

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.
2013 CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD RECIPIENT

 **Laura Chern** 

Laura joined LWVDC about 2002 because she was tired of the negative campaign ads on TV. Instead of tearing each other apart, she thought the candidates should debate the issues. Laura was familiar with *Candidates' Answers* [CA] and thought it was a great way for people to learn about the candidates and issues. After joining, Laura volunteered to proofread and pull inserts. Shortly afterward she became the Volunteer Coordinator for CA. Her duties have involved calling and scheduling volunteers for proofreading, pulling and bundling inserts from 1000 *Isthmuses* on the day of publication, and then, one week later, processing 500 more. Laura also arranges for the distribution and bulk-mailing of the CAs.

But Laura has not just been effective in scheduling volunteers, she has also pitched in, proofreading, pulling inserts, distributing and bulk-mailing the CAs herself. She has rethought CA-distribution patterns to make them more efficient. She has written pieces for the *Bulletin* and LWVDC's *Annual Reports* about the CA volunteers. In one election season Laura gathered background information for each school referendum covered by CA, improving the content of CA noticeably. Recently she has been co-chairing the LWVDC committee with Priscilla Thain to draft candidate questions for CA.

Laura is active in the community in other ways. She has been the treasurer for the Parent Teacher Group in her children's school and a Booster Club representative for women's golf. Next year she will coordinate speakers for the East High United Parent Teacher Group.

Laura has been a Hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 22 years in the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater. One of her most fulfilling projects is coordinating groundwater workshops for teachers. She is active in the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Water Resources Association.

Sometimes at noon you can find her singing in the Capitol with the Solidarity Singers.

LWVDC is fortunate to have Laura's energy and efficiency working on our behalf.