



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Co-Presidents – Kathy Fullin Brook Soltvedt
Vice President – Ingrid Rothe
Secretary – Barbara Mortensen
Treasurer – Diane Martin Liebert
Office Administrator – Elaine Sinagra
Bulletin Editor – Karen Gunderson

Presidents' Message

Kathy Fullin, fullin@execpc.com, 238-9465

Brook Soltvedt, soltvedt@tds.net, 274-5184

Thanks for all the help!

For the second year in a row, our Dane County League ended our fiscal year in the black. We did not need to dip into the principal of our investment accounts to maintain our services.

Thank you to the many members who made this possible.

- Some members asked friends to contribute to the cost of Candidates' Answers, and the contributions covered the cost of printing one issue.
- Some members helped us decide how to respond to a legal proposal to change the way the Ogg Fund distributes its proceeds, and the change was beneficial to us.
- Members suggested that friends join the league, and we were able to spread our fixed costs over a higher membership base.
- Members responded very generously to the May Challenge Grant.

We have a busy fall planned, and we need your help. We need to begin working now to make sure voters know that Voter Photo ID will be needed at the polls next spring. We will need extra money to print and distribute basic information for voters and more detailed background information for community members who are helping voters register and get ID. We have an exciting line-up of fall Issues Forums, and we need to make sure our message gets out to the community.

You can help by inviting one friend to attend our September Issues Forum and Social Hour. Do you know one community member who might be willing to help defray the cost of printing the spring Candidates' Answers? See the article in this Bulletin on planned giving, and think about whether this is an option that fits your situation. Most of all, we need your skills, your knowledge, and your involvement. See you in September!

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015
Social Hour with Refreshments* 6:00 pm
Issues Forum 7:00 pm**

Dane County Critical Issues

Sharon Corrigan (Chair, Dane County Board of Supervisors)

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

* If you can bring an appetizer, fruit, or dessert (with serving utensil) to the social hour, it would be much appreciated.

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

At the LWVDC 2015 Annual Meeting, co-president **Kathy Fullin** presented the Carrie Chapman Catt award to **Sally Phelps**. In Kathy's words:

The person we are honoring tonight with our Carrie Chapman Catt award is a modest, quiet woman who has made major contributions to our league and the state league over the past forty years.

Sally Phelps was raised in East Lansing, Michigan, and graduated from the University of Michigan. She and her husband Lynn raised four children in a small town in Michigan, where she was very involved in her community.

Sally served for ten years on the local School Board, and also served on the Board of Directors of a low-cost elderly housing project.

Lynn decided to make a career change and move to Madison in the early 1970's. Sally joined the League in 1973. The first record we have of her leadership roles was as a program senator from the East Daytime Unit.

Sally then served on the Board as the Voters Service Chair from 1976 to 1978. I joined the Board then and noticed how efficient Sally was. I also noticed that when she set a deadline—she meant it.

From 1978 to 1980 Sally served as the President of the Dane County League. The League was extremely active at that time, with a large Board, and the presidency was a very demanding position.

Sally was President of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin from 1985 – 87. Sally was then tapped for the national League Nominating Committee, and flew around the country finding national Board members. State League records are somewhat incomplete, but we know that she served on the state legislative committee from at least 1995 through 2007.

In recent years Sally has been enjoying spending time with her 9 grandchildren, and helping out with the Downtown Dinner Unit. After various issues with our dinner location, Sally arranged for the unit to meet at Capitol Lakes, where she and Lynn now live.

Please join me in honoring Sally Phelps.

New Members

The following members joined our League from May 19 through Aug 2. Welcome!

Steven Braithwait
Jessica Justman
Jane Voichick

Sandra Drew
Larry Sromovsky
Susan Witz

50-Year Member Profile

Helen Casper

Five LWVDC members were honored as new 50-year members at our annual meeting. We will profile them individually in our Bulletin.

I first joined the League of Women Voters in Detroit, MI in 1957. I joined because I wanted to learn more about government, and my first project was working on Candidates' Answers.

My fondest memory comes from a battle the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Rapids waged with the John Birch Society to persuade the County Board to support family planning services in Wood County. We finally persuaded one rural county board member to talk to his women constituents about whether there was a need for family planning services in the county. He agreed to talk with the first 5 women he next met, and after they all said such services were needed in Wood County, he changed his vote and despite the strenuous efforts of the John Birch Society, the County Board passed the measure. It was a hard-fought battle.

There was a time when I thought maybe we didn't need the League of Women Voters anymore. Clearly that was wrong! So my advice is to keep working and keep trying. There is nothing more important than the active participation of citizens in their government.

Membership Report

Mary Anglim, Membership Chair

We still have a month of summer to enjoy before the duties of autumn become insistent. But when you receive this Bulletin, fall will be very near. If you have not yet renewed your membership in the League, why not take a leisurely moment to do so now? While over 100 members replied in July, we hope to hear soon from over 100 more. Remember, you are invited to return the Member Activity Interest sheet that formed part of your renewal notice, even if you've renewed online at lwvdane.org or are a 50-year member who no longer pays dues. If you've mislaid your renewal mailing, you can contact the office at (608) 232-9447 or lwvdc@chorus.net for another copy.

Did You Know?

We bold the names of our LWVDC members in our bulletins to highlight and recognize their contributions within our League and throughout our community.

Consensus Topics

Edith Sullivan, Program Chair

The National League of Women Voters (LWVUS) has requested consensus on two topics this year, ‘Constitutional Amendment’ with local consensus answers due December 1, 2015 and ‘Money in Politics’ with the local consensus reports due February 1, 2016.

The LWVDC Board decided to submit the consensus questions on “Constitutional Amendment” for discussion at the October unit meetings. A good deal of information, including the consensus questions, is available on line at forum.lwv.org – select ‘Our Work’ and then ‘Constitutional Amendment Study’. We will also furnish some basic information and the consensus questions in a future mailing. In these ways you will be able to prepare for the October unit meetings.

Information about the ‘Money in Politics’ study is available at forum.lwv.org – select ‘Our Work’ and then ‘Money in Politics Review’. The focus of that study is whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The LWVDC Board’s plan is to present this topic at the January Lively Issues Luncheon. We’ll discuss the consensus questions at the end of that meeting. We’ll send out further information closer to the January date.

At the state level, there is a Review and Update of the Urban Policy position. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWWI) plans to send survey questions to the local leagues in early September, with comments due back to LWWI by December 1, 2015. Both our September and November forums touch on urban issues, so we plan to address the survey questions in our November unit meetings.

Working Together for Water Quality

Sue Ann Larson

When the LWVUS board recognizes a request from several Leagues with a common concern that fulfill requirements adopted at a LWVUS national convention, an Inter League Organization (ILO) can form. This past year, Leagues in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota have been working together to create an ILO to address water quality issues in the Upper Mississippi River Region Basin (UMRR). Two-thirds of the 33 Leagues in the states representing the region have agreed to participate and four Wisconsin Leagues, including the LWVDC, have signed on.

The primary purpose of the ILO is to coordinate and strengthen the work that the League of Women Voters

does on natural resource issues in the UMRR basin and increase the power of our voice, the scope of educational opportunities, and awareness and knowledge of regional environmental issues. The ILO will work with all state and local groups concerned with the environment in this region.

As a starting point, the LWV-Jo Davies County in Illinois has proposed the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy as an action focus. It provides educational opportunities for every League, whether urban, suburban or rural, to engage with the Environmental Protection Agency’s responsibility to address this issue in each one of the states involved. The ILO will provide the structure to share information on state plans, how they work, and opportunities for interstate and regional education and advocacy.

The LWV-Dubuque is hosting the formal organizational meeting of the UMRR-ILO in October. Each League will send a representative and each state board will appoint a representative to the ILO board. Those attending the meeting will select officers responsible for holding quarterly meetings and representing the ILO at the LWVUS convention in Washington, DC in June, 2016. Every LWVDC member interested in our natural resources and the Mississippi River Basin watershed is encouraged to attend the ILO event in Dubuque in October and to consider serving as an UMRR-ILO liaison for the LWVDC.

Contributions

Between June 5 and August 3, the following people contributed to our League. Thank you to all of our generous donors.

Frances Bicknell	Claire Box
Carol Carstensen	Jane Eisner
Barbara Feeney	Kathy Fullin
Peggy Glassford	Shirley Inhorn
Nancy Jensen	Elizabeth Jensen
Doug & Kathy Johnson	Pat Kippert
Marilyn Kupferberg	Patricia Levin
Elizabeth Magnuson	Marie McCabe
Gloria Meyer	Helene Nelson
Aileen Nettleton	Frederic A. Ogg Trust
Carolyn Pflasterer	Karen Pope
Sylvia Poppelbaum	Claire Rider
Lois Sater	Marilyn Schten
Joan Schuette	Rose Sime
Priscilla Thain	Yvonne Vitense
Barbara Voltz	
May Challenge:	
Helen Casper	Myrna McNatt
Jan Van Vleck	

Voter Service News

Gail Bliss, Voter Service Chair

Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell has announced that there will be a multi-municipality Special Registration Deputy training on September 23 from 4:30 – 8 pm at the Fitchburg City Hall. This may be the only practical opportunity to get certification for some of the participating municipalities, such as Sun Prairie.

The Madison City Clerk has been working hard to get the word out about voter ID. The office has made voting booths available to non-partisan organizations and trained individuals to use in voter outreach efforts. **Brook Soltvedt** checked out a booth to raise awareness with her neighbors at the Nakoma July 4th Festival.

The downtown Madison Farmer's Market group is now able to store their materials at Arch Beauty, 23 South Pinckney, just across the street from our assigned location at the corner of Main and Pinckney. Thanks to Arch for their support in our voter education efforts. To get involved, sign up on Volunteer Spot at vols.pt/CFapaG, or contact Gail Bliss at 231-3511 or gail3511@gmail.com.

The LWVDC also has a table at the Saturday Hill Farms Westside Farmer's Market. To volunteer, contact **Priscilla Thain** at 233-5578 or priscillathain@gmail.com.

I wrote an article about voter ID for the Area Agency on Aging to use in their various newsletters, in an effort to reach voters who might need to take action to have acceptable ID for the 2016 elections.

Marian Matthews is working on a detailed list of information and issues on voter ID requirements, focusing on areas which are confusing to volunteers who are assisting voters who need to obtain an ID. LWVDC is sharing the information we have collected with other LWWI chapters. Similarly, LWV-Milwaukee shared encouraging information about the high success rate of the DMV ID petition process for individuals who do not have a birth certificate.

The Dane County Voter Registration and ID Coalition is being organized by the League of Women Voters and the NAACP as a broad coalition of non-partisan groups working to help voters in Wisconsin obtain an ID for the purpose of voting. Several members of LWVDC are involved.

In our second voter research project with Dr. Richard Matland (of Loyola of Chicago) the LWVDC, LWV-Rock County and the Dane and Rock County Clerk offices sent selected mailings to sporadic voters. One letter version thanked some intermittent voters for

voting in a previous election. A second letter version assured individuals that their ballot is secret – nobody can find out which candidates they chose. A third letter version told registered voters that no ID was required for the November 2014 election. While some of the letters showed a marginal increase in turnout, none reached the level of statistical significance.

National Voter Registration day is September 22.

Last May, Penzeys Spices contacted LWWI looking for people to interview about Voter ID work to highlight the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Penzeys summer catalog included stories and recipes from myself, Anita Johnson of LWV-Milwaukee and Ernestine Krehbiel of LWV-Kansas, along with several others. The stories can be accessed via our website, lwvdanecounty.org, or www.penzeys.com/cook/themes/celebrating-50-years-of-voting-rights/.

We're on Facebook

Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster

If you use Facebook and haven't seen our page yet, please find us! Search for League of Women Voters of Dane County and "Like" our page. Our posts will continue to show up in your newsfeed if you interact with them: Like the posts, invite your Facebook friends to Like our page, click on our posts to read the articles they link to, comment on them, and share them on your own timeline for your friends. This is a great way to get the League's messages and events in front of more eyes than just our members'.

Consider. How many non-members have a reason to go to our website to see what we are doing? But if the information comes to them in their Facebook newsfeed, they will get a sense of what we do and what we stand for. And if our content is interesting enough to interact with, Facebook's algorithms will put more of our content in their newsfeed. This is how we can increase membership, attendance at events, and donations to support our work.

So, remember, Like our page and interact with our content. Share it on your page. Don't make me have to create a video about cats voting!

Thanks to our other Facebook administrators **Mary Anglim, Liz Dannenbaum, Susan Fulks and Ingrid Rothe**.

Know Your Board Member

Edith Sullivan, Program Chair

It was quite a surprise, to say the least, when **Clare McArdle** called and called again asking me to take on the Program position for the 2015-16 year. Finally, I agreed even though I knew that it would not be easy to follow **Kathy Johnson**.

I'd been a member of the League in the late '60s, early '70s when I lived in NYC rearing two children and tending to the usual challenges of life. Then along came the presidency of the parent-teachers association, law school, the practice of law, and a long absence from the League.

After my husband died, my daughter suggested that I consider moving to Madison where she has lived since she arrived here for her post-doc. We reached a meeting of minds and I moved here in November 2009, finding a condo only a couple of blocks from her home. That makes it very easy to visit, to walk the dog together, to invite the family over for Sunday dinner.

One of the first people I met upon moving to Madison was Donna Norton. Donna wasted little time in inviting me to join the League here, which I did. It felt very good to get back into the League and to find out how very active the League here is. As a member I've done some proofreading of *Candidates' Answers*, some general office work, helped **Gail Bliss** with Great Decisions, and have attended Issue Forums and unit meetings. Program Chair is my first big job for the League. I've gotten a lot of help so far with this, from **Kathy J., Kathy F., Ingrid and Brook**. Thank you all! I greatly appreciate your help and patience as I try to learn more about how the LWVDC works (not to mention LWVWI and LWVUS).

Apart from the League, I volunteer at Disability Rights of Wisconsin, working primarily on Social Security Disability matters. In November I finished two two-year terms as president of the Board of the condo where I live, a very interesting four years indeed. I've done some traveling (Iceland, Central America – returning to NYC and environs doesn't count as travel) and hope to do more.

I'm looking forward to this year working on the LWVDC programs; quite a challenge, a welcome one!

For the Record

The following Letter to the Editor from our LWVDC co-presidents was published in the Wisconsin State Journal (WSJ) on June 28.

Get an early start on redistricting:

Getting a head start on redistricting is important, because if the process is done early enough elected officials will not know exactly who will be in power after the next census. The League of Women Voters applauds the appointment of a Dane County redistricting subcommittee by Board Chair Sharon Corrigan to begin work on the process of redistricting in Dane County.

As the League has pointed out since the 1970's, voters should choose their representatives, instead of allowing elected officials to choose their voters. At the state level, the League supports having a nonpartisan service agency, such as the Legislative Reference Bureau, draw district lines.

Last session Assembly Speaker Robin Vos told the Madison Downtown Rotary that he would consider holding a hearing on a legislative proposal to implement non-partisan redistricting if and when Dane County adopts redistricting reform.

Now Dane County has appointed a subcommittee involving three County Board members and a village clerk, a City of Madison alder, and a representative from the League of Women Voters and from the Dane County Towns Association.

The League looks forward to working with others on the subcommittee to develop a county redistricting process that can be a model in Wisconsin and beyond.
--Kathleen Fullin and Brook Soltvedt, Co-Presidents,
League of Women Voters of Dane County

Two other Letters to the Editor written by last year's co-presidents, Kathy Fullin and Ingrid Rothe, were published in WSJ and can be found on Madison.com:
May 10 - State should make better budget decisions
May 20 - To bring change, focus on voting

Thank You, Volunteers!

Our League would not be able to do all that it does without many hours from our volunteers. Along with the volunteers noted in other articles in this bulletin, we'd like to thank the following volunteers:

Office Volunteers:

Susan Fulks	Marilyn Kupferberg
Pat Kippert	Pat Levin
Joan Lundin	Kathy Shurts

Bulletin Layout: **Joanie Kanter**

In Memoriam

Carol Terrell

Frankie Locke was a longtime Madison resident and active member of the League of Women Voters of Dane County and the Madison Audubon Society. She died on May 16, 2015 at the age of 86.

Harry Read, Madison Audubon Society, Gary Werner, Ice Age Trail Council, **Connie Threinen** and I remember with gratitude Frankie's many efforts in the 1980's on behalf of the Greenbelt Network which also included LWVDC, Sierra Club and Capital Community Citizens. Frankie wrote many opinion articles for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, attended countless meetings and spoke passionately on behalf of this joint effort to protect open space for wildlife habitat, agriculture, outdoor recreation, community separation and clean air and water. These efforts were used by a Dane County Board Committee to prepare the *Green Spaces Plan* adopted by the Dane County Board of Supervisors and incorporated into the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*. Frankie also helped secure passage of a \$30 million Conservation Fund to purchase the lands identified in these plans for conservation through a referendum approved by 76% of the voters in 1999.

An obituary for Frankie Locke can be found on the [Madison.com](#) website.

Planned Giving

Sue Larson, Fundraising Chair

The League of Women Voters of Dane County (LWVDC) deeply values the vigorous financial support members provide that permits us to be the active and effective organization in Dane County that we are. Especially important to the long-term financial stability of LWVDC are gifts from members who arrange for planned giving.

Planned giving is a diverse area of financial planning that allows each of us to play a very significant role in ensuring the financial security of the LWVDC. By making a planned gift, we become valued partners in building a sound foundation for the LWVDC's important work. It allows you to make a commitment to the future of the LWVDC while not compromising your own financial security.

Learn more about planned giving on our website at: lwvdanecounty.org/planned-giving. Please consult with a Financial Advisor for specific information.

Upcoming Events Calendar

- **Sept 2** – Social & Issues Forum, 6:00 pm
Dane County Critical Issues
- **Sept 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Oct 7** – Issues Forum, 7:00 pm
Voter Photo ID
- **Oct 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Nov 4** – Issues Forum, 7:00 pm

September Unit Locations

League members meet monthly in one of four units to discuss the topic of that month's Issues Forum, using study materials provided by the program planners. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Please let the host know that you plan to attend.

If any of the units have questions or issues, please contact the Unit Coordinator, **Diane Martin Liebert**, dwliebert@gmail.com or 608-698-4143.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

Monday Evening West - 5:30 pm
(now includes the former Middleton Unit)
Panera, 3416 University Ave.

Barbara Mortensen, 233-7563, morten21@att.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578, priscillathain@gmail.com

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Tuesday Afternoon - 12:45 pm
Oakwood
Parking on grounds or in P1 Heritage Oaks Parking Ramp
Nancy Simonsen, 230-3014, njsimonsen@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Northeastside - 3:30 pm
Lakeview Public Library
2845 N. Sherman Ave.
Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711, dorothywheeler@tds.net

Downtown Dinner Group - 5:30 pm
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
Restaurant "The Seasons"
333 West Main St. - Free parking across street
Sally Phelps, 251-4834, phelpssa@charter.net