May, 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

Vacant Positions
The Nominating Committee is looking for a President-Elect and Fundraising Director for 2012-2013, and someone willing to be trained to serve as our bookkeeper. Please consider offering your time and expertise to keep our organization strong!

President’s Message
Earnestine Moss, emosse@aol.com, 244-0422

May 2, 2012, 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 Fundraising Director. Please consider volunteering. The President-Elect will have a year to learn her/his role and will have lot of support from the Board. Both positions are key to League’s continuity and financial sustainability. I give special thanks to Sara Markham, Office Administrator, for her assistance, commitment, and dedication to League, and for her help with the Annual Meeting. Thank you to Gail Bliss for securing the $2,000 May Challenge Grant. We now need to match this grant.

Remember to vote in the recall primary election on May 8th and the recall election June 6th. Please do not be intimidated by the publishing of your signature in the recall petitions. I talked with people contemplating not voting because they fear their vote will become public. Help us to encourage people to vote at every opportunity, and remind them that voting is a Constitutional right that we should never be afraid to exercise.

Happy Mother’s Day (May 13th) to all of the mothers! I hope that you have a wonderful time with your families. For those of you whose mother has departed, I lift you up in prayer, and hope that you are comforted in the beautiful memories of your loved one. I extend condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of Elizabeth W. Lewis, a long-time active and dutiful League member who will be sorely missed.

Our April forum, Ending Housing Insecurity: Affordable Housing for All, was well-attended. Affordable housing is a huge problem in Dane County, and there are no quick fixes. It is important that each of us contact our alder and let him/her know we believe poverty must be addressed as a priority issue in our community. Thank you to Kathy Kuntz, Program Chair, for the outstanding programs that she brought this program year.

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

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Annual Membership Meeting
5:00 PM – Social Gathering
5:30 PM – Business Meeting
6:30 PM – Dinner
7:30 PM – Evening Program: Mary’s School of Dance

The Goodman Community Center
149 Waubesa Street, Madison (Free parking available)
Community Outreach

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

The community outreach efforts for the latter part of March and April consisted of sending weekly announcements to the “Let’s Go To Church” program on 1670 AM radio, regarding League’s monthly program, and distributing League brochures to interested parties.

Community outreach is critical to maintaining visibility in the community, and to recruiting a diverse membership. To maximize our efforts, we need to increase the Committee’s membership. There are plenty of opportunities to connect with various community resources in the area to educate individuals and organizations on the League’s mission and what it has to offer.

If you like interacting with people and would like to help register voters and educate the public on League efforts, please join me at the Juneteenth Celebration on June 16th, at Penn Park (south Madison). We will have a booth with League information, and we will canvass the grounds to register and educate voters about upcoming elections, and current voting procedures. We will also use this as a recruitment opportunity, because this is a cultural event and the attendees are from various backgrounds. Diversity is the key to a strong organization!

If you wish to become a member of the Community Outreach Committee, please contact the League office, or contact me directly by email or phone. There is no answering machine, but I have caller ID and will get back to you.

Thank you.

Remembering Elizabeth W. Lewis

We are sad to report that Elizabeth W. Lewis, an active member of LWV for more than 60 years, died in March. Elizabeth led an active life, cycling, hiking, sailing, playing tennis, and gardening. She was also active in community life, serving as president of the League in LaGrange, Illinois. In retirement she led the unit that met Tuesday afternoons at Oakwood Village. She regularly attended monthly issues forums and was active with environmental issues in Madison. She will be missed.

Fran Bicknell to Be Honored

Longtime (50+ years) League member Fran Bicknell is being honored by the YWCA of Madison as one of its Women of Distinction in 2012. Here is Fran’s biography from the YWCA’s website (www.ywcamadison.org):

In her first 90 years, Fran Bicknell has worked tirelessly and with distinction for justice in housing, education, and disabilities. A respected participant on social service boards and commissions, Fran created and leads organizations fighting for our most vulnerable. She was the first co-chair of Madison Citizens for Fair Housing, a founder of the Portal Foster Center, and a lay author of the Guardianship Reform Act and Mandatory Education Act. She’s led MARC, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, the ARC-Wisconsin, the Autism Society, the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the League of Women Voters. And she’s not done yet!

For information on attending the May 24th luncheon to honor this year’s Women of Distinction (Fabu, who read her poetry at our 2011 Annual Meeting, is also being honored), please visit the YWCA website or call 257-1436, option 2.

$2,000 May Challenge Grant

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

For the fourth year in a row we have a challenge grant to help raise the funds we need to maintain and improve our services. Two generous anonymous donors are offering a total of $2,000 to match your gifts. During the month of May your money goes twice as far! Let’s match every dollar and bring in $4,000 or more for our programs. With an unprecedented number of elections in 2012 and the need to help inform people about the changes in voting rules and polling places, Candidates’ Answers will serve a dual role this year. Funds also support our office, which is essential to our voter service and member service activities. Thanks to our 501(c)(3) status, all donations are deductible. Send a check, bring your checkbook to the Annual Meeting, or donate to the Challenge match online (beginning May 1).
Voter Services

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

High School Student Voter Registration

Thanks to Marian Matthew and Joan Strasbaugh for spearheading voter registration drives at West and Memorial High Schools. (East and LaFollette had registration drives already in place.) At West, Marian has been working with 18-year-old students who became Special Registration Deputies. At Memorial, the school connected us with their Young Dems and Young Republicans groups. Students from these groups have been assisting with registration.

Middleton members have been registering students at Middleton/Cross Plains High School, despite the challenge of working with clerks in six municipalities.

League member Peggy Glassford reports that members in Lake Mills spent two days registering voters in their local high school in April. LWVDC membership in Lake Mills (Jefferson County) has grown from two to eight this year. We are very pleased to be able to support this active group.

Community members in Waunakee contacted the LWVDC office for tips on running a voter registration project in their school.

If you want to work on a high school voter registration drive at a high school near you, there is another open registration period May 9 through May 16. To get started, contact me and call the school to get a contact for the project.

Bus Ads: “What you need to know to vote in Wisconsin”

The Voter ID project is running ads inside Madison Metro buses. We had an ad almost ready to go to print when the injunction was issued against the Voter ID portion of the new voting laws. The ad has been refocused on voter registration, absentee ballots for students returning in the fall, and a continued emphasis on helping those without ID get them, so that they are ready if the court decision is overturned. The ads are part of a project funded by a $5,000 grant from the Evjue Foundation, charitable arm of The Capital Times.

Thank You to Our Donors!

We appreciate receiving contributions to LWVDC from the following members (since the April Bulletin), as of April 23, 2012:

- Annual Meeting:
  - Joan Burns
  - Margaret Lacy
  - Edith Sullivan

- Voter Service:
  - Emy Gartze

- State League Birthday Fund:
  - Claire Rider

- Valentine:
  - Clare McArdle

We are always thrilled to receive donations from nonmembers who show their appreciation for the work we do in our community. We gratefully acknowledge the following nonmember contributions:

- Anonymous, in support of the Voter ID project
- Charles Boardman, in support of Candidates’ Answers
- Nancy Rathke
- Shorewood Hills Community Center, acknowledging Priscilla Thain’s work as moderator of a candidates’ forum

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

Study on TIF

The Middleton unit is embarking on a study of the use of TIF (tax incremental financing) in Dane County. If you are interested in this topic and would like to help with the study, the Middleton unit welcomes your participation. Please contact Unit Leader Diane DeVos (836-0070, djdevos@chorus.net) or Pat Levin (836-1176; smlevin@tds.net).

LWVDC Retreat

Please watch for news this summer about our annual retreat. We welcome your participation!
Highway Cleanup
If you are interested in helping this year, please contact Maureen Kind (274-6754, dmkind@sbcglobal.net).

Calendar of Upcoming Events
- **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