September, 2013

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Presidents’ Message

Kathy Fullin, fullin@execpc.com, 238-9465
Ingrid Rothe, irothe@ssc.wisc.edu, 256-8124

The League is trying something new this year: Co-Presidents. Kathy Fullin and Ingrid Rothe have agreed to serve together, with Ingrid having primary responsibility while Kathy is in Tucson during the winter.

Kathy served on the Board in the late 70’s as Vice-President for Action. Ingrid worked with the League in the 1970’s on a variety of topics, including marital property reform, child care, work place and wage equality and education equity when she worked at the Wisconsin Women’s Network. More recently Kathy focused her attention on voter registration efforts and contributed to the League’s on-line publication Dane County Government. Ingrid and Kathy worked together in the 1990’s at the State Bureau of Child Support. Ingrid later moved to the UW Institute for Research on Poverty as a researcher looking at issues related to poverty.

This is a year of significant change for the Dane County League. Our long-time Office Administrator Sara Markham retired at the end of June. Our new Office Administrator Elaine Sinagra found our office severely affected over the summer by reconstruction of Marshall Court. Our current office building is in the process of being sold to the Ronald McDonald House; by spring we anticipate looking for a new office location.

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Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Social Hour with Refreshments 6:00 pm
Issues Forum 7:00 pm

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Wisconsin
Jon Peacock, Research Director
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Lisa Olson, Director of Policy & Programs
WI Primary Health Care Association
The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)
Some of the projects currently under way include:

- Working with Membership Chair Steve Ploeser to improve our processes for retaining current members and seeking renewals from former members.
- Working with past State League President Carol Toussaint on outreach to foundations and corporations to fund printing of Candidates’ Answers.
- Working with Fundraising Chair Pat Kippert on a project to contact former contributors.
- Working with the Financial Advisory Committee to move investments from a couple of underperforming funds. League also consolidated our holdings into two, rather than four, different fund groups to simplify the oversight of the funds.

Kathy and Ingrid look forward to hearing from you on your ideas for engaging our members in meaningful projects and keeping our organization strong.

**Thanks Sara - Welcome Elaine**

The LWVDC says ‘thank you’ to Sara Markham. Our long-time Office Administrator Sara Markham retired at the end of June. Sara very thoughtfully gave us months of notice so that we could conduct a thorough hiring process. We will miss Sara’s organized and timely completion of her tasks with dedication and equanimity.

We are delighted to have found someone we believe will handle the Office Administrator job in an efficient and pleasant manner. Elaine Sinagra joined the office on June 17, with an orientation by Sara to our office policies and procedures. Elaine will work Monday – Thursday mornings.

Elaine moved to Madison after working for 13 years as a senior paralegal in the Appellate Defenders Office in San Diego. In Madison, she has been an active volunteer at her child’s schools and with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Sustain Dane. Recently she has done some work as a paralegal with local attorneys.

**Summer Board Highlights**

The LWVDC Board has met several times since our April forum. The Board has been discussing a number of issues, including updates to the LWVDC Policies and Procedures which were last updated in 1991! The Board has also been discussing the pending move from our current office, funding for the printing of Candidates’ Answers, how to maintain and strengthen our membership, the annual budget and the LWVWI annual meeting.

**Join a Unit Meeting**

*Steve Ploeser, Membership Chair*

Members: Consider joining a discussion unit. This is where much of the League action takes place. It will give you the opportunity to voice your opinions, learn what your fellow League members think, and make new friends. Topics are based on the previous general meeting. Times and venues vary considerably - some include having a meal, some do not. There is a meeting to accommodate almost everyone’s schedule. Go to our website for more information: www.lwvdanecounty.org/content/discussion-units. Then come join in the action!

**Thanks for Your Support**

*Pat Kippert, Fundraising Chair*

The 2013 May Member Challenge has been recorded.

Seed donation: $2,000 (2 anonymous donors)
Member response: $2,070 (24 donors)
Total contributions: **$4,070**

I earnestly thank you foresighted and dedicated members! Your steadfast loyalty to our League is so essential to our success. I cannot overstate the importance of your contribution!
May Member Challenge
Between April 15 and June 30, 2013, the following members submitted donations to LWVDC in response to the May Member Challenge. We thank you.

Anonymous two challengers
Mary Anglim
Mary Bean (in honor of Cynthia Benevenga and Mary Ann Halvorson)
Sybil Better
Fran Bicknell
Gail Bliss
Isabell Buffat
Cheryl Daniels
Jean Espenshade
Mary Fulton
Hathaway Hasler
Helen Horn
Nancy Jensen
Kathy and Doug Johnson
Andrea Kaminski
Lois Kiggens
Merilyn Kupperberg
Barbara Lee
Pam Rewey
Ingrid Rothe
Virginia Sample
Rose Sime
Brook Soltvedt
Margaret Stine
Edith Sullivan
Carol Toussaint
Patricia Watson

We have also gratefully received other member contributions:
Fran Bicknell, in honor and memory of fifty-year member Mary Ann Halvorson
Carol Kiemel, in “honor of Sara Markham who gave her heart and soul as well as professional skill to supporting ‘how many?’”
Merilyn Kupperberg, in honor and memory of former member Sheila Chaffee and fifty-year member Mary Page
Patricia D. Watkins, in honor and memory of fifty-year member Mary Ann Halvorson
Finally, a bequest from the estate of former LWVDC member Nancy Scott arrived in the LWVDC office in May.

In Memoriam
Over the summer, long-time League members Betty Batson, Cynthia Benevenga, Sheila Chaffee, and Mary Page passed away.

Betty Batson was active in the 70's and 80's, serving on a committee on aging in the 1980's. She worked on the League's comprehensive booklet of Dane County Social Services, leading to an unusual FOUR year study and consensus.

Sheila Chaffee was active at both the state and local levels, serving on the State League Legislative Committee in the 1980's. Sheila served on the LWVDC Board in the 1970s, especially notable in the years we studied making and understanding municipal budgets - which resulted in Sheila training several Dane County Town officials on how to make and read their own budgets!

Mary Page served on the Board as Treasurer during the 70's and 80's, and also served on the Budget Committee and International Relations Committees in the 1980's. She not only annually organized the League's IR group in 1980's but continued to be part of their studying International Relations Current Issues for another nearly 20 years and until recently attended our monthly General Meetings/Public Forums at Capitol Lakes.

Cynthia Benevenga was extremely active in the 1980's. She served as Treasurer of the League in 1985/86. She served on the Budget Committee from 1983 to 1988, chairing the committee in 1984/85. From 1986 through 1988 she was a member of the Financial Advisory Committee, and participated in the Agriculture Study in 1987/1988. Cynthia was President from 1988-1990. Over the years she remained very helpful to Sara Markham, whom she hired as Office Administrator in 1989. Cynthia was also LWVWI treasurer and set up the financial accounting systems at the State League and served as LWVWI Budget Committee chair for the past many years. The budget going to the LWVWI Annual Meeting this year was led by Cynthia. Cynthia was a 50-year League member and a Carrie Chapman Catt awardee.

Thanks to those who have honored these members by donating to the Memorial Fund in their memories.
September Social Hour

If you would like to contribute refreshments for the Social Hour on September 11, that would be much appreciated. Please contact Kathy Johnson at kjohnson44@ameritech.net.

Keep Us In The Loop

If any of your contact information changes (address, email, phone), let us know so that we can update our records. We want to keep in contact with you! Please call (608-232-9447) or email (lwvdc@chorus.net) the office.

Receive LWVWI News Online

Brief, informative emails are sent approximately weekly by the League of Women Voters Wisconsin (LWVWI). Topics include legislative highlights, updates on the League's Voter ID legal actions, and key policy initiatives. Each email has an unsubscribe option at the bottom, so you can easily get off the list at any point.

It is very easy to subscribe. Just go to the State League website at www.lwvwi.org and fill in your name and email at the bottom of their home page.

Upcoming Events Calendar

- August 27 – LWVDC Board Meeting, 9:30 am, LWVDC office
- September 11 – Social and Issues Forum: Implementing the Affordable Care Act in Wisconsin, Jon Peacock and Lisa Olson
- September 18 – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1 pm
- October 2 – Issues Forum
- November 6 – Issues Forum
- January – Lively Issues (TBD)
- February 5 – Issues Forum
- March 5 – Issues Forum
- April 2 – Issues Forum
- May 2 – Annual Meeting

September Unit Locations

League members meet monthly in one of five units to discuss the topic of that month’s Issues Forum, using 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. Find a meeting that is convenient for you and participate! Please let the host know that you plan to attend.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

Monday Evening West - 5:30 pm
Noodles Restaurant, 3600 University Ave.
Merilyn Kupferberg, 831-3267, joelmerkup@gmail.com
Barbara Mortensen, 233-7563, morten21@att.net

Middleton - 7:00 pm
Gardd Parc Condos, #221
6767 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive
Park behind the building; walk through the courtyard to lobby; ring buzzer to #221, if the inside door is not open.
Diane de Vos, 836-0070, djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

Tuesday Afternoon - 12:45 pm
Oakwood West, Oaks A-4
Parking on grounds or in P1 Heritage Oaks Parking Ramp
Marie McCabe, 230-3536, mmccabe4805@gmail.com

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Northeastside - 3:30 pm
Lakeview Public Library
2845 N. Sherman St.,
Helen LeRoy, recording, 244-2377, haleroy@wisc.edu
Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711, dorothywheeler@tds.net

Downtown Dinner Group - 5:30 pm
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
Restaurant “The Seasons”
333 West Main St. - Free parking across street
Sally Phelps, 251-4834, phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578, priscillathain@gmail.com

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