



# Recollections of League

In Honor of Our New Life Members

Elizabeth Magnuson  
Carol Palmer

The League of Women Voters  
of Dane County  
May 15, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Dane County proudly recognizes **Elizabeth Magnuson and Carol Palmer** for their new Life Membership status as of 2019-2020.

Our new 50-year/Life members were asked to respond to three questions:

*When and why did you first join the League of Women Voters?*

*What is your fondest memory with regard to the League of Women Voters?*

*What advice do you have for other current and future members?*

Here are their responses:

### **Elizabeth Magnuson**

I joined the League in 1969 after moving from Minnesota for my husband's work as English professor at the University of Pennsylvania for six years. My mother was a leader in the Grand Traverse Bay, Michigan, League of Women Voters. We ultimately settled in New Jersey when my husband started teaching at New York University. Within six months after joining the local New Jersey League, I became co-chair.

In the 1970s in Essex County, NJ, there were 22 municipalities and about 15 local Leagues of Women Voters. We did primary research over extended periods of time on current topics using

books and public documents. Observer Corps was part of my work in New Jersey. Our township committee meetings did not keep public minutes until Observer Corps started coming to meetings. After our involvement, they published the minutes and had them available at the public libraries. Our League started a petition, and as co-chair, I worked successfully to merge two municipalities. It was a difficult, dirty fight, but we persevered. I successfully advocated for creation of an executive position for the newly merged municipalities. When my eldest daughter was 6 years old and we were out petitioning, she said that she wanted to be president of the League of Women Voters. New Jersey had a large Jewish population and accommodations were made for religious holidays. In 2010 I moved to Madison and joined the League of Women Voters here.

My advice for current and future members of the League is to create a buddy system. Carpooling to meetings can be helpful. We could have a designated time and pick up location for carpooling. Having meetings at various times and locations in Dane County would also make it easier for those who have trouble making the trip to central Madison. When there is no volunteer for committee chair, ask for a “convener”. Ask each committee chair to think of ways of using their committee to be more inclusive. Developing interpersonal connections and working physically next to each other develops camaraderie within the League.

## **Carol Palmer**

Carol Palmer became active in women's rights after coming to Madison in the mid-1960s. She served as president of Wisconsin Women's Network and as their lobbyist. With her work in the Network, she advocated for women's rights, especially in the area of workforce equality. Although she was not active in the League of Women Voters, she appreciated that the priorities of the League and the Women's Network were similar; and for that reason, she has maintained her membership in both organizations. She and her husband, John, continue to value the League's unique contribution in ensuring the right to vote. In addition to her leadership in the Women's Network, she served as president of the University League, Attic Angel and Friends of the Waisman Center.

Because impaired health prevents Carol from attending the annual meeting, her certificate, photo of our Arboretum apple tree and yellow rose will be delivered to her at her home at Attic Angel.



## **Other LWVDC 50-Year Members Living in Dane County:**

Janice Baldwin (2005)  
Mary Bean (2012)  
June Weisberger Blanchard (2017)  
Harriette Burkhalter (2017)  
Joan Burns (2013)  
Robin Chapman (2018)  
Beverly Davison (2014)  
Joann Elder (2015)  
Waltraud "Emy" Gartzke (2010)  
Hathaway Hasler (2006)  
Helen Horn (2016)  
Shirley Inhorn (2012)  
Rita Kades (Beloit transfer)  
Carol Kiemel (2016)  
Marilyn Kupferberg (2018)  
Sue Lloyd (2012)  
Marie McCabe (2005)  
Clare McArdle (2018)  
Karen M. Michael (Arizona transfer)  
Shirley Munson (2016)  
Melanie Ramey (2015)  
Claire Rider (2018)  
Joan Schuette (2012)  
Corinne Stoddard (2018)  
Constance F. Threinen (2002)  
Carol Toussaint (2009)  
Wanda Williamson (2017)

## **LWVDC 50-Year Members in Memoriam:**

Alicia Ashman (2002)  
Ellouise Beatty (2009)  
Cynthia Benevenga (2011)  
Frances Bicknell (2005)  
Katherine Jane Bruère (2006)  
Helen Bruner (2002)  
Helen DeBardleben (2007)  
Louise Fisher (2005)  
Harriet Gorski (2009)  
Arneita Halle (2011)  
Mary Ann Halvorson (2009)  
Marjorie Harris (2006)  
Anne Herb (2002)  
Frances Hurst (2002)  
Don Kanel (2010)  
Ruth Kearl (2002)  
Martha Kjentvet (1990)  
Annrita Lardy (2002)  
Elizabeth A. "Libby" Lewis (2007)  
Elizabeth W. Lewis (2000)  
Frankie Locke (2006)  
Doris Mita (2005)  
Faith Mote (2002)  
Mary Lou Munts (2005)  
Ann Nelson (2005)  
Mary Page (2005)  
Clara Penniman (2002)  
Phyllis Reisdorf (2008)  
Elizabeth "Beth" Ross (2007)  
Mary Sample (2009)  
Virginia Sample (2002)  
Marilyn Schten (2013)  
Marilyn Slautterback (2007)  
Marian Thompson (2002)  
Yvonne Vitense (2015)  
Florence Zmudzinski (2005)