The League of Women Voters of Dane County

Annual Meeting Materials

For the

LWVDC Annual Meeting of the Membership

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Capitol Lakes, Grand Hall
333 W. Main St., Madison, WI 53703
(Parking in ramp across the street. Bring voucher inside for validation.)

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  Social Gathering
             Greg Jones, President, NAACP, Dane County Branch
7:00 p.m.  Present Carrie Chapman Catt Award and New 50-Year/Life members
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  Business Meeting
(Please bring these materials with you to the annual meeting.)

The League of Women Voters of Dane County
Annual Meeting Packet of Information
Wednesday, May 17, 2017

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The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.
Annual Meeting of the Membership, May 17, 2017
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Presiding: Brook Soltvedt
Parliamentarian: Cheryl Daniels
Teller(s), Readers for 2017 Minutes: Shirley Haidinger, Janice Baldwin

Call to Order
Adoption of the Rules and the Agenda*
Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting*

Reports
▪ Treasurer Diane Martin Liebert
▪ Financial Advisory Committee Helen Horn
▪ Proposed Budget for 2017-2018* Helen Horn
▪ Discussion Units Diane Martin Liebert
▪ Fundraising Sue Ann Larson
▪ Nominating Committee Karen Gunderson
  • Election of Board 2017-2018*
  • Election of Nominating Committee 2017-2018*
▪ Adopt a Highway Doug Johnson
▪ Membership Mary Anglim
▪ Program Dorothy Wheeler
▪ Business Systems Stephen Ploeser
▪ Vice-President Ingrid Rothe
▪ Voter Service:
  • Voter Registration Gail Bliss
  • Know Your Candidates TV Interviews Cheryl Daniels
  • Registering Voters at the Hill Farms Farmers’ Market Priscilla Thain
  • Moderators for Candidate Forums Priscilla Thain
  • Candidate Answers Questions Priscilla Thain
 ▪ Candidates’ Answers Volunteers Laura Chern
▪ Publicity Susan Fulks
 ▪ Bulletin Newsletter Mike Casey
 ▪ Website Brook Soltvedt
 ▪ Presidents Brook Soltvedt
 ▪ Presidents Kathleen Fullin

▪ LWV-WI Annual Meeting, June 9-10, Green Bay, WI
  • Instructions for Delegates Kathleen Fullin

Announcements / New Business Brook Soltvedt
Adjournment Brook Soltvedt

[* requires membership approval]
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING
May 18, 2016

Co-President Kathy Fullin called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. at The Capitol Lakes. The quorum was met. She acknowledged the current board members, former LWVDC Presidents, Mary Bean, Helen Horn, Kathy Johnson, Diane Martin Liebert and Sally Phelps and asked new members who have joined since the last annual meeting to stand. She asked Parliamentarian Cheryl Daniels to comment on the procedure for correcting and approving the minutes. Diane de Vos and Susan Fulks have agreed to serve on the reading committee for this year’s minutes, which will be prepared by Secretary Barbara Mortensen. Gail Bliss and Janet Van Vleck volunteered to be tellers. Fullin announced that if there is no objection that voice votes will be used for voting unless it is difficult to ascertain a majority. There was no objection. A standing vote is required for the budget proposal for next year. Gail Bliss moved and Brook Soltvedt seconded a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion approved. Susan Fulks, who prepared the minutes for the 2015 annual meeting, announced that those minutes had been officially approved by 2015 readers Sybil Better and Karen Faster.

Diane Martin Liebert, Treasurer, reviewed the income and expenses and balance sheet from July 1, 2015 to March 20, 2016. Total dues (#4000) were up about $1,000 due to an increase in membership. Membership payments (#5700) to LWV-US and LWV-WI are higher due to an increase in membership and an increase of $1 in LWV-US dues. There were no other major changes in comparison to the July 1, 2014 to March 20, 2016 figures.

Assistant Treasurer and Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee, Helen Horn, presented the committee’s report. The figures for her report were for calendar year 2015 in order to have a complete year to assess. No changes were made to the portfolio and the committee did not meet during this fiscal year. LWVDC funds are conservatively invested in five Vanguard and two Dodge & Cox mutual funds, all of which are highly rated (4 or 5 stars) by Morningstar. The value of the funds on 12-31-14 was $243,518 and on 12-31-15 was $240,939. Income from dividends and capital gains was $6,622. No money was withdrawn from the funds.

Helen Horn also discussed the proposed budget. She is projecting a negative balance of about $4,600.00 for next year’s budget. Other items to note: grant money (#4100) received but not yet spent will be carried over to next year. Publications (#5270) is higher due to an extra election in 2016. Annual meeting revenue (#4751) has been set up to hold payments for a possible dinner meeting next year. Annual meeting expense (#5911) matches (#4751) to hold the possible dinner expense. Payroll expense (#6560) includes a 2% increase for payroll. Barbara Arnold moved to approve the budget. Diane Martin Liebert seconded. Motion carried.

Karen Gunderson presented the Nominating Committee report. Nominations were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Kathleen Fullin 7-1-16 to 6-30-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Brook Soltvedt  7-1-16 to 6-30-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Ingrid Rothe   7-1-16 to 6-30-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Co-President Fullin asked for nominations from the floor. None were given. Janet Van Vleck moved to close nominations. Maureen Kind seconded. Motion carried. Kathy Johnson moved to instruct the secretary to cast the ballot for every nominee. Gloria Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

Gunderson then presented the slate for the Nominating Committee. Nominations were:

Chair  Karen Gunderson    7-1-16 to 6-30-17
Member  Cathy Berndt       7-1-16 to 6-30-17
Member  Joan Lundin        7-1-16 to 6-30-17

Co-President Fullin asked for other nominations. None were given. Gail Bliss moved to close the nominations. Sue Fulks seconded. Motion carried.

Appointed board members, Assistant Treasurer Helen Horn and Business Systems Advisor Steve Ploeser, have agreed to continue their service for the coming year. Other board members who will continue to serve for the coming year are: Diane Martin Liebert, Treasurer, Barbara Mortensen, Secretary, Gail Bliss, Voters Service, Susan Fulks, Publicity, and Sue Ann Larson, Fundraising.

Karen Gunderson, Bulletin Editor, presented her report. She noted that Katie Mulligan wrote summaries of several forums and Joanie Kanter helped her with formatting.

Steve Ploeser, Business Systems Advisor, said most of his efforts the past year were directed toward improving the process to send letters and changing the system to handle more e-mail correspondence.

Ingrid Rothe, Vice President, continued working with Steve Ploeser and Office Administrator, Elaine Sinagra, to try to make the ACCESS software function more efficiently. She also worked with Edith Sullivan to develop programs for several forums. She described her work with the Dane County Voter ID Coalition and urged members to discuss Voter ID issues with friends and neighbors.

Diane Martin Liebert, Discussion Unit Coordinator, stressed the value of Discussion Units, and encouraged Unit Leaders to send reports in as soon as possible after units meet. About one third of our members attend unit meetings.

Sue Ann Larson, Fundraising Chair, requested members to sign up to send letters to friends and relatives to request donations. The office handles printing and sending all the letters. She also mentioned that estate-planning brochures are available. Jan Van Vleck asked for PDF forms to be made available on the website for estate-planning information, etc. Co-President and Webmaster Soltvedt agreed to do this. Larson thanked the May Member Challenge donors and said that $7,995 has been raised so far.
Mary Anglim, Membership Chair, presented her report and asked for volunteers for the Membership Committee. Our total membership increased from 256 in March 2015 to 267 in March 2016. She believes that the Voter ID issue has increased interest in LWVDC.

Edith Sullivan, Program Chair, circulated topics that might be of interest for next year’s forums. She asked people to sign up for topics they would be interested in working on.

Susan Fulks, Publicity Director, discussed her work during the past year. She noted that in addition to her usual publicity releases she worked with the Voter ID Coalition to forward information to neighborhood associations about Voter ID in the hope that they would print the information in their newsletters and on their websites.

Gail Bliss, Voters’ Service Chair, in addition to registering voters, has been active in spreading Voter ID information through the Voter ID Coalition and in the Adopt a Senior Center program. She has done significant outreach using Special Registration Deputies at farmers markets, food pantries, housing complexes, high schools, job service centers, Madison College, and Epic Systems. She has posted information on the Next Door website about forums, etc. and asked people to talk to her if they’re interested in using this website. She also asked people who are interested in registering voters to sign up at the information table.

Cheryl Daniels, Coordinator of Know Your Candidates’ interviews on Madison City Channel, reported that due to the lack of contested seats in elections earlier this year there has been little activity but this will increase for the remainder of 2016 and the 2017 spring elections.

Laura Chern, Candidates’ Answers Project Coordinator, thanked her volunteers who worked on proofreading and distributing copies to various locations. She especially noted Brook Soltvedt’s contribution.

Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster, reported on her efforts to keep our website and Facebook page up to date. The online primary edition of Candidates’ Answers had over 1,000 “hits” in the week prior to the election. She created a special section for Special Registration Deputies called SRD Central. She asked members to “Like” our Facebook page.

Sue Ann Larson informed us about the Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization, a group of 58 member leagues from Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin that wants to become active on water issues in our area. She invited anyone interested in this topic to attend meetings or follow the group on Facebook.

Co-President Brook Soltvedt recognized Maureen Kind for her many years of service coordinating the Adopt-A-Highway program. Doug Johnson will coordinate this program in the future.

Co-President Fullin announced that LWVDC may send 14 delegates to the LWV-WI Annual Meeting on June 3rd and 4th. Co-Presidents Fullin and Soltvedt, Helen Horn, Mary Anglim, Diane Martin Liebert, Janet Kane, Mike Casey, Consuelo Lopez-Springfield, and John Koch are planning to attend for a total of nine. She asked if additional members are interested in
attending. Ellen Rosborough and Erin Grunze volunteered to attend. Gail Bliss moved to approve the delegates and Edith Sullivan seconded. Motion carried.

Co-President Fullin asked if there were any announcements. Kathy Johnson announced that longtime member Helen DeBardeleben died.

New Business: None.

Co-President Fullin asked for a motion to adjourn. Co-President Soltvedt and Vice President Rothe moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

A program was presented preceding the meeting. Co-President Soltvedt asked previous Carrie Chapman Catt Award recipients to stand. She then asked Barbara Mortensen to present the Award to the 2016 recipient, Kathryn Johnson.

Our speaker for the evening was Political Science Professor Katherine Cramer, Director of the Morgridge Center for Public Service, who spoke on “The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness and the Rise of Scott Walker”.

Mary Anglim, Membership Chair, acknowledged our new 50-year members. They are Helen Horn, Carol Kiemel, and Shirley Munson.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mortensen
### LWVDC proposed budget 2017-2018

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<td>4051 Valentine contr</td>
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<td>4150 Voter coalition contract</td>
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<td>4100 <strong>Total Grants</strong></td>
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<td>4750 Annual Luncheon revenue</td>
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<td>4751 Annual Meeting revenue</td>
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<td>4799 Other misc. income</td>
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<td>4700 <strong>Total miscellaneous income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td>$47,213</td>
<td>$62,377</td>
<td>$61,100</td>
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- 4053 (in lieu of dues)
- 4055 (25% of LWVWI bday gifts)
- 4056 (with dues, etc)
- 4080 (former member & nonmember solicitation)
- 4090 (bequest from Prof Ogg estate)
- 4100 assuming we may get Evjue or other small grant(s)
- 4400 (sublet PSR & TMI)
## LWVDC Proposed Budget 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
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<td>5000 Rent</td>
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<td>5100 Gas &amp; Electric</td>
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<td>5200 Equipment maintenance</td>
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<td>5230 Telephone/internet service</td>
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<td>5250 Board Expenses</td>
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<td>5256 Grants Given by LWVDC</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5274 Candidate Answers</td>
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<td>$5,500</td>
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<td>5291 Bank &amp; Govt Charges</td>
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<td>$54</td>
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<td>5293 Other business exp</td>
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<td>$60</td>
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<td>5295 Stripe account fees</td>
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<td>5299 Total business expenses</td>
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<td>5310 Convention fees</td>
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<td>5320 Other local meeting costs</td>
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<td>5910 Annual Luncheon Expenses</td>
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<td>5911 Annual Meeting Exp</td>
<td>$24</td>
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<td>5800 Program Costs-General</td>
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<td>5370 Dues othw LWV organizations</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
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<td>5710 LWVUS-PMP</td>
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<td>5700 Total Membership Payments</td>
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<td>5900 Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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<td>6560 Payroll Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$52,071</strong></td>
<td><strong>$63,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,040</strong></td>
<td><strong>$61,168</strong></td>
<td><strong>$62,100</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,863</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$4,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>$48</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,209</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$1,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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- **5274 fewer elections in FY 2017-18**
- **5295 Stripe fees (for online donations)**
- **5310 In case someone attends nat’l conven.**
- **5320 Room and food costs for meetings,** mostly new member meetings
- **5500 Prop/Liab, Worker Comp, Board ins**
- **5710 more members - National dues**
- **5720 more members - State dues**
- **5800 mostly for recording general meetings**
- **5910, 5911 Luncheon and annual meeting expenses usually match income.**
Candidates for BOARD OFFICERS, 2017-2018:

Brook Soltvedt  President  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018
Ingrid Rothe  Vice-President  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018
Gail Bliss  Secretary  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2019
Diane Martin Liebert  Treasurer  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2019

Candidates for BOARD DIRECTORS, 2017-2019:

Cathy Berndt  Fundraising  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018
Susan Fulks  Publicity  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2019
Paul Lindquist  Voter Service  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2019

Candidates for NOMINATING COMMITTEE, 2017-2018:

Karen Gunderson [Chair]  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018
Kathleen Fullin, non-board member  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018
Mary Ellen Schmit, non-board member  7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018

[Two Board members will be appointed to the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee by the incoming Board at its first meeting of the fiscal year (LWVDC Bylaws, Article IX, Nominations and Elections).]

Candidate names were submitted by the 2016-2017 LWVDC Nominating Committee: Karen Gunderson [Chair], Cathy Berndt, Joan Lundin, Kathleen Fullin and Helen Horn.
Bio-Summaries of Candidates for 2017-2018

Candidates for BOARD OFFICER Positions:

**Brook Soltvedt, Candidate for President**
I've been a League member for more than 10 years. I have served on the LWVDC Board as Bulletin Editor (2008-2012); webmaster (on- and off-Board since 2008); and Co-President with Kathy Fullin (2015-2017). I have assembled the *Candidates’ Answers* manuscript for publication in *Isthmus* since 2013. I have been mentored by amazing women (and men!) in my time on the board, and I will continue to depend on them to guide me through the next year.

Democracy is a full-contact, active form of government. It is incumbent upon the governed to listen, learn, speak up, speak out, and be watchdogs. The League’s strong nonpartisan history of engaging citizens as informed, active participants in their government really appeals to me as a vehicle for my own contributions. Apparently, I am not alone in seeing League as a home for my activism: our membership has increased by ~25% since the November election upended all norms of civility, protocol, ethics, national values, and respect for facts, science, and the press.

My goal for the coming year is to find a way for every member to bring whatever interests, skills, talents, and resources they wish to bear to help our League make the democracy we value a reality.

**Ingrid Rothe, Candidate for Vice President**
I have been an intermittent member of League, now totaling an estimated 10 years. My mother, Jean Tyler Rothe, was a long-time member of the Beloit League. I was the Dane County League Co-President for 2 years, and now, the Vice-President for 2 years. I also serve on the Wisconsin LWV Legislative Committee, and am the Dane County League designee to Co-Chair the Dane County Voter ID Coalition.

I am a member of the League of Women Voters because I believe it is critical to the survival of our democracy that all eligible citizens be able to exercise their right to vote and take informed action. For the past 95 years our country has been struggling to fully implement this ideal. We had made great strides with the elimination of Jim Crow and the passage of the Voting Rights Act, but in recent years, we have back pedaled. It is important for the League to join with other like-minded organizations to stand for this important right.

**Gail Bliss, Candidate for Secretary**
I joined the *Great Decisions* discussion group with the League in 2009 after retiring from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. In 2011, I was asked to take the fundraising director position on the LWVDC Board. We obtained a $5000 grant from the Evjue Foundation, the charitable arm of *The Capital Times*, to help people without a WI DOT ID obtain what they needed to vote. Then, due to illness, the Voter Service director was unable to complete her term. I shifted to that Board director position to implement the grant. After 6 years in Voter Service I’m ready to move to a different role. My work with organizations serving homeless people in Dane County has opened new pathways for involvement. I will still be involved in moderating candidate forums and voter registration activities.
Diane Martin Liebert, Candidate for Treasurer
Diane Martin Liebert, LWVDC member for 39 years, writes: “I am a strong believer in the League’s mission and I am a strong believer that everyone should have a right to vote. I am specifically sensitive to the voting issues because I grew up in a country that was run by a dictatorship and saw what that type of governmental system does to a population.” Not only having held the Board positions of President (3 years), President-Elect (2 years), Treasurer (4 years), Action Vice-President (2 years), and Program Director (2 years), I have also contributed to LWVDC’s legacy by taking on such leadership roles as Women’s Issues chair (2 years), producer of LWVDC’s former TV-show “Access City Hall” (3 years), moderator of candidates’ forums (8 years), and member of the Nominating Committee (1 year). As candidate for LWDC Treasurer in 2017-2019 Diane states: “I expect to pay the bills and keep the financial records.”

Candidates for BOARD DIRECTOR Positions:

Cathy Berndt, Candidate for Fundraising Chair
My name is Cathy Berndt. I have been asked to serve for a one-year term as the Fundraising Chair, a position on the LWVDC Board. I have been a member of the League of Women Voters of Dane County since 2013. I joined after acting as a League election observer for the 2012 presidential election, which introduced me to the League’s wide-ranging efforts to assist and engage voters. I believe the League performs a vital function through its non-partisan voter information activities, encouraging informed voting through the preparation and dissemination of Candidates’ Answers and its issues forums. Equally vital are the League’s efforts to assist individuals in registering to vote and obtaining any necessary identification to vote, particularly as access to voting has repeatedly been impacted by changes in the law over the last five years. The League’s development of thoughtful and reasoned positions on numerous issues affecting the public, and its efforts to advocate for those positions in the legislature, are also essential. As a League member, I have participated in voter registration efforts at many different locations, assisted in the office with Candidates’ Answers and mailings, worked on highway clean-up, and served for two years on the Nominating Committee. I know that the League’s continued efforts to reach out to educate and engage citizens and increase participation in the public policy arena depend upon having adequate financial resources, and hope that my service as Fundraising Chair will further that goal.

Susan Fulks, Candidate for Publicity Chair
I have been a member of LWVDC since the fall of 2013, attending forums and volunteering to assist with office mailings. As a Special Registration Deputy, I initially worked primarily with the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. This past year I have also registered voters at UW-Madison campus locations, MATC-South, Epic, and the Goodman Library and have assisted with in-person absentee voting on campus and in Madison libraries. In January 2015 I joined the Board as Publicity Director to fill a vacancy and was subsequently elected to that position for the 2015-2017 term. My work has been to promote LWVDC forums and Candidates’ Answers through flyers, online calendars, press releases, and social media. I also have compiled an email list for neighborhood organizations to inform them about Voter ID and election issues. This spring I am facilitating a new league committee focused on an initiative to provide voter registration and voter information for high school students.

Paul Lindquist, Candidate for Voter Service Chair
I am Paul Lindquist and I am running for Voter Service Chair. I am a native of Iowa, a 1981 graduate of Drake University, and have resided in Waunakee for the last 23 years. I retired in July 2016 after a 35-year career in IT. My wife, Cindy, and daughter, Kelsey, are both teachers. I joined the League after seeing the growing challenges citizens face in exercising the franchise. I have assisted at voter registration events, in-person absentee voting, and at the polls on Election Day. When the Dane County Voter ID Coalition was formed, I took a leadership role. I was very impressed by the passion,
dedication, and intelligence of the League members I met along the way, and look forward to continuing the amazing work the League undertakes.

**Candidates for NOMINATING COMMITTEE Positions:**

**Karen Gunderson, Candidate for Nominating Committee Chair**
My name is Karen Gunderson and I am running for the position of Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2017-2018. I have been a member of the LWVDC for five years and was Bulletin Editor (a Board position) for three years. I served on the Nominating Committee for one year and now am the Nominating Committee Chair this year. I attend as many of the forums as I can along with the Northeast side Wednesday afternoon Unit meetings. I have also helped proof *Candidates’ Answers* and assisted with pulling *Candidates' Answers* from *The Isthmus*. It is very important that we have strong leaders in the organization so that the League can continue the important work it has done for so many years. I look forward to the opportunity to encourage our members to participate in that leadership.

**Kathleen Fullin, Candidate for Nominating Committee**
I joined the Dane County League in 1976. During the late 1970’s, I served on the Board as the Municipal Chair and as Action Vice-President. I was a member of the Midvale unit, and when that disbanded, I joined the Downtown Dinner unit. After my retirement from state service in 2005, I participated in League voter registration activities and served on the Children and Families Committee and the Dane County Government booklet update committee. From 2013-2017, I served as Co-President of the Dane County League. I also served on the Nominating Committee for the current year.

**Mary Ellen Schmit, Candidate for Nominating Committee**
My name is Mary Ellen Schmit. I am running for a position on the Nominating Committee for 2017-2018. I joined the LWVDC less than two years ago, and in that time have witnessed fundamental changes in our electoral process that has created a deep desire in me to work on voter’s behalf. As a new member of the Nominating Committee, I hope to learn from our experienced members and bring new perspectives.

I find the forums to be very enlightening. Becoming involved in the Voter Education Committee is one way I am working to create engagement with our Dane County youth. The time is right for a critical influx of involvement into this deeply and strongly rooted organization. More involvement will mean that we can continue to provide ever-evolving resources and advocacy to an informed electorate. I look forward to serving on the Nominating Committee in order to build on our great organizational foundation, and for our members to participate in that leadership.

» Additional Information «

**Continuing Board Directors in 2017 - 2018:**
Mary Anglim, Membership
Mike Casey, *Bulletin*
Dorothy Wheeler, Program

**Board Member Willing to Be Reappointed by the Board to One-Year Term:**
- Helen Horn, Assistant Treasurer [7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018]
- Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster [7/1/2017 – 6/30/18]
2017 LWV Wisconsin Annual Meeting

Begins Friday, June 9, at 5:00 p.m.; ends Saturday, June 10, by 4:00 p.m.
Hyatt-Regency Green Bay
333 Main Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

Registration information available online
http://www.lwwi.org/NewsEvents/2017ANNUALMEETING.aspx

Any member of a WI league who attends the state annual meeting will be a voting delegate this year.

Instructions for the Delegates