NOVEMBER 2016

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Presidents’ Message
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This is the last Bulletin for 2016, and the next mailings League members will receive will be Candidates’ Answers and the Directory and an invitation to the January 14 Lively Issues Luncheon.

So, we are taking this opportunity to look forward to February 2017! Instead of a February Issues Forum, we are asking all League members to attend a local governmental meeting in the first half of February. At our February Unit meetings, members will share what they learned at those meetings.

The League has a long history of advocacy for open meetings, which are critical to keeping government accountable. But attending meetings is also fun. You will enjoy seeing how your elected officials approach issues. Names in the paper will mean a lot more to you!

Members should choose a committee, board or council meeting that interests them. You might want to arrange with a fellow League member to attend the same meeting.

We suggest you go simply as an interested citizen and not as an official “League observer.” If you attend as a League observer and identify yourself as a League member, you would have to obtain advance approval for any comments you would make to the group or to any official (elected, appointed or staff).

If you are particularly interested in education issues, check the time, date and location for your local school board meeting on your school

Continues on the next page:

Wednesday, November 2, 2016
Issues Forum 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

A Citizen’s Perspective on Climate Change

Dick Smith, a Retired Administrative Law Judge &
Citizen Activist with the Citizen’s Climate Lobby

Oakwood Village West – 6205 Mineral Point Road, Madison
(University Woods) Center for Arts and Education (Auditorium)
(Free Visitor Parking is available)
Increasing Need for League Volunteers to Assist with Early Voting

By Ingrid Rothe

Members of the League who are Special Registration Deputies (SRD’s) have been very active this past summer and fall in assisting people to register to vote; but, the need for your assistance will not decline after the October cutoff for SRD registration.

In-person Absentee Voting, or IPAV (also called “early voting”), has already started at all Madison Public Libraries and other sites throughout Dane County, and the Madison City Clerk always needs additional volunteers to assist voters at the libraries. In addition, the League was successful in promoting the adoption of two IPAV on the UW-Madison campus beginning October 24. The opening of IPAV at Madison libraries has been greeted warmly by Madison voters, who appreciate the convenience. In the first week of IPAV, almost 5,000 absentee ballots, including those from early voting at the libraries and absentee ballots requested and mailed to voters, were returned to the Clerk’s office.

Based upon turnout patterns in previous Presidential elections, we would expect the heaviest IPAV voting to occur in the two weeks prior to the election. This will likely increase the need for volunteers to assist at IPAV sites. In addition, the two UW-Madison campus IPAV sites will need to be almost fully staffed by volunteers because there will be only one City Clerk staff person at each site.

We hope many of you will choose to participate actively in this major effort. The process involves using a couple of websites to check the voter’s registration status and ballot style; and, laptops are generally available for volunteers. See http://www.cityofMadison.com/tags/ipav-training for the IPAV training schedule. Sign up here for shifts once you are trained: https://www.cityofMadison.com/isevents/event-detail.cfm?eid=1751

If you are reading this in hard copy, go to our website (www.lwdaneCounty.org) and see the second bullet point in the article “Fasten Your Seatbelt” to click on the links – easier than typing in the long “urls.”

Thanks for your help!

New Members
The following members joined our League this past month. Welcome!

Michael Briggs
Peggy Garties
Rachel Herbsman
Mary Clare Murphy
Gail Snowden
Helen Marks Dicks
Ashley Harris
Susan Jacobs
Ruth Marks Saeker
Kimber L. Wilkerson

Presidents’ Message, cont.

District website. (A regular meeting of the Madison Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, January 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Doyle Administration Building, 545 W. Dayton Street.)

Check your city/village/town website for the time of city council or village or town meetings. (The Madison City Council generally meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the City-County Building.)

If you are interested in issues handled by Dane County government, we suggest you attend a committee meeting rather than the Board meeting. The committees are where substantive issue discussions are held. Generally, the Board meetings ratify decisions already made in committee.

A list of Dane County committees can be found at this link: https://dane.legistar.com/Departments.aspx. There are “standing” committees such as Health & Human Needs, Public Protection & Judiciary and Public Works & Transportation. If you click on a specific committee, you can see when it meets and the agenda. We will email more information about scheduled Dane County meetings during January.

We know the weather in February can be unpredictable. If you find it difficult to physically attend a government meeting, we encourage you to watch one on your TV or computer.

• Madison: http://www.cityofmadison.com/citychannel/
• Sun Prairie KSUN TV: http://www.sunprairiemediacenter.com/ksun/ondemand
• Monona Community Media: https://www.youtube.com/user/MononaTV

Your community may have a similar channel. Some Meetings may be available live on TV, some live-streamed on your computer and others available via on-demand streaming on your computer. We hope you enjoy your February “Field Trip”!

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
November 8, 2016

General Election
- President
- Congress
- State Legislature
- Countywide Offices
- Referenda

Get Informed!
Go to lwvdanecounty.org for
- Voting Information
- Candidates’ Answers online and in Isthmus

Vote Early! In-person Absentee Voting has begun.
City of Madison residents can register and vote at any Madison Public Library until 30 minutes before the library closes (through November 4). Additional locations and hours for early voting in Madison and other Dane County municipalities can be found here: http://tinyurl.com/ipavdane

Need help getting an ID?
Call 608-729-7720

A Very Productive Two Months!
Over the period between August 10th and October 9th, League members have registered more than 2,370 new voters in a broad range of locations, including the Square, festivals, high schools, colleges and universities or in their workplaces – and they continue to do so.

In fact, your colleagues made contact with more than 4,500 individuals who registered, inquired about registering, obtained information on Voter ID requirements or couldn’t register on the spot, but learned what they needed and where they could register when they were ready to take that step.

Thank You, Volunteers!
Our League would not be able to do all that it does without many hours from our volunteers. We’d like to thank the following October office volunteers:

Eileen Hanneman  Pat Kippert
Pat Levin          Joan Lundin
Janet Van Vleck

Hard for You to Go to the Polls?
Don’t forget that persons who cannot vote early (in-Person Absentee) or on Election Day (or who just don’t want to do so for any reason) can request an absentee ballot. They should contact their municipal clerk to request a one-time absentee mailed ballot. Voters should include a copy of their photo ID with their first request for a one-time absentee ballot. Madison residents who are not already registered at their current address can stop at any Madison Public Library to register (and vote.) Residents of other communities can see the locations of their municipal clerk by clicking on the tiny url in the adjoining story “November 8.”

People who are prevented by disability, illness or age from reliably getting to the polls can get on the permanent absentee ballot list. They will receive a ballot for every election as long as they continue to return a ballot each time. No photo ID is required for this process. Even if this does not affect you, you probably know someone who would benefit. Spread the word!

Adopt-A-Highway Project
Yes, your League offers members opportunities to add value to our community in a variety of ways; and, several of them did that on a cool, damp morning toward the end of last month. On September 28th, Louise Lund, Sally Carpenter, Joyce Knutson and Doug Johnson collected “a good amount of debris” (8 bags of trash and 4 bags of recyclable material) and pulled several large portable signs from very deep grass to be reclaimed by State crews on Highway 14 between Twin Valley Road and Capitol Court.

If you are interested in helping to keep the roads you drive cleaner and safer for all of us, don’t hesitate to contact this year’s portfolio chair, Doug Johnson, at 238-1785 or djohnson44@ameritech.net to learn when you can go out next time with League members and “do good” while enjoying the weather!

Keep Us in the Loop
If your contact information changes (address, email, phone), let us know so we can update our records. We want to keep in contact with you! Now we have news for you. OUR email address has changed to (office@lwvdanecounty.org). Please email us or call 608-232-9447 regarding your changes.

Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
Upcoming Events Calendar

- **Nov 02** – Issues Forum, 7:00 pm
  *Stabilizing World Climate.*  (*Oakwood Village West*)
- **Nov 09** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 2:00 pm
- **Dec 14** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 2:00 pm
- **Jan 11** – LWVDC Board Meeting, 2:00 pm
- **Jan 14** – Lively Issues Luncheon, Noon
  *Homelessness.*  (*Capitol Lakes*)

Lively Issues Luncheon – January 14, 2017

Your League will kick off the new year with its Lively Issues Luncheon, focusing on Homelessness in our community – a particularly challenging issue and one which will obtain significant discussion and action in 2017. Although speakers have not been confirmed, study materials are being assembled and plans are being made to make it the outstanding event that it has become over the years.

As many of you know, the GoBigRead book is *Evicted*, by “MacArthur Genius” Matthew Desmond. The book has been called by reviewers “a work of scholarship and reportage that will forever change the way we look at poverty in America…In vivid, intimate prose, Desmond provides a ground-level view of one of the most urgent issues facing America today.” If you have not read the book, you may want to do so before January 14th.  

The Luncheon will be held at noon in The Seasons Restaurant at Capital Lakes, with speakers following in the Grand Hall. and, as usual, free parking will be available in the ramp across the street.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Unit Meetings

League members meet monthly in one of four units to discuss the topic of that month’s Issues Forum, using study materials provided by the program planners. The discussions conclude with recommendations for further study or action. Please let the host know that you plan to attend.

If any of the units have questions or issues, please contact the Unit Coordinator, Diane Martin Liebert, at dwliebert@gmail.com or 608-698-4143.

**MONDAY, November 21, 2016**

*Monday Evening West/Middleton* - 5:30 pm

Panera, 3416 University Ave.

Barbara Mortensen, 233-7563,

barbaramort@charter.net

Priscilla Thain, 233-5578, priscillathain@gmail.com

**TUESDAY, November 15, 2016**

*Tuesday Afternoon* - 12:45 pm

Oakwood West, B-29 (Fran Bicknell’s apartment)

6205 Mineral Point Rd.

Parking on grounds or in P1 Heritage Oaks Parking Ramp

Nancy Simonsen, 230-3014, njsimonsen@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAY, November 16, 2016**

*Northeastside* - 3:30 pm

Lakeview Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.

Dorothy Wheeler, 244-4711, dorotheawheeler@tds.net

**WEDNESDAY, November 16, 2016**

*Downtown Dinner Group* - 5:15 pm

Capitol Lakes Retirement Center Restaurant

333 West Main St. – Free parking across street

June Weisberger Blanchard, 238-7337, jmweisbe@gmail.com

Katie Mulligan, 338-4598, katiemulligan@yahoo.com

Unit Meeting Reports

Twenty-seven members and one guest met in the four unit meetings held in September to discuss the Forum topic - Election Administration in 2016.

The overall opinion was that the speakers were very informative. Participants were impressed with the job which City Clerk Mary Beth Witzel-Behl is doing, agree the situation is very complicated and that the League needs to keep the public informed on the progress of the situation.

Unit Meetings in 2017

With the Holidays in December and January, there will be no Unit Meetings. Therefore, the next Unit Meetings will take place on February 15, 20 and 21 in the locations referenced above. And, remember, these will be opportunities to share what you learned in the government meetings you attended in the first half of the month.