President’s Message

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

Since we were founded in 1920, after securing the right to vote for women, the League has worked to enhance access to the vote for all eligible voters. Efforts to impede this fundamental right continue unabated, and so the League must continue to be vigilant on many fronts: opposing efforts to make voting more difficult; helping potential voters to register; encouraging voters to go to the polls; improving the election process; and educating voters about the issues and candidates.

The Dane County League has worked diligently on many aspects of protecting and engaging voters, and we plan to continue these efforts in the coming year. We will be conducting extensive voter registration efforts, including at farmers’ markets, food pantries, on campuses, and at other venues where we expect to find concentrations of potentially unregistered voters. We are looking for a student intern to help us organize registration drives on the UW campus. We will continue our work with Richard Matland, Professor at Loyola University, Chicago, to study how voter turnout can be improved, including (assuming we find funding) special mailings to voters and reminders to vote.

We will participate with other Wisconsin Leagues in the efforts to improve our decennial redistricting process and reject attempts to make voting more difficult. We will examine alternatives for responding to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United to overturn limits for spending in elections.

The mission of the League remains as important as ever. To accomplish all these things, we need the continued contributions of time and financial resources by our current members, and the fresh energies of new members. You can help by volunteering your time and by recruiting one new member. Thank you for all you do!

Wednesday, October 2, 2013
Issues Forum 7:00 pm

What has Citizens United Done to our Political System, and Can It be Repaired?

George Penn (Outreach Committee Chairperson and retired nuclear engineer)

Mike Olneck (Professor Emeritus of Educational Policy Studies and Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison and former Co-Chair of South Central Wisconsin Move To Amend)

Additional Panel Members: Ruth Ann Berkholz and Val Murphy
The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization” ☞
Welcome New Members!

We are always happy to have new members join our league. Take the opportunity to welcome these new members into our league.

Barbara Kashian-Snow (transferring from Ames, IA)
Jennie Larson
Cathryn Hatle
Gail Krc
Sharon Nash
Melissa Keyes

October Forum Panel Members

We will have a panel discussion at our October forum, following the presentation by the two speakers listed on the front of this bulletin. The other two panelists will be Ruth Ann Berkholtz and Val Murphy.

Ruth Ann Berkholtz has been volunteering with SCWMTA since January 2010. She is a clinical social worker who has practiced psychotherapy in Madison for almost 40 years.

Val Murphy is a member of SCWMTA and a Speech Language Pathologist. She was a lead organizer of the All About Citizens United forum which was co-produced by SCWMTA and Oregon Area Progressives.

September Forum Well-Attended

Katie Mulligan

Kathy Fullin, LWVDC Co-President, told an overflow crowd at Capitol Lakes Grand Hall on September 11 that “Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Wisconsin” was the “most popular topic ever.” She also announced a new LWVDC effort to help educate members of the general public about ACA and how to apply for insurance.

Jon Peacock, Research Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, offered a big picture look at components of the ACA and the problems it was designed to address. A higher percentage of the population in Wisconsin is insured than in the nation as a whole.

However, 555,000 Wisconsin residents lack insurance, and the percentage of insured Wisconsinites has declined from approximately 80 percent to 65 percent during the last decade.

Open enrollment via the Health Insurance Marketplace (HIM) begins October 1 and coverage takes effect January 1. The ACA has already addressed some long-standing problems with the health care system. Children can no longer be denied insurance coverage because of pre-existing conditions. Lifetime limits on amounts of coverage have been eliminated. Coverage cannot be rescinded because of “honest mistakes” in application. Other changes will occur beginning January 1.

Lisa Olson, Director of Policy and Programs of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, described challenges implementation of the ACA presents. According to Enroll America polling, 78 percent of the uninsured do not know about the HIMs. Governor Walker declined to establish an HIM for Wisconsin, leaving implementation to the federal government. Therefore the state is receiving very limited funds for marketing and outreach. The federal government will spend about $.46 per Wisconsin resident, the lowest per-capita spending rate in the U.S.

The good news is that Olson’s organization and others are moving aggressively to develop networks of organizations and volunteers to help with outreach and dissemination of materials. They have prepared simple messages that can be used to educate the uninsured about benefits of enrollment and how they can go about it.

Gail Bliss, LWVDC Chair of Voter Services, enlisted 38 volunteers at the forum who offered to combine voter registration with ACA outreach at sites such as the Farmer’s Market and food pantries.

The study materials offer excellent information about how the HIM will function and what insurance programs must offer. A good place to start enrollment is www.healthcare.gov.

The handouts from the forum are on the LWVDC website, lwvdanecounty.org, on the 2013-2014 Speakers and Study Materials page.
Voter Registration Opportunities

Gail Bliss, Voter Service Chair

Voter registration is dovetailing with providing information about signing up for health insurance at the new Affordable Care Act (ACA, also called Obamacare) Marketplace this fall. We will be staffing the Downtown and Hill Farms Farmer’s markets, as well as scheduling volunteer shifts at the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Fish Hatchery Road, and the Dane County Job Center on Aberg Avenue.

If you want to be involved, or would like to coordinate efforts at another site to reach uninsured people we could use your help. Information was provided about the ACA at our September meeting.

We hope to have a special registration deputy (SRD) and someone able to answer basic questions about the health insurance marketplace program available during each shift.

The current sites and contacts are listed below:

**St Vincent Food Pantry**
Karen Faster, 244-2324, karen@ohioavenue.com

**Aberg Job Center**
Aileen Nettleton, 238-6053, AANett@sbcglobal.net

**Capitol Square Farmers Market**
Gail Bliss, gail3511@gmail.com

**Hill Farms Farmers Mkt**
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578, priscillathain@gmail.com

If you aren't already certified as an SRD for the 2013-14 biennium, there are a number of ways to proceed:

- We could schedule additional training through LWVDC if there is demand
- The Madison City Clerk's office has online training at:
  www.cityofmadison.com/election/deputyRegistration/index.cfm. Choose the "Special Registration Deputy training video." You may need to download the most current version of Silverlight from the Silverlight website in order to view this video: www.microsoft.com/silverlight.
  After taking the training, mail the form to the City Clerk and the office will send you your SRD card.

Once you have one SRD card, many local clerks will accept that training and issue you an SRD card for their municipality.

For the Record

Two Letters to the Editor, drafted by LWVWI and submitted by our co-presidents, were printed in the Wisconsin State Journal last month.

Published on August 8, 2013:

The U.S. Supreme Court recently issued a decision that gutted key components of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The decision in the case of Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting and opened the door for a wave of attacks on voters.

While Attorney General Eric Holder has announced the Department of Justice will work to protect voting rights under the remaining sections of the act, only action from Congress can fix the court’s mistake.

Several states have rushed to implement discriminatory anti-voter laws, including states where the League of Women Voters had previously succeeded in blocking voter restrictions.

Without a strong Voting Rights Act, our ability to fight anti-voter legislation and keep our elections free, fair and accessible is weakened.

Congress must move swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the act. The Shelby decision is a call to action if you believe all Americans should have fair and equal access to the ballot. Ask your representatives to repair the Voting Rights Act before any more damage is done.

-- Kathleen C. Fullin and Ingrid E. Rothe, co-presidents, League of Women Voters of Dane County

Published on August 25, 2013:

The League of Women Voters of Dane County applauds last Sunday's State Journal editorial calling for hearings on how redistricting is done. We need a system where citizens get to choose their elected officials -- not where elected officials get to choose their constituents.
The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has been in favor of an independent commission or agency for redistricting for many years. We actively lobbied for it in 1990.

We need to return power to the public so we can have a truer democracy. We need a state Legislature that accurately reflects the will of the people. Unfortunately that reflection has been skewed by partisan gerrymandering for many years.

We hope the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate hold hearings on the current bill that has been introduced. We also hope to see additional co-sponsors. That would show that those legislators know who they are working for -- their constituents, not their political party.

-- Kathleen C. Fullin and Ingrid E. Rothe, co-presidents, League of Women Voters of Dane County

Fundraising - Member Renewals
Pat Kippert, Fundraising Chair

What a treat to read the membership renewal report of September 12, 2013! One hundred fifty-four LWVDC members submitted the $75.00 dues. Another sixteen lifetime members joined in with their donations to the organization at this time. The end result is $4060.00 contributed to keep our Chapter running and successful in the coming year. Thank you!

Contributions
Between July 1 and September 9, the following contributions were received. Thank you!

Helen Horn (in honor of Cynthia Benevenga, Mary Page, Mary Ann Halvorson and Sheila Chaffee)
Libby Livermore (in honor of Cynthia Benevenga)
Marie S. McCabe (in honor of Mary Page)
Katherine Ahern
Mary Anglim
Sylvia Armstrong Poppelbaum
Helen Baldwin
Mary Bean
Lois Bernbeck
Sybil Better
Frances Bicknell
June Weisberger Blanchard

Barbara Lee
Nancy Lersch
Patricia Levin
Caroline Liedtke
Susan Lloyd
Elizabeth Magnuson
Sara Markham
Gloria Meyer
Marianne Meyer

Helen Bruner
Joan Burns
Sally H. Carpenter
Laura Chern
Victoria Cothroll
Cheryl Daniels
Irene Durbak
Harriet Gorski
Arneita Halle
Shirley S. Inhorn
Betsy Jensen
Nancy Jensen
Barbara Kashian-Snow
Jesse Kehres
Carol Kiemel
Patricia Kippert
Kathy Kuntz
Merilyn Kupferberg
Dr. Margaret S. Lacy
Annita Lardy
Florence Lederman

Maria Katsaros Molzahn
Ann Nelson
Sally Phelps
Claire Rider
Beth Ross
Lois Sater
Marilyn Schten
Joan Schuette
Arlene Silveira
Rose Sime
Suzanne A. Smith
Deborah Ann Speckmann
Ramona (Mon) J. Steele
Priscilla Thain
Carol Toussaint
Constance Threinen
Georgene Vitense
Yvonne M. Vitense
Patricia Watkins
Dorothy Wheeler

Memorial Fund
Sally Carpenter

Every once in a while it is good to remind League members that we have a Memorial Fund that the League treats as an endowment. Bequests and donations given in memory of a deceased member are added to the Fund. The treasurer is allowed to use 4.5% of the corpus of the fund each year if needed to balance the operating budget.

For many years, an annual withdrawal from the Fund was not needed, thanks to Eleanor Barschall’s generous bequest. Since her bequest did not specify Memorial Fund or operating expenses, the Board voted to divide it with half going to the Memorial Fund and half into a money market account to subsidize operating expenses. However, we have now spent down that money market account to a level where we cannot sustain continued withdrawals to meet our operating deficit of approximately $10,000 annually.

We encourage members to include a bequest to the LWV-DC Memorial Fund in their wills to put the League on a stable financial footing. We would like the Fund to grow to the point that periodic withdrawals could cover our operating deficit while leaving the body of the Fund intact.

Thank you to the many members who donated this year in memory of deceased members Betty Batson, Mary Ann Halvorson, Cynthia Benevenga, Mary Page, and Sheila Chaffee. Those donations have been
deposited in the Memorial Fund to be invested in one of our mutual funds.

Donations to LWV-DC which are not specified “Memorial Fund” are deposited in the checking account and used for operating expenses in the year in which they are received. This, of course, is much needed and appreciated. The local league is now a 501(c)(3) organization, meaning all donations are tax deductible for the donor.

Donations to LWV-Ed Fund go to the LWV-US and have to be applied for by the local league treasurer, creating additional work. This used to be the only way to make a tax-deductible donation before the local league became a 501 (c)(3) organization. Because of the additional work and the loss of interest, this is no longer recommended.

In addition to financial contributions, the League needs and values the many hours of time our members volunteer to keep our activities going. Your time, energy and insight are what keep the League a vibrant organization. Thank you to all of you!

Meet Your Board Member

Mary Conroy is the LWVDC Treasurer. She has been active in the league for approximately 4 years and was also treasurer about 10 years ago.

Mary was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services for many years, initially with the Child Adolescent Program at Mendota Mental Health Institute and later with the Bureau of Mental Health in planning, program development and grant management.

Following retirement, she completed an associate degree in recreation at Madison College. Mary currently works as a fitness instructor for Madison School and Community Recreation in the older adult program and in the fitness center at Madison College.

Thank You, Volunteers!

The following volunteers helped to get the September bulletin in the mail.

Lois Bernbeck   Eileen Hanneman
Melissa Keyes   Patricia Levin
Sally Phelps    Edith Sullivan

Joanie Kanter assisted with the bulletin layout.

Thank you all!

October 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, OCTOBER 14, 2013

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

Middleton - 7:00 pm
Garrd Parc Condos
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, OCTOBER 15, 2013

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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
Renew by November 1st

To be included in the Member Directory, be sure to renew by November 1. Thank you to all the members who have already renewed.

Keep Us in the Loop

If 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.

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

- October 2 – Issues Forum (Citizens United)
- October 5 – LWVWI Annual Issues Briefing
- October 16 – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1 pm
- November 6 – Issues Forum
- November 20 – LWVDC Board Meeting, 1 pm
- January – Lively Issues (TBD)
- February 5 – Issues Forum
- March 5 – Issues Forum
- April 2 – Issues Forum
- May – Annual Meeting