



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Executive Committee

Barb Feeney, President

Mara Eisch, Vice President

Jean Jacobson, Treasurer

Sue Jennik, Program Director

Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director

Bulletin Staff

Amanda Hingst, Editor

Save the Dates

Lively Issues Luncheon

Race, Education, and Civic Engagement

Saturday, April 29, 2023, noon-2 p.m.

Madison College Traux Campus

Featuring Gloria Ladson-Billings, Professor
Emerita UW-Madison; Past President, National
Academy of Education

General public welcome to attend! Cost: \$25

2023 Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 4, 2023, noon-2:30 p.m.

Elver Park (enclosed shelter)

Business Meeting of the LWVDC Membership

Find event details and registration information,
plus other upcoming LWV Dane County
activities, volunteer opportunities, and more at

lwvdanecounty.org

President's Message:

Summer Events

Barb Feeney (she/they), president@lwvdanecounty.org

At this point, all of our members should all have received a postcard about the upcoming Lively Issues Luncheon and the Annual Meeting. It is cause for celebration that both of these events will be held in person this year. Search that stack of mail on your desk to find that postcard!

As we emerge from pandemic mode, we're making some changes in the timing, location, and content of these premier all-member events.



The [Lively Issues Luncheon](#), traditionally held during the winter or early spring, has been moved to late April to decrease the chance that snow, ice, or extreme cold would result in cancellation. This year the luncheon will be held on April 29, starting at noon. We are thrilled that Gloria Ladson-Billings, Professor Emerita from UW Madison, will be our keynote speaker.

The [Annual Meeting](#) will be on Sunday, June 4, in a more casual setting at the enclosed shelter at Elver Park, which offers the opportunity for socializing indoors and outdoors. We will be prepared to hold the Annual Meeting online if inclement weather makes it unwise to hold the event at the park. The park setting makes it possible for members to conduct League business at low cost. The meeting will include time for socializing,

so get ready to connect with old friends and new.

In the past, LWVDC has used the occasion of the Annual Meeting to honor our 50-year members and bestow the Defender of Democracy award and the Outstanding Voter Service award. This year, those recognitions will take place at the Lively Issues Luncheon for the honorees who are able to be present. We believe a more formal setting is better suited for these important acknowledgements. Also, a fully indoor venue will be more comfortable in the case of inclement weather.

Events details and registration information can be found at www.lwvdanecounty.org. See you soon!

2023 People Who Are Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Voter Registration Project Award

Ernestine Moss, emosse@aol.com

The League of Women Voters of Dane County is proud to announce that it received a \$1,000 grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) for Former and Currently Incarcerated Voter Outreach.

We know many formerly and currently incarcerated people are eligible to vote but don't know it. So we need everyone's help to ensure that we execute this grant to help as many eligible formerly and currently incarcerated eligible voters as possible.

Goals

The League's goal is to reach 80 formerly and currently incarcerated persons through its participation in at least 15 community events. We will collaborate with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition/Jail Voting Subcommittee (VIDJVSC) and other community partners to engage formerly and currently incarcerated persons at partner-sponsored events, such as meal programs for the unhoused, and through established programs known to work with ex-felons, including Just Dane, Porchlight, and EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing). The League will also continue to work with the Dane County Jail staff, the Department of Corrections, churches, and other community organizations to reach formerly incarcerated persons.

How Will the League Meet Its Goals?

- Host or participate in 15 community partner-sponsored community events to locate and recruit formerly and currently incarcerated persons.
- Seek to engage individuals and organizations to maximize our outreach efforts.
- Use additional financial and human resources to support the project and to provide needed services to the many incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons throughout Dane County.
- Develop materials and activities to help educate, energize, empower, and reengage formerly and currently incarcerated persons to help make democracy work!

Ways You Can Help!

- Become our eyes and ears in your neighborhood or community. Let us know about events where outreach to formerly incarcerated people might fit in, especially if you live in one of Dane County's smaller communities.
- Partner in this effort and support outreach by raising money, food donations, or other useful items.
- Invite our committee to attend or co-sponsor programs that you plan, where we can provide services to formerly incarcerated persons. Or let us train you to act as an information source.
- Share information from other organizations providing services to current and formerly incarcerated persons with our committee.
- Share information from our committee on your social media outlets, and encourage others to join us in this effort.

The League of Women of Dane County invites you and your organization to become a partner in the League's 2023 Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Voter Registration Project! If interested, contact Earnestine Moss, Grant Administrator, at emosse@aol.com or (608) 244-0422 or Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director, LWVDC, at wendy@lwvdanecounty.org or (608) 232-9447.

Earnestine Moss, co-chair, VIDCVSC member, submitted the grant application on behalf of LWVDC. A special thanks to Morgan Murray, LWVEF, and members of the VIDCVSC.

Remember, democracy only works when we all participate!

Girl Scouts Democracy Day at the State Capitol

Barb Feeney (she/they), president@lwvdanecounty.org

Nine LWVDC members helped support the Badgerland Girl Scouts Democracy Day at the State Capitol on March 11. Shown here are Sybil Pressprich, Gail Bliss, Beth Fultz, and Margaret Fuguitt. Not pictured but also on-site were Jill Jokela, Gladys Negrete, Marjorie Schuett, Elissa Graffy, and Barb Feeney.



Here are some inspiring words from an adult leader who attended with her troop:



LWVDC member Jill Jokela welcomes Girl Scouts to Democracy Day

THANK YOU to Badgerland for a most excellent event. Democracy Day is such an important, impactful event and this year's was well done! The day was smooth, well-organized and orchestrated. I commend all staff and volunteers on a fantastic job. My troop was super jazzed about the experience and were discussing it at our cookie booth yesterday, which has sparked more curiosity and excitement about their community service projects and bronze award brainstorming. Democracy Day inspires us all—what a gift to witness and be able to support our scouts in making the world a better place.

There is a lot going on with LWVDC these days!
Want to stay on top of the most current happenings?

Look for our weekly Enews in your email every Tuesday,
or [subscribe here](#) if you don't receive it.

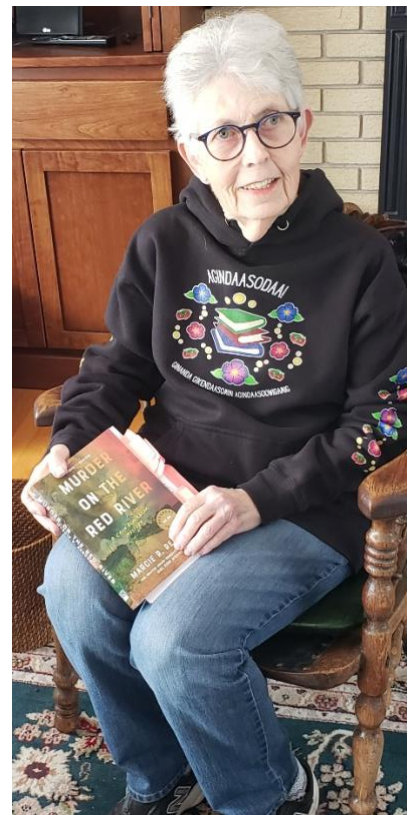
Volunteer Profile: Louise Robbins

Barb Feeney (she/they), president@lwvdanecounty.org

LWVDC proudly wears its identity as a grassroots and volunteer-led organization. Our ability to carry out our mission of “empowering voters and defending democracy” rests on the willingness of our members to take on tasks and carry them out, often without notice or fanfare. We are happy to use this space to introduce you to Louise Robbins, one of our volunteers.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I came to Madison in 1991 to join the faculty of the School of Library and Information Studies (now the Information School), and I retired in 2011, having stepped down as chair in 2009. In Oklahoma I taught at an all-Black school in Oklahoma City the year before integration there. Then I taught reading and English as an Indian Education-funded teacher at Byng School in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, and then worked as an academic librarian. I ran for and became the first woman to serve on the Ada, Oklahoma, City Council. I have two wonderful sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grown grandchildren.



Louise wearing a shirt designed for the Red Cliff Book Club, in which she participates.

How did you get involved with LWVDC?

I honestly don't remember how I first got involved, but my earliest League events involved Sally Gleason, who coordinated book discussions, and Mary Ellen Schmidt, who was hosting small coffee meetups focusing on diversity, as I recall. These were certainly the right hooks for me because of my history.

Who or what inspires you?

Several wonderful, strong women constitute the meditative council in my head: my mother and grandmother, Ethylene Harris and Marguerite Hawkinson, two civil rights activists in Ada, Oklahoma.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love native plant gardening—with lots of help. I love travel. My late husband and I did a lot of it in the past. Now I have some mobility issues which, paired with COVID, have limited me somewhat. I love to get up north to the Red Cliff Reservation, where I have been coming since 2008 when my students began a project to support their library. I belong to two book groups in addition to co-leading the LWV Dane County book discussions, and I'm trying to edit and select photos for a memoir designed for family consumption, though I haven't gone back to that in a while.

Governance Committee: Volunteers Needed

Dr. Mara Eisch, Vice President, vp@lwvdanecounty.org

High-performing boards are dynamic, visionary, and supported by well-developed governance. The LWVDC has had the components of governance, but they have never been formalized under the structure of a Governance Domain. So it is time we pull together our governance components under one heading to best support the organization's vision and strategic plan.

Supporting individuals through clear, shared governance as they do the work of the LWVDC is paramount to successfully reaching our goals. We need members to participate in the Governance Committee work. This might be just the right spot for you to contribute to the work of LWVDC.



Our organization is a member of Board Source, a leader in nonprofit board leadership research and governance. We will have resources to support our work in developing a strong governance structure. The Governance Committee will need individuals who want to develop and consistently implement policy that supports the work of the LWVDC. We will need volunteers, like you, who enjoy looking at the big picture and managing systems, who want to play with the nuts and bolts of establishing the processes of governance, and who enjoy the dialogue and challenge of building from scratch.

As you consider how you might participate in the work of the LWVDC, consider the upcoming work of the Governance Committee. More info to come in following months.

Recycling Tips for Climate and Environmental Justice

Sam Braithwait, advocacy@lwvदानecounty.org

Climate and Environmental Justice recognizes the urgent need to promote better protection of rural and urban areas of Dane County and Wisconsin, including river and lake water protection, transportation infrastructure development, and urban and rural land management. League members became concerned about the depletion and conservation of natural resources as far back as the 1920s and have never looked back. Over the past 100 years, the League built a broad national program focused on protecting and managing the interrelated aspects of air, water, land use, energy, and waste management.

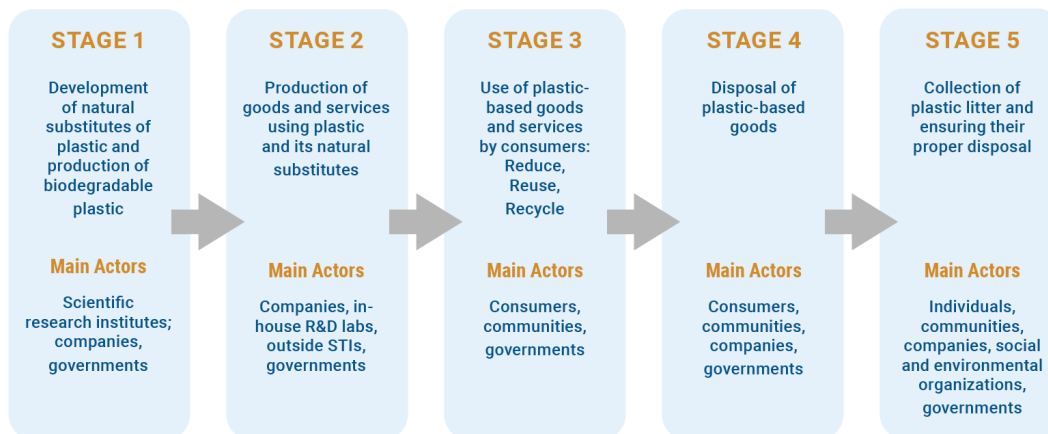
Historically, a substantial portion of the League's effort in the natural resources area has focused on local, state, and federal legislation. However, League members need not wait for legislation to participate in being part of the solution. The Dane County League Advocacy Climate Action Sub-Committee believes that ordinary individuals can create solutions to extraordinary problems.

Consumers have a critical role in creating a successful path to the circular waste economy. As you can see in this graphic, between stages 3 and 4, a critical step occurs. It is the consumer's decision as to which bin your plastic cup belongs to—the landfill or another life?

Figure 3

Five stages of intervention to confront plastic threat

Source: UN DESA



[Source](#)

But it isn't obvious! So many plastic numbers to remember. Do I need to pull out magazine staples? Can I use plastic bags to collect my recyclables? What about my child's rigid plastic truck? To help, we have created some rules of thumb. But the last rule, sadly, is the most important: when in doubt, throw it out.

Can it be recycled?

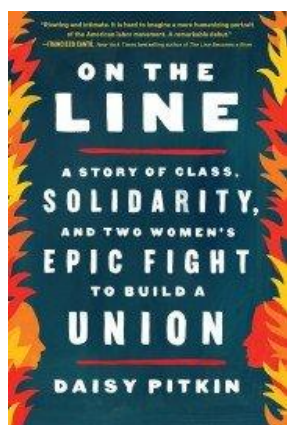
- Is it just a plastic cap? No. But screw it onto a bottle, and yes! Why? A tiny piece of plastic, such as a bottle cap, could be mistaken for a piece of glass. If a batch gets contaminated, the whole batch goes into a landfill.
- In Madison, does your plastic container have the numbers 1-7? Then yes, EXCEPT if the product is flat (might be confused for paper) or smaller than a business card.
- How about blister packs? Nope, it is the wrong kind of plastic.

- Plastic bags: nope. Plastic bags can easily get mixed into other streams and gum up the works, shutting down an entire assembly line: next stop, landfill.
 - In Madison, you can use clear plastic bags to gather your recyclables, but take pity on the people who need to pull these bags out, claw them open, and then put your bag into a landfill. The motto here is "loose is best" for all recycling.
 - There is one exception to plastic bags—when recycling shredded paper, make it into a basketball size clump and put it in a clear bag. Then the sorters can easily see and snag it out for paper recycling.
- "Wish cycling": cotton clothes, shoes, packing materials, etc. I wish I could, but no.
- Finally, when in doubt, throw it out.

February Book Discussion Recap: *On the Line: A Story of Class, Solidarity, and Two Women's Epic Fight to Build a Union*

Kelly Haslam, KellyLHaslam@gmail.com

In February, league members discussed *On the Line: A Story of Class, Solidarity, and Two Women's Epic Fight to Build a Union* by Daisy Pitkin. Louise Robbins and Jeannine Ramsey served as moderators for the discussions.



This book provided an intense, inside look at the challenges workers can face on the job, the hard work of organizing and sustaining a union, and the internal politics of within unions. Learning about all the machinations behind union organizing was eye-opening. The relentless drudgery, unwavering commitment, and underdog nature of union organizing were indisputable and worthy of recognition. At the end of the book, Pitkin offered more hopeful and motivating messages as well as resources.

If union organizing was a focal point of the book, so was Pitkin's relationship with worker and co-organizer Alma Gomez Garcia. The human side of this relationship provided a nice balance to all the strategic and executing sides of union organizing. I also liked how the book examined some of the different leadership styles of unions (including Pitkin's) and their effectiveness, ethics, and the role of privilege. Pitkin also showed her vulnerability by writing about her struggles in handling all the pressures of union organizing even when it was unflattering or prompted a fissure in her relationship with Garcia.

Another strength of the book was that it offered a bit of a crash course in the history of union organizing. It also put in high resolution the uphill battle workers face to have basic work issues addressed such as safe working conditions and fair pay and benefits. These challenges were further compounded by things such as poverty, immigration issues, language barriers, and fear tactics. In addition, Pitkin effectively illustrated how corporations can behave badly (or even illegally) without much or any penalty.

The book also included a lot about moths (yes, moths). Pitkin dreamed about moths often and had various connective threads about moths and their association with fighting for unions, but it was a lot and did not always lead to the symbolic impact that I think was intended. Yet, this is a worthwhile read for

anyone wanting a pragmatic understanding of what it takes to organize a union and the importance of relationships in that process.

If you are interested in joining a future planned book discussion or simply want more information, please email books@lwvdanecounty.org.

There is no book discussion in April, but in May we will be discussing *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* by Eric Klinenberg.

We are planning for one Zoom discussion session on Saturday, May 20, from 10-11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for more information in the May issue.

Help Wanted: Clerical Volunteer

We are looking for a League member to support the work of staff and League volunteers with clerical duties. You'll play an important role in ensuring the efficient and smooth day-to-day operations of LWVDC and supporting the work of civic engagement throughout our community.



Schedule: This volunteer should be available to work in the office (720 Hill St., Madison) regularly one day a week for 2-4 hours at a time. Shifts may be canceled or rescheduled if the volunteer has a conflict or there's not enough work to do.

This will begin as a limited-term volunteer role. We anticipate needing the most help now through the end of July and will re-evaluate how this is working during the summer.

This Clerical Volunteer will work closely with LWVDC's Office Administrator on tasks such as:

- Assembling New Member packets for mailing
- Printing and filing for the League archives
- Photocopying
- Other administrative projects as needed (putting away new supplies, assembling name tags, shredding confidential documents)

This volunteer should have the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Comfort with Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), Google apps (Docs, Sheets), and Adobe Acrobat (PDFs)
- Comfort using a laptop, printing to a copier, and printing to a label maker
- Attention to detail, neatness, good organizational skills, and basic copyediting skills.

We will provide training and onboarding. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity but aren't sure your skills are a match, please apply anyway. We may be able to train you or have a different volunteer position that's a better fit.

If you're interested or have questions, please email office@lwvdanecounty.org! Ideally, we'd like to get someone in the office by this spring, but the position will remain open until we find the right candidate.

In Memory

Sue Larson

Gail Bliss, gail3511@gmail.com

I met Sue and Terry Larson about 10 years ago at the Great Decisions discussion group organized by LWVDC. In 2014, Sue became Fundraising Chair for LWVDC. She was great at it—if you need somebody willing to ask for money for a nonprofit, ask a minister!

Sue and Terry came to Dane County in the 1980s to answer a joint call to Bristol Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie. After a decade there, Sue became Director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, the political advocacy office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wisconsin.

Sue and Terry were the first videographers for LWVDC forums. They could borrow the equipment from the Sun Prairie Media Center, and provide recordings to LWV and the local access channel. Sue worked on voter education issues in Sun Prairie, expanding the LWVDC reach in NW Dane County. There are times when local residents, not outsiders from Madison, are more effective. Sue was also active in the Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition. She lived her values every day, locally and at the state, national, and international levels. She will be missed.

Sue was a member of Holy Wisdom Monastery Sunday Assembly where she served as a presiding minister and homilist. She was also part of their environmental and social justice group. A full obituary is available [here](#).

Margaret McEntire

Brook Soltvedt, soltvedtbrook@gmail.com

Margaret McEntire, my good friend, died unexpectedly, but peacefully, in her sleep on February 26. A League member for several years, she was far too partisan to be active with our nonpartisan organization. She actively championed many social causes and was almost desperate to keep learning—reading, attending lectures, watching films, and auditing UW courses.

She was a resource warrior, reusing, mending, borrowing, recycling. Water was precious to this child of southern California. Our excursions to explore Madison's parks always included water, and she waded in no matter the temperature. She repeatedly audited a UW course about the global water cycle, hoping to finally master it. Last fall we visited [Pope Farm Conservancy](#) to study the historic stone fence, enjoy the late prairie blooms, and take in the expansive views. We ended up lying on our backs, looking up at the changing cloud formations, reflecting on life's wonders and cruelties.

Margaret was a huge pain in the ass because she held everyone accountable for our existence, but that's why I loved her, and I miss her terribly. Friends and family will celebrate her life on Saturday, April 8, at 12:30 p.m. at Warner Park Community Recreation Center and [via Zoom](#). A full obituary is available [here](#).

March 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

- Treasurer Jean Jacobson presented a high-level review of the draft 2023-24 budget for discussion and debate.
- LWVDC Leadership Development Fellow Kimmy Rooney shared a presentation about high-performing boards and developing a leadership ladder.
- President Barb Feeney announced that the April Board meeting will be held in person and will focus on Strategic Planning implementation.
- The Board voted on this year's Defender of Democracy award honoree, to be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 4.

LWVDC Board meeting agendas and approved minutes can be found online at www.lwvdanecounty.org/board.

Contributions

Thank you to these supporters who donated in February 2023.

General Donations

Julie Allen
Harriette Burkhalter
Christine Clements
James Cory
Leslie DeMuth & Steve Bower
Sita Diehl
Robin Downs
Margaret Fuguitt
Sue Fulks
Linda Fuller
Shirley Haidinger
Jean Jacobson

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Judy Reed
Claire Rider

Gordon Ridley
Gail Shea
Judith Siegfried
Rose Sime
Suzanne Smith
Chuck Stonecipher
Priscilla Thain
Margy Walker
Patricia Watson
Thelma Wells
Barb Wolfe

New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in February 2023. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. NOTE: The password for the directory page was

Do you want to join the League?
[Sign up for a membership online](#)

changed on April 26, 2022. If you need the new password, contact the webmaster for help.

Lynn Williamson

Julia Olson

Jackie Bangsberg

Discussion Units

Discussion units will not be meeting in April because there is no April forum. We encourage discussion unit members to attend the Lively Issues Luncheon on Saturday, April 29.

Many League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of each forum, using the resource materials provided by the program planners to guide the conversation. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Units meet regularly at different times and locations, including via Zoom. All in-person meetings occur in Madison unless otherwise noted. Find a unit meeting that's convenient for you and participate! Details below.

Please contact the Unit Discussion Leader if interested in participating in a Unit Discussion so that you will get a Zoom link. Consult [the calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information about specific meetings.

Unit: Prairie Ridge (*For Prairie Ridge residents only*)

Time: 3:30 p.m., third Monday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom through fall/winter

Leaders: [Dot Whiting](#)

Unit: West / Middleton

Time: 6:30 p.m., third Monday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom through fall/winter

Leader: [Gloria Meyer](#) (608) 347-9713

Unit: Central West

Time: 12:45 p.m., third Tuesday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

Leader: [Kathy Johnson](#) (608) 238-1785

Unit: Northeast Side

Time: 3:30 p.m., third Wednesday of month

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

Leaders: [Karen Gunderson](#) (608) 729-4351

Unit: Downtown (Capitol Lakes)

Time: 5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of month

Location: In person, Premiere Room at Capitol Lakes, 333 W. Main St.

Leader: [Aileen Nettleton](#)



Upcoming Events

April 10	Voter Service Steering Committee, 3 p.m.
April 12	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
April 17	Membership Team, noon
April 29	Lively Issues Luncheon, noon
May 2	Advocacy Corps, 5:30 p.m.

The League in the News

The [Waunakee Tribune](#) promoted the League's *Candidates' Answers* for the primary election.

[Isthmus](#) highlighted the March 9 forum on Judicial Integrity.

