



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

Calendar

414-273-8683

<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: info@lwvmilwaukee.org

September

- 12 Wed., **Kickoff Social**, 5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.,
Diamond Tower Solarium
1633 N. Prospect Avenue
Contact: Sue Lindberg (414) 271-1257
(details inside, RSVP)
- 12 Wed., Board Meeting, 7:30-8:30
Diamond Tower Solarium
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617
- 13 Thur., Noon – 1 p.m., 4th Street Forum
Milwaukee Turners Bldg
“World Refugees and Wisconsin”
- 24 Mon., Natural Resources Comm. joins IR
meeting on 25th
- 25 – Tue., 9:15 a.m. International Relations
Committee
Topic:
“World Wide Energy and Climate Change”
Anne Morrissey’s home,
4215 N. 100th St., #220, Milwaukee
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald,
(414) 371-7836
- 28 Fri., 6:30 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres, 7 – 8:30pm
Theatre & Talk Back
**Tear Up the Front Page/new works
Ensemble Theatre**
A FUN “MUST” (details inside)
- 29 Sat., 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.,
“Making Democracy Work” Summit
THIS MEETING IS A “MUST”
(details inside)
Room M-605, Milwaukee Area Technical
College
Downtown Campus, Main Bldg.,
1015 N. 6th Street
Registration online at www.lwvwi.org or use
the form inside
(Register by Sept. 17th for the reduced rate.)

October

- 5& 6 Fri. 12:30 – Sat., 8 a.m. –3:30 p.m.
Lake Michigan Interleague Org.
Annual Meeting
Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center
Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, IL
(article inside)
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351.3617
- 9 Tue., 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Immigration Study Committee Open Meeting
City Market – East, 2205 E. Capital Dr
Shorewood
Contact: Zabelle Malkasian, (414) 258-2380
- 10 Wed., Board Meeting. Mtg.
Bulletin Deadline
Contact: Louise Petering (414) 351-3617
- 22 Mon., 7 p.m., Natural Resources Committee
Meeting
Jennifer Runquist’s home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist, (414) 332-5067
- 23 Tue., 9:15 a.m., International Relations
Committee
Topic: “United Nations: Does it Work?”
Dr. Gary Shellman, Pres. Milwaukee Chapter
US UN Assn.
Lucille Bowen’s home
4215 N. 100th Street, #220
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald
(414) 371-7836
- 24 Wed., 9:00 a.m., United Nations Flag Raisings
Milwaukee: Frank P. Zeidler Bldg.,
City Hall Annex, Kilbourn & Broadway
Wauwatosa: N. 76th St. and North Avenue
West Allis: S. 75th St. and Greenfield Avenue

To be Scheduled:
Training for Candidate/Issue Forums
Contact: Anne Baynton – (414) 961-1467

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Louise Petering

WELCOME TO ANOTHER LEAGUE YEAR. **COME SEPTEMBER 12th to our Salad Supper Social.** We promise you’ll enjoy yourself as you visit with League friends you’ve missed during the summer and get to know newcomers.

After the fun on the 12th, we’ll have more fun at the September 28th evening theater event when Tear Up the Front Page by TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater entertains with a glimpse into the life of a journalist living in the world of spin and counter-spin. To get things straight - about protecting voting rights, campaign finance, judicial independence and more - register for the “Making Democracy Work” Summit on September 29th in downtown Milwaukee. See the items inside for more information on registration and the day’s events.

As you may note in Ruth Snedic’s Action report, League work does continue during the summer months, although a slower pace. The Board has held its monthly meetings and with input from local members and State and National League’s we have mapped out our League year. The resulting “Calendar Planner” will be in

ARE YOUR ANNUAL DUES PAST DUE?

Check the address label for your dues due date.
Check “dues paid through” date on your address label. Not paid?
Complete the form on back of this bulletin & send in with your Dues!!!

Annual Kickoff & Social

Wed., September 12

5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.,
Diamond Tower Solarium, 1
633 N. Prospect Avenue
Contact: Sue Lindberg (414) 271-1257
(details inside, RSVP)

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your hands soon. Use it to find your niche in League and to plan your League year.

League is a people organization of committed women and men who make a wholesome difference in community life. As you read this bulletin and look through the "Planner" you will see we are a multi-issue organization. We all know life is not "single-issue" and at times it is a challenge to sort things out, set priorities and move on with one's decisions. League does these first by setting priorities through its program planning process (see Sarajane Kennedy's article in the Nov/Dec 2006 bulletin on our website) and second, by studying selected issues and adding to its program positions through consensus. This year we look forward to three studies: The national study on "Immigration," the state study on "Election Administration," and the local study on "Predatory Lending." Immigration study members will meet in October, Election Administration is one of the September "Summit" topics, and Predatory Lending folks begin meeting in October. Watch our website for announcements on meeting locations and times. It is clear we are current and relevant since all these topics are in today's news.

So read through the articles in this bulletin and use them to help you find your niche in League. If you have questions, phone the contact person noted in the calendar or article. You will always be WELCOME.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stefaniak, Member, Membership Committee

Welcome to our new members, Sharon Bloomgarden, Leslie and Roger Frick, Kristy Frink, Jane Genzel and Beverly Katter. We welcome you to an organization whose membership has grown the past two years! You will find Leaguers friendly, interesting, and committed to "making democracy work."

Continuing members, please be sure to welcome our new members and remember to renew; if you are unsure about whether your dues are due, please check the date in the upper right hand corner of your address label. If the date is June 30th 2007, please carefully complete the form on the back of this bulletin and send it with a check to the address provided on the form. Or renew on line at <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>. Your entries on the form help us accurately record your contact information so it appears correctly in our membership directory. Thank You!

Our 50-year member, Marjorie Loomis Marshall passed away this his past April. Having taught high school for several years, she changed the course of her early life by enrolling in the UW Law School. After graduating, she opened her own law practice in Madison and served on the WWII War Manpower Commission in Madison. Later she and her husband

practiced law together. Her advice to young women lawyers: "specialize."

Several League members serving in civic capacities help "make democracy work" in Milwaukee County communities. Representing League are Joanne Barndt, Milwaukee City Ethics Board; and Jennifer Runquist, MMSD Citizen Advisory Committee. Members who hold appointed (A) or elected (E) positions are: Barbara Eisenberg (E) – Milw. County Delegate to the WI Conservation Congress, Louise Petering (E) - Fox Point Village Trustee, Barbara Toles (E)– WI 17th Assembly District Representative, and Kerry Thomas (A) – Transportation Working Group of Governor's Task Force on Global Warming.

GOVERNMENT

ACTION

Ruth Snedic, Chair

If you have recently joined the electronic generation or changed your email address, please notify Mary Stefaniak (276-7557) to help her update our records. You will then automatically become a member of our "E-Mail Action Team." Of course, every email you receive as an action team member allows you to click to opt off the team. However, I hope you'll stay a member of the TEAM and "help make democracy work." Recent actions are below.

National

We again joined the "National Call to the Senate" to help secure voting rights for the Citizens of the District of Columbia. The "District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act" sponsored by Senator Lieberman and Senator Hatch would right this wrong but, alas, didn't happen.

State

League members contacted our Assembly representatives to support Healthy Wisconsin. We strongly support this legislation. It is still being debated and the budget has not been finalized so we are waiting to see what will happen.

We joined Environments Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana to fight BP's proposed increased dumping into Lake Michigan. We were asked to sign a petition and also to work at action in handing out pamphlets at BP stations. Many of us emailed BP's executive in Whiting, IN. Over 70,000 messages from several groups led to the retraction of the proposed increased dumping of ammonia and sludge containing mercury into the Lake.

Local

We were asked for action on the Housing Trust Fund to encourage the Mayor to fully include this in the

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city budget in full. He is thinking of paring the budget amount. We need action on this Fund and are asking people to email the Mayor regarding this.

Ruth Snedic moderated primary and general election forums for the Mayoral race in Cudahy. The results produced a vacancy for county supervisor since Ryan McCue won the election. As a result, Ruth moderated a forum for the special primary and general elections for county supervisor which Pat Jursik ultimately won. We co-sponsored both forums with the Kelly Senior Center and Interfaith.

SEPT 28/29, "MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK" SUMMIT

Louise Petering, President

There is not better way to get into the swing of "making democracy work" than by attending the pair of events on September 28 and 29. We start with humor on the 28th when Madison's new works Ensemble Theater presents *Tear Up the Front Page*, a comedy about spin and counter-spin where it is easy to lose your way and truth disappears. On the 29th clarity comes to the rescue with keynotes on "Protecting Voting Rights and Election Integrity Through Positive Structural Reform" and "Judicial Independence." Breakout sessions on Voting Rights, Campaign Finance and Ethics: the Problem, and the Solution, Media Reform and others will help us conclude the day with a united movement for reform in Wisconsin. All Leaguers received a flyer for the event. Use the form in the flyer by September 17 to register for both events OR register on line at WWW.LWVWI.ORG. After the 17th the rate increases \$10. See the insert in this bulletin for the summit agenda and registration forms for the theater event on the 28th and summit on the 29th. If you have questions, phone (414) 351-3617.

IMMIGRATION STUDY

Kit Halloran-O'Meara, Immigration Study Committee

YOU'RE INVITED!!

START OUT YOUR DAY WITH SOME HEARTY FARE! Summer is coming to an end and it's really time to start thinking about the Immigration study. By January 2008 we must be coming to consensus on a major, complex issue. Please find the scope of the immigration study and Study Brief #1 in this bulletin. "U.S. Immigration: A Historical Perspective" in the February 2007 "Voter" and is available online at WWW.LWV.ORG or by mail upon request at (414) 351-3617. Please leave your name, address with ZIP code and phone number if

you request a mailed copy. Take some time to review these three articles.

And as we all work on what we think about this issue, come talk about it with the committee. Don't worry; we aren't going to make you do anything! Just think and come share your thinking! This is a very open committee meeting.

WHEN: Tue., October 9th, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

WHERE: City Market-East, 2205 E. Capital Dr, Shorewood

TOPIC: The historical perspective piece & what it tells us about today's debate

If you can't make it to that session, come

WHEN: Wed., November 14th, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

WHERE: City Market-West, 8725 West North Avenue, Wauwatosa

TOPIC: To be decided in October. More to come.

Hope to see you on October 9th.

The "Immigration" study that passed at national convention in 2006 was initially a three-year study. However, the grassroots called for amending it to a two-year study, a move that would enable Leagues to advocate on the issue (based on positions adopted at the 2008 national convention) during the fall elections of 2008. Working with input from local and state Leagues, the national "Immigration" study committee defined the study scope printed below.

- Underlying values and principles regarding immigration
- Reasons for migration from other countries, including but not limited to
 - Effects of global interdependence on migration
 - Motivation of refugees and asylees
 - Motivation of other immigrants
- Current federal immigration policy, including but not limited to:
 - Overview
 - Effectiveness in uniting families
 - Effectiveness in meeting needs of businesses
 - Human rights concerns
- Impact of immigration, including but not limited to:
 - Economic effects of authorized and unauthorized immigration
 - Diversity
 - Inclusion of immigrants in American society

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Global Interdependence and Migration

According to a National Intelligence Estimate, globalization is stimulating migration with significant implications for the U.S. Expanding international trade, finance, investment and information flows are accentuating economic insecurity and migration pressures.

Migration pressures on the U.S. and within the Americas region are expected to continue to rise in the next decade. Despite strong economic prospects in Mexico, the disparities in living standards, increased demand for labor in the U.S. and immigration reunification laws will sustain Mexico as the single largest source of authorized and unauthorized immigration to the U.S.

Remittances

The flow of remittances (the transfer of money by foreign workers to their families and communities in their home countries) from the U.S. has reached record amounts and represents a major source of income for millions of individuals and communities. According to an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) study, Latin American households receive \$60 billion annually from remittances worldwide, more than these countries receive in aid from the U.S. and from institutions such as the World Bank.

Remitted funds have a positive impact on the development and welfare of countries receiving the funds. The money for foreign-born workers send home is mainly used to cover basic necessities. For example, about 8 percent of remitted funds in Oaxaca, Mexico, is spent on business start-ups or investments, while 92 percent goes to meet daily needs. Remittances improve access to education and health care for families in immigrants' home countries and help banks finance imports from the U.S., offsetting country trade deficits (where imports exceed exports).

U.S. Policies

U.S. agricultural policies, e.g., farm subsidies, have resulted in unexpected consequences, including an increase in unauthorized immigration. Subsidies have allowed U.S. farmers to sell corn at prices below cost. Corn is the centerpiece of the Mexican diet, and, according to a 2003 Oxfam briefing paper, the Mexican corn sector was being displaced by subsidized low-cost corn imports from the U.S. Thus, millions of Mexicans, unable to make a living in Mexico, emigrated to escape rural poverty.

Current heightened interest in alternative fuel for automobiles means things are changing; corn-based ethanol production in the U.S. has increased, driving up corn prices as well as exports. Consequently, feedstock and tortilla prices have risen, hurting the pocketbook of many Mexicans. On the other hand, rising corn prices benefit Mexican corn growers.

Employment Issues

Pressure to emigrate will continue if many new working-age people entering the job market in developing countries fail to find work. According to a National Intelligence Estimate, Mexico's new job creation rate is 700,000, while the number of new workers entering the Mexican market is nearly one million annually. Mexico also has a brain drain - nearly a third of all Mexicans with advanced degrees leave Mexico for the U.S.

Global competition to attract foreign graduate students to universities is growing. In 1989, American universities awarded twice the number of PhDs granted by Asian countries. According to a July 2006 Migration Policy Institute study, by 2001, the gap had closed putting the U.S. in more competition for the highly skilled workers needed to fill U.S. jobs.

Immigration policy affecting high-skilled workers becomes increasingly

important as the competition for high-skilled labor increases around the world. Ease of employment-linked permanent residency is a factor that can facilitate or deter immigration to the U.S.

Solutions

Robert Pastor, Director of the Center for North American Studies at American University, concludes that narrowing the income gap between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada is the only way to stop the flow of migrants. He supports the proposed North American Investment Fund, funded by Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, which would be used to build highways, roads and broadband internet lines in southern Mexico to connect it to North America. The effort would not stop illegal immigration, but is projected to double Mexico's growth rate and reduce the income gap with the U.S. by 20 percent in a decade.

Tamar Jacoby (Foreign Affairs, Nov./Dec. 2006) points out that immigrant influx is the product of changing U.S. demographics, global development and increasingly easy international communications. Pressures to emigrate from developing countries will remain intense, fueled by poverty, lack of jobs, population growth and political instability. At the same time, globalization increases access to information about lifestyles and opportunities in industrialized countries. The global integration of the labor market for both highly skilled and unskilled workers is also a continuing trend. Immigration laws and policies need to take into account these realities, along with the effect of other laws and policies such as farm subsidies and NAFTA. ■

This brief is based on the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background paper, "Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration" by Dorrit Marks. The paper (including full citations of sources) is available at www.lwv.org.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LAKE MICHIGAN INTERLEAGUE ORGANIZATION (LMILO) ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 5 & 6, Illinois Beach Resort, Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, IL

LMILO is an organization of Leagues from states bordering Lake Michigan that continues to actively work to protect and restore Lake Michigan. LMILO recently received significant press attention in the Chicago for their work to prevent British Petroleum from increasing their discharge loads to Lake Michigan. The annual meeting features tours of the N. Shore Sanitary District sludge dryer and melter as well as the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project. The dinner keynotes deal with dunes and water supplies. Organizational and environmental issues will be featured during the business meeting. Registration is \$70.00: Includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch meal package. For more information and to register phone (414) 351-3617.

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS & THE DNR

Barbara Eisenberg, member, NR Committee

Since April 2005, I have served as Milwaukee County's elected delegate to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, one of 72 advisors to the DNR Board. Wisconsin is the only state that has this type of citizen advisory body that speaks to the DNR Board, the DNR and the legislature. Up for re-election in April 2008, Barbara has the support of the Natural Resources Committee. If you haven't heard, the DNR will have a new Secretary; Scott Hassett has resigned and Matt Frank is Governor Doyle's appointee.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/>

MMSD 2020 FACILITIES PLAN

Dr. Jennifer Runquist, Chair, Natural Resources Comm. and League Representative to MMSD Citizen's Advisory Committee, 2005-2007

On Monday, June 11, 2007 the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Commissioners unanimously approved an innovative and wide reaching "2020 Facilities Plan." Particularly innovative is the watershed approach to managing the non-point pollution that contaminates area streams and Lake Michigan.

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District engineers have concluded that investing more money in deep tunnels would not be cost effective, because additional storage will not provide significant improvements in water quality. Current storage capacity for wet weather events is 521 million gallons of sewerage. MMSD normally treats about 150 million gallons of sewerage per day. MMSD is capable of treating almost 700 million gallons of sewerage per day. The facilities plan proposes installing more pumps at the end of the deep tunnel system beneath Jones Island, to enable operators to empty tunnels more quickly after heavy rains. These pumps would cost about \$108 million and will be installed in two phases. A faster pace of pumping wastewater out of the tunnels will provide additional storage capacity during long-duration storm events. Additionally two large tunnels, being built under the Milwaukee and KK Rivers, will send sewerage and storm water directly into Jones Island for processing. This harbor project is a \$138 million dollar project. The additional tunnels, rehabilitation of regional collection sewers that connect to the tunnels, and construction of a 2.5 mile-long wet weather relief sewer underneath the Menomonee Valley, will provide more efficient and effective treatment of wastewater during rain events.

A major problem facing MMSD and its 28 service communities is that there is excessive water leakage into municipal sewers that drain into MMSD's regional collection system during rain events. These leaks overwhelm the sewers causing overflows in municipalities. This also means that the supposed "separated sewerage" coming from the municipalities may be mainly rainwater, which in turn fills the deep tunnels. MMSD is requiring the municipalities to reduce excessive inflow and infiltration (I/I) from their systems during the next 13 years. The cost of this commitment is \$400 million. Part of the program to reduce rainwater being sent to MMSD is the use of rain barrels, rain gardens and downspout disconnection. Additionally studies are showing that some municipal storm sewers are carrying human waste continuously (not related to rain events), indicating that perhaps a sewer lateral is inappropriately feeding into a storm sewer, not a regular sanitary sewer. This human fecal contamination of our water resources needs to be stopped.

Another important problem relates to water quality in Milwaukee's rivers. Water quality significantly deteriorates during rain events in large part due to animal feces, pesticides and other pollutants washing into the rivers. High E. coli counts found in the rivers correlates with rain events. These high bacterial counts are found even when there are no sewer overflows. The Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update will address water quality

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issues in the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds (1,127 sq. mi.) including the Milwaukee, Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, and Root Rivers, Oak Creek, and the Lake Michigan Direct Drainage Area. The MMSD planning area is only a portion of this regional area (411 sq.mi.). Each watershed will have a “Watershed Action Plan.”

Urban and rural nonpoint stormwater runoff pollution comprises over 90 % of the bacteria load of the streams in the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds. Rural improvements include manure and nutrient management, riparian buffers, wetland restoration, and restriction of livestock access to streams. Urban implementation will include determination of illicit discharges to the storm water management system, chloride reduction, fertilizer management, management of pet and wildlife waste, and green features. Water quality assessment will include fisheries improvement and water quality monitoring by MMSD, WI DNR and citizen-based programs. Communication between 88 municipalities, citizens, MMSD, SEWRPC and regulatory entities will be required to upgrade our wonderful and important water resources.

WATER –“TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY BOTTLED WATER” & BOTTLED WATER IN COURT

Louise Petering, NR Committee Member

There are several good reasons not to buy bottled water 1) bottling water draws down aquifers 2) drinking water standards for bottled water are lower than those for tap water 3) petroleum used to make the plastic bottles needlessly increases our dependence on oil, a dwindling resource 4) the great majority of bottles are not recycled, 5) the possibility of “bisphenol A” leaching from the plastic bottle into the water constitutes a public health concern.

A note about bisphenol A: This organic constituent of plastic has been shown by several non-industry researchers to leach into bottled water from the bottle. Other researchers contest those results. Aside from their disagreement, public health officials believe it is wise to practice the “Precautionary Principle,” specifically - if there is some evidence of harm to health, avoid the behavior until it is proven safe!

Court Decision: As Michigan citizens fight to protect

their streams and water table, the Michigan Supreme Court, by a 4-3 vote, recently narrowed a landmark environmental protection law that allowed state residents to sue to block development projects they think would harm the environment.

You might recall that Wisconsin citizens mortgaged their farms in a fight to keep a Nestle subsidiary from building a bottling plant in Adams County a few years ago. Nestle then went to Michigan to mine water. In July, the Michigan Supreme Court decided that local residents have the right to sue Nestle Waters North America and its bottled water operation over potential damages to the Dead Stream and Thompson Lake in Mecosta County, but don't have the legal standing to sue over a nearby lake and three wetlands – in the same hydrological system - because Nestle does not use those particular areas. See <http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=6837487> for more details.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OPEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Marianne Steigerwald, IR Committee Chair

As it true of all League meetings, our monthly committee meetings are open to all Leaguers and the public. We generally meet in member’s homes to socialize a bit and discuss current issues – in depth. All our meeting dates, topics, times and locations appear in the bulletin calendar. And our discussions will be regularly summarized and appear this bulletin. Again this year we will be following the Great Decisions series sponsored by UW-Milwaukee’s Institute of World Affairs. Join us for stimulating and mind-expanding discussions.

SOCIAL POLICY

HOUSING TRUST FUND \$\$\$ ISSUE

Sue Lindberg, Director

However you see it – as confusion/misunderstanding/disagreement – there is a difference between Mayor Barrett’s budget and Interfaith Conference’s understanding of the City’s financial commitment to the HTF. As Marcus White stated in a recent email, it “seems to boil down to a difference of opinion about the appropriate baseline funding.” League is staying tuned to the issue and will be supporting the HTF and continue to ask for your help as a member of our email action team.

ABOUT LEAGUE: MEETING TYPES

Different kinds of meetings foster different objectives. League “**Unit Discussion Meetings**” enable members to talk more in depth with one another, develop a topic or arrive at consensus. Our “**General Meetings**” allow members to hear presentations and ask questions of presenters. Often these topics are discussed at subsequent “Unit Meetings.”

UNICEF

Mel Bromberg, Director & IR Committee Liaison

Each year the UNICEF program international requests that local communities "Trick or Treat for UNICEF". UNICEF International asks school children, church organizations and retail establishments to collect change in brightly colored and logo designated boxes during the Halloween holiday. Each box contains information on UNICEF and describes where the collected money goes – for vaccinations, safe drinking water, oral rehydration therapy, basic education for girls, food, and supplies for infants and nursing mothers. The Milwaukee United Nations Association now coordinates Milwaukee's UNICEF program. All civic organizations, schools, churches, mosques and synagogues where children attend are eligible to help collect funds for this year's UNICEF Trick or Treat program. League members can help UNICEF by distributing boxes and coordinating collection efforts with organizations interested in UNICEF's work - teachers at area schools, places of worship at "Sunday School," or retail establishments (like Pier One). Please contact me, Mel Bromberg, at 414-352-9758 for information about distributing boxes and returning donations.

MPTV - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Ellis Bromberg, LWVMC Member & General Manager of MPTV

Milwaukee Public Television (MPTV), southeastern Wisconsin's premiere noncommercial media organization, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. For half a century, MPTV has provided southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois with outstanding programs that educate, inform, entertain, stimulate, and inspire.

It all began in October 1957 with WMVS/Channel 10; in 1963, WMVT/Channel 36 went on the air. From the very start, "10&36" have offered the region extensive coverage of personalities, events and the arts, and in-depth coverage of significant issues. MPTV has always had a commitment to providing a rich mix of educational programming for the very young, for the classroom, and for lifelong learners. WMVS and WMVT remain the only noncommercial educational TV stations licensed in the Milwaukee market by the Federal Communications Commission.

Now, in anticipation of the "analog shutoff" in February 2009, when all U.S. television becomes digital, the MPTV family has grown to include six new 24-hour digital TV services:

MPTV HD on channel 36-1: the area's only complete HD and widescreen TV channel

MPTV WORLD on channel 10-1: documentaries and public affairs programs (beginning August 15)

MPTV V-ME on channel 10-2: Spanish language public television

MPTV KIDS on channel 10-3: quality educational PBS children's series

MPTV CREATE on channel 10-4: lifelong learning - cooking, painting, traveling, and more!

MPTV EXTRA on channel 10-5: NOAA weather maps and soothing classical music

The new digital stations may be viewed off-the-air with a digital TV set or tuner, and are all carried on Time Warner Cable.

KRM Commuter Rail: State Budget is the Key

KRM Commuter Rail would be a big step toward building a sustainable and equitable multimodal transportation network in SE Wisconsin. Your help is needed to keep KRM a viable option.

Contact your state senator and state representative today and urge them to support the following important items in the state budget: \$13 rental car fee as a local funding source, and bonding and operating authority for the SE Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (RTA). The RTA unanimously recommended the rental car fee as the local funding source.

If a local funding source is not enabled in the budget, the deadline for federal funding application will be missed and KRM will become a much bigger challenge.

What is KRM Commuter Rail?

Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) Commuter Rail would link the Milwaukee-Chicago economic corridor, connecting 35 lakeside communities, including 3 of Wisconsin's 5 largest cities. There are 9 stations planned in SE Wisconsin with connections in Kenosha and Waukegan to the Chicago Metra trains.

Nearly 2 million people live within 3 miles of the existing and planned train stations, and nearly 1 million jobs are within 1 mile of the stations.

For more information, please visit
www.transitnow.org, and www.krmonline.org.

Join the League Today!

Become a member of the League of Women Voters and help *Make Democracy Work!*

Dues [Circle One]: \$60 Individual \$75 Household (2 or more individuals) \$25 Student \$25 Limited Income
\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$160 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ e-mail _____

Involvement [Check One]: Active ____ or Supporting ____ Interests _____

Please Note: Please circle your preferred means of contact and mail this form with your check to the **League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, P.O. Box 100785, Milwaukee, WI 53210**. Thank You. (Non-tax deductible contributions may be made to the LWV Milwaukee County. For a tax deductible gift to the LWV Milwaukee County, write a separate check, minimum \$50, payable to the LWV Education Fund. Mail contributions to the membership dues address above.)



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

P.O. Box 100785
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414-273-8683
<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

ARE YOUR ANNUAL DUES PAST DUE?

Check the date on your address label.

