President’s Message
Kathy Johnson

Many of our League members are new since I was last very visible and active in the League, but long-term members will hopefully remember me. I have been a League member since 1976, with terms as program chair, president, and state League president in the past. With our need for both a president and vice president this year, I agreed to step in as president. I am looking forward to a more active role, and thank Carol Carstensen and Cheryl Daniels for taking over my former duties with the League (Know Your Candidates and the Education Committee).

Several members joined me in attending the state League convention in May: Cynthia Benevenga, Mary Bean, Carol Dutton, as well as state board members Clare McArdle and Melanie Ramey.

As we begin a new year of League activity, we invite you to be involved in attending general meetings, serving on a committee, reading study materials, and/or helping with voter service activities. Your involvement makes us strong and helps our community as well.

General Meeting and Open House
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

7:00 PM  Looking Ahead to 2020
Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive

8:00 PM  Open house
Renew acquaintances, make new friends, find out how to get involved in studying and taking action on this year’s priorities.

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall
333 West Main Street in Downtown Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)
July Board Highlights

Helen LeRoy, heleroy@wisc.edu, 244-2377

The outgoing and incoming LWDVC Boards met together on July 2.

Treasurer. Levin reported preliminary figures for the end of the fiscal year. The operating fund balance has close to $50,000, though we are running a yearly deficit of about $15,000 due to decreased earnings from investments.

President. Johnson reminded members that the League takes positions on issues, but neither supports nor endorses candidates or political parties. She is representing LWVDC on an ad hoc committee aimed at ensuring accuracy in the 2010 census, which has undercounted Hispanics in the past.

Johnson announced appointments to three committees: Financial and Development (Helen Horn, Pat Levin, Carol Toussaint, Fred Wade, and Tom Vandervest), Nominating (Kathy Johnson, Lois Kiggins, Barbara Mortensen, Earnestine Moss, and Jeannine Ramsey), and Civic Learning and Advocacy (Carol Carstensen, Carol Dutton, Kathy Fullin, Helen LeRoy, Libby Lewis, Clare McArdle, and Priscilla Thain).

Bulletin and Website. Soltvedt reported that there was an extra edition of the Bulletin this spring to announce the challenge grant. The new website is nearly ready to launch. Members with email addresses will be sent usernames and passwords to access members-only information, primarily member profiles. The PayPal feature is being delayed.

Fundraising. Wade reported that 2008–2009 contributions and fundraising totaled $17,800, with $15,700 from members. BratFest brought in $338 from 42 volunteer hours. The challenge grant raised $3,675 including the $1,500 match. Wade emphasized the importance of building membership, and suggested recruiting or soliciting donations from women in leadership positions.

Membership. About 33% of members have renewed. We’re off to a good start!

Public Relations. Meyer reported that the League is partnering with other groups at the Dane County Farmers’ Market to get out information about health care. She announced that the Dane County Grass Roots Network was sponsoring a rally on Saturday, July 25th. The Board voted to sponsor/promote the rally using email. (See related Bulletin article.)

Program. Dutton reported that the General Meeting programs will again be held at the Capitol Lakes Grand Hall. The planning committee decided on the following meetings:

- **September 9**—Kathleen Falk will address Family Care, RTA, and the size of the Dane County Board. A brief presentation about study and action topics follows, with a reception to socialize and explore committees.
- **October**—Regional Transportation Authority.
- **November**—Sheriff Mahoney will discuss alternatives to incarceration.
- **January**—Lively Issues will focus on the state issue of whether Supreme Court justices should be elected or appointed.
- **February**—Health Care
- **March**—Early Voting
- **April**—to be determined
- **May**—Annual meeting

New Business

- Board meetings will usually be held on the second Tuesday of the month.
- The Board voted to contribute $240 toward Earnestine Moss’s attendance at the 100th convention of the NAACP July 11-16.

In Memoriam

This summer saw the passing of three members of our League. JoAnn Lampman, passionate about music, art, and gardens, supported many Madison organizations, including the League. Linda Farley, a family physician, fought tirelessly for universal health care as a human right. With her husband, Gene, also a family physician, she cared for the uninsured in locations as diverse as Dane County, Jamaica, inner-city Denver, and a Navajo reservation in Arizona. Anne Herb was active in the League, served on the Wisconsin Heights School Board, and supported conservation and human rights causes and the arts. We will miss these strong, wise, and devoted members of our League.
League Acts for Healthcare Reform

Gloria Meyer, GKMeyer68@gmail.com, 288-8160

The Dane County League, which supports universal access to healthcare, joined with other groups this summer to promote healthcare reform. **Gloria Meyer** and **Lois Kiggens** volunteered at the June 27 and July 4 Capitol Square Farmers’ Market, asking market-goers to sign letters to their congressional representatives in support of healthcare reform with a strong public option.

More than 2100 letters were collected on June 27. Close to 700 were delivered to each of the offices of Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold the next week. Also delivered at these visits was a CD with personal stories about insurance coverage videotaped at the Farmers’ Market for YouTube. The 500 letters collected July 4 were delivered to Sen. Kohl’s Washington office.

Leaguers **Tom Vandervest** and **Gloria Meyer** were also involved in preparations for a Healthcare for All rally held on July 25. The Dane County League was one of 25 co-sponsors of the rally, which attracted close to 1500 people. Rep. Tammy Baldwin spoke at the rally. More than 500 postcards were signed, collected and delivered to Sen. Kohl’s office.

Media coverage was extensive with all four local television channels running stories.

The Public Option Is Essential to Health Care Reform

Priscilla Thain, 233-5578

“The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it absolutely is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage,” said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson. Calling on Congress and the President not to succumb to the bullying tactics being used by special interest groups, Wilson urged Congress and the President not to waiver in their support of the public option included in H.R. 3200, American’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, recently passed by three House committees. “It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans,” noted Wilson. “We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.”

While the LWVUS supports President Obama’s health care reform package (but only with the public option), the LWVUS long-term position on health care has not changed. The League’s long-standing position has favored universal health care to be provided through a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums, commonly known as the ‘single-payer’ approach (different from the single-payer system in HR3200). When this position was adopted in 1993, League members recognized that it could take several phases before we reached a true single-payer system. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. For economic and political reasons, now is not the time to be able to achieve truly single payer health care reform.

League members are asked to contact their Congressional representatives and urge them to **support HR3200 with the public option**. League members are asked not to lobby members of Congress at this time for a total single-payer system, as it confuses the LWV message.

Further information can be obtained as follows:


The **New York Times Primer on Health Care Reform** is at [http://tinyurl.com/m5tvwc](http://tinyurl.com/m5tvwc) or find it at [http://www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) under their Money and Policy section.

NAACP 100TH Convention

Earnestine Moss, emosse@aol.com, 244-0422

League of Women Voters of Dane County, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support (LWVDC grant of $240 and $440 in individual donations) toward my expenses in attending the 100th convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was an honor and a privilege to be present.

“Big Dreams: Bold Victories,” was the theme. The leadership stressed the need for NAACP branches and units to continue to collaborate with its long-time partners and allies such as the League of Women Voters, the American Civil Liberties Union, and labor unions, in fighting for civil and human rights.

Religious Affairs: Bishop John Richard Bryant, an electrifying and dynamic speaker, challenged the “Black Church” to do more to help advance our communities socially, economically, and politically. He explained that racism and discrimination are alive and well in America—women’s wages still trail those of men and Blacks are still the last hired and first fired. There are higher health disparities, economic disparities, and political disenfranchisement among Blacks than any other group. American colleges produced more black lawyers, doctors, nurses, and professionals 40 years ago than they do today. Bryant called on Black Churches to do more.

“The CHURCH has got to come out of the Sanctuaries and pull up our sleeves and fight,” he said. “Your Praise, if that is all that it is, no longer turns me on.”

Other areas of excitement included six sessions of legal continuing education seminars and the Women in the NAACP (WIN) Empowerment Forum, which focused on how women can take charge of their financial future.

Most Memorable: I was thrilled to be in the same room with living legends and past recipients of the Spingarn medal—the highest award bestowed upon an NAACP member—including Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine, Andrew Jackson Young, Benjamin L. Hooks, Jesse Jackson, Sr., Lawrence Wilder, Colin Powell, Dorothy Height (97 years old), Earl G. Graves, Sr., Vernon E. Jordan, John Lewis, and John Conyers, Jr. I was also impressed with the public youth night, “Not on Our Watch.” Their message was that to get desired change, we must do things differently: learn a foreign language, reach outside our comfort zone to embrace another culture in our community, and/or travel abroad.

Again, thanks to the LWVDC and its members for your commitment to empower others and for your unwavering support.

Community Outreach

Earnestine Moss, emosse@aol.com, 244-0422

Mark your calendars for an exciting day of activities at Elver Park on August 29! This community-sponsored event, Families and Communities United, was organized in response to the violence in some Madison communities. The purpose is to create a “Spirit of One,” so our communities and families will grow with love, peace, and joy. There will be games for children and adults alike, including a basketball tournament for women aged 13 to 60. It is an effort to connect mind, body, and spirit in our daily living and promote healthy intergenerational interactions.

This free event provides an opportunity for the LWVDC to reach this community. We anticipate that many informational and services organizations will be present. Contact me if you are interested in attending this event or being part of the Community Outreach Committee. I am anxious to get started!

Land Use and Transportation

Connie Threinen, threinen@aol.com, 238-5489

Whether you are concerned about access to education and employment, affordable bus fares, controlling sprawl, or reducing greenhouse gasses, transportation issues matter to you. Dane County is about to develop a coordinated transportation system to deal effectively with all such matters. A Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will be the subject of our October programs. Look for more information in the October Bulletin. And put the October 7 General Meeting on your calendar now.
Donations Appreciated

Concluding the 2008–2009 fiscal year

LWVDC gratefully acknowledges these donors who gave in the 2008-2009 fiscal year since our last listing in the April Bulletin. These gifts totaled $2,489.

The Arlene Davenport Estate
DeBardeleben, Helen
Gorski, Harriet
Horn, Helen
Howe, Nancy
Poppelbaum, Sylvia Armstrong
Simmons, Miriam

The May 2009 Challenge Grant Donors

The League also thanks the anonymous member who initiated a May challenge grant, offering to match up to $1500 in member donations. Thanks as well to each of the 27 members below who contributed $2,175 in response to the challenge. Donations for this project totaled $3,675.

Bean, Mary
Better, Sybil
Bicknell, Fran
Bliss, Gail
Carpenter, Sally
de Vos, Diane
Elder, Joann
Fulton, Mary
Halvorson, Mary Ann
Johnson, Kathy and Doug
Kaminski, Andrea
Kehres, Jesse
LeRoy, Helen
Levin, Pat
Lewis, Libby and Phil
Meyer, Gloria
Phelps, Sally
Rewey, Pam
Sime, Rose
Threinen, Connie
Toussaint, Carol
Wade, Fred
Wolens, Sandra

New LWVDaneCounty Website

Brook Soltvedt, soltvedt@tds.net, 274-5184

The new website for the League of Women Voters of Dane County is ready for visitors to explore at www.lwvdanecounty.org. We hope the site will make it more convenient for League members and the public to participate and stay informed about our activities.

League members who have supplied an email address will soon receive an email with instructions for logging in to the members-only areas of the site, where membership profiles can be viewed, updated, and expanded.

The site is a work in progress. Your feedback will be most valuable! Please contact me with your comments and suggestions. What else would you like to see on your League website?

Membership Renewal

Teague Harvey, tbharvey@wisc.edu, 770-0660

Thank you to those who have renewed their LWVDC membership for 2009–2010. If you find a blue dot on your mailing label, please renew now!

Scholarships for a one-year LWVDC membership are available. Contact the League office or Carol Kiemel, 286-1446, ckiemel@sbcglobal.net, to obtain more information, a copy of A Process for Awarding An Eleanor Barschall LWVDC Scholarship Membership, and the Membership Form for you to complete with the new member.

Yes, I want to be a part of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.
[Please remit payment by November 13, 2009, so that your name will appear in the 2009-2010 Member Directory.]

Name: ______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
City: ______________ State: ___ Zip: ____________
Phone: __________ Year Joined LWV: _________
E-Mail: _____________________________________

Please make check payable to:
The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.
2712 Marshall Court, Suite 2, Madison, WI 53705-2282

Membership: [July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010]

☑ Member ______ $70
☑ Second Member ______ $60
[same address, shares mailings with first member]
☑ Special Rate Member ______ $35
[of limited income or a student]
☑ Scholarship Member ______ $0

☑ Member Contribution: [Check your selection]
☑ $1,000 – 500 ☐ $499 – 200 ☐ $199 – 100
☑ $99 – 50 ☐ other ______

Total: ______
September 2009 Unit Locations

League members meet monthly in one of five units to discuss the topic of that month’s General Meeting, 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.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

**Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM**
Elizabeth Lewis
C57, The Oaks, at Oakwood West
6225 Mineral Point Rd.
*Unit Leaders:* Jean Freese, 230-3540; giggijchorus.net. Elizabeth Lewis, 230-3101; bettyfaylewis@charter.net

**Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM**
Cristel Gjerde
309 Yosemite Tr.
*Unit Leader:* Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638; crisgjerde@charter.net

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009**

**Northeastside, 3:30 PM**
Lakeview Public Library
2845 N. Sherman Ave.
*Unit Leaders:* Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711; dorothywheeler@charter.net
Mary Bean, 222-5783; marybean@charter.net

**Downtown Dinner, 5:30 PM**
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center Restaurant, “The Seasons,” 333 Main St.
*Unit Leaders:* Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578; priscillathain@gmail.com

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

**Middleton, 7:15 PM**
Middleton Fire Station
7600 University Avenue
*Unit Leader:* Diane de Vos, 836-0070, djdevos@chorus.net

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- **September 8** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **September 9** – General Meeting: *Looking Ahead to 2020* with County Executive Kathleen Falk. Followed by open house and social hour.
- **September 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **October 7** – General Meeting (Land use and transportation)
- **October 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **October 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **November 4** – General Meeting (Criminal justice)
- **November 10** – *Bulletin* deadline
- **November 10** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **November 13** – Deadline to renew membership and be in 2009–2010 Membership Directory
- **December 8** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **January 12** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **January 16** – Lively Issues Luncheon (*Selection of justices to the Wisconsin Supreme Court*)
- **February 3** – General Meeting (Health care)
- **February 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **February 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **March 3** – General Meeting (Early voting)
- **March 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **March 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **April 7** – General Meeting (TBD)
- **April 13** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **May 6** – LWVDC Annual Meeting
- **May 11** – LWVDC Board Meeting