No doubt you heard or saw news coverage of the federal trial in May concerning Voter ID and other WI voting and registration restrictions implemented in the last five years. If you would like to read more about the testimony, go to the news article “Federal Court Hears Voter Suppression Claims” on our website. Unfortunately, federal trials are not videotaped for public release. However LWVDC member Paul Malischke attended much of the first week and summarized some key points about the new DMV process for obtaining photo ID’s.

Immediately before the trial commenced, the Governor announced an emergency rule concerning the petition process potential voters must use to obtain an ID if they lack some of the required documents. The Department of Justice, representing the state, was aware that two-thirds of the people who used the petition process through April 19 were minorities, although minorities make up only 12% of the state’s citizen voting age population. Even more damning, of the 61 people whose petitions were denied, 85% were minorities.

Under the new rule, all petitioners are mailed a photo receipt labeled “for voting purposes only.” This includes petitioners who have been denied or whose petition has been “suspended” for lack of documents. This receipt is good for 60 days, and will be renewed twice and sent to the address on file with the DMV.

It is not clear what happens after the six months is up. Also, provisional voters who appear at DMV to obtain an ID will not get one in time to present it to their clerk the same week, because of the timeline and mailing process.

Judge Peterson has indicated he is likely to rule in late July, after final arguments are presented on June 30. He said “There’s a good chance everyone will be unhappy...” Because the state is defending all the recent voting and registration restrictions, that statement implies that he may be considering making adjustments to some of them. He certainly took an active role at the trial, paying close attention and asking pertinent questions of witnesses.

A different Voter ID case sent back to federal Judge Lynn Adelman’s court by the federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit will likely be argued this summer. ACLU attorney Sean Young has stated that he will ask that the court allow people who have difficulties obtaining an ID to vote by filing an affidavit.
Is Our Drinking Water Safe?
Karen McKim

The image had a sort of beauty—swirls of autumnal reds, bronzes, golds and chocolate browns running over nodes and through crevices. Something you could carve and polish into gemstones, perhaps, or hang on your wall as a stunning nature photograph. However, in the eye of a beholder who knew what it was—mineral corrosion and biofilm (microorganism colonies) inside an urban drinking-water main—the beauty was harder to discern.

Water quality engineer Abigail Cantor, of Process Research Solutions, LLC, used the slide in her presentation at our April forum, where she and investigative reporter Ron Seely spoke on drinking-water quality. The stunning failure of Flint, Michigan’s water system in recent months has spotlighted this issue, which has been brewing (and corroding and leaching) across America for several decades.

There’s no short answer to the question posed by the April forum’s title, “Water from the Tap: Is it Safe to Drink?” For those who drink water from Wisconsin’s private wells: You’d better get it tested. For those who drink from Wisconsin’s water utilities: Probably, but get a copy of the consumer report for your specific source anyway. And regardless of the source, you need to know a thing or two about your home’s interior plumbing.

According to Seely, only 16% of Wisconsin’s 940,000 private-well-equipped households have had their water tested. If the other 84% got a test, an estimated half would discover contamination by one or more pollutants at levels above what is considered healthy. E.coli or other viruses and bacteria inhabit 18% of private wells, one-third contain pesticides, about one-tenth have unsafe levels of nitrate, while others contain unsafe levels of various products of mining, agriculture, landfills, or even road construction, including arsenic, strontium, radium, molybdenum, or boron.

Testing a private well for all possible contaminants can be prohibitively expensive and is not usually necessary, according to Cantor. UW Extension knows which problems are most likely to affect wells in which areas, and the State Department of Hygiene can also offer useful guidance on what to test for in your area.

For those who drink city water, information is easier to come by. Residents need only to contact their local water utility to get a copy of the consumer report—a water-quality report specific to each municipal source. (23 separate wells serve Madison). Seely used himself as an example: When he obtained the report for the well that serves his house, he discovered it had high levels of sodium from road salt that has made its way into the groundwater. With high blood pressure, that’s something he needed to know.

Agricultural chemicals are less likely to be a problem in urban than rural areas, of course, but a long history of naïve land use is currently affecting water in Madison and other urban areas. Seely displayed a map of Madison speckled with dozens of long closed and forgotten landfills, and informed the group that many of the city’s parks and pavements are built on foundations of coal ash, which is now known to leach boron, mercury, lead, arsenic, and other contaminants into the groundwater tapped by the city’s wells.

Pipes that bring water from the source to the tap can also be a source of contamination. Cantor explained that complex interactions among microorganisms, the metal pipes, and the various chemicals used to treat drinking water are continuously affecting water quality at the tap. It was these interactions when Flint, Michigan changed their drinking water source that caused the pipes to begin leaching lead.

Any system could be colonized with microorganisms that entered the pipes and took hold. Some are entirely harmless; some are harmless to humans but can cause chemical reactions that damage the pipes; others cause disease. And ironically, sometimes chemicals used to improve the quality of the water as it leaves the source can interact with pipes along the way to cause problems at the tap.

Problems are not limited to older pipes. In newer homes, demand for hot tubs and other luxury plumbing features requires enormous water heaters. These large-capacity tanks mean that water is often stored for long periods, which increases the opportunity for microorganisms entering the system to form large colonies and start a corrosion process that may degrade the household’s water quality.

Seely summarized the to-do list: Find out what is in your own tap water by having it tested if you have a private well or by calling your municipal water utility. Stay informed by following the news. And, because we cannot individually protect our drinking water, vote for candidates who make water quality a priority.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Our League would not be able to do all that it does without many hours from our volunteers. Along with those noted elsewhere in this bulletin and in the Annual Report, we’d like to thank the following volunteers for their help this spring:

Office Volunteers:

- Gail Bliss
- Susan Fulks
- Rita Kades
- Joan Lundin
- Myrna McNatt
- Edith Sullivan
- Margaret Sullivan-Parsons
- Linda Wallis
- Pat Kippert
- Sally Carpenter
- Ingrid Rothe
- Caryl Terrell

Candidates’ Answers proofreading/pulling:

- Mary Anglim
- Irene Durbak
- Pat Kippert
- Joan Lundin
- Aileen Nettleton
- Brook Soltvedt
- Joann Elder
- Eileen Hanneman
- Pat Levine
- Clare McArdle
- Barbara Mortensen
- Margy Walker
- Sally Carpenter
- Melissa Keys
- Joyce Knutson
- Barbara Mortensen
- Ingrid Rothe
- Caryl Terrell

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
LWVDC Annual Meeting Highlights
Karen Gunderson, Outgoing Bulletin Editor

On May 18, the LWVDC held our annual meeting at Capitol Lakes. We began with a social, enjoyed an interesting talk by Cathy Kramer and then settled down to business. Barbara Mortensen presented the Carrie Chapman Catt award to Kathy Johnson.

Mary Anglim honored our new 50-year members: Helen Horn, Carol Keimel and Shirley Munson. Each of them received a photo of our LWVDC apple tree at the arboretum and a certificate. Mary shared highlights of their answers to questions about their League involvement.

We moved on to the business portion of our meeting. The Treasurer’s and Financial Advisory Committee reports were presented. Our budget for 2016-2017 was reviewed and approved. Board members and committee chairs presented brief reports and answered questions from the audience. We elected delegates for this year’s LWVWI annual meeting and we elected the following officers and board members:

For fiscal year 2016-2017:
- Co-Presidents: Kathy Fullin and Brook Soltvedt;
- Vice President: Ingrid Rothe;
- Nominating Committee: Karen Gunderson (chair), Cathy Berndt and Joan Lundin.

For fiscal years 2016-2018:
- Membership Chair: Mary Anglim;
- Bulletin Editor: Mike Casey;
- Program Chair: Dorothy Wheeler.

Politics of Resentment
Karen Gunderson, Outgoing Bulletin Editor

At our May 18 annual meeting, our featured speaker, Kathy Cramer, presented an overview of her newly-released book, “The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness and the Rise of Scott Walker”. Cramer, Director of Morgridge Center for Public Service and Department of Political Science Professor at UW-Madison, joined conversations with 39 groups of Wisconsinites in 27 separate communities outside of the Madison and Milwaukee areas over several years. She was curious to find what concerns these groups of people had. She found groups who met in public spaces (restaurants, coffee shops, gas stations, etc.) on a regular basis and asked to join them and record their conversations.

She shared some interesting results with us. In these smaller communities, there is quite a bit of resentment toward Madison and Milwaukee. There is the perception that the Madison and Milwaukee areas receive more than their share of tax dollars. Cramer found that statistics do not support that perception – the reality is that small communities actually receive a bit more in tax dollars than they pay. They also feel that they don’t have as much power or respect as the two large metropolitan areas.

What can we do to decrease this resentment? Cramer suggested that we keep in touch with our elected representatives even when it is not election season. We should encourage our legislators to consider whether the legislation they are proposing helps (or harms) smaller communities. And, we ourselves should not dismiss the views of residents in smaller communities.

An audience member asked Cramer what she meant by ‘submerged benefits’. Cramer explained that people often benefit from government programs but don’t realize it. So, if she asked a person if they had ever received government benefits, they might say they had not. But, if she asked if they had received benefits from a specific program, they acknowledged that they had.

Cramer’s presentation provided information that many of us from the Madison metropolitan area might be unaware of. It certainly inspired me to get hold of a copy of her book. While at the library, I noticed that Cramer’s book was the sixth most requested book from the Madison libraries in May. Obviously, many people are interested in this topic.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award
Barbara Mortensen, Secretary

This year’s Carrie Chapman Catt Award goes to Kathryn Johnson. Kathryn has been active in the Dane County and state Leagues since 1972. She served as president of the Dane County League three different times in 1993-94, 1995-96, and 2009-10, as well as unit director, program director, voters’ service chair, and treasurer. She was president of the state League from 1997 to 2001.

Her many other volunteer activities included: coaching a neighborhood soccer team, leading a Girl Scout troop for 17 years, serving her church as worship coordinator and on committees, food shopping for a homeless shelter, helping Haiti Allies raise money to support a school in Haiti, hosting Friendship Force of WI visitors, hosting UW-Madison foreign students and ushering at Overture Center for the Arts.

In addition to her volunteer activities, Kathryn was a teacher for many years. Graduating with a degree in elementary education from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, she taught sixth grade at Orchard Ridge Elementary School from 1967 to 1971. She left teaching to care for her two children, Kelle and Karl. While her children were young, she did home care for a few neighborhood children and later worked at Montessori Children’s House. After a few years of this she worked for Community Coordinated Child Care visiting the homes of caregivers. She then re-entered the Madison school system as a substitute teacher, later becoming a full-time teacher working with talented and gifted students in a couple of elementary schools while earning a Master’s degree in Talented and Gifted Education at the UW-Madison. She then returned to teaching sixth grade until her retirement in 2005.

(Continued on page 4.)

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
Kathryn grew up on a farm near Farmington, MN. She married Doug in 1967, and they moved to Madison that same year. She went back to Minnesota frequently to visit three aunts she was especially close to, one of whom, at 100 years of age, still lived in the home she grew up in. Fortunately, Kathryn and Doug’s two children and three grandchildren live nearby so they don’t have to travel far to see them.

Having served with Kathryn on the Dane County League board, I was constantly amazed at her recall of League history, policy, and procedures. Whenever a question arose she was able to say, “Well here’s how we did it back in…” or “This happened back in…”. Her leadership abilities and organizational skills were also impressive.

Programs Going Forward...

**Edith Sullivan, Outgoing Program Chair**

The 2015-16 year was a full one for the program committee. We had several good forums and, for additional excitement, did two consensuses for LWVUS (‘Amending the US Constitution’ and ‘Money in Politics’) and one survey for LWVWI (the Urban Policy Position). In addition to the forums, we had speakers at the Lively Issues Luncheon and at our Annual Meeting.

Going forward with **Dorothy Wheeler** at the helm, there will be several exciting forums during 2016-17. The League’s Voter ID Steering Committee will present the September meeting, ‘What did we learn about voting procedures from this year’s elections?’ At our Annual Meeting, members indicated strong interest in: “The Common Core: What Is It? Is It Working? Why is it so controversial?” and “The changing face of media coverage of state and local issues: what can we do to get better coverage?” Topics with some interest included “Understanding the Ethics Commission and Elections Commission”, “What have Dane County and Madison accomplished with Racial Equity, Homelessness and Related Mental Health Issues?” and “How could governmental transparency be improved at the state, county and local levels?” It is not too late to volunteer to help prepare a forum. Dorothy can be reached at dorothywheeler@tds.com or 608-244-4711.

I enjoyed this year as Program Chair and thank all of you who helped me so much during the year, by answering questions, giving suggestions, or attending meetings. I wish Dorothy a wonderfully interesting time as Program Chair.

New Members

The following members joined our League from March 7 through May 31. Welcome!

- **Tracy Bietz**
- **Kate Gladding**
- **Sherry Holcomb**
- **John Koch**
- **Jean Nordlund**
- **Patricia Schultz**
- **Marsha Edelstein**
- **Stephani Henderson**
- **Sara Jelen**
- **Lindsay Lemmer**
- **Joan Provencher**
- **Geri Torti**

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**ILO Update**

**Sue Ann Larson, Fundraising Chair**

On April 4, the board of the Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization met at Home Savings Bank in Madison. LWVDC member **Mary Ploeser** attended since she happily has agreed to represent our league as an Action Committee member! The ILO now has 58 member leagues from Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

The meeting began with extensive discussion of the ILO Action Plan. The group agreed that the ILO will set overall goals and the member leagues will implement actions appropriate to their states. The LWVUS has determined water issues are matters to be acted on at the regional level.

A key resource the board wants to promote is The Watershed Game that was introduced at the initial meeting of the ILO. The Jo Davies County League (Galena, IL) used grant funding to purchase two copies and other Leagues are encouraged to look for funds to do the same, perhaps from local civic organizations. The board also affirmed holding 100 meetings to honor the League’s 100th birthday by 2018. LWVDC could consider a monthly forum on the ILO as one of the 100 meetings.

ILO newsletter editor, Bonnie Cox, has created an online newsletter in which each state is to have a column. She would like members to submit materials such as newspaper articles and pertinent water websites to feature. The ILO also has a Facebook page which League members are urged to visit and ‘like’. The treasurer is writing grants to seek funds for ILO activities. It was noted that Iowa Governor Brandstad has approved a one-eighth of one percent sales tax to go to water projects in Iowa.

At the end of the meeting, Dale Robertson gave a presentation of the SPARROW (Spatially Referenced Regression on Watershed Attributes) watershed model. He is a US Geological Survey staff with the WI Water Science Center (wi.water.usgs.gov).

**New Mental Health Services Blog**

**Katie Mulligan**

Check out my new blog at mentalhealthmoneymatters.org. I will help explain ways in which the money we have for mental health services could bring about greater returns and explore how to increase those resources. The focus will be on the impact on Dane County residents of decisions made at all levels of government. I will also include reports of on-the-ground efforts by local advocates to help bring about reform.

Before retirement, I was a reporter for *Psychiatric News*, the bi-weekly publication of the American Psychiatric Association. My focus was health care economics and community psychiatry.

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
Voter Service Report

Gail Bliss, Voter Service Chair

As the Annual Report noted, we registered almost 1400 people by the middle of March. Since that time, we have registered 43 additional people - at West High School, the May “Check out Voting” event at Madison libraries and at social service sites such as food pantries. The farmer’s market tables started up in June, and we expect interest to pick up after the August 9 partisan primary heading into the presidential election. We expect to be very busy this fall. All indications point to Special Registration Deputies being able to register people through October 19, 2016 (20 days before the November 8 election.)

Kathy Fullin and Gail Bliss both testified at the Dane County Health and Human Needs committee about the need for homeless individuals to be able to receive mail at Dane County Social Service agencies. The Wisconsin DOT requires the address of the social service agency attesting to a person’s homeless status to be the recipient of their mailed ID. Inability to receive the ID in the mail is yet another barrier to homeless individuals being able to vote. The committee subsequently passed a resolution to allow these mailings to Dane County agencies.

We want to thank the following individuals who have been involved in our voter registration efforts January through May 2016:

Mary Anglim
Gail Bliss
Susan Byrnes
AJ Conant
Susan Fulsks
Lucy Gibson
Kay Jarvis-Sladky
Melissa Keyes
Elizabeth Kohl
Suzanne Kostic
Marian Matthews
Molly McGrath
Jyl Molle
Judy Munger
Meghan Parker
Stephanie Salgado
Oliver Soler
Consuelo Lopez Springfield
Bonnie Webber

Cathy Berndt
Terrell Brock
Karen Carlson
Grace Fleming
Kathy Fullin
Shirley Haidinger
Ellen Karlson
John Knutson
Bud Kostic
Paul Malischke
Meg McCough
Ginger McIntosh
Randy Molle
Janet Murphy
Ingrid Rothe
Pat Sammataro
Brook Solvtedt
Geri Torti

And Jo, Larry, Carol and Anita (no last names), as well as anybody else who didn’t make it into the reporting system.

Dane County Voter ID Coalition

Ingrid Rothe, Vice President

The Dane County Voter ID Coalition, founded by the LWVDC and the Dane County NAACP, actively helps voters navigate Voter ID rules.

Of particular importance now is the availability of cab rides, provided by Union Cab, to take individuals to the Division of Motor Vehicles offices to apply for a free ID. These rides are funded by the Dane County Clerk through an arrangement with the LWVDC. Any individual who wants a free cab ride to the DMV must call the Coalition/Vote Riders hotline number: 608-729-7720. Potential riders should not call Union Cab directly since all rides must be approved by Marian Matthews, Gail Bliss or Molly McGrath. Also, many people need assistance to ensure that they are taking the proper documents with them. We have already arranged for about eight individuals to take Union Cab to the DMV.

The Coalition conducted its third ‘Check Out Voting’ event at all Madison public libraries on May 21. The next ‘Check Out Voting’ event will be held in September. The Coalition also organizes voting information tables at many local events and has phoned selected registered voters to make sure they have an ID valid for voting. To volunteer, suggest a site, or learn more, see the Coalition’s website: sites.google.com/site/voteridwisconsin/.

In Memoriam

Mary Bean

Helen DeBardeleben, a 50-Year member of the LWVDC, died at age 96 on April 24 at Oakwood Village University Woods. Helen was an active member, who regularly attended the Tuesday Afternoon Unit, serving as their Unit Leader for at least a year. After moving to Oakwood Village, she joined the Unit there. From 1984-1986, she assisted in the office, and after that, was an informal office “go-to” person.

Over the years, she was a long-time member of the EID (Economics In Development) Study Committee, took a turn at helping with the Candidates’ Answers mailing, made finance drive calls and assisted with mailings, and was a member of the Long Range Planning Committee (1988-1992). Helen was less active in recent years but maintained her membership until this year.

Renew Today

Please renew your membership in the LWVDC today! Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Your renewal form has been included in this mailing to save postage costs. You can mail your renewal payment to the League office or pay your dues on-line at our website at lwvdanecounty.org. Please be sure to return your member interest form to the office.
Bulletin Editor Farewell
Karen Gunderson, Outgoing Bulletin Editor

This is my final Bulletin as LWVDC Bulletin Editor. My three years as LWVDC Bulletin Editor have been informative, rewarding and sometimes challenging. Thank you to all who helped me by suggesting, writing and proofreading articles. And, especially, thank you to Joanie Kanter for formatting the bulletin, helping with edits and keeping me on schedule. It has been a privilege to serve on the LWVDC Board with so many dedicated, hard-working and smart people. I encourage all members to consider serving on the board. And, since I am the Nominating Committee Chair for next year, I encourage you to let me know if you are interested in serving on the board.

Fundraising Report
Sue Larson, Fundraising Chair

This year, six anonymous donors contributed a total of $3,500 to initiate the 2016 LWVDC May Member Challenge. Their show of support for the significant work of the League and the challenges that new voting regulations pose for the vital services the League provides not only was matched but was surpassed by the generosity of our members.

As of May 31, forty-two league members contributed a total of $4,745 to match our generous donor gifts. The combined amount raised by the May Challenge is a stunning $8,145! Many thanks to all who supported this important fundraiser for the Dane County League!

Our skilled webmaster and co-president, Brook Soltvedt, has made it possible to receive gifts online from both members and non-members. We appreciate her work and all who take advantage of this option. We will send thank you letters to online donors via our website.

In order to save on paper and postage, the office now will acknowledge contributions received through the mail with an e-mail. We will continue to mail acknowledgment letters to those who do not use e-mail, as well as for memorial gifts and to new members. Those who wish a printed copy confirming their gift may request one from the League office.

This has been my second year serving as Fundraising Chair and I am honored to serve on the board with such gifted and committed people.

I am pleased to report that we are ending our fiscal year in the black. Thank you to everyone, whether you are able to make a significant contribution or not, for participating in the LWVDC and for your affirmation of all our League stands for and accomplishes. I hope that many of you will consider including an extra gift as you renew your membership for the coming year. Let's do all that we can to ensure that the LWVDC remains vital and strong!

Contributions
Between March 7 and May 31, the following people contributed to our League. Thank you to all of our generous donors.

- Tracy Bietz
- Claire Dick
- Michael Kane
- Frederic A. Ogg Trust
- Geri Torti
- Frances Bicknell, in Memory of Helen DeBardeleben
- Anonymous, in Honor of Cora Larson
- Karen Goebel, in Honor of Ingrid Rothe

Candidates’ Answers:
- Nancy Aldridge
- Paul Buckner
- Ilse Hecht
- Elizabeth Askey
- First Unitarian Society

Valentine’s Day Fund:
- Sally Carpenter
- Rita Kades
- Claire Rider
- Janet Van Vleck
- Hatheway Hasler
- Andrea Kaminski
- Suzanne Smith

May Challenge:
- Frances Bicknell
- Cara Lee Mahany Braithwait
- Sandra Drew
- Emy Gartzke
- Marcia Griskavich
- Hazel Hiemstra
- Nancy Jensen
- Pat Kippert
- Pat Levin
- Louise Lund
- Marie McCabe
- Myrna McNatt
- Gloria Meyer
- Joan Niebauer
- Alyson Schmeisser
- Rose Sime
- Deborah Ann Speckmann
- Priscilla Thain
- Carol Toussaint
- Sandra Whisler
- John Boyer
- Joann Burns
- Joann Elder
- Peggy Glassford
- Shirley Haidinger
- Shirley Inhorn
- Jesse Kehres
- Merilyn Kupferberg
- Susan Lloyd
- Elizabeth Magnuson
- Karen McKim
- Mary Metz
- Helene Nelson
- Ingrid Rothe
- Gail Shea
- Suzanne Smith
- Margaret Stine
- Geri Torti
- Yvonne Vitense

Upcoming Events Calendar
- Aug 9 – Fall Primary
- Sep 7 – Social & Issues Forum, 6:00 pm
  Election Administration in 2016 — What Have We Learned?
- Oct 5 – Issues Forum, 7:00 pm