



# Bulletin

## League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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### October 2015

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### Officers:

- 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](mailto:fullin@execpc.com), 238-9465  
 Brook Soltvedt, [soltvedt@tds.net](mailto:soltvedt@tds.net), 274-5184

Do you have a friend, neighbor, or relative who no longer drives, but gets a ride or walks to their polling place? Or is 18 but doesn't have a learner's permit or driver license yet?

Do you know anyone who recently moved here from another state and might still be using the other state driver license until it expires?

Are you concerned about the statistics provided by the Madison City Clerk from the Brennan Center for Justice on WI residents who lack a WI ID?

- 78% of African American men ages 18-24
- 66% African American women ages 18-24
- 59% Latina women
- 55% African American men
- 23% persons age 65 and older

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we need your help.

Talk to your friends, neighbors and relatives. Make sure they know that, beginning with the February election, voters will need to present a Voter Photo ID at the polls. The most common types of ID are a WI driver license or WI ID, but other options include a passport or certificate of naturalization. For the full list, along with expiration date requirements, see the *Making It Clear* document in your study materials packet and on SRD Central on our website.

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## Wednesday, October 7, 2015

### Issues Forum 7:00 pm

### ***Doesn't Everyone Have a Voter ID? You'd Be Surprised.***

**Will Jones, (Dane Co. NAACP Exec. Committee; Co-Chair, Dane Co. Coalition on Voter Photo ID)**

**Marian Matthews, (LWVDC Member; Special Registration Deputy)**

**Scott McDonell, (Dane County Clerk)**

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

Persons who might have trouble getting to the polls reliably can apply for a permanent absentee ballot, and do not need a Voter Photo ID.

Based on evidence presented to him, federal judge Lynn Adelman estimated that 300,000 Wisconsin residents lack the ID required for voting. By July 2015, only 800 had applied at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a free ID for voting. If most voters wait until fall of 2016 to apply at the DMV for their free ID, the DMV will be overwhelmed and it is unlikely people will receive their ID in time for the November election.

This voting rights issue is at the core of our mission as the League. We are working together with the NAACP in a Voter ID Coalition, co-chaired by Vice-President **Ingrid Rothe**, to get the word out and help voters get prepared for voting. There are many ways you can help. Some ideas can be found under the 'Make a Difference' headings throughout this bulletin.

## Dane County Voter ID Coalition

*Ingrid Rothe, Vice President*

In response to the requirement that voters show a valid photo voter ID at the next election, the League of Women Voters of Dane County and the NAACP of Dane County have formed a new Dane County Voter ID Coalition, co-chaired by Will Jones, NAACP Executive Committee, and **Ingrid Rothe**, LWVDC Vice-President. Because there is evidence that the new requirement disenfranchises many potential voters in Dane County and across the state (e.g., based on data from the GAB, we believe that as many as 9000 frequent voters in Madison may lack a valid ID), the League and the NAACP concluded that a major effort would be required to ensure that all eligible can exercise their right to vote.

The mission of the Coalition is to educate voters about the requirement to show a voter photo ID to receive a ballot on Election Day or when voting absentee. Specific goals are to identify voters who may not have an acceptable voter photo ID and to arrange for direct assistance to those voters who may need help obtaining one.

The Coalition is exploring three approaches:

- Collecting and analyzing data from the GAB and DMV to identify voters in Dane County who may not have a voter photo ID.
- Conducting outreach at community events.
- Building partnerships with private and public agencies serving clients who are more likely not to have a voter photo ID.

The Coalition is currently testing whether we can effectively canvass neighborhoods using data from the GAB to knock on doors where we believe voters reside who are without valid voter ID. The Coalition has also identified a number of community events at which we will have a table to register voters, provide information about voter ID, identify people who may not have an ID, and begin the process of determining how to assist those who may need help obtaining one, including arranging for a ride to the DMV.

Since the initial formation of the Coalition, we have been joined by other participating organizations, including the Urban League of Greater Madison, the Madison YWCA, South Central Federation of Labor, South Central United to Amend and the Rotary Club of West Towne-Middleton.

We have a lot of work to do. If you have received training from the City Clerk as a Voter Education Ambassador, please join us by contacting Ingrid Rothe at [Ingrid.Rothe@att.net](mailto:Ingrid.Rothe@att.net). You can also learn more about the efforts of the Coalition at the League's October 7<sup>th</sup> Issues Forum.

## Make a Difference

Sign up for the Voter Education Ambassador trainings offered by the Madison City Clerk to become a Special Registration Deputy (SRD) and learn about the Voter ID requirements and absentee voting. See "SRD Central" on our website for the dates: [lwvdanecounty.org/srd-central](http://lwvdanecounty.org/srd-central).

After you become a SRD, contact our office to get on our email list for SRD's so you are informed of opportunities to do voter outreach and registration.

## Critical Issues in Dane County

Karen Gunderson, *Bulletin Editor*

We kicked off the LWVDC 2015-2016 forum season on September 2 with a delicious array of food and drink during an hour of socializing, followed by a very informative discussion of some critical issues facing Dane County, presented by Sharon Corrigan, Chair of the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Thanks to all who made the social a success, especially **Kathy and Doug Johnson** for set-up, everyone who brought refreshments and supplies, and **June Weisberger Blanchard** and **Shirley Haidinger** for assisting with check-in.

Corrigan acknowledged that there are so many issues facing Dane County, it was difficult to choose just three issues. She chose to focus on: Racial Equity; Homelessness and Affordable Housing; and Clean Lakes/Water Quality.

Dane County recently released the results of a six-month analysis of racial equity in Dane County government. Dane County contracted with two independent firms, The Center for Social Inclusion and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, to perform this analysis. The report includes a long list of solutions, broken down into two two-year phases.

Corrigan defined equity as: ‘just and fair inclusion into a society in which all, including all racial and ethnic groups, can participate, prosper and reach their full potential.’ She gave an example of the difference between equality and equity: Three boys are attempting to watch a ball game over a fence. One boy is tall, the other medium height and the third is short. All are standing on boxes of the same height. The shortest boy is unable to see over the fence. *Equality* is all three having the same height box. If the short boy is able to stand on two boxes, he is able to see over the fence. The tallest boy doesn’t need a box to see over the fence. *Equity* is each boy having what he needs to see over the fence.

Wisconsin has the greatest disparity in equity of all the states in the U.S. and Dane County has the largest disparity of all counties in Wisconsin. Some examples of this are: in Dane County, African Americans are 5.5 times as likely to be unemployed

as whites; 75% of African American children live in poverty compared to five percent of white children; 50% of African American children don’t graduate from high school, while 16% of white children don’t graduate; African American juveniles are six times as likely to be arrested as white juveniles.

An important step that the county is taking to further equity is addressing African Americans being jailed at a very high rate. Though African Americans are 5% of Dane County’s population, they are 50% of the inmates in our county jail. Resolution 556 in 2014 directed the county to set up three work groups, each to study an aspect of this inequity: mental health, length of stay in jail and alternatives to incarceration. The results of this study will be presented to the general public on October 12 at the Alliant Energy Center.

Dane County continues to work on other initiatives to increase equity, such as Early Childhood Initiative, Project Big Step, Community Restorative Courts and helping disadvantaged youth obtain a driver’s license.

Corrigan then touched on issues related to housing and homelessness. The county budget included \$2 million last year to address homelessness. They added an additional \$2 million this year to build affordable housing. The county also became certified for Medicaid, so will receive millions more to help with mental health issues.

Dane County is currently looking for a location for a homeless day shelter, since the planned shelter in the town of Madison will not happen. Dane County is building 60 units of housing for the homeless on Rethke Avenue. Twenty-five of those units will be designated for homeless veterans. This housing will provide additional support for the residents, including mental health services, employment services and case management. Dane County is also planning housing on the far west side for chronically homeless families.

Dane County provides additional housing support through Briarpatch, co-op housing for young adults, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services and Community Action Coalition Housing.

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Corrigan talked very briefly about our lakes. She focused on keeping phosphorous out of our lakes. The county's efforts focus strongly on working with farms to keep runoff from entering the watershed. It is much cheaper to keep the phosphorous out of the lakes than trying to remove it later.

This forum was a great starting point for the League's work this year, especially for our review and update of the LWVWI Urban Policy position.

*Note: Corrigan's Powerpoint slides are on our LWVDC website.*

## 50-Year Member Profile

Yvonne Vitense

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

I don't remember when I joined, but if your records say I joined in 1965 that's probably right. I grew up in Madison, went to Central High School and worked all my life here. My first job was selling popcorn at the Strand Theater, then at the Parkway. Starting in 1951, I worked for the Federal Government at the United States Armed Forces Institute, which helped service men get their GED's. Later I worked for the Small Business Administration and for FDIC.

Some people like to be active in organizations, while others just like to sit on the sidelines. I've never been active in the League. I just pay my dues and support it that way. I'm very proud of *Candidates' Answers*. It's fantastic to be able to read the opinions of the candidates without any interpretations by third parties. I think the League is the only organization that does that, and I know it's a lot of work.

My advice for current and future members: Do what makes you comfortable. It's okay not to be active, but support the organizations you believe in.

## Different Cups of Tea

Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster

There is no substitute for attending a League forum. You have the opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones, and you can ask questions directly of the speakers. But we all have times when schedule conflicts, family commitments, illness, bad weather, travel, etc. make it impossible to attend in person. Public meetings aren't everyone's cup of tea.

We think our programs have appeal to a much broader audience than those who can attend, and so we make the information available in a variety of formats—different cups of tea.

- Handouts or slide presentations.
- Minds' Eye Audio professional, edited recordings. These are also posted to our Apple iTunes podcast channel and to Radio4All, a resource for sharing programming with community radio stations worldwide, including local stations WMUU and WSUM.
- Video recordings made by Sue Larson, our Fundraising Chair, for the Sun Prairie public access site, KSUN.TV.
- Madison City Channel's professional recordings, which are broadcast and streamed.

You can find these items linked to the relevant forum pages on our website within about a week of an event. There is also a link to a single page with all our podcasts under the "For Members" link on our website. To find our media on iTunes, Radio4All.net, KSUN.TV, or Madison City Channel, search for "League of Women Voters of Dane County" from each organization's main page.

Please make an effort to share these resources with your friends who may not be (active) League members. Whether you share on the phone, or over a cup of coffee, via email, Facebook, or Twitter, you can help people in our community get involved.

## Know Your Board Member

*Diane Martin Liebert, Treasurer*

I have been a part of the Dane County League and have enjoyed the company of its members for many years. My interest in Governmental issues, and voting in particular, stems from having spent my “formative years” in Buenos Aires, Argentina during the Peron-Evita era. Even at that age I became acutely aware of the culture of fear that permeates an oligarchic society.

I joined League, as Diane Martin, around 1978 when Mary Boyd, a bridge-playing neighbor, invited me to a Unit Meeting. At the time the Marital Property Reform issue was in the forefront and I joined the Women's Issues Committee that was working on it. Once that was passed, the committee studied and lobbied for Comparable Worth concept, which became the Equal Pay or Pay Equity Issue. During this time in my life I was married, working full time and raising two hockey playing teenaged boys.

Once the boys went off to college, I decided to return part-time to finish my degree. I graduated in 1990 with my younger son. Just before I graduated, Cynthia Benevenga asked me to join Bettina Diaz Herrera's board as Action Vice President. I learned "how to do it" from Eleanor Barschall and retained that post for five years. In 1995 I served as President-Elect and then President from 1996-1998. One of my duties as President-Elect was to produce our television series "Access City Hall" with Sheila Chaffee as moderator. I continued to produce the show, and then also served as moderator when Sheila retired, until 1999. I took over the job of Treasurer in 2002 and then served as President again from 2006-2007.

## Make a Difference

Take some Voter ID brochures from our office or the Madison City Clerk to a meeting or place where they would be available to people who may need the information. Brochures are tailored for seniors, for Hmong or Spanish speakers, or for the general public.

## 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:

<b>Fran Bicknell</b>	<b>Joann Elder</b>
<b>Eileen Hannemann</b>	<b>Joan Lundin</b>
<b>Myrna McNatt</b>	<b>Millie Moffett</b>

Voter Outreach Volunteers:

<b>Mary Anglim</b>	<b>Cathy Berndt</b>
<b>Gail Bliss</b>	<b>Susan Fulks</b>
<b>Kathy Fullin</b>	<b>Shirley Haidinger</b>
<b>Sue Hoffenberg</b>	<b>Rita Kades</b>
<b>Ellen Karlson</b>	<b>Virginia Link</b>
<b>Consuelo Lopez Springfield</b>	
<b>Joan Lundin</b>	<b>Paul Malischke</b>
<b>Marian Matthews</b>	<b>Myrna McNatt</b>
<b>Barbara Mortensen</b>	Nancy O
<b>Mary Ploeser</b>	<b>Steve Ploeser</b>
<b>Ingrid Rothe</b>	<b>Pat Sammataro</b>
<b>Kathy Shurts</b>	<b>Brook Soltvedt</b>
<b>Priscilla Thain</b>	<b>Deborah Turski</b>

Bulletin Layout:

**Joanie Kanter**

## Contributions

Between August 3 and September 1, the following people contributed to our League. Thank you to all of our generous donors.

<b>Mary Anglim</b>	<b>Lois Bernbeck</b>
<b>James Cain &amp; Miriam Simmons</b>	
<b>Susan Fulks</b>	<b>Mary Anne Fulton</b>
Elizabeth Garvey	<b>Karen Goebel</b>
<b>Harriet Gorski</b>	<b>Helen Horn</b>
<b>Judith Kleinmaier</b>	<b>Susan Lloyd</b>
<b>Sara Markham</b>	<b>Patricia Sammataro</b>
<b>Deborah Ann Speckmann</b>	
Caryl Terrell in memory of Frankie Locke	
<b>Carol Toussaint</b>	
<b>Deborah &amp; Patrick Turski</b>	<b>Dorothy Wheeler</b>

## New Members

The following members joined our League from August 3 through September 3. Welcome!

<b>Marcia Griskavich</b>	<b>Michael Kane</b>
<b>Phyllis Menne</b>	<b>Jyl Molle</b>
<b>Randy Molle</b>	<b>Cathy River</b>

## The League is in My Estate Plan

Brook Soltvedt, Co-President

My husband and I recently completed an estate plan. It was an emotionally draining process to try to anticipate our own needs and the needs of those we wish to provide for under various scenarios: a long, healthy life or sudden death for both of us, catastrophic illness for one of us, and everything in between.

It was very important to both of us to leave a substantial portion of our estate to charitable organizations that have enriched our lives and to causes we feel strongly about. For me, the League of Women Voters of Dane County is such a cause. And so, I have made LWVDC a beneficiary of my IRA. We maximized the value of our bequests by leaving pre-tax IRA accounts to charitable organizations, including LWVDC, and leaving other assets (insurance, real property, and investments) to family members.

We have also left instructions about which organizations to mention in our obituaries for memorial contributions. They ensure that the causes we care about most will be recognized, rather than leaving that decision to a loved one at a time of grief and confusion.

These are the choices that worked best for my husband and me. If you are creating or reviewing your estate plan, I hope you will consider including the League in whatever way suits your unique circumstances. Thank you!

## Renew Today

If you haven't already renewed your membership in the LWVDC, do it today! Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. If you can't locate your renewal form, you can download one from our website at [lwvdanecounty.org](http://lwvdanecounty.org). You can mail your renewal payment to the League office or pay your dues on-line at our website.

## Make a Difference

Post a poster with a picture of the acceptable ID's; glossy, color posters are available in our office and at the Madison City Clerk's office.

## Upcoming Events Calendar

- **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
- **Nov 11** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Dec 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Jan 16** – Lively Issues Luncheon/Forum

## October 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**, at [dwliefert@gmail.com](mailto:dwliefert@gmail.com) or 608-698-4143.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

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

Barbara Mortensen, 233-7563, [morten21@att.net](mailto:morten21@att.net)  
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578, [priscillathain@gmail.com](mailto:priscillathain@gmail.com)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015

**Tuesday Afternoon - 12:45 pm**  
**Oakwood, A-4 (Marie McCabe's apartment)**

*Parking on grounds or in P1 Heritage Oaks Parking Ramp*  
Nancy Simonsen, 230-3014, [njsimonsen@gmail.com](mailto:njsimonsen@gmail.com)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

**Northeastside - 3:30 pm**  
**Lakeview Public Library**

**2845 N. Sherman Ave.**

Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711, [dorothywheeler@tds.net](mailto:dorothywheeler@tds.net)

**Downtown Dinner Group - 5:15 pm**  
**Capitol Lakes Retirement Center**  
**Restaurant "The Seasons"**

**333 West Main St. - Free parking across street**  
Sally Phelps, 251-4834, [phelpssa@charter.net](mailto:phelpssa@charter.net)