April 3, 2013: 7:00 p.m.

It Takes a Village:

Why Community Involvement in our Schools is Critical

Nichelle Nichols
Chief Academic Officer, Boys & Girls Club of Dane County

Deedra Atkinson
Senior Vice President for Community Impact and Marketing
United Way of Dane County

Enis Ragland
Former Co-Chair of the Madison Schools for Hope Leadership Team

Tim Culver
Superintendent of the Sun Prairie Area School District

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

Annual Meeting
May 8, 2013
6:30 p.m., Social Gathering/Desserts
7:00 p.m. Business Meeting
8:00 p.m., Evening Program
Capitol Lakes Grand Hall

President’s Message…Donna Norton,vwn837skip@aol.com
I’m delighted to announce that the LWVDC board has approved an outstanding group of candidates for service on the 2013-2014 board. The candidates will be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval by the membership. On a trial basis, we are recommending co-presidents for the 2013-14 term of office.

Executive Committee
Co-presidents: Kathy Fullin and Ingrid Rothe
Vice-president: Sybil Better
Secretary: Barbara Mortensen
Treasurer: Mary Conroy

Board of Directors
Gail Bliss: Voter Services
Kathy Johnson: Program
Lois Kiggens: Publicity
Pat Kippert: Fundraising
Steve Ploeser: Membership
(103a)

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President’s Message (cont.)
I want to thank a very dedicated Nominating Committee. They were: Diane Adams (chair), Mary Bean, Kathy Johnson, and Priscilla Thain. I served as an ex officio member. They worked very, very hard and we owe them a huge debt of thanks.

Office Administrator Position Open
Gail Bliss, Chair of Personnel Committee…gail3511@gmail.com
Our wonderful Sara Markham is retiring in June. We will be advertising for a new Office Administrator. The job entails working 15 hours a week, with occasional busier periods. The starting hourly rate will be $15-$17.

The Office Administrator maintains membership and donation records, coordinates production of Candidates’ Answers, facilitates newsletter production, processes bulk mail, answers questions and refers citizens to members and other sources, maintains office equipment and files and is an important part of what makes LWVDC the organization that it is.

We are looking for someone with excellent oral and written communication skills who is comfortable with multi-tasking and computer/internet applications. A full job description is posted on the website. www.lwvdanecounty.org/

One Woman’s Quest for ID
Gail Bliss, Chair of Voter Services…gail3511@gmail.com
Beverly Winters has worked hard all her life. In 2007 she quit her job with a Chicago social service agency feeding homeless people to care for her aging mother. In 2009 when her mother needed to be in a nursing home, Beverly couldn’t find another job. She moved in with a cousin and kept looking for work. In August 2011 she was robbed at gunpoint. She lost all her ID except her Social Security card, which was at home, as recommended by the S.S. Administration.

Looking for a safer place to live, Beverly moved to Madison to be closer to her boyfriend. Although he works part-time, his salary is not enough to support the couple, so each lives in a single-gender homeless shelter. While homeless, Beverly’s Social Security card was taken. You can’t leave it at home when you are homeless. Without that card, it is impossible to get a job.

Beverly contacted our Birth Certificate Project and worked with one of our volunteers, but with no ID we couldn’t get her a birth certificate by mail order. Her case manager found a way to get it online.

Beverly’s next challenge was that her birth certificate reads “Female Winters” since her parents hadn’t decided on a name. To change that designation to “Winters, Beverly Lynn” requires proof. Beverly got an elementary school record showing her name, birth date and parents’ information.

But DMV requires a Social Security card, marriage license or military discharge form “to prove identity.” Social Security wants a state-issued photo ID to provide a new card. Beverly couldn’t get out of this Catch 22.

I drove her to Social Security, where a worker refused to accept a photocopy of a medical record as ID, gave her a sheet of paper with her SSN on it and sent her to DMV. DMV sent us back to Social Security. Instead we went to Meriter Hospital to get a certified copy of her medical record. It took two days to get the record from an offsite location. Then back to Social Security. They finally accepted the certified copy, and within two weeks Beverly should have a new card. With that, her birth certificate, her school records, and a letter from the Salvation Army stating she is homeless, she should be able to get a WI photo ID through the mail within two weeks.

I spent five hours with Beverly over two days, going to five locations. She told me she had been rejected for two retail jobs because she had no SS card. Beverly had been refused entry to take the GED because she had no picture ID. She said, “It seems once you’re down, the system just doesn’t understand how hard it is to get back up.”
Thanks to our Moderators

Priscilla Thain, Candidates’ Forums
priscillathain@gmail.com

Before each election, the LWVDC receives requests to provide moderators for candidates’ forums for various city, town and village elections in Dane County. The following League members moderated forums in March:

**Pat Levin**: Sunday, March 17, 3 p.m. Shorewood Village: Candidates for two positions on the Board of Trustees; Sponsored by the Shorewood Village Association.

**Ed Reid**: March 18, 7 p.m., at Old School, Mt. Horeb: Candidates for Dane County Circuit Court Judge, sponsored by SW Area Progressives.

**Priscilla Thain**: March 23, 10 a.m – 12 noon: Good Sheppard Church, Raymond Rd.: Candidates for Alder, District 20. Sponsored by four associations in Southwest Madison: Meadowood, Prairie Hills, Maple Prairie, and Greentree.

**Diane Liebert**: March 28, 7 p.m: Perry Town Hall, Perry Township: Candidates for Town Chairman, two Town supervisors, Town clerk and unopposed treasurer.

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Know Your Candidates

This program is co-sponsored by the LWVDC and Madison City Channel. It provides candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves, ask for support, and respond to questions posed by League moderators.

Log onto [www.madisoncitychannel.com](http://www.madisoncitychannel.com) for streaming videos of archived programs. Elections covered include Dane County Board, Madison Common Council and Dane County Circuit Court Judge.

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Short Takes

*From LWVWI*

The LWVWI has asked local Leagues to consider 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 and discussed at LWVDC unit meetings.

The current position supports some form of merit selection. Survey results were split between support for merit selection and election. The LWVWI Judicial Independence Committee is reviewing results from Leagues throughout the state and considering possible actions.

The LWVWI identified areas in the Natural Resources positions that are outdated or addressed inadequately and asked that local Leagues respond by the end of March to an online survey sent in January. The LWVDC Board of Directors referred the state policy statement on Natural Resources to its Land Use Committee for review and comment.

LWVWI positions are available online at [www.lwwi.org](http://www.lwwi.org).

*Progress on Redistricting Reform*

The *Wisconsin State Journal* (2/17) editorialized in favor of the “Iowa Model” for redistricting in which a nonpartisan agency “draws fair maps at little expense.”

An editorial in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (2/4) asked, “Do Wisconsin voters want to choose their representatives or do they want their representatives to choose them?” The editors noted that Republicans won five of Wisconsin’s eight congressional seats in 2012, but overall they captured fewer votes than the Democrats.

Information about recent reform activity 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, April 15, 2013

MIDDLETON, 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, April 16, 2013

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm
Helen Brunner, 6225 Mineral Point Rd., #D91West
230-3642; ervbrunner@aol.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, April 17, 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

DOWN TOWN 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

Donations Continue to Arrive

Since February 15, 2013, the following members have submitted donations to LWVDC in response to the Birthday/Valentine’s Day member appeal. Our Birthday/Valentine donations total $3356, as of March 11, 2013. We thank you.

Cynthia Benevenga
Joan Burns
Laura Chern
Ann Ingolia
Kathy and Doug Johnson
Jesse Kehres
Annrita Lardy
Helen LeRoy
Frankie Lcke
Anne Slaughter Perrote
Pam Rawey
Suzanne Smith

We also received a contribution from new member, Pat Leavenworth. Thanks.
Welcome to LWVDC!

Finally, in response to LWVDC providing a moderator (Pat Levin) for the Shorewood Village Candidates’ Forum on March 17, 2013, the Shorewood Hills Community League made a donation to LWVDC.