



**The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.**

# **LWVDC Annual Report, 2017-2018**

**July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

**[Issued for the LWVDC Annual Meeting, May 22, 2018, at Grand Hall, Capitol Lakes in Madison, WI.]**



# LWVDC Annual Report 2017-2018

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**Board Officers**

President	Brook Soltvedt
Vice President	Ingrid Rothe
Treasurer	Kim Langley
Secretary	Gail Bliss

**Board Directors**

Assistant Treasurer	Helen Horn (appointed)
Bulletin editor	Mike Casey
Fundraising	Cathy Berndt
Membership	Mary Anglim
Program	Dorothy Wheeler
Publicity	Susan Fulks
Voter Service	Paul Lindquist

**Off-Board Portfolios**

Adopt-a-Highway	Doug Johnson
Business Systems	Steve Ploeser
<i>Candidates' Answers</i> Volunteers	Ingrid Rothe, Brook Soltvedt
<i>Candidates' Answers</i> Questions	Priscilla Thain
Candidate Forum Moderators	Priscilla Thain
<i>Know Your Candidates</i> Video Interviews	Cheryl Daniels
Discussion Unit Coordinator	Diane Liebert
Westside Farmers' Market	Priscilla Thain
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Betty Cohen
Webmaster	Brook Soltvedt

**Committee Chairs**

Financial Advisory Committee	Helen Horn
Nominating Committee	Karen Gunderson

**Unit Leaders**

Barbara Mortensen, Priscilla Thain	Monday Evening, West/Middleton
Nancy Simonsen, Kathy Johnson	Tuesday Afternoon, Oakwood
Dorothy Wheeler	Wednesday, Northeast Side
Ingrid Rothe	Wednesday, Downtown Dinner

**President** [Brook Chase Soltvedt]

2017–2018 has been an exciting and challenging year. Here is a partial list of our accomplishments, many of which are detailed in individual reports below.

- We maintained high visibility with our voter service activities, including moderating forums, our new library liaison program, and our very active high school voter education committee. New training materials allow us to prepare new volunteers to assist voters with confidence.
- We wrote 13 letters to government officials on topics including voter ID, citizen access to public meetings, the BadgerCare waiver, funding for the Madison City Clerk, lack of transit access to the new Madison West DMV, funding for the Dane County Jail and support for a restoration center as an alternative to incarceration of those with mental illness and addictions.
- As of May 1, we had four letters to the editor published in the *Wisconsin State Journal*.
- After speaking at a City of Madison press conference, I was invited to appear on Wisconsin Public Television's public affairs program *Here and Now* to talk about our support for a civil rights complaint filed with the US DoT against WIS DoT for relocating the West Madison DMV beyond the reach of regular public transportation.
- Last week I spoke to librarians and journalists from around the state who are part of an initiative by the Wisconsin Center for the Book at UW-Milwaukee to educate the public about how to discern real news from fake news.
- Having League members serve on government committees and commissions and regularly attend government meetings raises our profile in the community and lends weight to our advocacy. **Mary Anglim** serves on the City of Madison Public Safety Review Committee and **Edith Sullivan** serves on the Transportation Planning Committee of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board.

Closer to home, we modernized some of our member communications, publishing all but one issue of the *Bulletin* online only. To keep members informed about events and action opportunities on a timely basis, we began using an email marketing platform (MailChimp) to send a weekly update to members. With prodding and assistance from new member **Jaala Spiro**, we upped our game on Twitter, which has spread our messages farther and to a different audience than Facebook. And we are now on Instagram. We have a long way to go to improve our social media presence, but we are making the journey.

Finally, the news we had been dreading arrived in February: We were evicted from our Marshall Court office so that Ronald McDonald House can expand. We moved to our new location at 4513 Vernon Boulevard, Suite 106, near the Hilldale post office in mid-April (where the rent is considerably higher). **Elaine Sinagra**, our office administrator for nearly five years, took this opportunity to retire. We are pleased to have hired **Cindy Lindquist** as our new office administrator. We are using the transition period to review and revise some of our office practices and procedures, introducing new technologies for data collection, collaboration and communication. We have tried to minimize the disruptions to our members and we welcome your feedback and suggestions as we move ahead.

**Vice-President** [Ingrid Rothe]

This year, we attempted to continue to build on past successes with the Voter ID Coalition and the development of Action Teams. The Voter ID Coalition agreed to partner with the ACLU's "Let the People Vote" campaign, and to use the Coalition's hotline number for voter assistance statewide. The ACLU's Molly McGrath has established teams in other cities (including other local leagues), and they publicize the hotline number. A Coalition volunteer listens to all the messages and sends them to the appropriate teams depending on the location specified by the caller. The Coalition has also expanded our mission to include "full service" assistance to voters, so that we can better help voters whose primary concern is registration, rather than voter ID. The Coalition continues to work with Scott McDonell, the Dane County Clerk, to provide cab rides funded by the Clerk for people needing to get to the DMV to obtain a valid voter ID. In the fall, the Coalition sponsored an event on campus to hear from Professor Ken Mayer, the principal author of a report on the impact of voter ID laws on turnout in the presidential election in Dane and Milwaukee Counties. We have also held several training events, including a special Voter Ambassador Education training by Maribeth Witzel-Behl, the Madison City Clerk. With the League, the Coalition staffed the Student Activity Center bus pass distribution to help students register and learn about voter ID. More recently, the Coalition, under the leadership of Beth Alleman and Paul Lindquist, operated a voter registration station at the Madison student march against gun violence and registered several hundred people who also received information on voter IDs. We have expanded the number of volunteers now available and trained to assist voters, and will continue to conduct training on how to talk with voters about obtaining a voter ID. The Coalition continues to work with our existing organizational partners to provide information on voter ID, and to seek new organizational partners to help us spread the word.

The Action Team venture is still in its infancy. Individuals who are interested in joining the Action Team can do so on the League's website, and we have Team members who are members of the League and some whom we hope will become members. While this is a good way to identify people who would like to take action on local, state and issues, we have had less success in developing leaders who will follow issues closely enough to determine what actions need to be taken. In many instances, following the ins and outs of local and state politics is very time consuming, requiring more time than many people have. (We rely on the LWVUS for guidance on taking action at the national level.) The new Monday e-mails have proved to be a good avenue for getting out the word once appropriate action has been determined, and occasionally we have sent action alerts targeted to individuals who indicated an interest in a particular topic. We will continue to develop the Action Team and identify and train volunteers on ways to learn about what is happening at the state and local levels.

**Treasurer** [Kim Langley]

**League of Women Voters of Dane County**  
**Profit & Loss YTD Comparison**  
 July 2017 through April 2018

05/08/18

Accrual Basis

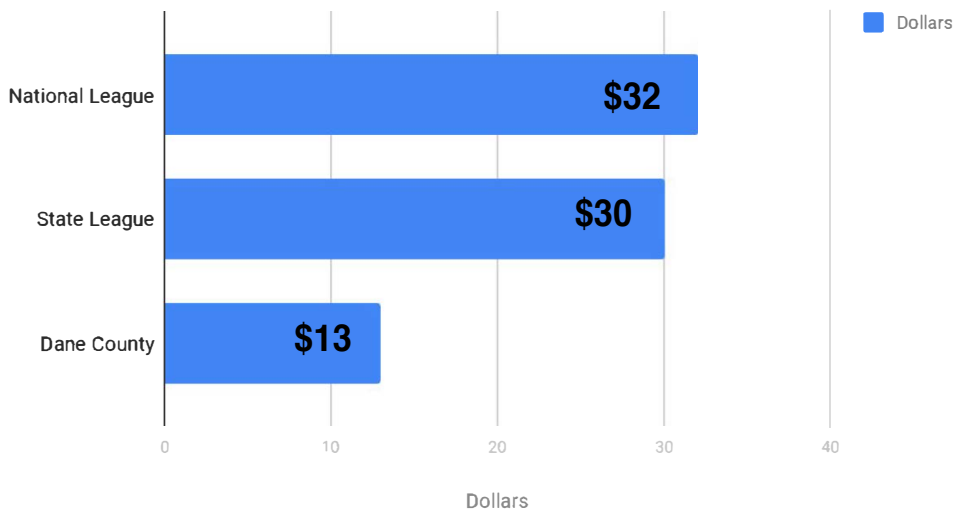
	Jul '17 - Apr 18	Jul '16 - Apr 17	% Change
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
4000 · Dues	21,180.00	21,675.00	-2.3%
4030 · Contributions	38,626.86	22,965.53	68.2%
4070 · Special Projects	78.00	0.00	100.0%
4100 · Grants	1,988.78	4,929.96	-59.7%
4400 · Rental Income-sublet	3,704.24	3,825.00	-3.2%
4500 · Publication Sales	15.00	0.00	100.0%
4700 · Miscellaneous Income	1,430.00	1,798.00	-20.5%
47200 · Program Income	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	67,022.88	55,193.49	21.4%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	67,022.88	55,193.49	21.4%
<b>Expense</b>			
5000 · Rent	7,739.90	6,797.40	13.9%
5100 · Gas & Electric	1,056.35	940.00	12.4%
5200 · Equipment Maintenance	2,165.16	2,306.28	-6.1%
5210 · General Supplies	2,104.19	1,674.41	25.7%
5230 · Communications/phone/internet	1,086.30	484.63	124.2%
5240 · Office Cleaning	405.00	395.00	2.5%
5255 · Committee expenses	125.45	0.00	100.0%
5260 · Web Page Expenses	192.00	304.17	-36.9%
5261 · Software	313.74	229.00	37.0%
5270 · Publication expenses	0.00	5,680.00	-100.0%
5280 · Special Projects expenses	2,493.73	6,025.47	-58.6%
5300 · Meeting costs	2,370.79	1,854.24	27.9%
5500 · Insurance	1,457.00	1,421.00	2.5%
5600 · Postage	631.36	1,404.55	-55.1%
5700 · Membership Payments	15,525.00	14,093.00	10.2%
5900 · Miscellaneous Expenses	478.61	316.00	51.5%
60900 · Business expenses	587.58	524.50	12.0%
62100 · Contract Services	296.00	0.00	100.0%
65000 · Operations	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6560 · Payroll Expenses	13,407.32	12,615.79	6.3%
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.04	-1,493.90	100.0%
68300 · Travel and Meetings	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	52,435.52	55,571.54	-5.6%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	14,587.36	-378.05	3,958.6%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
7000 · Short Term Interest	7.19	10.72	-32.9%
9000 · Memorial Mutual Funds	27,801.80	23,867.19	16.5%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	27,808.99	23,877.91	16.5%
<b>Net Other Income</b>	27,808.99	23,877.91	16.5%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>42,396.35</b>	<b>23,499.86</b>	<b>80.4%</b>

**Balance Sheet**

As of June 30, 2017

	<u>Jun 30, 17</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 · Old National checking account	28,087.92
1050 · Old National payroll account	5,970.08
1200 · Memorial Fund	294,359.46
1250 · Old National Money Market accou	20,853.10
1300 · Petty Cash	66.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>349,336.56</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>349,336.56</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>349,336.56</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
2300 · Visa credit card	15.00
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<u>15.00</u>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	915.52
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>915.52</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>930.52</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	930.52
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	291,525.62
Net Income	56,880.42
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>348,406.04</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>349,336.56</u></b>

Breakdown of Annual Membership Fee - \$75

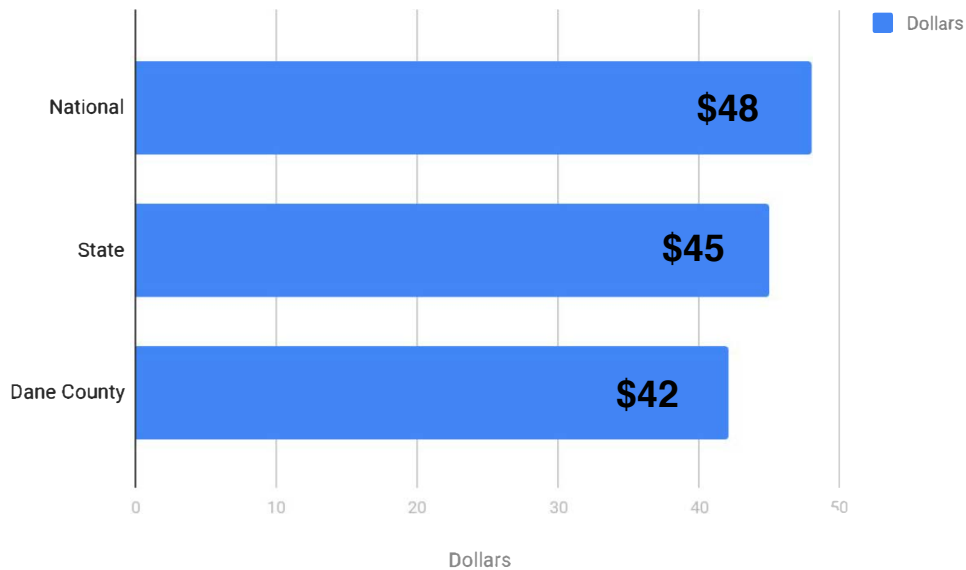


**Balance Sheet**

As of April 30, 2018

	<u>Apr 30, 18</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 · Old National checking account	26,132.30
1050 · Old National payroll account	3,608.93
1200 · Memorial Fund	322,161.26
1250 · Old National Money Market accou	40,110.29
1300 · Petty Cash	100.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>392,112.78</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>392,112.78</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u><u>392,112.78</u></u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
0339 · OfficeMax	246.61
2300 · Visa credit card	102.05
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<u>348.66</u>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	961.73
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>961.73</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,310.39</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,310.39
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	348,406.04
Net Income	42,396.35
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>390,802.39</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u><u>392,112.78</u></u></b>

Breakdown of Household Annual Fee - \$135.00





**Financial Advisory Committee** [Helen Horn, Chair]

The figures in this report are for calendar year 2017, the last complete year. No changes were made to the makeup of the portfolio in the past year. The committee will meet again before June 30. League funds are conservatively invested in five Vanguard and two Dodge & Cox mutual funds. In addition to the stock portfolio, LWVDC has a saving account of \$25,000+.

The total value of the mutual funds at the end of 2016 was **\$322,161**. This was a \$42,410 net change in market value (15.7%) from the previous year.

Stock *	# shares	Value 12/31/16	Dividends & Capital Gains	Net Change in Market value	Value 12/31/17
DODFX	452.18	\$16,899	\$396	\$3,651	\$20,945
DODBX	533.90	\$50,737	\$4,563	\$1,827	\$57,128
VFIAX	180.77	\$36,636	\$786	\$7,195	\$44,618
VIMAX	360.75	\$57,945	\$925	\$10,230	\$69,101
VTSAX	853.12	\$46,976	\$962	\$8,892	\$56,920
VBIAX	1030.87	\$31,426	\$690	\$3,676	\$35,792
VHCOX	566.29	\$29,170	\$1,639	\$6,849	\$37,658
		<b>\$269,789</b>	\$9,962	\$42,410	<b>\$322,161</b>

\*DODFX - Dodge & Cox International Stock Fund

DODBX - Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund

VFIAX - Vanguard 500 Index Fund Inv

VIMAX - Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Inv

VTSAX - Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Inv

VBIAX - Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Inv

VHCOX - Vanguard Capital Opportunity Fund Inv

**Committee: Sybil Better, Sally Carpenter, Kathy Fullin, Helen Horn, Caroline Liedtke, Ingrid Rothe**

Note: In 2007 Eleanor Barschall, a committed member of LWVDC, left a \$150,000+ bequest which was split, with \$75,000+ placed in investments and \$75,000 kept in the bank so that it could be used as necessary to supplement annual income. Total LWVDC stock investments thereby doubled to \$150,000. Stocks were severely hit in the recession of 2008, but eventually recovered and have grown to their value on 12-31-2017 of \$322,161. LWVDC has \$25,000+ remaining in a bank savings account from Barschall's and other bequests. Prior to five years ago, money was taken regularly from the savings account to cover shortfalls. In the past five years, income has slightly exceeded expenses.

Now that the stock fund has grown sufficiently, some of the savings and investment

funds can be used annually as a regular part of the budget process. Board policy is that up to 4.5% of the value of a 5-year average of the stock investments after removing the highest and lowest years may be withdrawn annually based on LWVDC needs. Because it is based on an average over five years, a single year market drop will not significantly change the amount. The reasoning for this formula is to not remove more from the investments than can be recovered by their average annual growth. This year's withdrawal calculation from the stock investments is \$11,300. We anticipate that nothing will be withdrawn from the stock account in the next fiscal year, because we will use funds in the money market account.

### **Fundraising** [Cathy Berndt]

Each year, LWVDC conducts two fundraising appeals to members (Valentine's Day/birthday and the May Member Challenge) and one appeal soliciting non-members for funds to pay for the spring and fall editions of *Candidates' Answers*.

The 2018 Valentine's Day/98<sup>th</sup> birthday appeal raised \$2,771.

This year's May Member Challenge is underway. Challenge donors have put up \$5000 in seed money that they will donate if matched by other members by the end of May. The 2017 May Member Challenge raised \$9,065, a goal we hope to meet or surpass this year.

The non-member fundraising appeal seeking funds for *Candidates' Answers* was mailed on February 1, 2018, and informed non-members that a generous and anonymous LWVDC member was offering up to \$3,000 in matching funds for non-member donations received by in support of *Candidates' Answers*. This match was a huge success! We raised \$2960—only \$40 short of our goal—matched for a total of \$5920! Publication costs for the spring and fall 2018 *Candidates' Answers* will total approximately \$8,000, covering an increase in the number of copies being printed for distribution in this busy election year and the use of a larger, more readable font, which added to the length of the publication.

In the first ten months of the 2017-18 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the LWVDC was also the recipient of \$3606 in donations from fifty-year members who are no longer required to pay membership dues, \$6462 in general donations from members, and \$9043 in non-member contributions separate from the *Candidates' Answers* fundraiser. Combined, these donations support voter services and education, community forums, and our operating costs, which are increasing substantially because of our office move and the increased rent.

We are grateful for all donations we receive, whatever the amount. We also ask members to remember the LWVDC when estate planning and by keeping a Memorial Gift Designation form in one's files to designate the league as a recipient of memorial gifts. Memorial Gift Designation forms are available on the LWVDC website, as is information about estate planning. By whatever means you choose to give, you will be furthering the valuable work of the LWVDC for many years to come.

**Membership** [Mary Anglim]

The Dane County League continues to attract many citizens looking for ways to become more informed and more active in civic and political affairs. Sixty new members joined us in 2017, and 37 more in the first quarter of 2018. As of early May our active membership stood at 351.

The challenge for experienced members is to welcome our new members and to offer them ways to get involved. In February the League sponsored three successful coffees for new and seasoned members. Invitations were emailed to the target audience and were followed up with phone calls from board members and other volunteers. Altogether these events attracted about 25 new members. The program included a brief introduction to how the League works, and discussions about how to attend and report on governmental meetings. Many of our new members are interested in voter services and are being referred to the Madison city clerk's trainings as a place to start.

Routine membership work included welcoming new members, conducting our annual renewal drive in the summer and fall, and reaching out to non-renewing members. Using MailChimp for our regular mailings will allow us to generate lists of members by location or other characteristics, making it easier to engage individual members in League activities. Our online join/renew option works well due to the efforts of our webmaster, **Brook Soltvedt**. Thanks to **Karen Gunderson, Cathy Berndt** and **Sara Markham**, who helped with phone calls, and to June **Weisberger Blanchard** and **Jan Van Vleck**, faithful greeters at our monthly forums.

Our new Membership co-chairs will welcome ideas about events to give new and experienced members other chances to get acquainted. If you love to help plan gatherings, if you know of events in your city or neighborhood where the League should be present, or if you would be willing to make a small number of phone calls to reach out to potential League members there's room for you on the Membership committee!

**Program** [Dorothy Wheeler]

We had a committee working on programs! I was ill for a couple of months landing in the hospital twice and from there into rehab. **Brook Soltvedt** and **Ingrid Rothe** stepped in both times to make sure the programs were ready to go with study materials and speakers. Other members also helped. **Janine Edwards** did an excellent job of preparing the October program on financing public schools. **Sue Ann Larson** planned the November program on sustainability with speakers from local governments who are engaged in practices that support environmental sustainability. Our January Lively Luncheon speaker was Bobby Peterson who spoke on the ACA in Wisconsin. In March workers' rights was explored with one union member and one worker advocate. In April the League revisited Fair Voting Maps, a hot topic that never seems to get resolved. The leader was **Ingrid**. In June we will have an unusually timed forum on public education, led by **Janine Edwards**.

Thank you to all the League members who helped with the forums—planning them, engaging speakers and finding appropriate study materials.

**Voter Service** [Paul Lindquist]

Voter Service covers a broad spectrum, from a voter who needs help to register, acquire a photo ID, find their polling place, learn about candidates on the ballot, to a voter who casts a provisional ballot; members on the voter service team have been there, offering assistance, expertise and clear nonpartisan guidance. Since there was no election in November, this year was a good time to deepen relationships with high school, college and university staff, social service agencies, public libraries, area employers, apartment managers, and election administrators.

The advent of online voter registration in January 2017 has simplified life for many voters while creating difficult challenges for others. The voter service team has adapted to these changes, focusing on educating voters, training partner organization staff and community volunteers. We continue to provide feedback to the Wisconsin Election Commission about deficiencies in online voter registration, and stand ready with paper registration forms when voters need them.

Site	Fully Online Registrations	Registrations	Provided Registration /Voter ID Information
Farmers Markets	0	0	41
Social Service Agencies	34	70	164
Naturalization Ceremony	5	0	45
Area Employers	37	50	23
High Schools	23	6	8
Public Libraries	0	0	8
College/University	120	542	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>457</b>

**Know Your Candidates video interviews** [Cheryl Daniels, Coordinator]

*Know Your Candidates* (KYC) now has a format of 15 to 20 minute interviews with the candidates. Elections are only being held in Spring of this year, so we scheduled all interviews for late January, whether the candidates had primary opponents or not.

Our three interviewers were veterans **Diane Liebert**, **Michael Rosenberg** and **Miriam Simmons**. They all did an outstanding job juggling interviews with candidates for Dane County Board seats, a Dane County Circuit Court judge seat and a Madison Metropolitan School Board seat.

As we finish with the 2017-18 League year, I have decided to give up my role as the coordinator for *Know Your Candidates*. I have enjoyed doing this task on behalf of the League for at least 9 years and have moderated or interviewed candidates for many additional years. I believe that “fresh eyes” in this position may bring about new and exciting ways to keep the League front and center in helping the public know their candidates! Thank you to the League’s office staff and Madison City Channel for their support during this time.

**Candidates' Answers Volunteers** [Ingrid Rothe, Brook Soltvedt]

**Kathy Fullin** contacted all the city clerks and school districts to obtain the names and contact information for all candidates, and developed a spreadsheet for use by the office and webmaster. The office sent letters to all the candidates instructing them to respond to an email from **Brook Soltvedt**, Webmaster, soliciting their responses to our questions, which had been incorporated into online forms. Soltvedt assisted with this mailing. Soltvedt tracked all candidate responses, sent confirmations and reminders to candidates and created web pages with the responses. **Rachel Davidson, Diane deVos, Kathy Fullin** and **Helen Horn** proofread the responses on the website. Soltvedt created a manuscript from the proofed web pages, sent it to *Isthmus* and proofread for layout and formatting issues. **Ingrid Rothe** coordinated the volunteers who proofread the galleys from *Isthmus* against the manuscript: **Connie Bakker, Gail Bliss, Sally Gleason, Barbara Mortensen** and **Margaret Stine**. **Doug Johnson** picked up copies of CA at the warehouse. **Mary Anglim, Kathy Fullin, Paul Lindquist** and **Ingrid Rothe** pulled inserts from extra copies of *Isthmus*; **Judi Dilks, Kathy Fullin, Shirley Haidinger, Kim Langley, Jyl Molle, Ingrid Rothe** and **Brook Soltvedt** distributed copies to libraries, clerks, community centers and Union Cab.

**Candidates Answers Questions** [Priscilla Thain, Coordinator]

**Diane deVos, Kathy Fullin, Helen Horn, Barbara Mortensen, Brook Soltvedt** and **Priscilla Thain** met on December 8, 2017, to draft the questions to be put before the spring 2018 candidates. **Mary Anglim, Gail Bliss, Kathy Fullin, Ingrid Rothe, Brook Soltvedt** and **Priscilla Thain** met on May 4, 2018, to draft the questions for the fall 2018 candidates.

**Moderators for Candidate Forums** [Priscilla Thain, Coordinator]

**Gail Bliss** moderated a candidate forum in January before the Spring Primary. **Joy Cardin, Andrea Kaminski (2),** and **Diane Liebert** moderated four forums before the Spring 2018 Spring Election.

**Voter Outreach at Westside Farmer's Market** [Priscilla Thain, Coordinator]

**Priscilla Thain** and **Lois Sater** gave out information at LWV tables in the Fall of 2017.

**Library Liaisons** [Marian Matthews and Kathy Fullin, Coordinators]

League members are working with libraries outside the City of Madison to develop their capacity for voter education and voter service. A major goal has been for libraries to make League bookmarks about voter registration and voter photo ID available to their patrons. Almost every library we have worked with has agreed to also make the bookmark part of the process whenever an adult applies for a new library card. And some libraries are going further, helping with voter registration and hosting voter outreach events. Kathy and Marian have also

worked with the Madison Public Library to ensure that new applicants for a library card are offered information about voter registration.

Many thanks to our hard-working liaisons: Cambridge (**Georgia Kaftan**), Cross Plains (**Robin Downs, Al Sulzer**), DeForest (**Eileen Schutte**), Fitchburg (**Victoria Robertson, Carol Hermann, Catherine River**), Middleton (**Gail Krc**), Monona (**Marena Kehl**), Oregon (**Barbara Feeney**), Stoughton (**Christine Clements, Christine Milligan-Ciha**), Sun Prairie (**Sue Larson**), Verona (**Laurie Stockmeier, Julie Gocey**).

We are still looking for community members to work with the following libraries: Belleville, Black Earth, Deerfield, Marshall, Mazomanie, McFarland, Waunakee.

### **SVDP Outreach** (Betty Cohen, Coordinator)

During the past 9 months, we conducted 3 outreach campaigns lasting approximately 4 weeks each prior to the elections held in the Fall 2017, Winter 2018 and Spring 2018. Each campaign was preceded by an orientation. Special thanks to **Kathleen Fullin** and **Marian Matthews** for their help with the orientations, and also to Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl.

During the 3 campaigns combined, we were able to complete 28 registrations online, and 39 on paper, which were then submitted to clerks by mail or in person. In addition, we provided information about registration and voter ID to 137 clients of the pantry.

Volunteers who worked one or more shifts at SVDP in this time period included: **JoAnn Boushon, Ellen Brooks, Susan Byrns, Betty Cohen, Emily Colo, Judi Dilks, Sue Fulks, Kathleen Fullin, Sarah Gavac, Carol Hermann, Gail Krc, Julia Lankton, Iris Levitis, Justine Malinski, Marian Matthews, Pat Patterson, Don Prather, Ruth Robarts, Victoria Robertson, Ellen Rosborough, Mirrian Rosen, Leslie Ross, Kathleen Shanovich, Ron Shanovich, Melissa Sosman, Al Sulzer, Deb Umstead, Sandra Vandervest, Tom Vandervest, Lynn Williamson, Trudi Witonsky and Linda Yeager.**

### **High School Voter Education Action Team** [Susan Fulks, Action Team Facilitator]

LWVDC's High School Voter Education Action Team meets regularly to promote two major goals:

- To assist eligible high school students in registering to vote
- To help students become informed Wisconsin voters

Team members have been trained in the new voter registration policies and procedures and are developing materials to support both online and paper registrations within the high school setting. Outreach to high school principals within Dane County promoted initial conversations with teachers and student organizations in area schools.

Our primary goal this year was to establish and support several pilot projects to train student group(s) to promote and organize voter information/registration drives. We are partnering with *Inspire U.S.*, a national non-profit, nonpartisan organization committed to registering and engaging high school students for their first vote in local, state, and federal elections. *Inspire U.S.* is currently active in twenty-five states, with our LWVDC action team piloting the program (<http://www.inspire-usa.org/>) in Wisconsin. The *Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies* has created an award for each high school that registers 75% of their eligible seniors to vote through the *Inspire U.S.* website.

Action team members collaborated with *Inspire U.S.* to hold very successful student drives at MMSD East, MMSD La Follette, MMSD Memorial, MMSD Shabazz, DeForest, Sun Prairie, and Verona High Schools. Future goals are to expand our outreach within Dane County and to promote student leadership activities to facilitate student-led voting education and assistance with voter registration.

#### **Publicity** [Susan Fulks]

Publicity for LWVDC issue forums and meetings consists of flyers, press releases to Madison and Dane County news media, and posting on online event calendars. Flyers are posted on our web site, and members are encouraged to download and forward to colleagues and other groups who might be interested in the topic. Press releases are emailed to Madison and Dane County community newspapers, television and radio stations, and non-profit community organizations with common interests. Madison and Sun Prairie newspapers and the *Isthmus* print our events in their weekly calendar listings. Meeting information is also posted on area web-based calendars, Facebook, and Twitter. Voter ID and voter registration information was also submitted this past year to Madison neighborhood organizations. Press releases announcing publication (web-based and print) of *Candidates' Answers* were submitted in February and March.

#### **Bulletin, the LWVDC Newsletter** [Mike Casey]

*Bulletins* were produced for the Summer and months of September, October and November in 2017 as well as for January, March and April in 2018.

The format was changed significantly to include color and design elements to make the document more interesting and readable. Mailing was eliminated – reducing costs and allowing readers to access it on the web and print a hard copy in black & white or color, depending upon their preference.

The President provided very interesting and substantive columns for each *Bulletin*, and Committee Chairs provided summaries of their Committee activities throughout the year.

Each *Bulletin* included:

- (1) Articles highlighting the range of activities our League has undertaken in the current fiscal year,
- (2) Information on upcoming meetings, special events and volunteer opportunities,
- (3) The names of new members, contributors and those who volunteered to participate in or assist with League activities,
- (4) Short memorials for members who passed away, and
- (5) Highlighted profiles of our new 50-year members.

And, finally I want to thank President Brook for the technical contributions she made to bringing the document itself to what many have told me is a much more attractive and readable document going forward.

#### **Adopt-a-Highway** [Doug Johnson, Project Coordinator]

One of the valuable services the Dane County LWV provides is to clean the roadside along Highway 14 west of Middleton each spring and fall. Volunteers removed about a dozen bags of trash and recyclables in May and again in September, 2017. Working in pairs, the task takes about three hours beginning at 9 AM on a day when the largest number of people can work and the weather is agreeable. Please consider joining us for this public service while enjoying time with another member! To indicate an interest, contact Doug Johnson at 608-238-1785 or [djohnson44@ameritech.net](mailto:djohnson44@ameritech.net).

Our volunteers on Sept. 30, 2017, were **Doug Johnson** (coordinator), **Janet Kane**, **Maureen Kind**, **Kim Langley**, accompanied by her daughter Nadia, **Louise Lund**, **Myrna McNatt** and **Jan Van Vleck**. Our volunteers on May 2, 2018, were **Sally Carpenter**, **Judi Dilks** and her husband, Rex Merrill, **Doug Johnson**, **Janet Kane**, **Lyn Mussallem**, **Rose Sime**, **Margaret Stine** and **Caryl Terrell**.

#### **Business Systems** [Steve Ploeser]

We completed several projects in business systems this year. The most beneficial being the use of a platform called MailChimp. This allows us to send most of our notifications via email, saving us time and postage. **Paul Lindquist** is responsible for setting this up and writing an interface so that our Microsoft Access database can talk to MailChimp and so that MailChimp can send relevant member interest information to Google Sheets that committee or project leaders can use. Additional accomplishments include (1) a report showing year-to-date donations which can be mailed to individuals who have no email, (2) an easier way to enter payments without having to scroll to the bottom of the screen, (3) and fixing various small problems. Paul has also set up a collaborative document online for tracking progress on office IT projects.

#### **Discussion Units** [Diane Martin Liebert, Coordinator]

We have four active Unit Meetings in Madison which are open to all League members who want to attend. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss our topic of the month with other



League members. They also provide members with a chance to socialize with each other. This experience enhances your League experience as you discuss the current topics that your peers are interested in and discover other viewpoints on our issues. If you have never attended a Unit meeting, they are held on the third week of the month. We hold two in the afternoon and two in the evening. Their times, locations and Unit leader names and access information are published in the *Bulletin*.

**Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR) Inter-League Organization (ILO)** [Mary Ploeser, Liaison]

The LWV UMRR ILO has engaged in many activities and meetings in 2017–2018. We have used the Watershed Game to engage individuals in understanding the connection between various land uses and water quality. A committee produced a new power point presentation for speaking engagements. We have tried to educate the public on the ramifications of the Farm Bill. The website, <http://lwvumrr.org/resources.html> has a video on nutrient pollution. (The Wisconsin DNR website contains a plan to reduce algae in the state's rivers.) Each state is researching the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act for compliance. Wisconsin is not in compliance. The Wisconsin representative met with the LaCrosse League to determine how to distribute water pollution information to the community. She also wrote a grant for a groundwater workshop training and a sand tank model with the LaCrosse school district. A conference was held in January on Industrial Agriculture in the Driftless. The representative met with the Wisconsin legislative representatives and the LaCrosse County HHS regarding pollution in private wells. Legislation was recommended to have the DNR notify well owners when they discover a pollution problem that may affect the well owner. Even a watered-down version of the bill was unable to pass. In the northeastern portion of the state, *E. coli* concentrations have been found. In Kewaunee, the farms have grown their cattle populations to the extent that CAFO pollution regulations should apply.

In the future, we hope to add water quantity, as well as water quality to our set of issues. We plan to monitor cuts to the EPA, USDA and USGS budgets, which will reduce programs aimed at reducing nutrient pollution. We wish to partner with the LWV Great Lakes ILO to monitor the dead zone in Green Bay. The rewriting of the US Clean Water rule will limit the number of streams to which US protections are applied, so we will monitor that as well. And finally we will create a list of cities with need for upgraded water treatment plants.

**Website** [Brook Soltvedt, Webmaster]

The Voter Service Central portion of our website was significantly reorganized to make it easier for volunteers to find information related to specific projects or outreach areas. Thanks to **Philip Heckman**, who is assisting with linking documents and posting news and events on the site.