forces for Family, a program sponsored by the Dane County Department of Human Services

"I learned that transportation to the DMV could be a big obstacle for those who need a photo ID," he said. He offered rides to those who needed them and tackled the more difficult problem of obtaining birth certificates.

Steve was surprised that he could become a LWVDC member and even more surprised when he was asked to become Membership Chair.

"I've found League members to be a very interesting and reasonable group of people. They express their opinions respectfully, without cutting off discussion."

His grandmother was a California state League president in the 1920s and his mother encouraged political involvement.

"I hope potential members will show up at one or more of the activities in September: the forum, the play or the retreat."

He has personally recruited one new member, his wife **Mary Ploeser**, and also welcomes new members

Jennie Johnson Corless, Maria Kataros-Molzahn, Dave Kindig, Janet Lewis, Judith Munger, Stan Sheggeby, and Suzanne Stute.

As of August 12, 55 percent of the membership had renewed. Steve plans to make phone calls to those who have not to discover what the LWVDC might be doing more effectively.

A blue dot on this newsletter is a reminder to renew.

Voter Registration Program a Big Success

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

The Dane County Clerk, Karen Peters, and her staff collaborated with the LWVDC to hold a multi-municipality training for Special Registration Deputies July 11 in Fitchburg. One-hundred and eighteen people were trained.

Ten municipalities participated and 26 additional municipalities agreed to accept the training offered and to certify SRDs for their municipalities. These 36 municipalities represent more than 75% of the population of Dane County.

Special thanks to Sherri Endres, Chief Deputy Clerk, who ran the training, and City of Fitchburg Clerk Linda Cox, who hosted the program, as well as clerks from the Cities of Madison, Middleton, and Fitchburg, the Villages of Cambridge, Maxomaine and Brooklyn, and towns of Deerfield, Dunn, Middleton, and Springdale for their work before, during and after the event registering SRDs.

ArbCo Co Housing provided "I Can Register You to Vote" buttons for participants.

Remembering Marilyn Slautterback

Long-time member **Marilyn Slautterback** died June 29th. Her history with the LWV dates more than 55 years and includes service as program director on the LWVDC board and as chair for the LWVWI's State Energy Policy Study, which was adopted at the LWVWI Convention in June 2007. Slautterback received the LWVDC Carrie Chapman Catt Award in 2007.

Upon being honored as a 50-year member, Slautterback remembered her first experience with a local League in New York City. "I was totally unprepared for the smart, determined, and aggressive way these women addressed issues that were important to them. I was shocked and completely captivated." She added, "Over 50 years, I've been rewarded by great opportunities for learning, discussion, reaching agreement and for community involvement in the company of many who have become lifelong friends."

Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of LWVWI, said that "under Marilyn's leadership, the Energy Study was rigorous and marked by high participation by local leagues. The resulting updated position is both powerful and elegant." She added, "I found Marilyn to be the epitome of a League leader: smart, passionate, wise and inclusive."

Help Plan the Future of LWVDC

Bring your ideas to our **annual planning retreat** at the home of President Donna Norton on September 22 from 9:00 to 12:00.

The program will open with a brief historical overview of the League's history, such as the birth of *Candidate's Answers*, and include timely issues such as "Cutting through Negative Ads."

Directions to 1301 Whenona Drive: from East: Take Hwy 151 (Beltline) – Seminole Hwy Exit; turn R; turn R on Nakoma Rd; turn R on Whenona; from West: Take Midvale or Beltline to Nakoma Rd. turn R on Nakoma Rd; turn R on Whenona.

In Memoriam

Nancy Scott died recently in Olympia, Washington. She was active in the program areas of natural resources and criminal justice. Nancy left a bequest of \$2000 to LWVDC.

Short Takes

□ The LWVDC was featured in a video concerning states with voter ID issues, shot at the LWVUS annual meeting in May.

□ An email appeal in the last three days in May enabled the LWVDC to meet its May Member Challenge. Total raised was \$5360. □ As of August 8, the LWVDC had received \$3925 in donations during the current renewal period. Donors will be acknowledged in the October issue.

□ September offers many opportunities to help with voter registration downtown in time for the November election. Contact Voter Services Chair **Gail Bliss** at 231-3511 or gail3511@gmail.com to volunteer and discuss the required training.

□ *Candidates' Answers* received a publicity boost with an article in the *Daily Page Forum* that gives information about accessing the information online. Voter Services Chair Gail Bliss pointed out in the article that some polling places have changed since the last election because of redistricting. The website www.lwvdanecounty.org offers links to helpful sites.

□ Publicity Chair **Lois Kiggins** plans to expand the distribution of flyers announcing LWVDC's monthly forums to neighborhood centers. Currently, they are available in Dane County libraries. Contact Lois at likiggins@chorus.net if you can help with neighborhood center distribution.

□ Voter Services expanded its reach to bus riders. Using funds from the Evjue grant, Gail Bliss purchased 50 bus ads that were randomly distributed among various buses. The ads offered information about requirements for voter registration and the help offered by LWVDC in meeting those requirements.

□ The work of LWVDC in voter registration was featured at the LWVUS June convention. The Wisconsin and Kansas state leagues led a caucus on "Mitigating the Impact of Voter ID Laws" that shared each League's experiences with educating the public and helping individuals secure the proper photo ID needed to vote. The session focused on the national report, "*Got ID? Helping Americans Get Voter Identification*," which highlighted model programs, including that of the LWVDC.

Unit Meetings

League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of that month's forum. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Find a meeting that is convenient for you and let the host or unit leader know you plan to attend.

Monday, September 17, 7:00 pm
MIDDLETON

Community Room, Gardd Parc Condos
6767 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive
Park behind the building; walk through the courtyard to lobby; ring the buzzer to #221, if the inside door is not open.
Diane de Vos, 836-0070; djdevos@chorus.net

Tuesday, September 18, 12:45 pm
Marie McCabe's apartment
6209 Mineral Pt. Rd., #1203
Marie McCabe, 230-3536; mmccabe4805@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 18, 5:30 pm
TUESDAY EVENING WEST
(New Meeting Place and Time)
Noodles Restaurant, University Ave.
Merilyn Kupferberg, 271-1130; joelmerkup@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 19, 3:30 pm
NORTHEASTSIDE
Lakeview Public Library
2845 N. Sherman St.
Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711; dorothywheeler@tds.net

Wednesday, September 19, 5:30 pm
DOWNTOWN DINNER
333 W. Main St.—Free Parking Across the Street
Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phepssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578; priscillathain@gmail.com

Calendar

Sept. 5
"Clean Water in Our Lakes" Forum and Open House

Sept. 15
Deadline to buy tickets for "44 Plays for 44 Presidents" -- See insert and submit reservations to the LWVDC office.

Sept. 22
Annual Planning Retreat at Donna Norton's home, 1301 Whenona Drive

Oct. 2
"44 Plays for 44 Presidents" at Overture Center

Oct. 3
Health Report Card for Dane County Issues Forum

Nov. 7
Civility Issues Forum