March 6, 7:00 pm

No More Food Deserts, No More Hunger:
Remaking Our Local Food System so Everyone Can Eat Healthy

Speakers:
Carrie Edgar, Department Head, Dane County, UW-Extension and Community Food Systems Educator
Kyle R. Richmond, Dane County Board Supervisor, District 4
Jeff Maurer, Owner, Fresh Madison Market and Founder, Freshmobile Initiative

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)

Calendar
April 10 – 7:00 pm
Supporting Youth Programs Issues Forum
Capitol Lakes Grand Hall
May 8 – 7:00 pm
Annual Meeting
Capitol Lakes Grand Hall

Promoting Judicial Independence
Contemporary arguments about the best method for selecting judges can be traced back to 17th century England, according to Joseph A. Ranney, trial attorney and historian.
Ranney offered a historical perspective about Wisconsin’s decision in 1848 to elect their supreme court judges to the audience at the February Issues Forum.
That decision was challenged by the Wisconsin State Journal in 2008, following controversies over supreme court judicial campaigns in 2007 and 2008. The State Journal argued that merit selection would yield “the best qualified judges and…do so in an impartial manner.” The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel has also editorialized in favor of a change in method of selection.
Ranney pointed out that current debate echoes arguments made in the 19th century. Critics of the elective system argued that judges would decide cases on popular sentiment, rather than upholding established principles of law. Those critics (cont. page 2)
Judicial Independence (cont.)
also questioned the ability of voters to evaluate judicial merit.
Proponents of using election as a method of selection argued that any method of selection could produce a sense of obligation by the judge. It is preferable that the obligation be to the voters rather than to those who appointed him or her.

There has been a “marked change in tone in decisions during the last decade,” said Ranney. They have become “personal and vitriolic,” and are violating the unwritten rule that disagreements should be about issues.

Bill Lueders, Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, focused specifically on recent controversies about recusal.

He pointed out that 11 state supreme courts adopted new rules about recusal after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a West Virginia justice needed to recuse himself in a case involving a major contributor to his campaign.

The LWVWI and others asked the state supreme court to consider its recusal rules as a result of the ruling. The court amended its rules to state that a campaign endorsement or contribution does not in itself require judicial recusal. The new rule was written by two of the state’s leading business groups, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Wisconsin Realtors Association.

In 2010, a committee of the Joint Legislative Council heard testimony about bills to create an objective recusal standard, but nothing was changed.

Lueders said that Wisconsin is one of only five states that has not adopted language from the American Bar Association’s Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

More about the State Supreme Court Election
LWVDC has posted “Candidates’ Answers” from all three candidates for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

Candidates responded to four questions: What in your professional background qualifies you for elective office? What criteria would you use to determine if the Supreme Court should hear a case? What standards should exist for a Supreme Court Justice to recuse him/herself from a case? What procedural or legislative changes might improve the operation of the Supreme Court?

You can find their answers at www.lwvdanecounty.org/content/wisconsin-supreme-court-justice.

Meg McLane Award for Advocacy
Each year the award acknowledges one member’s exceptional record as a citizen advocate through the League of Women Voters and/or other organizations. The nominee must be a League member in Wisconsin.

Submission deadline is February 28. The award will be given at the LWVWI Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, June 8.

Nominations must be submitted using an online nomination form: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BP5LPTH.

Six items of information are requested. Among them are:

- What has the nominee done to deserve this recognition?
- Roughly how many years has the nominee been involved in advocacy?
- Has the nominee received other awards or recognition?
Valentine’s Day Appeal

LWVDC Fundraising Chair Pat Kippert authored an appeal to members for a donation to commemorate the League’s 93rd Birthday on February 14, 2013.

Here are some highlights of her letter:

Wouldn’t it be wonderful, she wrote, if this year 100 percent of the membership could make a donation? Just think what we could do if every member made a Birthday/Valentine gift, in whatever amount each member could afford. Last year’s donors provided:

- 20 percent of the employee benefits paid out;
- OR 35 percent of the office rent;
- OR 50 percent of the cost of printing, publications (includes Candidates’ Answers) and postage;
- OR 90 percent of the cost of insurance and miscellaneous expenses.

Thirty-eight (15 percent of membership) of you contributed $3,211 to the request to honor the 2012 Valentine’s Day Birthday of the League.

You can make an online donation at [www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org) or send a check or money order to LWVDC at 2712 Marshall Court, Suite 2, Madison, WI 53705.

Turn to page 4 for a list of donors who have already contributed to the 2013 appeal.

Did You Join the LWV in 1962-63?

In preparation for the LWVDC’s Annual Meeting on May 8, we would like to know if you joined the League 50 years ago, so we can celebrate your many years of dedicated membership in a brief ceremony.

Please call or e-mail the office at 232-9447, lwvdc@chorus.net, by April 5, with the notification of your 50-year status. We will follow up with a short interview form for you to complete. Your responses will be printed in a commemorative booklet to be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Short Takes

The LWV-WI has asked local leagues to hold discussions about several existing policy positions with the aim of reaffirming or revising them. Questions and survey forms about methods of judicial selection were made available at the February forum on Judicial Independence. Future topics include: natural resources, gun control, and redistricting.

LWV-WI issued a report about the findings of the voter observer program in the 2012 Presidential Election. Approximately 40 members of the LWVDC served as observers.

According to the report, “The key takeaway from the 2012 Presidential Election is that most polling sites across the state correctly and efficiently administered a high turnout election….3,071,434 Wisconsin citizens voted in this election, more than 70 percent of the voting age population.”

Jay Heck, executive director of Common Cause in Wisconsin, announced work on new legislation to reform the state’s redistricting process. Heck spoke about problems with the current process at the Lively Issues Forum in January. More information about the reform is available at [www.commoncausewisconsin.org](http://www.commoncausewisconsin.org).
Unit Meetings

League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of that month’s forum. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Find a meeting that is convenient for you and let the host or unit leader know you plan to attend.

Monday, March 18, 2013

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

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm
Jean Freese, 6225 Mineral Point Rd., #D76
230-3540; jeanfreese7@gmail.com
Marie McCabe, 230-3536; mmccabe4805@gmail.com

TUESDAY EVENING WEST 5:30 pm
Noodles Restaurant, University Ave.
Barbara Mortensen, 233-7563; morten21@att.net

Wednesday, March 20, 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
Meet Sally Phelps in the Main Street Lobby
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center
333 West Main St.—Free Parking across street
Sally Phelps, 251-4834
phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578
priscillathain@gamail.com

Donors

As of February 14, 37 members contributed a total of $2388 in response to the Valentine’s Day request. Most designated their donations to be used “as needed” with two members designating Candidates’ Answers and two members designating the LWVDC Voter ID Project. We thank you.

Margaret Amlie
Mary Anglim
Fran Bicknell
Beverly Davison
Irene Durbak
Joann Elder
Barbara Fulton
Peggy Glassford
Arneita Halle
Reta Harring
Hatheway Hasler
Shirley Inhorn
Nancy Jensen
Miriam Kerndt
Pat Kippert
Margaret Lacy
Clare McArdle
Marie McCabe
Ann Nelson
Ann Nettleton
Mary and Steve Ploeser
Sylvia Poppelbaum
Claire Rider
Beth Ross
Alyson Schmeisser
Lynn Schten
Rose Sime
Margaret Stine
Edith Sullivan
Priscilla Thain
Carol Toussaint
Sandi and Tom Vandervest
Barbara Voltz
Pat Watson
Dorothy Wheeler