

*The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.*  
**2010 CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD RECIPIENT**

**❧ Clare McArdle ❧**

Since 2005, our 85th Anniversary, the League of Women Voters of Dane County Board of Directors has presented this award to local League members whose contributions to the League and to their community exemplify the values and leadership of our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt. Now at our 90th Anniversary, the League is very proud to be able to give this award to Clare McArdle, who joined the Marquette Unit in 1968 and now attends the Downtown Dinner Unit.

How to begin to describe this League and Community leader? Perhaps the best way is through the statements of others who have worked closely with Clare for many years.

“When Clare was first on the board, she volunteered to chair, at the local level, an important and challenging national study, “Making Democracy Work.”  
Diane Martin, LWVDC President, 1996-1998 and 2006-2007.

“As President of LWVDC Clare was a rock, steadfast when there were challenges. She had great faith in the League and its members and was firm in her belief that we would pull together. With patience and good humor she guided us through a difficult time. And she was right about LWVDC. We emerged with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. She absolutely deserves this award.”  
Suzanne Smith, LWVDC board member, 1998-2004, and bulletin editor.

“I remember her as always being there for League, always volunteering.”  
Janice Baldwin, LWVDC board member, 1998-2003 and secretary of the board.

“I could not have had a better mentor than Clare when I was elected, first as President-elect, and then as President. I especially admired her personal, caring attention to all aspects of League, especially to the women and men who make the League what it is.”  
Carol Kiemel, President, 2004-2006

“Clare was on the state board and the Legislative Committee when I joined the state League staff. She was extremely encouraging and helpful as I got oriented. In particular, Clare has a way of seeing the essence of an issue through the clutter of details, and explaining it so others can see it too. Clare has been a tireless advocate for Mental Health Parity, and her efforts came to fruition when Governor Doyle signed into law the Wisconsin Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity Act on April 29, 2010. It is an honor to work with Clare McArdle.”

Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

“Clare’s license plate says HARMONY and that exemplifies one of her great strengths of working well with people to accomplish a task. Her service on the state League board was full of examples of her willingness to work well with others, whether as chair of the Legislative Committee or as a member of other committees. I would like to join in congratulating her on this well-deserved honor and I regret that I cannot be present when she accepts the award due to out-of-town work commitments.”

Melanie Ramey, LWV-WI President

“I guess I would call her “the Rock of Gibraltar.” She is so steady, steadfast, and loyal. She is very careful to get the job done and is very responsible in anything she does.”

Judy Topitzes, long-time friend and fellow board member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra League.

“She’s a wonderful person. First of all, she’s a very good social worker and a very good teacher. Clare has always been an activist in the community.”

Norma Berkowitz, emeritus assistant clinical professor social work at UW-Madison, where Clare was an instructor and President, Friends of Chernobyl Center, U.S. Clare hosted Ukrainian delegates as a member of this organization.

“She is reliable and wise, and very steady.”

Carrie Bernhardt, founder with Clare and others of Hope House, a place for homeless young mothers and babies while they transition into a permanent location.

“People feel safe with her; she is easy to trust; and among her many strengths is the fact that she is so respectful about listening to what you want. Clare can be counted on to always follow through with professionalism and high integrity. She quickly reaches out to people in need and helps in a way that they feel comfortable and safe.”

Nancy Young, Psychologist who worked with Clare professionally and as a volunteer, for example, for the Disaster Mental Health function of the Red Cross.

Finally, in Clare’s own words, taken from an Isthmus-Community Shares of Wisconsin, Backyard Hero Award feature recognizing outstanding volunteers for their work in our community: “Clare McArdle’s favorite word is “harmony” symbolizing her love of singing in the Madison Symphony Chorus and her passion for social justice.”

It also symbolizes her ability to combine her activism with the joy that her family brings to her life. She is married to Michael, whom they call “a balloonatic” because of his love for ballooning which he shares with Clare, along with their mutual love for music, and of course, for their two children and two grandchildren.

Clare is truly a “woman for all seasons” and an outstanding member of the League and the Community. She exemplifies the leadership that Carrie Chapman Catt unleashed with the founding of the League of Women Voters 90 years ago.

Clare, it is an honor to give this award to you on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Dane County.

Clare’s League and Community Volunteer Contributions --  
exemplifying the values and leadership of our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt

- League member since 1968, serving on several study committees
- League of Women Voters of Dane County Board of Directors with a major focus on civic learning and advocacy, 1996-2004
- President of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, 2002-2004
- Statewide coordinator for the 2000 LWVUS Health Care Initiative
- League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Board of Directors, 2001-2008
- League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Legislative Committee member, at least since 2003; Committee Chair, 2007-2009
- From 1964-1967, clinical social worker at the Wisconsin Diagnostic Center
- Starting in 1972, 28 years as a medical social worker at St Mary’s Hospital
- Beginning in 1980, for nine years, a psychotherapist for Mental Health Services for Women and Families
- In 1991 until her retirement, supervisor and teacher of UW-Madison Social Work students at St. Mary’s Hospital
- Dedicated member of Bethel Lutheran Choir and Madison Symphony Chorus 2008 to present
- Board member and Vice President/Education Chair of the Madison Symphony Orchestra League
- Red Cross local Mental Health worker “on call” for at least seven years and member of the national mental health team deployment after Hurricane Katrina.
- Coordinator, 8 years ago, of the founding of Hope House with other members of Bethel Lutheran Church and Dane County Parent Council. In the past eight years, Hope House has provided services and housing to 65 young mothers and their children. 85% have jobs and

permanent housing as well as new parenting skills, help with financial management and more! Having served on its Board of Directors, Clare is still very involved in day-to-day activities, including programs, personnel and fund raising.

- Traveler to Russia on an international tour with other human services professionals and then supporter of Madison's Friends of Chernobyl, U.S., and host of Ukrainian delegates in her home
- Long-standing member of the Marquette community and worked over 40 years ago on quality of life issues: housing, traffic, school issues
- Board member of Madison Civics Club and co-chair for 2010-2011 program year