



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

720 Hill Street, Ste 200, Madison, WI 53705 (608) 232-9447

Summer office hours: June 5-July 28, Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

July 31-September 1, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

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June 2023

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Executive Committee

Barb Feeney, President

Jean Jacobson, Treasurer

Sue Jennik, Program Director

Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director

Bulletin Staff

Amanda Hingst, Editor

President's Message

Barb Feeney (she/they),

president@lwvdanecounty.org

During the month of June, LWVDC begins the annual process of saying good-bye to retiring board members and getting ready to welcome new board members. We are fortunate to have a wealth of talent in our organization and are grateful to those who stepped up to lead during 2022-23.



Three Things to Do This June

We have three requests for you this month.

Renew Your League Membership

Do so by June 15 and a League member will make a bonus donation in honor of her grandmother.

Consider an Extra Donation

All donations beyond your minimum due stay local.

Update Your Member Interests

This survey helps us connect you with activities and projects that match your interests and availability.

More details about each of these are in this issue.

During the last three years, retiring Treasurer Jean Jacobson used her considerable accounting skills and her love of working with numbers to bring our financial functions to a new, professional level, while ably leading the Finance Committee.

Voter Service Director Sue Fulks was the steady hand at the tiller steering LWVDC through a wild ride during the fall election season. After a brief respite, she was back at it for a spring election season that was being followed nationally and broke turnout records.

Marjorie Schuett pulled double duty during the last year, serving as the Board Secretary while also playing a huge role in organizing LWVDC participation in community outreach events.

Jill Jokela was appointed to fill out a one-year term on the Board as an at-large member. She brought great experience with other nonprofit organizations in Dane County and a strong track record as an LWVDC volunteer.

Lili Crane, also appointed by the Board, took on the role of Advocacy Director. She brought the perfect combination of humor, good judgment, and dedication to help LWVDC move forward in this critical area.

Vice President Mara Eisch helped LWVDC take important next steps in developing the governance function, which has been under discussion for a few years and now is in the final stage of development.

I am deeply grateful to these leaders who brought excellent judgment to the job and served with great dedication to our shared mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Next time you see them, say "Thank you!"

Renew Your League Membership

Member Services, membership@lwvdanecounty.org

Thank you to all our League of Women Voters of Dane County members for being part of this organization's important work individually and in teams to carry out our mission to advocate for informed and active civic engagement. We couldn't do any of this without you!

Please renew your League membership for the 2023-24 year ASAP by visiting our website at <http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/join-renew> (or click Join/Renew at the top-right corner of the [home page](#)).

- If you're an LWV Life Member, or if your membership is paid through June 2024 or

Where Do Your Dues Go?

Did you know? The state and national Leagues receive more than three-quarters of your dues payment for their important work. Contributions beyond your minimum dues stay right here in Dane County to help make a difference locally.

LWVDC also offers free student memberships and "flex fee" dues, which allow members to choose the amount they are comfortable paying. We will never turn away a member facing barriers like the cost of dues.

We appreciate your additional donation with your membership dues payment!

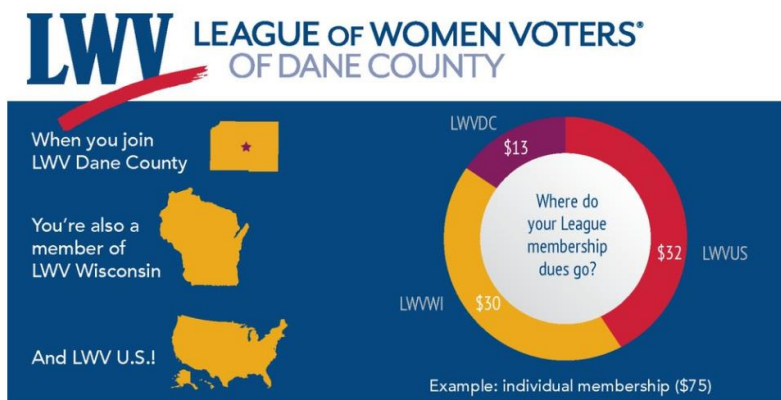
beyond, you're all set! We just ask that you fill out the 2023-24 Member Interest Survey (more information on this below).

- Not sure when your membership expires? Email office@lwvdanecounty.org to find out.

You can help lower our environmental impact by completing your Membership Renewal and Member Interest Survey online so that we don't have to contact you by mail.

A member will donate \$1 for every renewal made by June 15 in honor of her grandmother, Margaret A.

Ehrmeyer, who never missed a vote and worked very hard as a dental assistant, nurses' aid, retail clerk, and waitress to support two children as a widow and generously provided Series EE Savings Bonds for her granddaughter.



Some life lesson quotes from Grandma Ehrmeyer:

1. Always make sure you can take care of yourself. Get an education. Work on your finances. You never know what's going to happen.
2. Never miss a vote! I recall when women had no vote.
3. Do what's right. Don't ask for permission in the process.

This is a wonderful way to support our community, provide LWVDC with additional resources, save some trees, and honor Grandma E.

Member Interest Survey

Member Services, membership@lwvdanecounty.org

In addition to renewing your membership, please complete the [Member Interest Survey](#). It's changed slightly this year—and your own interests and capacity may have changed—so even if you filled it out last year, take a moment to review!

You can also update your survey results throughout the year via your weekly issue of Enews. At the bottom of every email newsletter, there's a blue button that says "Update Your Member Interests." That link is unique to you and your email address! Click to review your survey and update any time.

High School Student Team Voter Outreach a Success!

Susan Fulks (she/her), suefulks@lwvdc.org

In January, our LWVDC High School Voter Outreach Team received a grant from LWVUS Education Fund to support student teams implementing peer voter registration and election information activities within their high school. Grant goals were to provide the teams with voter registration training, in-district support, and information outlining roles, responsibilities, and duties of elected officials on the ballot in Spring 2023 elections.

Six student teams (total of 26 students) accepted the challenge and applied for a mini-grant from LWVDC. Online training sessions in voter registration procedures were provided for each team. League volunteers worked with the teams to support voter registration activities during the February 22-March 15 registration period. Each team also planned and implemented non-partisan activities to inform their peers about the importance of voting and elections. Teams were provided bookmarks, registration materials, and funding to support their activities.

Strategies for peer voter registration varied by school. The DeForest team ran an “information station” in all senior homerooms, registering eligible students and giving presentations on voting, election dates, and candidate offices on the ballot. Several teams organized drives during lunch periods. West High School hosted a registration drive outside the auditorium during a panel presentation. The McFarland team hosted a community voter registration drive one evening. LaFollette added an extra drive during Senior Exit Day in May. A total of 150 students and staff were registered! And dozens more took information home so they could register online when they turned eighteen.

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and election information strategies were implemented as teams engaged with peers on the importance of voting and the significance of getting registered to vote. Oregon students used school announcement videos and filmed an advertisement. Teams created posters and posted signs throughout the school. Vel Phillips Memorial High School’s team reminded voters about the Supreme Court election and shared election information over social media. McFarland gave presentations to seniors during the advisory period about what was on the spring ballot and when and where to vote. Their team purchased stickers for students who registered or were already registered. Other teams used donuts, cookies, candy, and raffle prizes as encouragement to register.

This Youth Voter Registration grant project was successful in actively encouraging and supporting opportunities for student leadership. It also sparked interest and enthusiasm within the participating schools. Dan Kromer, teacher and LaFollette team advisor, said “The best part was the energy and excitement for voting that our students demonstrated.” Nadia Schwedersky, team member from McFarland High School, reported “Many students seemed very interested in voting and claimed they would vote on election day. Additionally, several students who helped out with the process were excited to learn more about elections and get more involved with several becoming poll workers for the election.”

We are looking forward to expanding this high school student team approach for voter outreach in preparation for the 2024 election cycles. Interested teachers should contact High School Voter Outreach Team co-chairs: Joan Provencher (jmhprovencher@gmail.com) and Jill Jokela (jjokela@sbcglobal.net).

Shared Revenue Bill with Strings Attached

Sue Jennik, program@lwvdanecounty.org

Program Director, LWV Dane County; Chair, Legislative Committee, LWV Wisconsin

The State Assembly has passed an ostensible shared revenue that offers a 15% increase in state money to local governments (except for Milwaukee, which would receive only a 10% increase). The bill would eliminate the local property tax and replace it with State funds, subject to controls over the operations of local governments, including:

- Cities, towns, and villages with populations of more than 20,000 would be required to keep police funding and staffing levels equivalent to the previous year's rates.
- County and municipal governments would be barred from placing advisory referenda on the ballot.
- Local health departments would be limited to making emergency declarations during a health crisis for only 30 days, subject to renewal for an additional 30 days.
- Local governments would be prohibited from placing limits or conditions on the operation of non-metallic quarries.

Some provisions of the bill apply only to the City and County of Milwaukee, including requirements to:

- Transfer the Fire and Police Commission's oversight authority to the chiefs of the police and fire departments, eliminating an important check on police power.
- Assign at least 25 school resource officers to police Milwaukee Public Schools, which research shows can exacerbate racially disparate discipline outcomes and over-criminalize students.
- Prohibit spending any money generated by levying taxes on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion positions.
- Obtain approval from a heightened two-thirds majority on the common council to authorize new program spending or positions.
- Impose limits on funding for cultural and entertainment matters.
- Prohibit the city from using sales tax revenue to pay for extending a streetcar line.
- Phase out the Milwaukee retirement system and place all new employees in the State retirement system.

The Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions reported on May 15 that it found that the bill is not good public policy on a vote of 5 in favor and 4 opposed.

The bill, AB245, which is over 100 pages long, was introduced on May 3 and a hearing was held on May 4. Over 90 amendments were made to the bill by the drafters of the bill and it was presented for a vote of the Assembly with less than an hour to consider the changes. The bill was passed by the Assembly on May 17 on a vote of 56-36. A companion bill, SB301, was introduced in the State Senate on May 18 and is pending.

LWVWI has registered its opposition to these bills stating: "This bill should be amended to remove the numerous policy items not pertaining to shared revenue so they each can have the consideration needed to become law."

For more information on positions taken by the LWVWI on pending legislation go to: [Legislative Action | MyLO](#)

Volunteer Profile: Sally Gleason

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 Sally Gleason, one of our volunteers.

If you joined the League in the last year or two and completed a member survey, there is a good chance you received a phone call from Sally, who is an outreach volunteer for the Member Service team. LWVDC is a large organization and it is not always easy for new members to figure out how they fit in. Sally is dedicated to helping new members find their way. She says, “It is gratifying to help a new member connect with the League in a manner that offers them personal growth and serves the LWVDC as well.” Sally’s volunteer efforts are a great example of a behind-the-scenes volunteer making a big contribution.

Sally, tell us a little bit about yourself

I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and always had a strong interest in nutrition. While my three children were in elementary school, I decided to pursue a graduate degree in Nutritional Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. I still am grateful for how Ed, my husband, assumed responsibility for the children and household chores while I studied biochemistry up in our attic after dinner. After earning my degree, we moved to Madison for Ed’s job, and I was hired as a clinical instructor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at UW-Madison. After 15 years, I moved to the Waisman Center as a metabolic nutritionist managing patients with phenylketonuria (PKU), who require a very restrictive diet. To enhance their food options, I recruited a task force of research scientists and food manufacturers to develop products from the waste of cheese making. These beverages and foods greatly enhance the diet of people with PKU and are now distributed internationally—I feel this was my greatest professional accomplishment.



How did you get involved with LWVDC?

President Obama said in his farewell speech that change only happens when ordinary people get involved. By 2017, I had retired from my professional career and from my volunteer work teaching English to foreign students. I felt it was time for me to contribute more to civic issues. I was attracted to LWV with its goal of informing voters and defending democracy.

Who or what inspires you?

After living on the west side of Madison for 35 years, Ed and I moved to a condominium overlooking Lake Monona. At night I see the Capitol, a symbol of our democracy, shining across the lake. Seeing it inspires me to support the League and contribute to the strength of our democracy.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I have always enjoyed gardening, which can be limited when one lives in a condo. However, another resident and I developed a small area on the property into an herb garden from which all residents can pick fresh herbs. Although I no longer volunteer at Olbrich Gardens, it is close enough to walk there for frequent visits. I also enjoy playing duplicate bridge with my son and with longtime friends for more than 25 years.

50-Year Member Recognition: Bonnie Orvick

The League of Women Voters has a tradition of recognizing those who have been members for 50 years. Over the next few issues of the Bulletin, we will be honoring these long-time members, many of whom joined a local League elsewhere, but who are celebrating their 50th year of membership with LWV Dane County in 2023. We are grateful for the dedication of our 50-Year Members!

My Life Before LWV

Bonnie was raised in a small town just south of Rochester, Minnesota. When she was 10 months old her family moved off the family farm and into town, where she lived until going to college at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Bonnie recalled her mother's involvement and support of a local congressional candidate's campaign, which provided an early exposure to civic engagement.

My Life with the League

Bonnie's involvement in the League has spanned several locations. While teaching at Alexandria Area Vocational Technical School in Alexandria, Minnesota, Bonnie and a roommate joined the League. They were motivated by a study the League was conducting about water quality. Bonnie has a vivid recollection of three nuns who were also League members. The nuns themselves waded into the local lakes with baby food jars to collect the water samples to be used to analyze the impact of the growing population on the underdeveloped sewage system. The determination and passion displayed by the nuns' actions remain a vivid memory of her first experience with the League.



Bonnie and her husband moved to Modesto, California, in 1972. Bonnie joined the League in California thanks to a neighbor's influence and invitation. Once again, environmental issues caught Bonnie's attention. The League in California and Modesto was involved with land use issues as well as air quality concerns. The population in Modesto, and throughout the Southern Central Valley of California, was burgeoning at this time. Bonnie recalls the vibrancy of the California League. There were many young women involved with the League who were at home raising their families. They invested their time and energy into League activities, including two- or three-unit meetings held each month.

Bonnie's family relocated to Vincennes, a small town in southern Indiana in 1977. There was no League in the community, so Bonnie joined the AAUW (American Association of University Women). At that time AAUW's main focus was to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The local chapter of AAUW did not support the national focus. Bonnie's disappointment in this position, as well as the fact that she missed the grassroots participation and "bottom-up" structure of the League of Women Voters, moved her to help establish a local League chapter. In 1980, with the help of a friend and an Indiana state legislator, the League of Women Voters of Knox County was established. Throughout the next 30 years, Bonnie was active in the local League as well as serving on the state LWV Indiana Board for two terms. Bonnie recalls encouraging many of the young women in her community to join the League. As a result, there was a strong core of women involved with the primary focus of addressing local issues.

In 2010, Bonnie moved to Madison to be closer to family members. She joined the League here immediately. Her role has changed from being an activist in the League to being an advocate of the League! Bonnie credits the League with helping her to gain leadership skills. She greatly appreciates the extensive knowledge she has acquired and all that she has learned through her involvement in the League.

Leadership Development Fellowship Comes to a Close

Kimberly Rooney (she/her), LWVDC Leadership Development Fellow, kimberlycrooney@gmail.com

As my role as Leadership Development Fellow comes to a close, I wanted to express my gratitude to the League of Women Voters of Dane County for providing me with an excellent fellowship experience. For the last nine months, I have been getting to know LWVDC members, leaders, and staff as well as the organization as a whole, its history, values, impact in the community, and plans for the future. This organization has had such a positive influence on my understanding and outlook on community organizations, democratic processes, civic engagement, and volunteerism. I'm so grateful that you shared your organization with me, and what a wonderful organization it is.

To round off my work, I have sent several Membership and Leadership recommendations to the Board and Executive Director Wendy Hathaway. These recommendations include project plans and insights that are a culmination of my observations and research conducted over the past year. I leave these resources in the hands of LWVDC leadership and believe they can make a positive impact on this organization moving forward.

As I step out of this role, I'm thrilled to step into the role of "member" of the LWV Dane County! As a newly minted member, I'm excited to continue working on the Member Service team and help with the important member engagement and volunteer coordination work that happens in that committee. For anyone else looking to join a team of great individuals who work well together connecting our fellow LWVDC members, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you to President Barb Feeney and the rest of the Board for the excellent conversations and your openness to my ideas. Thank you to Kerry Helmer, Office Administrator, for sharing her work space with me and helping make the office a welcoming environment. And finally thank you to Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director, who supervised me during my fellowship. Wendy played such an important role in facilitating this great experience of mine. Thank you for the brainstorming sessions and the weekly check-

ins, for your attention to my professional goals and your knowledge of the work of community organization. I am so grateful!

Farewell to LWVDC Fellow Kimmy Rooney

Wendy Hathaway, Executive Director (she/her) wendy@lwvdanecounty.org

I want to take a moment to celebrate Kimmy Rooney as she wraps up two semesters of work as our Leadership Development Fellow. She has been an incredible asset to the League of Women Voters of Dane County and consistently exhibited dedication, diligence, creativity, exceptional teamwork, and attention to detail.

Her unwavering commitment to this organization's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy; her tireless work ethic and positive attitude; and her project planning and organizational abilities have already made a difference. Through her remarkable efforts, Kimberly has equipped LWVDC with the necessary tools and plans to keep moving forward with an enhanced understanding of volunteerism and advocacy work, a clear path toward expanding volunteer engagement, implementing a

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.

more inclusive and accessible leadership model, and providing mentorship and leadership training programs to identify and nurture potential future leaders. She consistently embodied the qualities of a true leader, and we are fortunate to have had her as part of our organization.

May 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The Board approved LWVDC's Strategic Plan and will be communicating the results of research and planning work with the full membership this summer. Action planning and implementation is already in the works and the Board is committed to revisiting the plan through quarterly status updates and review.

Annual Meeting planning continued; topics included event agenda, voting regulations, and opportunities for members to interact with domain leaders and volunteers.



2023 Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting took place on Saturday, June 4. We'll have a full recap in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

UW-Madison Fellow Kimmy Rooney delivered a presentation on Leadership Development, her final report of her tenure with LWVDC.

The Board approved the following LWVDC delegates for the LWVWI Annual Meeting: Carlene Bechen, Janine Edwards, Barb Feeney, and Sue Jennik.

The Board approved updates to the Employee Handbook introduced by Executive Director Wendy Hathaway:

- New inclement weather policy
- Previously approved by the 2021-22 Board of Directors, the Juneteenth (observed) holiday is now included in the handbook

Hathaway also proposed for discussion a draft outline for 2023-24 Board onboarding and training.

LWVDC Board meeting agendas and approved minutes can be found online at <https://www.lwvdanecounty.org/board-20222023>.

Updated Office Hours – Summer 2023

In an effort to create some space to get caught up on projects and administrative housekeeping after several busy recent election seasons, there will be a new “Summer Schedule” for the League office at 720 Hill St. You can still contact Kerry and Wendy during our “regular” working hours! We ask that you allow for reasonable response time and avoid “drop-ins” when the office is closed. (Off-hours are okay by appointment—please just check ahead of time!)



- June 5-July 28:
 - Open Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
- July 31-September 1 (extended hours for summer/fall voter outreach)
 - Open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - Closed Tuesday and Friday
- Tuesday, September 5: regular hours resume

The office will also be closed on the following holidays:

- Juneteenth (Monday, June 19)
- Fourth of July (Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4)
- Labor Day (Monday, September 4)

Contributions

Thank you to these supporters who donated in April 2023.

General Donations

Susie Dietzel
Jennie Fischer

Vicki Berenson & Shel Gross
Claire Rider

Zachary Levin
Amy Moran

Donation to Support Candidates' Answers

David Post

Additional Gift with Lively Issues Luncheon Ticket

Dorothy Wheeler
Kathleen Rasmussen
Stacey Wright
Margaret Fuguitt
Martha Stamper

Mary Anglim
Maree Elowson
Susan Jennik
Carlene Bechen
Beth Fultz

Christine Clements
Dorothy Whiting
Carol Carstensen

New Members

We welcome new member **Alan Zuckerman**, who joined us in April 2023. An updated member directory is available on our website. If you need help accessing the password-protected directory, [contact the webmaster](#) for help. Please know that we respect your privacy! Information about members is used only for internal LWV purposes; it is never shared with other organizations or non-League individuals.

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

Discussion Units

Discussion units don't meet during the summer. We'll see you in the fall after our next forum!

Upcoming Events

June 12	Voter Service Steering Committee, 3 p.m.
June 14	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
June 19	Membership Team, noon
July 12	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
July 17	Membership Team, noon
August 9	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

