President’s Message

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

As you know, all Wisconsin Leagues are seeking to become a 501(c)(3) organization. This process requires that each League make changes to its current by-laws. The LWVDC Board has approved the changes advised by League legal counsel. However, the changes (posted on our Web site now and coming by mail next month) need member approval at the Annual Meeting. If you need clarification, please contact me or the state League (lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org or 256-0827).

February has been politically charged, with Governor Scott Walker’s budget repair bill’s proposals to strip public workers of their bargaining rights, make union membership more difficult, and change how Medicaid and Badgercare are operated. In response, huge protests have erupted all across the state, converging on the State Capitol. Democracy in action! LWVDC supports public workers and their right to bargain for benefits, to ensure livable wages for all working families. If you haven’t done so, please contact Governor Walker and your legislators. Ask them to stop the assault on collective bargaining.

February also brought inclement weather that forced us to reschedule our monthly forum on Community Outreach. We hope you will also join us on March 2 for our forum on Charter Schools.

April 5, is the Spring Election. Please encourage every eligible voter to vote. Politics is local, and voting is critical to ensuring that we elect the best candidates to serve in city, county, and state government. Armed with our Candidates’ Answers Voter Guide, let’s help make democracy work!

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

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March Issues Forum

Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 7:00 PM

Charter Schools:
Current Status; Prospects for the Future

Margaret McMurray, Charter Schools Consultant
School Management Services, Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction

Julie Mead, Professor and Chair
Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis, School of Ed., UW-Madison

John Witte, Professor
Public Affairs and Political Science, UW-Madison

The Capitol Lakes Grand Hall, 333 West Main St., Madison
(Free parking in the ramp across the street)
February Board Highlights

Bylaws review—To become a 501(c)(3) organization, we need to amend our bylaws. The Board reviewed and approved changes suggested by lawyers working with the state League. These changes will come up for a vote of the membership at the Annual meeting in May.

Budget—Kathy Johnson gave a current financial report. Thanks to a number of recent donations, large and small, we are doing well. The budget committee will meet in mid-February to develop the budget proposal for the 2011–2012 year.

Web Site—The Board approved using Network for Good as an inexpensive, easy portal for collecting donations online. This is especially important for receiving contributions from the general public when they visit our site to read Candidates’ Answers.

Program—Donna Norton presented information about the cost of meals for the Annual Meeting if it is held at the Edgewater Hotel. The Board agreed on having the meeting at this venue.

Thanks for Your Support!

Many thanks to those who responded to our recent appeals for support through Candidates’ Answers:

Kim Barovic, Philip L. Cox, and Ann Lacy

and through our annual Valentine’s Day birthday campaign (as of 2/17/2011):

Qiujing Lisa Bu  Joann Elder  Eugene S. Farley  Ilene Hagman
Mary Ann Halvorson  Shirley S. Inhorn  Nancy Jensen  Kathy & Doug Johnson
Andrea R. Kaminski  Jesse Kehres

Merilyn Kupferberg  Margaret Lacy  Elizabeth W. Lewis  Edwin Reid
Arlene Silveira  Priscilla Thain  Tom & Sandi Vandervest  Yvonne Vitense

Web Site Update

We expect to have an active Donate button on our Web site in time for the April election. Donations will pass through Network for Good to LWVDC. Network for Good collects a 5% fee, which covers the credit card fee and the cost of operating the service.

Please check our Web site regularly for action alerts and upcoming events that may be of interest!

Voter Service

Voter Registration
If you were a statewide Special Registration Deputy, certified by the Government Accountability Board (GAB), your certification expired on December 31, 2010. The GAB has no plans at the moment to recertify registrars. If you wish to continue to register voters, you must become certified by a city clerk. To register voters in Madison, you can watch a video online at http://www.cityofmadison.com/election/deputyRegistration/index.cfm. After you watch the 15-minute video, you complete a form and a brief quiz, sign it, and send it in. Your certification will be good for two years for registering Madison voters ONLY. To register residents of other towns and municipalities, contact the relevant city clerk. The Voting Information page on our Web site has contact information.

Candidates’ Answers
Many thanks to the following volunteers, some experienced, some new, who braved deep snow and freezing temperatures to help publish the Candidates’ Answers for the February 15 primary election:

Proofreading:

Mary Anglim  Merilyn Kupferberg
Mary Bean  Margaret Lacy
Fran Bicknell  Elizabeth W. Lewis
Edith First  Edwin Reid
Nancy Jensen  Arlene Silveira
Doug Johnson  Priscilla Thain
Barbara Karavolas  Tom & Sandi Vandervest
Merilyn Kupferberg  Yvonne Vitense
Helen LeRoy  Jesse Kehres
Elizabeth Lewis  Andrea R. Kaminski
Clare McArdle  Nancy Jensen
Barbara Karavolas  Edith Reid

Pulling inserts at the Isthmus warehouse and League office:

Laura Chern  Merilyn Kupferberg
Irene Durbak  Margaret Lacy

Bulk Mailing:

Beth Ross  Elizabeth W. Lewis

Answering phones on election day:

Laura Chern  Priscilla Thain
Betsy Jensen

Why Do You Renew?

Please send a brief email or note to the League office telling us why you renew your membership with LWVDC. Answers will appear in future editions of the Bulletin.

“A nonpartisan citizen education and advocacy organization” ☀
4K for All
Carol Kiemel, ckiemel@sbcglobal.net, 286-1446
During the month of January, 55 community service providers were personally delivered four-year-old kindergarten brochures and flyers to give to families of children turning four on or before September 1, 2011. This was a joint effort of the Madison Metropolitan School District and the LWVDC.
Participating in this most rewarding effort were League members: Kay Ahern, Mary Bean, Carol Kiemel, Maureen Kind, Merilyn Kupferberg, Gloria Meyer, Pam Rewey, former League member Bonnie Webber, and two members of Dane County United, Barbara Larsen and Helen Madsen. MMSD school staff delivered the materials to three of the providers.
Spanish and Hmong translations of the brochures and flyers will be ready soon, and we have two additional League members to help distribute them: Mary Anglim and Edith First. If you are interested in participating, please email me.
This effort to provide 4K information to ALL families is the culmination of the LWVDC Children and Families At Risk Committee study and program of March, 4, 2009 - Four-Year-Old Kindergarten for All Dane County Children: Its Value, Current Status and Future.

An Ambassador’s Plight
Deborah Speckmann, 444-2965; daspeckmann@charter.net
Have you ever found yourself talking about the League of Women Voters to someone who will not listen to what you are saying, or who interjects what you find to be misrepresentations? Do not be discouraged. Economic stresses can leave people concerned about “me,” and they may be confused about which organization said what about the economy or related issues.
If you know the person well, tell them how being in the League has enriched your life. Talk about the educational programs, and the opportunities you have had to participate in the democratic process. Tell them of the friends that you have made throughout the state, and how much you have learned from legislators, authors, educators, and public figures at League events.
Sometimes it is best to excuse yourself from the situation, rather than get in an argument over the views of the League. But ask the person if they would accept some literature from the League. If the person accepts the written information, you are still acting as an ambassador. Who knows? Once the person cools down and reads the literature, he or she may decide to contact you about attending an event, or to join directly.

March 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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 12:45 pm
Jean Freese, 6225 Mineral Point Rd, # D76
Oakwood Village Retirement Community
Jean Freese, 230-3540; jfreese7@gmail.com and Elizabeth Lewis, 230-3101; bettyfay1916@gmail.com

TUESDAY EVENING WEST, 7:30 pm
Nancy Jensen, 6210 Davenport Dr., 271-7835
Gloria Meyer, 288-8160; gloria.meyer@juno.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011
NORTHEASTSIDE, 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

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011
MIDDLETON, 7 PM
Pat Levin, 836-1176; smlevin@tds.net
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
Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **March 2** – Issues Forum **Charter Schools**
- **March 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin* and study materials
- **March 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **April 6** – Issues Forum **Land Use**
- **April 10** – Deadline for *Bulletin*
- **April 11** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **April 12** – LWVWI Legislative Day
- **May 4** – LWVDC Annual Meeting
- **May 9** – LWVDC Board Meeting
- **June 10–11** – LWVWI Annual Meeting
- **June 18–20** – LWVUS Council Meeting

Did You Join LWV in 1960–1961?

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 at our Annual Meeting.

Please contact the League office by March 21 with the notification of your 50-year status. We will ask you to complete a short interview form; your responses will be printed in a commemorative booklet to be distributed at the Annual Meeting.