President’s Message
Pam Rewey

The League has been busy with Candidates’ Answers, forums, and the program schedule. Thanks to those of you who have helped in any way. We could not do what we do without our selfless members, who keep League programs moving forward. Professor Canon did an outstanding job presenting the issues surrounding the Popular Vote Compact. The turnout on a cold winter night was exceptional. The decision on supporting the compact will be made by the end of the month.

Our general meetings in March and April will focus on 4-year-old kindergarten and air quality, respectively. The best part of League is keeping current on so many topics. Your Board is also planning the Annual Meeting in May. Please see the schedule in this Bulletin and mark the dates.

The Finance committee and the Nominating committee have been meeting. You’ll get a look at the proposed budget and slate of candidates in March and will have a chance to vote on them at the Annual Meeting in May. It is heartening to have many of you say, “Yes!” when asked to assist the League.

The economy is affecting our budget, but we are not alone. The LWVUS has discontinued the very expensive National Voter, both print and online editions. LWVUS also plans to host a “virtual Council” in June to save expenses. This four-hour telephone conference will allow more people to participate.

Thanks again as we move forward. Much needs to be done.

General Meeting
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten for All Dane County Children: Its Value, Current Status, and Future

Presenters:
Connie Haessly, Principal, Taylor Elementary School, and Co-coordinator, Together 4 KIDS, Monona Grove School District
Deborah Lyons-Zaber, Asst Principal, Maywood Elementary School, and 4-K to Grade 2 Reading Teacher, Monona Grove School District
Wendy Rakower, Executive Director, Red Caboose Day Care Center
Joanna Parker, Executive Director, The Learning Gardens
Dr. Dan Nerad, Superintendent, Madison Metropolitan School District

Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 7 PM
The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall
333 West Main Street in Downtown Madison
Free Parking in Ramp Across the Street
February Board Highlights
Janet Kane, kanefam@tds.net, 831-1845

- **Treasurer Pat Levin** reviewed the current budget and proposed budget for 2009-2010. The value of our memorial fund is down by about one-third. Decreasing memberships over the last five years have reduced current income, while the cost to produce *Candidates’ Answers* was substantial. We expect a current budget shortfall of $12,000.

- The Board discussed ways to improve future budgets, including printing only an on-line Spanish edition of *Candidates’ Answers*, reducing printing and mailing costs by distributing more materials on-line, and increasing membership dues.

- **Fred Wade, Fundraising**, reported on upcoming opportunities. The Valentine’s Day letter has gone out to members. Sign-ups for the Memorial Day Brat Fest are available, the Evjue Foundation grant application will be submitted this month, and the Board discussed ways of soliciting support from the business community. Such appeals may be more effective when presented in person, or followed up by a visit from League members. **Gloria Meyer, Publicity**, will work with Wade to craft an appropriate letter and/or brochure, with an eye to also increasing membership. Wade is looking at other foundation support.

- **President Rewey** led a discussion of the annual report. The proposed budget and slate of nominees for 2009-2010 will be distributed in advance, but the entire report will be prepared for distribution at the meeting, with copies available at the office for those who could not attend.

- **Brook Soltvedt, Bulletin editor**, worked with **Cindy Hoffland, Webmaster**, and **Gloria Meyer, Publicity**, to research options for our new website. After gathering information and evaluating two proposals, they recommended contracting with ThayerNet. The Board approved spending up to $2,000 for hosting/domain fees, basic site setup, and specific features to be negotiated with ThayerNet.

Brat Fest 2009 Is May 22–25
Fred Wade, fred.wade@mtownlaw.com, 957-9927

League volunteers raised more than $450 at the Memorial Day weekend Brat Fest in 2008. It’s time to sign up again! This year we have been asked to sign up directly on the Brat Fest website http://volunteer.bratfest.com using LWVDC for the username and bratfest as the password. Then click on My Group, which lists 2008 LWVDC volunteers. Fill out the Add Volunteer information if your name is not there.

To sign up for specific tasks and shifts, click on **edit volunteer**, next click on the arrow at **Select an Event**, and then click on **Brat Fest 2009** when it appears on the drop-down menu. A **task** box will appear. Click on the arrow and a drop-down menu will list all of the volunteer tasks. Click on one of the tasks open to League members (griller, cashier, cashier runner, or wrapper), and then click on the **Show Shifts** box. Choose a shift by clicking the **Assign Shift** box. Then scroll back to the top of the page and click the **UPDATE** button found under your volunteer information. You will then be assigned both a task and a shift.

Please select your shift or shifts **by March 1, 2009**, when remaining shifts will be opened to new volunteer groups.

Did You Join in 1958-1959?

In preparation for our Annual Meeting on May 6, LWVDC would like to know if you joined the League of Women Voters 50 years ago, so that we can celebrate your many years of dedicated membership in a brief ceremony.

Please call or email the office **by March 23**, 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.

So far, our records show the following members will be ‘inducted’ this year: Ellouise Beatty, Harriet Gorski, May Ann Halvorson, Helen LeRoy, Mary Sample, and Carol Toussaint.
Voters’ Service News

Priscilla Thain, priscillathain@gmail.com, 233-5578

A Big Thank You to Myrna McNatt
Myrna McNatt is stepping down after five years of coordinating voter registration at the Dane County Farmers’ Market. Myrna has been active in the League for many years, serving twice on the Board, once as the Middleton representative, and once as Voters’ Service chair. Myrna has also been involved for 10 years with Adopt-a-Highway. Myrna says she enjoys working with Leaguers and will continue to be involved in League activities.

Retraining to Register Voters
Members are reminded that their certifications for voter registration expired at the end of 2008 and they need to be recertified. The Madison City Clerk offers training at 10 AM and 5 PM on Wednesdays during Open Registration, starting Wednesday, February 25. The Clerk’s office has more information at http://clerk@cityofmadison.com. The Government Accountability Board has mailed applications to all those certified in the past year. Please return these forms and check http://gab.wi.gov for new training sessions.

Moderator Training

The League sends “The Candidate Forum” document to a sponsor of a forum requesting a moderator. Mary Bean reminded the group that the League does not sponsor or arrange forums. The League only provides the moderators, and members should only moderate a forum outside of their home district. An enthusiastic group practiced in a fictitious school board forum.

Our new moderators are: Kay Davis, Helen Horn, Beverly Jambois, and Pat Levin. Continuing moderators are: Mary Bean, Cheryl Furstace Daniels, Joann Elder, Kathy Johnson, Diane Martin, Pam Rewey, Rose Sime, and Mona Steele. Others who have taken the training and who are willing to accompany a moderator to a forum are Diane Larson, Brook Soltvedt, Priscilla Thain, and BarbaraVoltz.

Recent Forums:
January 31: Cottage Grove candidates for Village President and Trustee. Moderator: Mary Bean
February 3: Candidates for Marshall School Board. Moderator: Pam Rewey

Upcoming forums:
March 12, 6:30 PM: Candidates for Stoughton City Council; candidates for Dunkirk and Pleasant Springs Town Chair; and candidates for Dane County Executive, at 321 South 4th Street, Stoughton. Moderator: Beverly Jambois
March 26, evening: Candidates for Marshall Village Board at Marshall Public Library

Requests are still coming in for League moderators for candidate forums. If you wish to attend any of these forums, please confirm the date and time with Priscilla Thain, as details are subject to change.

Candidates’ Answers
Thanks to the following volunteers for helping with the Spring 2009 primary election issue of Candidates’ Answers:

Proofreading: Mary Bean, Fran Bicknell, Bernadette Bruner, Laura Chern, Diane de Vos, Mary Ann Halvorson, Betsy Jensen, Doug Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Miriam Kerndt, Maureen Kind, Helen LeRoy, Joan Lundin, Marie McCabe, Ann Nelson, Donna Paske, Sally Phelps, Sylvia Poppelbaum, Brook Soltvedt, and Priscilla Thain

Pulling Inserts: Laura Chern, Carol Dutton, Irene Durbak, Betsy Jensen, Diane Larson, Sue Moline-Larson, Helen Navarre, and Ann Nelson

Bulk-mailing: Lois Bernbeck and Merilyn Kupferburg

Special thanks to Helen LeRoy for editing the Voter Information section on very short notice, Cindy Hoffland for posting CA on the website, and Sara Markham for keeping everything on track.
Can You Help the League Improve Its Bottom Line?

League members do so much that it’s difficult to ask you once again to serve. Years of declining membership, a difficult economy, and increasing expenses have left our League with repeated annual budget shortfalls. The Dane County League needs to increase its membership and its financial support. Here’s what you can do:

- Invite a friend or neighbor who is not a member to come to a General Meeting or a Unit Discussion, and ask if they’d like to join League.
- Send copies of your Valentine’s Day letter to friends or neighbors who are not members with the suggestion that they consider joining or making a donation. Sara in the League office has extra copies of the letter.
- Give a local friend or family member a gift membership (half-year dues form below).
- Let Sara in the League office know if you’d be willing to visit a local professional or business to share information about the League’s valuable service to the community, and ask for their membership or support.
- Make a generous birthday gift to the League.

The membership application is also on the web. Print a PDF copy from the link on this page. http://www.danenet.org/lwvdc/memberform.html

In Memoriam

Clara Penniman served as President of the local League from 1956 to 1958, and also served on the Board of the State League. She was Professor (and Chair) of the Department of Political Science at the UW, specializing in public finance. Penniman advised governors and founded the Center for the Study of Public Policy and Administration, which became the LaFollette Institute (and later School) of Public Affairs.

Arlene Davenport was also very active in local and national politics through the League. During her long and award-winning career as an undergraduate adviser in the Psychology Department at the UW, she established a number of innovative programs providing undergraduates with opportunities to engage in service and research in psychology.

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Yes, I want to be a part of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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

Half-Year Dues (Jan. 1 to June 30): [Check your selection]

- Member ______ $35
- Second Member ______ $30
  [same address, shares mailings with first member]
- Special Rate Member ______ $17.50
  [of limited income or a student]

Member Contribution: [Check your selection]

- $1,000 – 500
- $499 – 200
- $199 – 100
- $99 – 50
- other ______

Total: ______
March 2009 Unit Locations

Monthly discussion groups, convening in neighborhood homes or in public venues, focus on the monthly program topics addressed at the General Meetings throughout LWVDC’s program year. Please seek out a discussion group that best fits your schedule and location. Welcome!

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

Middleton, 7 PM
Rose Sime, 831-9297; jrsime@chorus.net
6327 Elmwood Ave.
Unit Leader: Diane de Vos, 836-0070, djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009

Tuesday Afternoon, 12:45 PM
Jean Freese, 230-3540, gggj@chorus.net
6225 Mineral Point Rd., D76
Unit Leader: Ann Nelson, 230-3128

Tuesday Evening West, 7:30 PM
Nancy Jensen, 271-7835
6210 Davenport Dr.
Unit Leader: Cristel Gjerde, 833-7638; crisgjerde@charter.net

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 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 W. Main St. (Free parking across the street)
Unit Leaders:
Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578; priscillathain@gmail.com

Upcoming Events
March 4 – General Meeting (Four-year-old kindergarten)
March 9 – LWVDC Board Meeting
March 10 – Bulletin deadline
March 26 – Candidates’ Answers Spring General Election insert in Isthmus
April 1 – General Meeting (Air quality in Dane County)
April 7 – Spring General Election
April 13 – LWVDC Board Meeting
May 6 – LWVDC Annual Meeting

Supplementary Membership Directory Listing

Please add the following members to your LWVDC Membership Directory:

Giordano, Sherri 4532 Crescent Rd. Madison 53711 277-2888
Luttrell, Lesleigh 1906 Kropf Ave. Madison 53704 luttrell@wisc.edu
Silveira, Arlene 5760 Barbara Dr. Fitchburg 53711 516-8981 arlenesilv@aol.com
Wolens, Sandra 1010 Van Buren St. Madison 53711 833-1964

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization” ☑