April, 2012

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Executive Committee:
President – Earnestine Moss
Pres-Elect – Donna Norton
Secretary – Barbara Mortensen
Treasurer – Kathy Johnson
Office Administrator – Sara Markham
Bulletin Editor – Brook Soltvedt

President’s Message

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

Remember to vote in the Presidential Primary and General Elections, on April 3rd. This election is critical. This past year has been filled with all-out assaults on women’s reproductive rights and on the right to vote, in Wisconsin and across the nation. I congratulate the LWV of Wisconsin, the NAACP–Milwaukee Branch, ACLU, and other civil rights organizations for the tenacity shown in the fight to protect and preserve our constitutional right to vote. The courts have declared the Wisconsin Voter ID law unconstitutional, barred its implementation, and denied Attorney General Van Hollen’s request to stay their injunctions pending appeal. League members, thank you for helping to fight the good fight.

April 4, our Monthly Issues Forum will be on Ending Housing Insecurity: Affordable Housing for All. Thank you to Kathy Kuntz, Program Chair, for bringing us another outstanding program.

May 2 is our Annual Meeting. We will vote on the budget, the slate of officers, and program topics, and receive nominations from the floor. We still need a President-Elect and a Fundraising Director. These positions are key to ensuring that LWVDC remains effective and vibrant in the community. If you have leadership or fundraising talents, skills, and abilities, please consider volunteering.

On March 7th we viewed the film Patriocracy, by Brain Malone. The film dealt with issues surrounding hyper-partisan politics. Various suggestions were given, but the film certainly did not provide quick fixes that all could agree on to solve the problem. Initiatives to require shareholder approval for corporate campaign spending were one idea. Of course we know that it is highly unlikely that this would ever happen.

Thank you Sara for your hard work, Board members, and volunteers who delivered the programs and services for the LWVDC. Keep up the good work!

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 7 PM

Ending Housing Insecurity: Affordable Housing for All

Brenda Konkel, Tenant Resource Center
Rob Dicke, Executive Director, Dane County Housing Authority
M Adams, Take Back the Land
Heidi Wegleitner, Chair, People’s Housing Vision

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main Street in Downtown Madison.

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization” ☑
Patriocracy Available

Forty-eight people attended the screening of the documentary Patriocracy, our March issues forum. If you would like to screen it for other groups, it is available at our office. We are obligated to send the film’s director $5 for each person who views the film, and would need members who wish to borrow the DVD to agree to this condition.

Fundraising Update

Gail Bliss, gail3511@gmail.com, 231-3511

Thanks to 36 members who contributed to the Valentine’s Day / League Birthday appeal, we raised $3,119, with $367 specifically for voter ID efforts and Candidates’ Answers.

Vacant Positions

The Nominating Committee is still looking for volunteers to fill the following positions for 2012–2013: President-Elect and Fundraising Director, and someone willing to be trained to serve as our bookkeeper. Please consider offering your time and expertise to keep our organization strong!

Community Outreach

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

On February 27th, I supported the Vera Court Community Center walk, to highlight the need for better lighting on Troy Drive along the area where several shootings have occurred. Gail Bliss and I were again guests on Let’s Go To Church 1670 AM radio, telling people about the need to get a Wisconsin Voter ID, and that the LWVDC could help to get birth certificates at no cost to them.

On March 1st, I launched a joint membership drive for the NAACP and the LWVDC, with Clare McArdle. The 2012 Membership Drive: Campaign for Justice, is being done in collaboration with the AACC throughout five of the seven weeks of Lenten services. On March 1st, we distributed about 50 LWVDC membership applications, and more than 100 pieces of other League

information, which included information about our March 7th screening of the film Patriocracy.

The goal of the membership drive is to get more people involved in the political process through civic organizations, with the hope that it will foster sustained engagement in the upcoming elections. Our aim is to get 100 new members for the NAACP, and at least 25 new members of ethnically diverse backgrounds for the LWVDC by April 1, 2012. NAACP members must be in good standing for at least 180 days prior to the fall election in November, to be eligible to run for elected office in the NAACP, and for 30 days prior to the election, to be eligible to vote in the election. Membership is only $30 for adult and a minimum of $10 for youth. This combined campaign is providing us with an opportunity to educate people about having a choice, when one chooses to engage in voter education, voter registration, and civil rights work.

Community outreach is key to the survival of any organization. If the LWVDC is to reach its potential and become an organization that is reflective of the populations it serves, it has to be more proactive in its outreach to racially diverse groups. The Voter Service projects and issues forums are part of LWVDC branding. However, we must do much more!

Many LWVDC members volunteer to tutor/mentor low income and racially diverse students, and sometimes feel at wits’ end, and don’t know what to do in the relationship. Perhaps it would be beneficial to encourage the child you’re mentoring to join the NAACP by April 1st, and encourage him/her to develop leadership skills with the Youth Council. A youth membership is only $10 (or $15 with a subscription to Crises magazine). If you are a mentor, consider sponsoring a child.

Please encourage a woman, man, boy, girl, or family to join the League or the NAACP. You will be glad you did. Real choice is key in a democracy. Let’s help African American children in Madison and surrounding areas to understand that the League is a natural choice for an adult leader, because we encourage and embrace diversity.

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization”
Update on the Voter ID lawsuit
In the case of League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund v. Walker et al.

“Judgment is rendered declaring 2011 Wisconsin Act 23’s photo ID requirements unconstitutional to the extent they serve as a condition for voting at the polls. Moreover, defendants are permanently enjoined forthwith from any further implementation or enforcement of those provisions.” —Hon. Judge Richard Niess, Dane County Circuit.

Earlier, Dane County Judge David Flanagan granted a temporary injunction barring enforcement of the voter ID law in the April 3 election. This was requested by the Milwaukee Branch of the NAACP and Voces de la Frontera. It indicates that the judge believes their lawsuit has merit, and that eligible citizens could be disenfranchised by the law before the trial on April 16.

Attorney General J.B.Van Hollen filed appeals in both cases, to separate appeals court panels, and requested certification directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

You can learn more about the state League’s challenge to Wisconsin’s Photo Voter ID law on their website, www.LWWWI.org.

Although we are confident that we will prevail in any appeal, we cannot guarantee our success. Should the law be upheld by a higher court, voter ID may again be required. Therefore, we continue to encourage people to obtain voter ID, and will help people to do so until the matter is definitively settled.

Voter Project
Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl reported that 16 provisional ballots were issued in the City of Madison to voters who did not present photo ID on Election Day. An additional 28 voters who qualified for a provisional ballot chose to leave without voting. Overall turnout for the primary was 10.67%. New rules regarding Election Day registration kept 35 people from registering to vote on February 21; 2/3rds were at polling places that primarily serve UW students.

There is no option to cast a provisional ballot without proof of residence when attempting to register on Election Day. The ability of one voter to vouch for the address of a prospective voter has been eliminated. For example, a roommate cannot just say all the utilities are in my name, but we live together. Every person needs an official document such as a utility bill, bank statement, lease, or preprinted paycheck including his or her address. Electronic bills cannot be shown on a computer screen, they must be printed.

College students who have chosen to treat Madison as their legal residence got some good news about this summer’s elections. Even if they are moving from one location to another, they can request absentee ballots for the summer elections and vote based on their spring 2012 address until they have been 28 days at their new Madison address in the fall.

Interest in the voter ID project is growing. I attended a grassroots conference, and have run three training sessions for volunteers to help people with their ID documents so far this year. I will be speaking to a group Monday, April 23, 7:00-8:00 p.m., at the Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenewein Rd. There will be Special Registration Deputy training starting at 6:30. If you want to attend the SRD and/or Voter ID training, please let me know so that we have enough handouts.

High School Voter Registration Drives
All the elections being held this spring have complicated voter registration drives at local high schools. Special Registration Deputies must stop registering voters 20 days before each election. This leaves minimal time for school voter registration drives to register graduating seniors. Students who do not have a driver’s license or learner’s permit should also make time to get to the DMV to get a State ID for voting. DMV allows parents of high school students to vouch for their address, but once 18 and out of school the young person must produce independent verification of their residence. Preprinted paychecks and certified school records are the most common forms of proof of residence for this age group. If interested in helping in the period just after the April 3 election, or for a week after the gubernatorial primary, contact the LWVDC office.
Thank You to Our Donors!

We appreciate receiving contributions since the last Bulletin from many generous people.

Valentine/Birthday contributions have been shared by:

Mary Bean
Ellolise Beatty
Cynthia Benevenga
Franicknelt
Sally Carpenter
Joann Elder
Ariel Ford
Cristel Gjerde
Arneita Halle
Eileen Hanneman
Hatheway Hasler
John Helgeson
Nancy Jensen
Kathy and Doug Johnson

Merilyn Kupiferberg
Margaret S. Lacy
Anrrita Lardy
Barbara Lee
Katie Mulligan
Ann Nelson
Connie Palmer Smalley
Anne Slaughter Perrote
Edwin Reid
Joan L. Schuett
Rose Sime
Carol Toussaint
Phyllis Young

Member donation in memory of Elizabeth “Libby” Lewis: Marie McCabe

Member donation to the LWVDC Scholarship Fund: Mary Ann Halvorson

Nonmember donation for Voter Services: Ilse Hecht

Nonmember donation: Barbara Wagner

Your contributions allow us to continue our important work. We are most grateful!

Great Decisions

Twenty people signed up to discuss the eight subjects chosen by the Foreign Policy Association in their annual Great Decisions discussion series. Thanks to Hatheway Hasler, Kathy Johnson, Katie Mulligan, Dean Connors, Ralph Petersen, Helen Horn, Deborah Speckmann, and Gail Bliss for leading the weekly discussions.

The group plans to meet again next year. Gail Bliss will register people and order books; Deborah Speckmann and Helen Horn have both volunteered to assist with weekly meetings.

*Candidates’ Answers a Team Effort*

Although Sara Markham, our office administrator, is reluctant to take credit for work she is paid to do, everyone involved with Candidates’ Answers (CA) knows that she does a yeoman’s job gathering the information for this publication and ensuring that it is completed on time. Laura Chern organizes the team of volunteers that makes it all happen.

For the Primary Election edition, proofreaders were Mary Anglim, Mary Bean, Laura Chern, Edith First, Shirley Inhorn, Lois Kiggins, Joan Lundin, Brook Soltvedt, and Priscilla Thain.

CA inserts were pulled out of Isthmus by Cynthia Benevenga, Laura Chern, Cristel Gjerde, Doug Johnson, Alice Kissling, Pam Rewey, and Deborah Sellers.

Brook Soltvedt put Candidates’ Answers on our website, and Helen Horn proofread the online edition.

For the spring General Election edition, proofreaders were Edith Sullivan, Priscilla Thain, Mary Anglim, Mary Bean, Cynthia Benevenga, Fran Bicknell, Laura Chern, Irene Durbak, Karen Faster, Edith First, Peggy Glassford, Mary Ann Halvorson, Helen Horn, Doug Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Joyce Knutson, Sara Markham, Clare McArdle, Myrna McNatt, Barbara Mortensen, Earnestine Moss, Aileen Nettleton, Sally Phelps, Pam Rewey, Beth Ross, Suzanne Smith, and Brook Soltvedt. Special thanks to Mary Bean for helping to proofread when someone called in sick with only 30 minutes’ notice.

Volunteers who helped pull inserts: Laura Chern, Irene Durbak, Doug Johnson, Alice Kissling, Sally Carpenter, and Deborah Sellers.

Cristel Gjerde and Pat Watson helped with bulk mailing.

Brook Soltvedt put Candidates’ Answers on our website, and Helen Horn proofread the online edition.

Barbara Karavolas answered phones in the office on Election Day.

For the Spring 2012 elections, 109/155 candidates responded to our questionnaire, a 70% response rate.
April 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, APRIL 16, 2012

MIDDLETON, 7 PM
Community Room, Gardd Parc Condos
6767 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr.
Park behind building; walk through courtyard to lobby;
Ring buzzer to # 221 if inside door is not open
Diane de Vos, 836-0070; djdevos@chorus.net

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm
Oakwood Village Retirement Community
6225 Mineral Point Road, C57
Elizabeth Lewis, 230-3101;
bettyfay1916@gmail.com

TUESDAY EVENING WEST, 5:30 pm
Noodles, 3600 University Avenue
Gloria Meyer, 288-8160; gkmeyer68@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012

NORTHEASTSIDE, 3:30 pm
Lakeview Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.
Mary Bean, 222-5783; marybean@charter.net
Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711; dorothywheeler@charter.net

DOWNTOWN DINNER, 5:30 pm
Capitol Lakes Restaurant “The Seasons”
333 W. Main St. – Free parking across the street
Sally Phelps, 251-4834; phelpssa@charter.net
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578;
priscillathain@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

• April 3 – General election and Presidential primary
• April 4 – Issues Forum Ending Housing Insecurity: Housing for All
• April 5 – Deadline for Bulletin
• April 9 – LWVDC Board Meeting
• May 2 – LWVDC Annual Meeting, Goodman Community Center
• May 14 – LWVDC Board Meeting
• June 1–2 – LWVWI Annual Meeting
• June 18–20 – LWVUS Convention, Wash, DC

Come and Help Us

Deborah Speckmann, 445-3426; daspeckmann@charter.net

Have you seen us? We have been in the courts to ensure that voter disenfranchisement does not occur. We have been helping people obtain the required documents to ensure that they can vote. We have been registering people to ensure that their voting experience will be a positive one. We were at the polls ensuring that everyone was guaranteed their right to vote.

Come and join us. There is still much that needs to be done. We are 226 strong, however your help is still needed to accomplish even more. At this time you or your friend can join us by paying only half-year dues membership. Think of the satisfaction you will receive from helping your fellow Dane County residents. Why leave the sense of satisfaction to 226 of your fellow Dane County residents? Join us!

Highway Cleanup

Spring has come about six weeks early, so thoughts turn to the cleanup of “our” stretch of highway in Middleton. If you are interested in helping this year, please contact Maureen Kind (274-6754, dmkind@sbcglobal.net). Maureen is looking for a date in May when crew members would be available. Please let her know if you prefer a Saturday or a weekday.

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