President’s Message

Barb Feeney (she/they) president@lwvdanecounty.org

Tuesday, December 6
6:30–8 p.m.

LWVDC Virtual Forum

An Economy for All: How Can Dane County Excel?

The League of Women Voters supports legislation, policies and programming to promote economic equity and the democratic principle of common social good; and opposes all legislation, policies and programming that enable the unhealthy concentration of wealth and power. Join us on December 6 to hear our panelists:

**Jason Fields** of Madison Regional Economic Partnership, an economic development organization cultivating industry and talent in eight counties in south central Wisconsin which works in the spirit of collaboration to ensure resources are available to the people and organizations that do business here.

**Ruth Schmidt** of Wisconsin Early Childhood Association which works to modernize Wisconsin’s early care and education system so that parents of pre-school children can afford to enter the workforce and know that their children are taught by qualified professionals and so that those children arrive at public school fully ready to learn.

**Blake Roberts Crall** of the Madison Forward Fund conducting a year-long Guaranteed Income Pilot Project for Madison residents.

Registration details and study materials available on our website.

This event is free and open to the public.
If you have flown out of General Mitchell International Airport in Madison, you have probably noticed the signs designating the area following the security checkpoint as a “Recombobulation Area” — the airport’s tongue-in-cheek acknowledgement that partially undressing and unpacking pieces of one’s carry-on in a public space is, well, discombobulating...

I feel the same way about re-entering aspects of normal life that were set aside for two years while the world battled a potentially deadly virus. It feels like 2022 has been a year of recombobulation — in our personal lives, but also in the life of LWVDC. How have we fared in this forward journey to the “new normal”? If you have been watching, you have seen that the League’s program area is thriving. We continue to offer forums with exciting and diverse speakers, while challenging book studies have offered opportunities to keep learning, whether online or in person. And you have been showing up!

In the months ahead, you will learn about the massive voter outreach push that happened in this year’s election season and about new partnerships that have been formed in the last year, and you will discover new opportunities to advocate for good public policy grounded in LWV’s trademark in-depth study of the issues. With the help of our Executive Director Wendy Hathaway, numerous improvements in our operations have been made. Right now, LWVDC is taking a deep dive into the way we engage new members with the help of our UW-Madison Mellon Public Humanities fellow, Kimmy Rooney. Finally, we are getting ready to take a strategic look into the future with the guidance of a consultant from UW-Extension. I am so glad you are with us on this journey. We are recombobulating!

Members: You’re Invited!

Ready to kick back and breathe a sigh of relief that the months of pre-election drama are behind us? Two post-election social Pop-Ups are scheduled for November. Come see old friends and meet new ones!

**Post-Election Pop-up (East)**
Thursday, November 10, 5–7 p.m.
Great Dane Pub and Brewing Co. Eastside
876 Jupiter Drive, Madison
We will be in the upstairs bar or on the main floor area.
Hosted by Dan Stapleton & Barb Feeney

**Post-Election Pop-up (West)**
Tuesday, November 15, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Bonfyre American Grill
2601 W. Beltline Hwy, Madison (Todd Drive exit)
Look for us at the high bar tables on the bar area!
Hosted by Sue Jennik & Barb Feeney

Interested in co-hosting a pop-up event? [Click here to get started]!
Donate to Defend Democracy & Double Your Impact

Wendy Hathaway (she/her), wendy@lwvdanecounty.org

The Fall General Election is just one week away, with hundreds of thousands of Dane County residents casting their ballots. You can play a role in helping even more people participate in our democracy by donating to LWV Dane County’s fall fundraising campaign.

As we race toward the finish line of this election season, the League needs your help to empower voters and defend democracy in 2022 and beyond. We’re challenging members and supporters to raise $30,000 to fund the League’s work to make sure all voters have a fair and equal opportunity to register and cast their ballot. Through the end of the year, your gift will be matched up to $10,000 for double the impact thanks to the incredible generosity of several League members who provided a seed gift toward this campaign.

Please consider making a gift online at lwvdanecounty.org/fall-campaign or mail a check to: League of Women Voters of Dane County 720 Hill St, Ste 200 Madison, WI 53705-3539.

Can’t make a financial gift at this time? We understand. Please consider volunteering with LWVDC in 2023. Check out current Volunteer Opportunities online at lwvdanecounty.org/volunteer or email Executive Director Wendy Hathaway at wendy@lwvdanecounty.org to get started.

Volunteering Powers LWVDC

Kimberly Rooney (she/her), krooney@lwvdanecounty.org

As the LWVDC Leadership Development Fellow, one area of study that I’ve been exploring is the nature of volunteerism itself. I want to share some of my recent findings here. Of course, many Bulletin readers are lifelong volunteers, so much of this will seem instinctual to you. I believe, however, that explicitly stating some of the researched motivations for volunteering could spark important reflections about why we do what we do and help us better understand each other.

Scholars have been investigating the motivations for volunteering for decades. Our individual justifications are numerous and complex, but many studies focus on three larger motivation categories: altruistic, social, utilitarian. Someone with utilitarian motivation may be seeking out a specific training or experience to develop a resume. A social motivation might be the desire to meet new people after moving to a new city. Finally, someone with an altruistic motivation may want to do good for their community or defend democracy.

I’ve seen all of these opportunities play out at LWVDC. From our Pop-up Socials to voter registration training and letter writing campaigns, LWVDC — a sizable, well-established organization that is nearly completely volunteer-powered and volunteer-led — provides opportunities for any motivation.

While for many people volunteering comes so naturally, it is not a given for all. The propensity to volunteer is ultimately a socialized behavior (Compion 2022). Certain people are more likely to donate their time, effort, and expertise without pay because of ways they were raised, the values and beliefs they learned, and their cultural and social affiliations. It’s equally important to understand that the
demographic factors that tend towards volunteering often correspond with elements of privilege — for example, living in a two-income household (Cnaan et al 2022).

There are also forms of volunteering that are less likely to be recognized and celebrated. Informal volunteering, such as helping a stranded stranger or taking care of a sick loved one, doesn’t come with a structured training and support system like an established nonprofit organization does, for example. While those forms of offering time, effort, and expertise without pay come with their many intrinsic rewards, they are often underrecognized and underappreciated by larger society.

This is just a small glimpse into the vast arena that is research on volunteerism. But even this snapshot raises good questions for reflection: In what ways do you offer your time, effort, resources, and expertise? What are your reasons for doing so? What about your upbringing and your current values drives you to volunteer or not to? What privileges allow you to? What do you get from volunteering? How do you recognize the different types of volunteering that those around you do?

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**Save the Date: Statewide Implicit Bias Training**

**Thursday, November 17, 2022**

6:30–7:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Tune in on November 17 for a virtual presentation by LWVWI DEI Senior Specialist Maria Douglas on implicit bias. All League members across Wisconsin are invited—we’d love to see lots of LWVDC folks there!

**For more information and to register, visit** [https://my.lww.org/wisconsin/event/statewide-implicit-bias-training-save-date](https://my.lww.org/wisconsin/event/statewide-implicit-bias-training-save-date)
Supporting Our Municipal Clerks

Gail Krc, krgjmat@gmail.com

Municipal clerks are one of the main sources of information for voters. To support our clerks in their efforts to provide information to Wisconsin voters, LWV Dane County started the Government Collaboration Project. Through this project, League members volunteer to be liaisons to their local municipal clerks. The goal of the project is to ensure that up-to-date and accurate voting information is easily available to Wisconsin voters.

The project started with Dane County towns and villages. Because local clerk websites are one of the first places people look for voting information, we began by developing a list of critical information for municipal clerk websites. If their clerk agrees, clerk liaisons use this list to review their clerk’s website and make suggestions for updating, deleting, or adding information. Clerk liaisons may also offer to help provide information in other formats, such as posting information on social media or having local voter registration events.

The project lead supports clerk liaisons by providing resource materials and suggestions on topics such as how to approach local clerks.

There currently are 19 LWVDC clerk liaisons, and we would like to increase that number. Because we are only recruiting League members who live in Dane County towns or villages, we won’t be able to reach all municipal clerks.

Clerk liaisons are still needed for the towns of Albion, Berry, Black Earth, Blooming Grove, Blue Mounds, Bristol, Christiana, Dane, Mazomanie, Medina, Montrose, Perry, Pleasant Springs, Primrose, Roxbury, Springdale, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Vermont, Vienna, and York, and the villages of Belleville, Blue Mounds, Brooklyn, Cambridge, Cottage Grove, Cross Plains, Dane, Deerfield, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Rockdale, and Windsor. If you live in any of these towns or villages, we hope you will consider becoming a liaison to your local clerk.

Please contact Gail Krc at krgjmat@gmail.com if you would like to join this effort.

League Help Needed!

- Events planners/event hosts
- Button-makers
- Spanish-speaking outreach volunteers
- Help with bookkeeping
- Help with tax preparation
- Zoom support
- Photographers
- Writers for resource materials
- Editor for Voting Volunteers weekly email
- Forum planners
- Advocacy Corps members

Visit www.lwvdanecounty.org/volunteer for details and contact information. And be sure to share with your fellow members looking for ways to support the League.

2022 Interfaith Transgender Day of Remembrance Service

You are invited to participate in the 2022 Interfaith Transgender Day of Remembrance Service which will take place on Sunday, Nov. 20, at Temple Beth El (2702 Arbor Dr.). A tabling hour will start at 6 p.m., and the vigil and service will be from 7 to 8 p.m.

In some religious communities, the month of November is designated for remembering those who have passed. This service is meant to remember and honor the lives of transgender people who face unique stressors and challenges in feeling at home in this world.

The organizers of this event note, “It is always encouraging and, in more instances than we might realize, lifesaving for LGBTQ+ folks to know the names of local organizations and places of worship that are safe and affirming.”

LWVDC is participating as a cosponsor and community partner of the event and will be listed as such in the event’s bulletin. Our goal in being part of this event is not to promote the League but to be present as a supporter of the transgender community.

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Celebrate Our Right to Vote!

*A benefit for LWV Dane County featuring The Civil Engineers & Magic Conch*

Bring your dancing shoes!
Cover: $10

Saturday, November 5, at 9 p.m.
Harmony Bar & Grill
2201 Atwood Avenue, Madison

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*
The Advocacy Corps Announces Letter-Writing Campaign
Advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org

The Advocacy Corps is dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. The Corps responds to critical activities and events by engaging members in action-oriented timely campaigns. There are Five Working Groups which are focused on Voter Rights, Judicial Integrity, Campaign Finance Reform, Climate and Environmental Justice, and Reproductive Freedom.

We are announcing our Letter-Writing Campaign, designed to keep the public abreast in a timely manner of all the pressing issues facing our democracy here in Wisconsin. This campaign is designed to help League members who are unfamiliar or want help with writing letters to state and county officials expressing their opinions on issues within the working group. Each of these Working Groups will have its own dedicated file and will provide resources, writing prompts, and links to help you with your chosen area of interest.

We are developing a unique Google Doc with national, state, and local League position statements, action alerts, forum resources, and other articles to help you write a letter about your favorite issue(s). In addition, members of the working groups will be available to provide assistance with research, links to articles, and editing on the various issues. You will be able to access the documents by clicking on a link that we hope to publish on the LWVDC website and in the LWVDC Enews.

We will be rolling out our Google Doc in late November or early December. Our goal is to continue updating material and be ready for the upcoming State legislative session in late winter.

If you are interested in working on the Letter-Writing Campaign, please contact us at advocacy@lwvdanecounty.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Farewell to Bulletin Editor Lauren Surovi
Wendy Hathaway (she/her), wendy@lwvdanecounty.org

On behalf of the entire League, I’d like to express my appreciation for the creativity, patience, and attention to detail that Lauren Surovi has dedicated to LWV Dane County for nearly two years as the editor of Bulletin. Lauren joined LWVDC in 2018 and since February 2021 has dedicated hours each month coordinating publication of our monthly newsletter, much of which happens behind the scenes. In order to produce each issue you receive via email, she must set schedules; collaborate with writers, copyeditors, and photographers; and design the layout, while also making important editorial decisions to ensure our members stay up-to-date on what’s happening across the organization.

In addition, Lauren has also participated in other LWVDC activities — she began volunteering as an editor on Candidates’ Answers and most recently
helped pitch the idea to apply for a Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship at UW–Madison’s Center for Humanities and played a key role in the interview process.

Lauren recently accepted a faculty position at her alma mater, Syracuse University in New York, as Assistant Teaching Professor in Italian. We will miss Lauren’s calm, can-do attitude and dedication to defending democracy.

P.S. This means, of course, we are on the lookout for a new editor, or an editorial team, to publish Bulletin starting in early 2023!

- The Bulletin Editor coordinates the electronic publication of our monthly e-newsletter.
- We’re looking for someone with solid communication skills; proficiency with technology (email, Google Apps, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF); working knowledge of AP style or related style guides. The best candidates will be organized, able to set and meet deadlines.
- Estimated time commitment: 6-10 hours per issue (over a period of about two weeks).

As someone with a professional background in journalism and communications, I’d love to talk to anyone who has questions or is considering taking on the job. Email me at wendy@lwvdanecounty.org.

In Memory of Elaine Rattunde

Thank you to the family of Elaine Rattunde, who suggested LWVDC as a recipient of memorial gifts from her friends and family. These unexpected gifts are deeply appreciated.

Elaine joined LWVDC in 2019 when her daughter, Mary Ellen Schmit, was Membership Co-chair. You can read more about Elaine’s life here.

Review: “Protect Your Right to Vote: Proposed Voting Laws”

Jill Jokela, jjokela@sbcglobal.net

Voting laws at the state and federal levels were the focus of the League’s October 10 forum “Protect Your Right to Vote: Proposed Voting Laws.”

Forum moderator Andrea Kaminski, League member and former LWVWI executive director, provided background on the League’s positions and activities regarding voting laws. The national League position is that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. The Wisconsin League actively lobbies for free, fair, and accessible elections and against laws that make voting more difficult and has participated in lawsuits to protect our right to vote.

Professor Barry Burden, director of the UW–Madison Elections Research Center discussed federal and state pending election laws. The federal For the People Act includes provisions for same-day voter registration, two weeks of early voting, public financing, and non-partisan redistricting commissions. The U.S. House passed the bill twice, but not the Senate. The John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which strengthens
voting rights by modifying the formula for pre-clearance, has also been passed by the House and stopped by the Senate. Pre-clearance provisions aim to prevent states and localities with a recent history of voter discrimination from restricting the right to vote by requiring such jurisdictions to obtain pre-clearance from the Department of Justice before changing election laws.

The Wisconsin Legislature passed a number of bills to restrict the voting process, which Governor Tony Evers vetoed. Burden noted that Wisconsin’s court system now decides most election law, including bans on ballot drop boxes and restricted absentee ballot curing. As the panelists noted, inconsistent court decisions result in voter uncertainty.

President of the Dane County NAACP Greg Jones described the impact of voting laws on people of color in Wisconsin:

- In 2020, during the pandemic, the City of Milwaukee used ballot drop boxes to offset having to close numerous polling places due to a shortage of poll workers for the November election. The courts have since ruled the boxes illegal.
- The Republican-controlled Legislature has used gerrymandering to limit minority voter power.

Barbara Beckert, director of External Advocacy for Disability Rights Wisconsin, explained the Disability Vote Coalition elevates voices of people who are harmed by restrictive voter policies. In Wisconsin, 23% of the electorate in November 2020 were individuals with some kind of disability.

The barriers citizens with disabilities encounter historically include inaccessible polling places; lack of photo ID (30% of Wisconsin adults with disabilities do not have drivers’ licenses); limited hours at the Division of Motor Vehicles; lack of transportation to the polls or the DMV; poll workers’ lack of awareness of disabled voter rights; and limited access to the internet and other technology, Beckert said.

People with disabilities rely on absentee voting, an option now under attack. Guidance keeps changing regarding absentee ballots, indefinitely confined voters, and voting under guardianship, Beckert said.

So, what can League members do to help? All panelists agreed it is important to elevate the voices of people negatively impacted by restrictive policies and ensure their stories are known to legislators.

A recording of the forum and the resource materials can be found online.

There is a lot going with LWVDC these days! Want to stay on top of the most current happenings? Look for our weekly Enews in your email every Tuesday, or subscribe here, if you don’t receive it.
Review: “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich

Louise Robbins, louise.s.robbins@gmail.com

In her Pulitzer Prize-winning historical novel, “The Night Watchman,” Louise Erdrich draws on the life of her grandfather, a night watchman and tribal chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, as he leads the fight against the termination of tribal status and sovereignty for his and ultimately all other Indigenous American tribes.

The fight against termination is interwoven with the story of Patrice, his niece, who works at the first manufacturing plant near the reservation, supporting her mother and brother. She goes in search of her missing sister and uncovers the exploitation suffered by Native women. As LWVDC continues its campaign to educate Wisconsin voters on the history of the displacement of Native nations in Wisconsin, this North Dakota story introduces us to resourceful, resilient characters while it sheds light on the struggle of the Ojibwe (Chippewa) people to retain their homelands, their sovereignty, and their culture.

Join us in discussing “The Night Watchman”! Louise Robbins will lead a Zoom discussion on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and Jeannine Ramsey will lead a Zoom discussion on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Sign up and indicate your session preference by emailing books@lwvdanecounty.org by Nov. 5.

The League in the News

Candidates’ Answers publication now available
Sun Prairie Star | October 4, 2022

Eligible voters in jail face barriers accessing ballots
WISC-TV | October 25, 2022

Featuring the work of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition, an organization formed by LWVDC and the Dane County NAACP whose mission is to educate voters about the requirement to show an acceptable photo ID to receive a ballot on Election Day or when voting absentee. Special thanks to LWVDC member and Dane County Voter ID Coalition Steering Committee leader Julia Gilden, quoted in this story!
New Members
We welcome these new members who joined us in September 2022. An updated member directory is available on our website. NOTE: The password for the directory page was changed on April 26, 2022. If you need the new password, contact the webmaster for help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rebecca Beach</th>
<th>Mary Ann Doll</th>
<th>Sybil Pressprich</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Carlson</td>
<td>Carol Dutton</td>
<td>Lisa Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Cooper</td>
<td>Robert Dutton</td>
<td>Susan Wellnitz</td>
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<td>Sharon Radbil Cooper</td>
<td>Traci Nolan</td>
<td>Michael Williamson</td>
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Contributions
Our work is supported by financial contributions beyond membership dues. Thank you to these supporters who donated in September 2022.

General Donations
Marty Fox & Catherine Briggs  | Arlan Kay           | Luke Sackash |
Mary Ann Brow                  | Merilyn Kupferberg  | Joan Schwarz |
James Cory                     | Alison Mix          | Rose & Trevor Stephenson |
Larissa DeLain                 | Judith Munger       | Lindsey Thomas |
Erica & Scott Diehl            | Mary Clare Murphy   | Ann Waidelich |
Mary Fulton                    | Peg O'Donoghue      | Meg Wise      |
Lynn Glueck                    | Barbara Olson       |                 |
Janet & Michael Kane           | Ingrid Rothe & Melissa Keyes |

Memorial Donations in honor of Connie Threinen
Cindy, Nancy & Becky Collins  | Andrea Kaminski     | Judy Saeman |
Ian Gaylor                     | Carol Kiemel        | Jill Snyder |
Phyllis Hasbrouck             | Ann McNeary         | Chuck Stonecipher |
Helen Horn & Ralph Petersen   | Judy & Steve Reinke |

Memorial Donations in honor of Elaine Rattunde
Marsha Cohen                  | Helen Horn & Ralph Petersen |
Sally Gleason                 | Marilyn January      |
|                                | Karen Richardson    |
**Discussion Units**

Many League members meet in one of five units to discuss the topic of each forum, using the resource/study materials provided by the program planners to guide the conversation. The discussion concludes with recommendations for further study or action. Units meet regularly at different times and locations, including via Zoom. All in-person meetings occur in Madison unless otherwise noted. Find a unit meeting that's convenient for you and participate! Details below.

In November, Units will meet with a member of the Advocacy Corps who will lead the discussions. Each presentation will include information on how to write a letter to the editor or to members of the Assembly/Senate or Congress and how to discuss politics at family (and other) gatherings during the holiday season — timely and useful. **The Capitol Lakes and “Outside of Madison” Units will not be meeting in November.** Other Units will meet as scheduled via Zoom.

In December, Units will meet via Zoom the second week (not the third as usual due to the holidays) to discuss materials presented at the December 6 Forum.

Please contact the Unit Discussion Leader if interested in participating in a Unit Discussion so that you will get a Zoom link.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit: Prairie Ridge <em>(For Prairie Ridge residents only)</em></th>
<th>Unit: Central West</th>
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<td>Time: 5:30 p.m., second Monday of the month</td>
<td>Time: 12:45 p.m., second Tuesday of the month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Virtual, via Zoom</td>
<td>Location: Virtual, via Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaders: Dot Whiting</td>
<td>Leader: Kathy Johnson <em>(608) 238–1785</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Unit: West / Middleton</th>
<th>Unit: Northeast Side</th>
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<td>Time: 3:30 p.m., second Wednesday of the month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Virtual, via Zoom</td>
<td>Location: Virtual, via Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leader: Ralph Petersen, Helen Horn <em>(608) 231-1807</em></td>
<td>Leaders: Karen Gunderson <em>(608) 729–4351</em></td>
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<th>New Unit for Members outside of Madison</th>
<th>Unit: Capitol Lakes</th>
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<td>Time: Will not meet in November</td>
<td>Time: Will not meet in November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Virtual, Via Zoom</td>
<td>Location: Virtual, Via Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leader: Karen Michael <em>(608) 284-9718</em></td>
<td>Leader: Aileen Nettleton</td>
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*LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY*
Upcoming Events

Nov. 1  Advocacy Corps Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 5  Celebrate Our Right to Vote! A benefit for LWVDC, 9 p.m.
Nov. 9  LWVDC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Nov 10  Post-Election Member Pop-Up (East), 5 p.m.
Nov. 12  Nov. Book Discussion, 10 a.m.
Nov. 14  Voter Service Steering Committee, 12 p.m.
Nov. 14  Program/Advocacy Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 15  Nov. Book Discussion, 10 a.m.
Nov. 15  Post-Election Member Pop-Up (West), 4:30 p.m.

2022 Elections

Nov. 8  Fall General Election