President’s Message

Earnestine Moss

November 2 was Election Day, and the people spoke, drastically changing the state and national political landscape. The large voter turnout in Dane County was encouraging, but the flood of money from corporations had an alarming influence on the campaigning. And we still have a way to go in encouraging minorities and poor people to vote.

Our November issues forum, “How Changing Demographics Are Affecting Dane County Schools and Human Services,” with Lynn Green, Dan Nerad, and Tim Culver, was well attended and generated interesting questions. The panel was challenged to come up with different solutions. Thanks to Gloria Meyer and the Program Committee for a great program, and thanks to all who attended, especially non-League members.

As we gather with friends and family this holiday season, let us remember that our free democracy is truly a blessing. Let us not forget those, including our soldiers, who live in war-torn countries.

Our next program is our Lively Issues luncheon on January 15, 2011. Tammy Baldwin and Terese Berceau are our invited speakers. January 15, 2011, is also Martin Luther King’s birthday, and the LWVDC salutes him and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration Committee. On Sunday, the MLK Breakfast will be held at the Edgewood High School Auditorium. I will attend and seek to register new voters. The official National Holiday Celebration, “Not a Day Off, But A Day of Service,” will be held on Monday, January 17, 2011, at the Capitol Rotunda. I encourage your support of these events.

Remember the Spring Primary Elections on February 15, 2011. Encourage your family members to study the candidates and the issues.

Thank you to Sara, the Board members, and all volunteers who helped in any way to deliver the programs and services for the LWVDC. Keep up the good work!

Lively Issues Luncheon

January 15, 2011

Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Representative, 2nd Dist. (invited)

Terese Berceau, WI Assembly Representative, 76th Dist.

Best Western InnTowner, 2424 University Ave., Madison, free parking

11:30 AM—Social gathering

Noon—Luncheon buffet of soup, salad, and sandwiches

12:30 PM—Speakers
November Board Highlights

Treasurer–Kathy Johnson reported that Pat Levin found inexpensive payroll software for use with small numbers of employees. This will be much cheaper than QuickBooks or hiring a firm to do payroll for us.

Fundraising–Gail Bliss will be taking a grant-writing class to help her write successful grants.

Voter Service–Priscilla Thain noted that she would like to train more moderators for the spring elections.

Program–Donna Norton has scheduled the three spring forums. Tammy Baldwin’s office has the Lively Issues Luncheon “penciled in” on her calendar; Terese Berceau will also be invited.

Old Business–Barbara Mortensen met with the Realtor handling the listing for the Prest building. We were again assured of having several months’ notice before needing to vacate the premises.

New Business–At Barbara Mortensen’s suggestion, two high school students will be League guests at the Lively Issues Luncheon, since this year’s honorees are adults from MATC.

Thanks for Your Support!

We thank League members Emu Gartzke, Earnestine Moss, Monica O’Brien, and Carol Palmer for their contributions to LWVDC since October 13.

The League is extremely grateful to have received a bequest of $5,000 from the estate of Louise R. Fisher. Louise, who became a 50-year member in 2005, was a longtime participant in the Hill Farms discussion unit and an active volunteer in many community organizations in addition to League. Her contribution will allow our League to continue to do its work for years to come.

Borders Gift Wrap Fundraiser

For several years League members have wrapped books at Borders before the holidays to raise funds for League activities and to provide visibility for the League. Again this year Joanne Elder will organize volunteers for this effort. Two members are assigned for each shift. If you are interested in taking on a 2½- to 3-hour shift or two at Borders West, please contact Joanne at 255-0533 or elderj@ssc.wisc.edu. She will coordinate the schedule when Borders tells her when we are assigned to wrap. The gift-wrapping fundraiser has averaged over $600/year.

Great Decisions 2011

Join the International Affairs group within the League for eight weeks of discussions based on the materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) Great Decisions 2011 series. Topics for 2011 include:

- Rebuilding Haiti
- U.S. National Security
- Horn of Africa
- Responding to the Financial Crisis
- Germany Ascendant
- Sanctions and Nonproliferation
- The Caucasus
- Global Governance

The format for discussions includes one group member volunteering to lead each week. The FPA provides a DVD presentation, and each chapter includes discussion questions. If you have a special interest or expertise in any of the topics, please let us know.

We will be meeting at the West Madison Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace from 1 to 3 PM on Thursday afternoons in February and March. Our first meeting will be February 3. The Senior Center is just west of Hilldale Shopping Center. Sawyer Terrace is accessed from Segoe Road (next to the Hilldale post office). On-street parking is free.

Each participant needs a copy of the book, which includes articles on the 8 topics chosen for the series. The book costs $22 this year. Please place your order by December 20, 2010.

Candidates’ Answers Volunteers

Laura Chern, lchern@tds.net

I would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who helped produce Candidates’ Answers for the November 2, 2010, election.


Pulling Inserts: Laura Chern, Irene Durbak, Betsy Jensen, Doug Johnson, Joan Lundin, and Deborah Sellers

Answering phones on Election Day: Fran Bicknell, Barbara Karavolas, Lois Kiggins, and Barbara Mortensen

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization”
Voter Service
Priscilla Thain, 233-5578, priscillathain@gmail.com

Thanks to all who registered voters, moderated forums, answered the phones on Election Day, and worked on Candidates’ Answers. The non-partisan spring 2011 election is coming up soon. A committee will be formed to meet in the middle of December to draft the Candidates’ Answers questions for candidates. Please contact me if you wish to serve on the committee, or if you have suggestions for questions. The questions must be sent to the candidates right after the filing deadline on January 4.

Primary Election: Tuesday, February 15, 2011
General Election: Tuesday, April 5, 2011

The preliminary list of positions up for election includes:
- State Supreme Court (one seat)
- State Court of Appeals, District IV
- Dane County Executive (uncertain)
- Dane County Circuit Court, Branch 2
- Dane County Circuit Court, Branch 9
- Municipal races for mayor, alder, and judge
- School Board seats in 17 districts

Election Traffic on Our Web Site
Brook Soltvedt, soltvedt@tds.net, 274-5184

Through the miracle of modern technology (and a little help from Google Analytics), we know how many people visit our Web site each day. We can also tell whether they come to our site from a link (say, on the City of Madison or Public Library Web site) or from a search engine or by typing in the URL directly. We can tell which pages they visit and how much time is spent on each. We know what browser they use and what sort of connection they use to access the Internet.

For the September 14 primary, we had 1,013 unique visitors to the site from Sept 8–15. Most of the hits were on the 13th (352) and the 14th (488).

For the November 2 election, we had a similar number of visitors (1,123) from Oct 28–Nov 2. Most of the hits were on Nov 1 (441) and Nov 2 (462). A Google search or direct use of our url provided most of our traffic, but we had 54 referrals from thedailypage.com (Isthmus’s Web site), 46 from channel3000.com (Channel 3’s Web site), and 37 from facebook.com (I posted a notice on my page).

If anyone is interested in finding out more about how our site is used, please contact me and I’ll be happy to provide more information.

Giving Thanks for Service and Information
Deborah Speckmann, 444-2965; daspeckmann@charter.net

I started writing this article on Veterans’ Day. Everyone has a story about veterans. Let me tell you mine, and how it relates to LWVDC membership.

I grew up in Milwaukee. My grandfather was a veteran of World War II; he fought on both the Parisian and Italian fronts. His brother was killed in the Invasion of Normandy on or about June 6, 1944.

As a child I was taken to the lakefront to feed the ducks. Right next to the Duck Pond was a Memorial made up of cemetery-like stones dedicated to WWII Veterans, I believe. It is gone now. My great-uncle’s stone was the fifth stone down, fourth stone across.

What does that have to do with LWVDC Membership? Twenty-seven of our 246 members are 50-year members whom we honor. It is through our earliest members that our history was born and is carried forth. It was through our earliest members that we gained the freedoms that we have today. Even though we may not have a national holiday honoring women’s suffrage, we celebrate just the same—our anniversaries and birthdays.

As for information LWVDC members have a wonderful Web site www.lwvdanecounty.org to access. When you first pull it up, you see the information from the last General Meeting, complete with pictures. There are links to news articles about LWVDC. There are segments entitled “Learn More,” which has subgroups about members, voting, who we are, and how to become involved, and “Upcoming Events” and “Participate”. If you still cannot find what you are looking for, there is a “Search” mechanism.

The Web site can help the public and new members learn about our League, and also keeps current members informed about recent and upcoming events because our Webmaster, Brook Soltvedt, is constantly updating it. If you haven’t visited the Web site, give it a look!

Community Outreach
Earnestine Moss

October and November were busy. October efforts to build a Go-Vote Coalition with Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Inc. (DST) and the Urban League of Greater Madison (ULGM) were not solidified, but we decided to keep working toward the February primary.

I attended two programs at Eagle to help get out the vote. At the Eagle Heights monthly meeting on
10/20, I gave a presentation on LWVDC and spoke about the importance of voting. I provided copies of the LWVDC brochure and LWWW Voters Guide at that meeting and at the Eagle Heights International Day celebration on 10/23, where I manned a booth.

On 10/29 I attended the Allied–Dunn’s Marsh Community neighborhood meeting and meal on 10/29. I gave a brief presentation about LWVDC and highlighted voting issues such as caging and voter intimidation that have been brought to our attention by the Government Accountability Board. I informed them that we are a voter service organization, and I said we look forward to working with them in the future.

On 11/7, I attended a Veteran’s Day Celebration at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, where Chaplin Michael McCoy, President, Military Chaplin Association, USA, was the keynote speaker. Wil Williams, a local highly decorated Vietnam Vet, also spoke. After the program, I talked with Chaplin Michael McCoy about his involvement in other organizations such as the NAACP, and how to get clergy more engaged on social and political fronts. It was clear from his message that even in the US Armed Forces, specific efforts are made to recruit chaplains of color. We agreed to stay in touch.

On 11/12, Kathy Johnson and I met with an International delegation sponsored by the US State Department at an event hosted by the state League. There we engaged in discussion about public policy, voting, and other political issues in the US and compared them to the systems in their countries.

December/January Unit Locations
Only the Northeastside unit meets in December and January. Other units resume regular meetings in February.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010
NORTEASTSIDE, 3:30 pm
Social gathering
Margy Walker, 34 Cherokee Circle, 242-4411

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011
NORTEASTSIDE, 3:30 pm
Pat Kippert, 837-5932
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 Retirement Center 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
• January 10 – Deadline for Bulletin and study materials
• January 10 – LWVDC Board Meeting
• January 15 – Lively Issues Luncheon with Tammy Baldwin (invited) and Terese Berceau
• February 2 – Issues Forum Community Outreach
• February 10 – Deadline for Bulletin and study materials
• February 14 – LWVDC Board Meeting
• February 15 – Spring Primary Election
• March 2 – Issues Forum Charter Schools
• March 10 – Deadline for Bulletin and study materials
• March 14 – LWVDC Board Meeting
• April 5 – Nonpartisan Spring Election
• April 6 – Issues Forum Land Use
• April 10 – Deadline for Bulletin
• April 11 – LWVDC Board Meeting
• May 4 – LWVDC Annual Meeting (tentative)
• May 9 – LWVDC Board Meeting

For Sale: LWVDC Office Location
The Prest building, where LWVDC has its office suite, is officially for sale. We welcome any information or assistance from League members and friends who might help us find centrally located, affordable, comparable office space should the building change ownership. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to be on a committee to search for a new space, please contact Barbara Mortensen at 233-7563 or morten21@att.net. Thank you!

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization”
Yes, I want to renew my membership in the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.!
OR
Yes, my friend wants to join us in the League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.!

If you haven’t already renewed your membership, OR if you have a friend who would like to join, take advantage of the Special Half-Year Dues Rate for the remaining fiscal year, January 1 – June 30, 2011!

Name: _______________________________________
Address: _____________________________________
City: ______________ State: __ Zip: __________
Phone: ___________ Year Joined LWV: __________
E-Mail: ______________________________________

Membership: [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]
☐ Scholarship Member ______ $0

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

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

Total: _____