



# Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday, 11–3

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## President's Message

Christine Clements, [president@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:president@lwvdanecounty.org)

On February 14, the League of Women Voters of Dane County, along with LWVUS, will celebrate its 102nd birthday. The celebration's occurrence on Valentine's Day has me thinking of the things I love about the League. I love that our LWVDC members share a deep belief in and respect for democracy. I love what our Lively Issues speaker, Matt Rothschild, said about the League — that we are "one of the most crucial organizations in Wisconsin in defending democracy." I love that we are nonpartisan and that we embrace civil discourse at the same time we embrace civic engagement.

## Wednesday, March 16

6–8:30 p.m.

### Virtual Workshop for LWVDC Members

#### *"Depolarizing Within"*

Are you concerned about how polarized our country has become and how difficult it is to have civil conversations about the many issues that are dividing us? Braver Angels is presenting a workshop to organizations throughout the 50 states. It is an organization that pledges to engage those with whom we disagree, looking for common ground and ways to work together.

The "Depolarizing Within" workshop fosters skills to help us to lessen the effects of polarization when we encounter them in political conversations. We'll learn how to be more aware of our own "inner polarizer" and how to be critical without demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping large swaths of the population. And we'll learn strategies for intervening constructively in social conversation. We hope you can join us.

**This free workshop is for LWVDC members only.**

***Look for more details in the upcoming announcement on the LWVDC website.***

But if you asked me my favorite thing about the League, it would be the people I've had the privilege to meet and work with. Our members' creativity, insights, passion, and openness make this such an exceptional experience. When times are particularly tough and spirits are flagging, the encouragement, doggedness, and humor of those around us inspire enthusiasm and action.

These characteristics are found in abundance in our office administrator, Cindy Lindquist. Sadly for us, Cindy will be leaving on February 3. During her 3½ years in this position, Cindy has touched the lives of all of us. As many of you have experienced, Cindy warmly welcomes members in the office or on the phone or email and offers her support. In fact, supporting members is always her top priority. She is consistently patient in training volunteers on the use of Google Suite, finding misplaced Voter Service items, retrieving data to answer questions, and making necessary connections among members. Cindy edits and enhances our documents and letters with artful skill. She fields a vast array of calls and emails, and always seems to know what to do with them. Additionally, and in concert with her husband Paul, she understands technology and how to make it work for us. A great many of us couldn't have done our work without her.

At the end of this Bulletin, you'll have the chance to read the tributes that a number of our League members have shared in honor of Cindy. We wish Cindy all the best, as she and Paul move closer to their daughter and her growing family. While we will miss her friendship, advice, and support terribly, we are forever grateful for her contributions to LWVDC.



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## Spring Elections Rundown

### *Voter Service*

A Spring Primary election is held in February only when three or more candidates run for an office that is up for election.

This year, no more than two candidates filed for each office that is up for election for elections that pertain to City of Madison residents. **Thus, there will be no primary elections in February for City of Madison residents; city voters will not go to the polls until April 5, 2022.**

There are no primaries for the incorporated municipalities in Dane County. There will be a primary for the Mount Horeb Area School District where eleven candidates are running for three school board seats. The primary will winnow the field to six candidates for the April 5 ballot.

On April 5, Dane County residents will have the chance to vote for candidates for the following:

- Court of Appeals judge: Dane County is in District 4.
- Dane County Circuit Court judge: There are five seats up for election in the spring. These are at-large seats.



- Dane County Board supervisors: All 37 seats are up for election in the spring. Voters vote for candidates who are running in their district.
- School Board members: There are 16 school districts in Dane County, all of which will have races.
- As always, a great resource for finding out who will be on your ballot is [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov). Local candidates will be listed 21 days before the election. We recommend the Disability Vote Coalition Fact Sheet as an excellent resource on these local elections.

LWVDC is at work preparing for the Spring Elections issue of *Candidates' Answers*, which will be online by March 15. The print copy will appear around March 16 in the Wisconsin State Journal and in the Capitol City Hues and will be left at various distribution points.

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## Board Nominations Now Open—We Want You!

### *Nominations Committee*

Looking ahead, 2022 will be a crucial election year—with control of Congress, Wisconsin state leadership, and voting rights at stake. But it's a big election year for the League of Women Voters of Dane County, as well. In late spring, our members will vote on the new Board of Directors.

**We need your passion and skills!** The Nominations Committee invites all LWVDC members to consider running for a leadership position.

We are recruiting Board officers and directors, as well as people to lead and serve on the Nominations Committee.

Board officers provide overall direction for the League and ensure success in key areas, such as governance and finance. Board directors lead important committees and serve as the connection between their committee and the rest of the organization. In collaboration with their committee members, they set the vision for the area of work and guide efforts to make it happen through strategy, creativity, and teamwork.

### Open Board Positions 2022-23/24

*Some positions are elected, some are appointed. Option to serve one or two years; two years strongly encouraged.*

- President - Officer
- Vice President - Officer
- Treasurer - Officer\*
- Secretary - Officer
- NEW—Advocacy Director\*\*
- NEW—Communications Director\*\*\*
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Director\*\*
- Fund Development Director\*\*\*
- Membership Director\*\*
- Program Director\*\*
- Voter Service Director\*\*



## Nominations Committee

- Nominations Committee Chair (not on Board; one year only)
- Nominations Committee Member (two members elected; each serve only one year)

*\*Option to recruit a non-elected assistant treasurer*

*\*\*Option to recruit a non-elected co-director and/or assistant director*

*\*\*\*Work with Executive Director as your non-elected co-director; option to also recruit assistant director*

Anyone interested in running for a seat should carefully read section I. Political Activities of the Policies and Procedures document, which outlines restrictions on Board officers and directors regarding political activities.

**Interested?** Here are a few ways to get started:

- Learn more about each committee
- Contact current officers or directors and/or attend a committee meeting to learn more about key areas of focus and responsibilities.
- Submit your application!

## To Apply

Anyone who's interested in running can submit their name for consideration to the Nominations Committee. (You may also nominate someone else who you think might be a good fit, but only with their permission.)

Email Nominations Committee Chair Jan Van Vleck at [m.vleck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.vleck@sbcglobal.net) and include:

- Your name (or the name of the person you are nominating).
- Officer or director position you're running for.
- Whether you want to serve for one year or two years (two years strongly preferred!).
- A short biography to help voting members get to know you.

You can find more details on our website at [lwvdanecounty.org/board-nominations](http://lwvdanecounty.org/board-nominations).

## *All Hands on Deck*

### Other Leadership Opportunities for LWVDC Members

In addition to elected positions on the League Board, there are plenty of other leadership opportunities in different areas open to members with varying skills and time to dedicate to the League.

For example, there are several subcommittees across the organization where we need volunteers to serve as **co-directors** or **assistant directors**, **subcommittee leaders**, and **ad hoc working group coordinators**.

To name just a few:

- Voter Service (e.g., *see article below about the New Citizen grant!*)
- Program (e.g., research and develop resource materials)
- Communications (e.g., media relations or multimedia)
- Finance (e.g., assistant treasurer)

And much more!

To learn more, contact any of our current directors, Board President Chris Clements, or Executive Director Wendy Hathaway.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

# Fund Development Update: Investing in Operations

Wendy Hathaway ([wendy@lvwdanecounty.org](mailto:wendy@lvwdanecounty.org))

One of my first assignments when I came on as Executive Director in November was to join the Fund Development committee as co-chair with Board President Chris Clements. One of the most exciting—and daunting—things about fund development at LWVDC is that we're poised to think bigger about how we bring in new funding and what we believe in and invest in as an organization.

In December, I met one of our donors and we had an enlightening conversation. She told me she wanted more transparency in how we talk about fund development among our membership and the community. So in the spirit of transparency, I want to tell you where I, and many of the leaders and members I've talked with, see the greatest need for fundraising revenue right now: operations.

Operating costs (or overhead, as it's often called and often disparaged) isn't exciting or fun. The idea of donating to something like business expenses just doesn't fill your heart the same way as putting on programming or printing voter education flyers or paying for someone's cab ride to the DMV to get a free voter ID.

If you look at operations another way, however, that's precisely how LWVDC survives and expands our impact as we battle increasing threats to democracy, social injustice and inequity, and multiple election cycles that could have monumental consequences on our state and our country.

So, what does investing in operations look like?

We hire staff to support the volunteers who are out doing important work (often dedicating many, many hours). Staff are focused on lightening that load in many ways, such as redistributing work among more volunteers. This allows our organization to involve more members in our mission—a more diverse group of members that includes those who can't devote as much time to the League—and connect them with our community in meaningful ways (not making copies or manually entering member data).

Staff also provide technical support that in turn helps committees work more efficiently and collaboratively; partner with finance to ensure smart spending; and facilitate new community partnerships.

Database software helps us track members, reach qualified volunteers, and create new opportunities for engagement. Insurance is required to hang banners on bridges and talk to voters at our table at the Farmers' Market. We pay Zoom fees so we can stay connected with one another even during an ongoing pandemic.

Finally, investing in fundraising and in managing our funds (from printing and postage to hiring outside expertise to guide us in investments and growing grant revenue) has the potential to multiply the money we need to do the things we care most about.

Directing funding—not all, of course, but some—toward operations gives us the tools we need to make a real difference in Dane County.

As always, the League is incredibly grateful for all the time and resources you share. Thank you.

# LWVDC Awarded New Citizens Grant

Barb Feeney ([barb.feeney@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:barb.feeney@lwvdanecounty.org))

In December, the Voter Service Steering Committee was notified that LWVDC is one of 31 Leagues from around the country to be awarded a New Citizens grant from the LWVUS. The focus of the grant activity is to connect with new citizens to encourage and assist with voter registration.

About 5 million new citizens were newly eligible in the 2020 presidential election. And naturalized immigrants now comprise 1 in 10 eligible voters in the U.S.

Turnout rates of naturalized citizens continues to be lower than that of U.S.-born citizens but once a newly naturalized citizen registers to vote, they vote at equal or even greater rates than native-born citizens. Newly naturalized citizens face many barriers, including fear, lack of information, and language barriers to registering. Thus, voter registration and voter mobilization efforts specifically targeting newly naturalized citizens are needed to ensure their registration, voting, and political empowerment in the polls. This is where LWVDC comes in!

Many Leagues that focus on new citizens attend naturalization ceremonies to connect with newly naturalized citizens. Due to COVID, in 2021 Dane County residents attended naturalization ceremonies in Milwaukee. Regardless of where the ceremonies are held in 2022, our efforts during the grant program effort will focus on making connections with local organizations that immigrants often connect with when they move to Dane County. Our hope will be to attend events where we will have the chance to meet new citizens and help them register to vote.

We are seeking League members and supporters who have connections with these community-based organizations and/or are enthusiastic about the opportunity to help new citizens exercise the precious right to vote. The New Citizens grant period ends in November so serving on the New Citizens grant team is a short-term commitment.

This year, we need trained and enthusiastic “boots on the ground” to do nothing less than keep democracy alive. If you would like to learn about how you could be involved, please contact Barbara Feeney at (608) 843-2272 or [barb.feeney@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:barb.feeney@lwvdanecounty.org).



# Membership Committee Updates

Amber Rottier ([membership@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:membership@lwvdanecounty.org))

The membership committee works to welcome new League members, assist with connecting members to the different areas of the League and implement initiatives to increase membership engagement and retention.

We continue to be faced by the challenges brought by the pandemic and it is difficult to feel connected in this virtual world. We are used to seeing fellow League members in person at forums, committee meetings and social events and find ourselves truly missing that aspect of League membership. The committee is working to identify similar opportunities for connection in this virtual world that we will be existing in for some time. The membership committee hosted our first virtual “Member Hangout” on January 18, where members had an opportunity to meet others and reconnect with old friends. We received positive feedback from participants and are planning to schedule additional sessions for us to gather - please join us!

## *Membership Numbers*

Our Dane County League membership numbers rose significantly in 2020, likely due to the important presidential election that took place. We reported our highest membership numbers to date in January 2021 (when we submit our yearly numbers to the national League), with a total of 613 members. That number has decreased after the summer renewal period, and we now have around 525 members. We welcomed 62 new members in 2021, compared to 93 in 2020. As a membership committee, we are continuing to monitor our membership numbers to identify trends and brainstorm opportunities for improvement for our membership retention. We do believe the pandemic has had a big impact on our membership, and we welcome any ideas that members have regarding how we can continue to provide a valuable experience to all.

We always welcome new ideas and perspectives and would love to have you join our membership committee if you are interested. Please email me at [membership@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:membership@lwvdanecounty.org) with your thoughts or for meeting information.



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## Advocacy for LWVDC Members

Advocacy Committee ([advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org))

Whether you consider yourself a political person or find yourself upset with politicians locally and nationwide, it is important not to sit on the sidelines when so much is at stake in our democracy right now. There are many ways to be involved and contribute on an individual level to an organized effort to keep our democracy strong. The LWVDC is committed to “making democracy work.” Engagement in the League’s advocacy movement is available and looking for members to join in one of the following ways.

First, is the Observers Corp which is the “eyes and ears” of the League. Members select a city or county organization to observe and attend the meetings and report back to the League with information about proceedings and actions taken. Currently, we have members observing committee and councils on justice, the judiciary and public protection; the environment, agriculture, and national resources; health and human needs; and elections. The coordinator of the Observer Corps is Laurie Egre, and you can write her at [observercorpsteam@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:observercorpsteam@lwvdanecounty.org).



Second, there is an active Advocacy Subcommittee called “Making Democracy Work” that is working on elections and voter education; election integrity, judicial integrity, campaign finance reform and civic education, to engage members to take action in the community on a timely basis.

The Advocacy Subcommittee of “Making Democracy Work” is presenting a workshop for LWVDC members only to foster civil discourse. “Depolarizing Within” will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 16, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The workshop will be conducted by Braver Angels, an organization dedicated to depolarizing American politics to impact community life and American institutions. The workshop is designed to foster skills to help one lessen the effects of polarization when one encounters them in political conversation and does so in two ways: by discussing 1) how to be aware of one’s own “inner polarizer” and 2) how to be critical without demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping large swaths of the population by providing strategies for intervening constructively in social conversations. This subcommittee definitely needs more members to help us with our vital work.

### ***In case You Missed It...***

#### **Have you seen the League’s Blog, Swinging for the Fences, lately?**

Wisconsin needs more than Band-Aids® for its D+-ranked roadways.

It needs the legislature to make sustainable investments in long-term planning, training, and development of infrastructure for future needs. Find out more about why voters need to connect with their elected officials and urge them to pass legislation to provide adequate, equitable and sustainable funding to raise the grade on Wisconsin roads.

**Check out a new post by League member Meg Gordon!**

***Click here to read more.***

Finally, the LWVDC is looking for members who are well versed about democratic issues in Dane County and Wisconsin and are willing to speak at community events, on topics such as elections and voter education; redistricting; electoral and integrity; campaign finance reform; and/or civil discourse. Members who are part of the Speakers’ Bureau would be prepared to speak on pre-approved League priorities and provide insight on many of the problems facing us today in our city, county, and country.

We welcome more members to be engaged in our advocacy efforts. If you are interested in any of these advocacy efforts, please contact Joan Schwarz, Advocacy Chair, at [advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org) or call her at (608) 345-5973.



# Review: January Lively Issues Forum

Karen Gunderson ([jokarjen@gmail.com](mailto:jokarjen@gmail.com))

Many of us are worried about the state of our democracy in this country. Should we be? According to our January 8 Lively Issues speaker, Matt Rothschild, we definitely should be worried. In fact, he shared that he is more worried about our democracy than at any time in his life.

Rothschild is the executive director of the [Wisconsin Democracy Campaign](#) and author of the new book [12 Ways to Save Democracy in Wisconsin](#). He has a long history of observing and writing about politics, including 32 years at The Progressive Magazine, most of that time as editor and publisher.

We see the attacks on our democracy in the news every day – from people who continue to claim that the 2020 presidential election results are suspect, from state legislatures that have passed bills to disenfranchise voters, from state and U.S. courts upholding voter suppression bills, and from media sources that continuously broadcast misinformation.



*Matt Rothschild*

Rothschild lauded President Biden's January 6, 2022, speech, agreeing with Biden that the current moment is "a dagger at the throat of our democracy." (If you missed Biden's speech, I encourage you to [read this transcript](#).)

On January 6, 2021, Rothschild had completed the manuscript for his book and was checking for final typos, so he was only able to refer to the assault on the U.S. Capitol in the introduction. He feels that the January 6 assault is a more imminent threat than anything he mentions in his book.

It sometimes seems overwhelming as an individual to take any effective steps to defend our democracy, but Rothschild believes that we can make a difference.

## *In Case You Missed It...*

### **Missed February's Virtual Public Issues Forum, too?**

You can view the recording online on the League's website!

***Click here:***

[Moving from Eviction to Housing Stability](#)

**Supplementary resource materials can also be found [online](#).**

He encourages us to support legislators from opposing parties who share our beliefs and says that it is still worthwhile to contact elected representatives, including committee chairs, bill sponsors and legislative leaders. Writing a letter to the editor can have a positive impact, also.

He suggested that we join groups, like the League of Women Voters, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Common Cause, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, All Voting Is Local, All On The Line, Voces de la Frontera and other organizations with members who share our democratic values. These groups could work together to become a united front in preserving our democracy.

He urged us to listen to and read news from sources that we don't agree with. This helps us to understand what other people are hearing and believing, making it easier to have a dialog about issues we differ on.

The most daunting task he proposed was for each of us to talk with two or three people we know who currently support legislators who are threatening our democracy and try to persuade them to change their point of view.

And, finally, as we take these steps, remember to take care of ourselves and avoid burnout; we have a long, difficult road ahead of us.

Links to Rothschild's transcript and a recording of the forum are [on the LWVDC website](#).

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## Trump and the Electoral Count Act of 1887

Joan I. Schwarz, LWVDC Advocacy Chair ([advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org))

What was the legal theory upon which the Trump campaign based [its implementation of fraudulent electors](#) in seven battleground states?

In Wisconsin, the fraudulent slate of electors was sent to the U.S Senate, the National Archives, and the Wisconsin Secretary of State. How the Trump campaign exploited a "loophole" in the [Electoral Count Act of 1887 \(ECA\)](#) provides the key to understanding former President Trump's attempts to influence the outcome of the 2020 election.

I first wrote about the "loophole" in the ECA in the LWVDC [November 2021 Bulletin](#): "If a narrative takes hold casting the election results into doubt, one candidate could successfully convince controlled state legislatures of one party to submit separate slates of electors in the 2020 election."

What is the "loophole" in the ECA? The [National Task Force on Election Crises](#) zeroed in on the single, narrow exception to the statutory mandate of the ECA, in Section 2: "Whenever any State has held an election for the purpose of choosing electors, and has *failed to make a choice* on the day prescribed by law [December 14, the date the electors meet to vote], the electors may be appointed on a subsequent day *in such a manner as the legislature of such State may direct*." (emphasis added). The Task Force argues that Section 2 does not allow for a "loophole that allows state legislatures to usurp the popular votes at any time it appears likely to yield a result that a state legislature views as unfavorable" because Congress intended Section 2 to be a "narrow exception for true election failure."

Yet the Trump campaign decided that the 2020 election was "unfavorable" because it was "fraudulently stolen" and therefore, was a "failed" election, thereby permitting states to appoint their own electors "*in such manner as the legislature of such State may direct*."

Could Trump's strategy have worked? Congressional intervention can occur if more than one slate of electors is submitted from one or multiple states. If the House and the Senate cannot agree whether the law requires the slate certified by the governor or legislature to count, there is [no method](#) in the ECA for Congress to resolve between conflicting slates of electors

Trump's narrative of the "Big Lie" and forged public records were designed to throw the electoral vote count into the House to deliver the presidency to Trump.

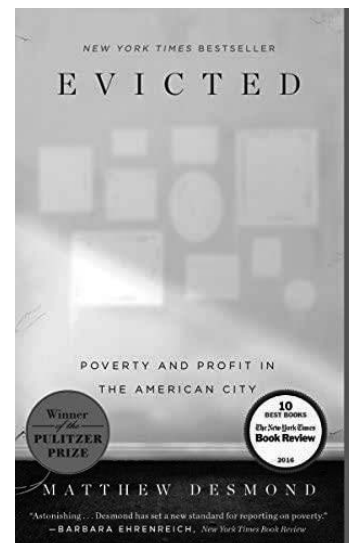
The slates of fraudulent electors have been referred to the Department of Justice, but the "loaded gun" in the ECA still exists. Members of the House and Senate are meeting to [discuss bipartisan reform](#) of the Act. Reform of the ECA is imperative so that the 2024 presidential election will be constitutionally protected.

## Book Report: Evicted

Cami Spellman ([cpspellman@wisc.edu](mailto:cpspellman@wisc.edu))

Housing insecurity aggravated by the pandemic warranted a federal response in the form of an eviction moratorium. Though the moratorium has since ended, the ongoing effects disproportionately endured by low-income individuals parallels themes in *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (2016) by Matthew Desmond.

Desmond's research on eight families in Milwaukee helps to detangle some of the complexities of housing insecurity faced by tenants and landlords alike. The narrative follows as Arleen, and other tenants, have to choose whether to pay rent or to provide their families with food, water, and clothing. The convergence between soaring monthly rents and expendable income creates the choice between necessities, ultimately deteriorating living conditions for tenants. The opposing perspective of the landlords illuminates the privilege of real estate ownership and the for-profit exploitation inherent to the profession.



Desmond suggests that eviction is not a product of poverty, but rather a cause. His findings demonstrate the disruptiveness of housing instability in all aspects of a person's life and expose landlords and their profiting from poverty.

Read more about the book and Desmond's thoughts at <https://www.evictedbook.com/>.

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## Tribute to Cindy Lindquist

In honor of Cindy's passion, dedication, and kindness, we would like to share the words of her friends and colleagues here in the League. If you know Cindy and would like to show her your appreciation as well, we welcome you to write to [office@lwvddanecounty.org](mailto:office@lwvddanecounty.org) and we will pass your kind words along.

**I always looked forward to calling or emailing the office because Cindy was so helpful. It was a pleasure to work with her, and she will definitely be missed! —Gail Krc**

Cindy is a uniquely talented and truly special person: warm, gracious, highly competent, and generous. I've been lucky to call her a colleague and friend. —Marian Matthews



Cindy Lindquist

**I am seldom at a loss for words. But paying tribute to Cindy Lindquist is one of those times when words seem inadequate. Cindy is relentlessly positive, level-headed, a patient teacher, a supportive colleague and friend, and an innovative thinker, always looking for a more efficient way to accomplish our tasks and goals. She took us through many transitions—of location, of technology, of leadership, and the big transition from in-person activities to the world of Zoom. Her passion for equality, social justice, and voting rights came through in her extraordinary commitment to her work with us. Imagine all that unleashed on a grandbaby! Watch out, world — Lindquist 3.0 is about to be released! Best wishes in your new life as a grandmother! —*Brook Soltvedt***

Cindy has been a master of organizing and that was needed in the process of two moves during her time with LWVDC. She set up two offices with entirely different configurations and always seemed to know just where to find whatever anyone was looking for. Whenever I saw her, she always had a smile and a good word. She made me feel like she was happy to see me and everyone else who came into the office. Keeping the office going from home during the worst time of the pandemic and during the continuing stresses of lockdowns is a huge benefit of her time with LWVDC. Thanks to both Cindy and Paul. —*Helen Horn*

**I consider myself a new member to the league, but for me, personally, Cindy has been the face of the League. I joined in 2017 and Cindy was just SO welcoming. Her skills with technology were very timely for the League, but it is her people skills that are going to be hard to replace! She was a "connector," with the ability to invite people to work together on tasks. Even in this time of COVID she fashioned connections among the members. She's amazing! —*Margaret Fuguitt***

Cindy is the backbone of LWV Dane County, she keeps everything going. The League would not be able to make democracy accessible for so many without her knowledge and support. She's an incredible resource of all things LWV and tech related and one of the most generous and truly kind people to work alongside. Laura and I cannot thank her enough for her guidance and encouragement. —*Bonnie Chang & Laura Grueneberg*

**Cindy has always been the friendly voice when I walked into the office or on the office phone. She has been quick to respond to all emails and always seems to know the answer to any of my questions – she's an encyclopedia of knowledge about all things LWVDC. Thanks, Cindy, for your work, your friendship. You are wished all the best. —*Sue Fulks***

Congratulations to Cindy on her retirement! She is a wonderful human being, and I am blessed to have had the privilege of working with her during her time at the League. She was a great office manager, always welcoming and very resourceful! No matter the task, she always found a way to assist. We could always count on her to be in the office Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 pm. Cindy is a gem, and I'm going to miss her! I congratulate her and hope she enjoys her new role as grandmother! —*Earnestine Moss*

**Cindy did her best to support the various activities of the League, by making it easier for all of us volunteers to do our tasks well. She provided invaluable technical support and advice; cheerfully helped us find, order, and organize office supplies; kept track of our members' skills and responsibilities; and calmly handled a jam-packed schedule. We are so fortunate that Cindy was our staff during this period of rapid growth in membership and projects. —*Kathleen Fullin***

Cindy and Paul will be so missed! Cindy always had good judgment and great follow-through. It's our loss, but every new grandmother I know is on cloud nine! Send photos! —*Marjorie Schuett*

**Cindy did an amazing job with membership renewal letters in 2020. She typically had a crew of volunteers who came to the office to collate and stuff envelopes for mailing. With severe quarantine restrictions due to COVID, Cindy was faced with preparing more than 500 multipage renewal letters all by herself working from home—and she never once complained about the monumental task. As Membership co-chairs, Mary Ellen Schmit and I were extremely grateful that Cindy accomplished the job on time. —Sally Gleason**

Cindy has been a joy to work with, always positive and helpful. In summer 2020, I was looking for the "stop light" document, the one with red and green buttons. Cindy knew exactly what I meant: she found it, modified, and reformatted it for the poster I needed. —*Gail Bliss*

**As our only staff member for nearly three years, and despite the challenges of our sometimes-complex organization and an unexpected global health crisis, Cindy helped keep the League running smoothly and did it with patience, skill, efficiency, and heart and we are very grateful. I learned so much from her in just a few short months and will miss her creativity, thoughtful opinions, and friendly ear. — Wendy Hathaway**

Cindy took the initiative to reach out to new members, 50-year members, and past non-renewed members always organizing ways to invite them to participate. She was the ultimate connector, drawing people and resources in to advance the mission of making democracy work. A few examples of this work that will live on include the Centennial Book and Valentine's Day Party 2020, LWV floor banner, office move into a beautiful productive space, LWV button/pins spread far and wide, annual member survey improvements, mentoring in technology competency of volunteers, and so much more. —*Mary Ellen Schmit*

Cindy has always been patient and kind to volunteers and the public. No matter how many things she needed to get done, she was always willing to help board members and others through the technology maze. The League is a stronger and wiser organization because of her contributions! —*Marilyn Stephen*

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

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## New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in November and December 2021. An [updated member directory](#) is available on our website. If you have forgotten the password, there is a link to contact the webmaster for help.

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

Laura Croft  
Jeanne Grist  
Lauren Hermann

Frances Ingebritson  
Kara Kneafsey  
Kristin Meyer

Lori Wilson  
Meg Wise

# Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these supporters who donated in November and December.

## General Donations

Christopher Alfeld  
Julie Allen  
Mary Anglim  
Renee Bauer  
Marty Fox & Catherine Briggs  
Mary Ann Brow  
Suzanne & Paul Buckner  
Joan Burns  
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Gail Shea  
Kathy Shurts  
Anna Siferd  
Suzanne Smith  
Sherie & Paul Sondel  
Lawrence Sromovsky  
Andrew Stevens  
Corinne Stoddard  
Edith Sullivan  
Sarah & Mark Sundquist  
Ruth Sybers  
Judi Taylor  
Lindsey Thomas  
Carol Toussaint  
Janet Van Vleck  
Laura Vogel  
Dan Walker  
Joan Wallace  
Julia Weiser  
Sharon Brainerd Whitney  
Sandra Williams / Esrael &  
Peter Williams

## Discussion Units

Many League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of each forum, using the resource/study 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 are in Madison unless otherwise noted). Find a unit meeting that's convenient for you and participate! Details below.

**Currently, each discussion unit decides whether to meet virtually or in person. If you are planning to attend a meeting for the first time, please contact the unit leader ahead of time. [Consult the calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information about specific meetings. Discussion Units will meet in February.**

**Unit: Prairie Ridge** (*This group is open only to Prairie Ridge residents at this time.*)

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

**Location:** Perennial Learning Center, Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, 5565 Tancho Dr.

**Leaders:** [Dorothy Wheeler](#) (608) 630-5163

**Unit: West / Middleton**

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

**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom

**Leader:** [Ralph Petersen](#) (608) 831-3267, [Helen Horn](#), and [Gloria Meyer](#) (608) 288-8160

**Unit: Central West**

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

**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom

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

**Unit: Northeast Side**

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

**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom

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

**Unit: Downtown Dinner**

**Time:** 5:15 p.m., third Wednesday of the month

**Location:** Virtual, via Zoom

**Leader:** [Ingrid Rothe](#) (608) 556-3174

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## Upcoming Events

Feb. 9	LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Voter Service Steering Committee, 4 p.m.
Feb. 21	Membership Committee Meeting, 12 p.m.
Mar. 16	Depolarizing from Within workshop, 6 p.m.

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## 2022 Elections

Apr. 5	Spring Election
Aug. 9	Fall Partisan Primary
Nov. 8	Fall General election

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