



Bulletin

League of Women Voters® of Dane County, Inc.

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December 2019

Come Celebrate our Centennial!	1
Winter Book Group	2
How to Make a Difference	3
Why I Give	3
We Are Moving!	4
Local Campuses Increase Voter Participation!	5
Bipartisan Support for AB 168 / WI Act 48	5
Statement to Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District	6
Recommendation to Fund Independent Police Auditor	7
New Members	8
Contributions	8
Thank You to Volunteers	8
Unit Meetings	9
Upcoming Events	9

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Brook Soltvedt, Vice President

Mary Anglim, Program Director

Christine Clements, Fundraising Director

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Maria Spinozzi, bulletin@lwvdanecounty.org

Come Celebrate our Centennial!

Aileen Nettleton,
president@lwvdanecounty.org

The League of Women Voters of Dane County will celebrate our very own 100 years of “Creating a More Perfect Democracy” at our gala event at the Park Hotel, 5:30 – 10 p.m., on Saturday, March 28. The evening promises to be a memorable event with a social hour, appetizers, dinner, birthday cake, and a

Lively Issues Luncheon

Saturday, January 18, 2019

12:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Our luncheon will be held in the new **Madison College Goodman South Campus**, near the corner of Badger Road and Park Street in Madison. There is ample free and convenient parking as well as nearby bus connections. Students from the Catering Program will prepare our buffet luncheon. **Members will receive a reservation form in the mail in mid-December.** Reservations will also be available online.



Who We Are, What Is Ours: Democracy and Diversity in Native America

Our featured speaker will be **Dee (Denise) Sweet**, poet, environmental activist and First Nations organizer. Ms. Sweet is an [Anishinaabe](#) poet and Professor Emerita at UW-Green Bay, where she taught Humanistic Studies, Creative Writing and First Nations Studies for UW-System. She served as the second Poet Laureate for the state of Wisconsin from 2005 to 2008. [Learn more about her literary achievements here.](#) She currently works with Wisconsin Conservation Voices in the [Native Vote project](#), which seeks to encourage Native American participation in voting.

program featuring Madison's poet laureate Fabu and our keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins. Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins, a past president of the LWVUS and author of the forthcoming book *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, will enlighten us with stories of our past and engage us in addressing challenges of the next century. The program will be followed by music and dancing.

Mark your calendar now to join the festivities. The Centennial Planning Committee, Earnestine Moss, chair, Jan Anderson, Janice Greening, Kathy Krusiec, Cindy Lindquist, Aileen Nettleton, Mary Ellen Schmitt and Brook Soltvedt is excited about this opportunity to recognize our achievements and to look ahead to the next 100 years with League members and community partners and leaders.

Watch for your Centennial Celebration invitation coming to you by mail in January! Our members will receive "early bird" invitations to assure you can make your reservation before invitations are extended to the broader community.

Contact our office administrator, Cindy Lindquist, office@lwvdanecounty.org, if you have questions or if you can assist at the event.

Winter Book Group

Jean Jacobson

The League of Women Voters of Dane County will be offering a winter book group discussion in February. Our book selection is *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*. The author, Carol Anderson, is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Emory University. The book is well researched and very readable. It has certainly been an eye opening read for me, as I confess to having limited knowledge of the forms that voter suppression has taken and continues to take today.

The League is beginning to build a small library of books relevant to our organization. We will have 3-4 copies of this book available for checkout by members if you are unable to obtain a copy at the library.

The particulars of the winter book group discussion are as follows:

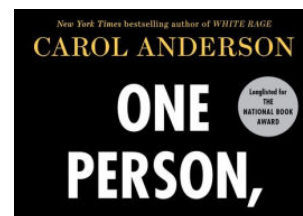
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Fitchburg Library, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

Host: Sally Gleason

RSVP: membership@lwvdanecounty.org



How Voter Suppression Is
Destroying Our Democracy



We hope to be offering a second discussion group in February and will keep you posted.



How to Make a Difference

Linda Dietrich

“Making a difference” is a phrase we often hear this time of year. We’re asked to give our time, our expertise, our energy and also from our pockets. And it all helps to do so much good in this time of change and uncertainty.

But let me share a quick note about how the League of Women Voters of Dane County and its members are *making a difference*. We are actively engaged in:

- providing vision and legal standing in checking voter suppression and money in politics
- expanding voter rights and voter registration
- making diversity, equity and inclusion a fundamental part of its platform
- focusing on climate change as an elemental societal issue
- engaging young voters by creating two student internships within the League and expanding voter services on campus
- continuing to publish and distribute the invaluable *Candidates’ Answers*

Fundraising allows this, and the League’s other critical work, to happen. So, yes, we are hoping that you will help us all “make a difference” this year through a gift. Every donation, regardless of size, makes a difference in achieving these ends.

If you have questions about fundraising activities, would like to be involved or are interested in making a gift, go to www.lwvdanecounty.org/donate or contact our Fundraising Director, [Chris Clements](#).

Why I Give

This is the first in a series of donor profiles developed by League of Women Voters of Dane County’s Fundraising Committee showcasing members who have chosen to fund projects that are meaningful to them. Featured this month is an interview with Emy Gartzke, a League of Women Voters of Dane County member since 1964, a former member of the board and a long-term donor to the League.

When Emy Gartzke was growing up in 1930s-40s Germany, she saw first-hand what it was like to live in a country ruled by a dictatorship, a place where voicing

your opinion could have dire consequences. These lessons helped shape the rest of her life.

Emy came to America in 1951 as a Fulbright Scholar, returning to Europe when her student visa expired. In 1953 Emy came back to the U.S.A., met and married her husband and became an American citizen. Having become a citizen and an eligible voter, Emy joined her local LWV chapter.

“I decided that in order to be a functioning citizen in my new country, I needed to learn how to live in a democracy. That was what the League of Women Voters provided.”

She says she is still inspired by the League’s commitment to providing people with voting information, helping with voter registration and offering a forum for candidates to state their positions on issues.

“That’s what I appreciate about the League, hands on democracy,” she explains.

Emy’s appreciation has taken several forms. In addition to general donations to the League, she also has a very special way of supporting the organization. “I like to give memberships, to encourage people, especially young people and new citizens, to join the League.”

As soon as her children reached voting age she paid for their League memberships. When they got married, their spouses—husbands and wives—also received memberships, as did each of Emy’s five grandchildren, including her grandsons.

“I gave them memberships at Christmas with a little information telling them why I had joined and what I have gotten out of the League. They knew that I was doing it, why I was doing it, and hopefully they got the message.”

For many years, Emy was involved in the Madison Friends of International Students (MFIA). When naturalization ceremonies were held in Madison, Emy offered to pay the League membership fee for MFIA students who wanted one.

Emy says, “An organization needs new members, young members, but also all kinds of members, and it is important for me to know that we help them learn what it means to live in a democracy. That’s why I call it ‘hands on democracy.’”

We Are Moving!

On **Monday, December 16**, our office will be closed so that we can move to our new space in suite 200 of the Quarry Hill Building at 720 Hill Street, in Madison. Watch for news about an open house in the new year.

In October, Flad Development purchased the building where our office is currently located (on Vernon Boulevard). They plan to replace it and the adjacent building with a four-story housing complex. In consideration of our terminating our lease more than a year early, Flad assisted us in finding new space and remodeling it to suit our needs. We are pleased to announce that we will move on December 16 to our new location in Suite 200 at 720 Hill St., behind the Whole Foods store on University Avenue.

The new location offers:

- access by metro bus (University at Shorewood; WB stop 2712, EB stop 2595) on routes 2, 10, 11, 12, 15, 28, 37, 38, 70 and the proposed Bus Rapid Transit route
- convenient three-hour parking in the Whole Foods parking lot
- two designated parking spots on Hill St. that offer access without stairs for volunteers dropping off or picking up supplies, or for anyone who finds stairs a barrier
- more space for meetings
- a designated room for voter service materials
- a five-year lease, renewable for five more

Many thanks to:

- search committee members Christine Clements, Mary Ellen Schmit, Marilyn Stephen, and Donna Van Bogaert
- office administrator Cindy Lindquist for all the planning and legwork to prepare for the move
- Hannah Fisher, executive director, and Amy Schultz, president, of PSR Wisconsin, our subtenant, for cooperating generously as we renegotiated their sublease
- Paul Lindquist, who measured and drew plans at several locations
- Brook Soltvedt, who handled contract negotiations and legal review
- John and Andrew Flad of Flad Development, who worked as excellent partners to provide us with this opportunity
- Quarry Hill Building, our future landlords, who have welcomed us warmly



The front entrance to 720 Hill St. faces the driveway from Hill Street (left) to the parking lot behind Whole Foods (right), where we have three-hour parking. Our suite, suite 200, is one flight up through this front door.



This view of the building is from Hill Street. The driveway to the Whole Foods parking lot is to the right. The two parking spaces straight ahead are reserved for our suite. The walkway to the side of the building provides a barrier-free path directly to our suite for those transporting wheeled carts of materials or who otherwise find the stairs a barrier.

Local Campuses Increase Voter Participation!

Madison College received the 2019 Best in Class Award in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge at the group's biennial awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Madison College's voting rate increased from 12% to 53% from 2014 to 2018.

UW–Madison students achieved the second highest voter turnout among the 14 member institutions of the Big Ten Conference in the 2018 midterm elections. The UW–Madison turnout increased from 36% to 53% from 2014 to 2018.

In 2018 our voter service volunteers reported registering 103 students at Madison College and 3,143 students at the UW–Madison. Working together with our partners, we can make a difference. Thank you all for your dedication and time spent making voting easier and more accessible for students! Please reach out to Paul Lindquist or Marian Matthews at voterservice@lwvdanecounty.org for forthcoming opportunities.

Further reading on this subject can be found at [Madison College honored for student voting rate](#) and [UW has second highest voter turnout in Big Ten](#).

Bipartisan Support for AB 168 / WI Act 48

This letter, written by Shirley Haidinger on behalf of LWVDC, was published in the Wisconsin State Journal on December 6, 2019.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County thanks legislators for their bipartisan support of AB 168, now Wisconsin Act 48. This law ensures that people with disabilities can no longer be denied their right to vote if they are unable to state their name and address when voting at the polls. Instead, a voter who is unable to state their name and address may present their identification to the election official and the election official or another person, selected by the voter, will then state the voter's name and address.

This is an important step toward ensuring the right to vote for persons with disabilities. We hope that legislators, working together, will look at other ways of removing barriers to voting for all our citizens.

We also remind voters who may be indefinitely confined because of physical illness, disability, or infirmities of aging that they can request to vote by Permanent Absentee Ballot. They must be registered at their current address, but they are not required to provide a photo ID. For more information, or to request a Permanent Absentee Ballot, voters can contact their municipal clerk.

Aileen Nettleton
President
League of Women Voters of Dane County

Statement to Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Legislative Committee's Natural Resources group drafted and sent the statement below to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to address concerns about PFAS. LWVDC member Wally Brinkmann, as a member of the state committee, used this statement as the basis for her testimony at the recent MMSD Commission meeting.

Date: November 27, 2019

To: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission
c/o Michael Mucha, Director
Madison Metropolitan Sewer District
1610 Moorland Road
Madison, WI 53713

Delivered via email to Amanda Wegner, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's Communication and Public Affairs Manager, amandaw@madsewer.org

From: League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Re: Sampling and testing for a range of PFAS compounds

Dear MMSD Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is closely following the development of legislation and DNR administrative rules on PFAS. The League supports a science - based process to set statewide standards for ground, surface, and drinking waters and these standards should protect public health. Furthermore, the League strongly believes that any work (research or sampling and testing) on these chemicals needs to be done on a family of PFAS compounds, not just the two best understood.

In a recent League letter of support of the three scoping statements for DNR to begin rulemaking, the League specifically stated that each scope address a class or subclass of PFAS, not just the two best understood PFAS compounds. Of the more than 4,000 PFAS compounds that have been created so far, several have already been identified in Wisconsin. To focus on just two of them would be a serious mistake. Furthermore, a class or subclass approach is consistent with field data that shows that PFAS exists in the environment as a mixture of widely varying combinations and ratios. A class approach is also necessitated by the fact that manufacturers and other parties refuse to disclose PFAS product content and composition, arguing that such information is proprietary.

The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District can play a positive leadership role by sampling and testing for a range of PFAS compounds in the incoming sewage waste streams, facility processes, sludge lagoon and Metrogro spreading program.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Recommendation to Fund Independent Police Auditor

LWV Dane County members Kathleen Fullin and Mary Anglim have been observing the meetings of the Police Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee on behalf of the LWVDC. This letter, written by Fullin, was sent to the City of Madison Common Council to request the restoration of the central recommendation of the committee in the budget. The council voted to include the item to support the police auditor in the final budget. Thanks to Kathleen Fullin and Mary Anglim for their vigilance.

November 11, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Dane County urges the members of the Common Council to defeat the amendment to the 2020 City budget which would delete funding for the police auditor.

Deleting the funding would reject the central recommendation of the Police Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee forwarded the independent monitor recommendation to the Mayor and Council in early August, before their report was completely finalized, because this recommendation “is so critical, both in its own right and to ensure successful implementation of all the other recommendations the Committee is making. . .”

The Committee met for nearly four years to examine the MPD’s policies and procedures and recommend changes. In addition, the President’s Work Group on Police and Community relations met for about seven months in 2016/2017 to develop lawful orders requiring certain policy changes.

These committees were established in the wake of multi-million dollar settlements resulting from shooting deaths in 2012, 2014, and 2015. Other incidents of concern in 2016 and 2019 involved residents experiencing mental health crises.

The League applauds the city for its willingness to establish these very important temporary committees, but it is clear that an **ongoing** structure is needed to ensure that our police policies and procedures are consistent with our community’s values.

Without an effective monitoring and oversight structure, how will we know whether our police are in fact living up to their own ideals and implementing the policy changes agreed upon? We understand that there are costs involved, but there are costs involved with continuing as we have in the past.

Madison’s insurance company will consider our settlement history in determining our premiums. Our underrepresented communities and advocacy groups will question whether Madison is serious about living up to our commitment to policing that appropriately deals with people of color and those experiencing mental health and drug crises. And all our residents need to have confidence that when they call the police for help, our police will respond in the professional, restrained, and helpful manner that the police and our community both want.

To summarize, the League of Women Voters supports the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendation fund a police auditor to ensure that our police policies and procedures are consistent with our community’s values.

New Members

We welcome these new members who joined us in October and November. 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.

Satiya Buell
Constance Clune
Joseph Downs
Katy Duren
Cindy Haro
Susan Jennik

Betsy Laswell
Richard Lovell
Candace Moody
Mark Moody
Pam Palmer
Colleen Schmit

Helen Stone
Joan Unrein
Katherine Watson
Bonnie Webber
Dorothy Whiting
Joel Wurf

Contributions

Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these members (bold) and nonmember supporters who donated in October and November.

Candidates' Answers

Joanne Plunkett

General or Other Donations

Anonymous
Susan Bohlman
Constance Clune
Jean Espenshade

Andrea Kaminski
Michael Kane
Joan Schuette
Brook Soltvedt

Janet Van Vleck
Patricia Watson
Julia Weiser
David Whitcomb

Thank You to Volunteers

Thank you to the following members who volunteered in the office in October and November.

Jan Anderson
Eileen Hanneman

Susan Sweet

If you are **looking for a small holiday gift** for the person who has everything, consider a **woman suffrage ornament** from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Visit the Wisconsin Historical Museum on the Square, or order [online](#).

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Unit Meetings

Pat Kippert, Unit Coordinator, pkippert@yahoo.com

*The next unit meetings will be held in
March.*

UW Campus

Oakwood West

Prairie Ridge

Northeast Side

West / Middleton

Downtown Dinner

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Jan. 8 | Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m. |
| Jan 18 | Lively Issues Luncheon, 12:15 p.m. |
| Feb. 1 | Unlocking the Vote Program, Madison College South,
10:00-noon |
| Feb. 10 | Winter Book Group, 1:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 12 | Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 14 | Open House at new Quarry Hills office- LWVUS 100 Birthday |
| Feb. 16 | Climate Change Forum, E.D. Locke Library in McFarland, 1 p.m. |
| Mar. 28 | Centennial Gala at Park Hotel, 5:30 p.m. |
| Jun. 12-13 | LWVWI Annual Meeting in Appleton, WI |
| Jun. 25-28 | LWVUS 2020 Convention in Washington, D.C. |

2020 Elections

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 18 | Spring Primary |
| Apr. 7 | Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary |
| Aug. 11 | Partisan Primary |
| Nov. 3 | General Election |

