



**Presidents' Message**

Greetings, Leaguers:

What an exciting time to be a member of the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County! We are so proud of the work Leaguers have done, and the resulting successes. The Voter Services Committee led by chair Mary Jo McDonald has developed materials to implement Voter Photo ID. They will register newly naturalized citizens at special ceremonies held at MATC in October and at the Holiday Folk Fair International in November.

Our annual Kick-off Salad Supper in Lake Park was a hit. Four "Rebuild America's Infrastructure and Economy" general meetings enabled the League to connect with communities throughout the state in a relevant and meaningful way. Kudos and special thanks to Carol Diggelman, Louise Petering, and all the dedicated Leaguers on the Natural Resources Committee without whom the meetings could not have happened. Denis and Helga Guequierre represented us at the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region annual meeting held in late September. Topics were civic engagement strategies and program ideas, promising partnerships to make democracy work, and policy updates based on science and fact. A sample of data shared: *84 percent of America's fresh surface water is contained in the Great Lakes.* Such remarkable information should serve as a reminder that the League is a great resource.



The explosive growth of Super PACs is a major outgrowth of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*. It undermines the integrity and effectiveness of our nation's anti-corruption campaign finance laws. Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts. They serve as vehicles for donors and candidates to bypass contribution limits enacted by Congress to prevent corruption. Do you think it's time to close this loophole that allows too much big money into our elections? Learn more by attending our General Meeting, "Money in Politics" on Saturday, November 14. See pages 6 - 8. Then share your ideas as we do member agreement at discussion units on Wednesday, November 18.

Denis and Helga Guequierre again open their beautiful home for our winter social on Sunday, December 6. Join other Leaguers as we socialize, meet interesting people, and reminisce about 2015. Please remember the League in your end-of-year giving. Generous donations by members and friends enable us to fund our many programs and activities. The League is grateful for your financial support.

**You make us proud!**

Sincerely,

**T. Ruth Shank**  
**Mary Kae Nelson**  
Co-Presidents

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# CALENDAR

November 2015			
4	Wed	6-7:30 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b> 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988; Ruth Shank, 414-763-2471
12	Thurs	10:00 - 11:30 am	<b>International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group - Human Trafficking</b> Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222
14	Sat	9-11 am	<b>General Meeting - Money in Politics</b> St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Sarajane Kennedy, vpprogram@lwvmilwaukee.org
16	Mon	12:30 - 2:30 pm	<b>Membership Committee</b> St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355
18	Wed	1 pm 6 pm 7 pm	<b>Unit Meetings - Money in Politics</b> See lwvmilwaukee.org for details
20	Fri	1:30 - 4:30 pm	<b>Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration</b> Folk Fair, State Fair Park Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195

December 2015			
2	Wed	7 pm	<b>Natural Resources Committee Meeting</b> Conference Call (call-in number & PIN will be provided) Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-861-4729; Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739
3	Thurs	9 am 11 am	<b>Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration</b> Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 284 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
6	Sun	11 am - 2 pm	<b>Winter Social</b> Home of Denis and Helga Guequierre Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-861-4729
7	Mon	1:30 pm	<b>Voter Services Committee</b> 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
9	Wed	6-7:30 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b> 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988; Ruth Shank, 414-763-2471
10	Thurs	10:00 - 11:30 am	<b>International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group - Brazil's Metamorphosis</b> Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222
17	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	<b>Naturalization Ceremony / New Voter Registration</b> Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
21	Mon	12:30 - 2:30 pm	<b>Membership Committee</b> St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355

# National Voter Registration Day 2015

Michele Goldstein

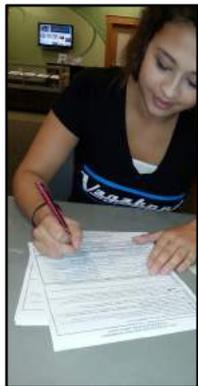
For National Voter Registration Day 2015 on September 22, the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County joined with other organizations to form the Wisconsin Coalition for National Voter Registration Day coordinated by Wisconsin Voices. Participating organizations included: Wisconsin Jobs Now; Peace Action Wisconsin; Citizen Action of Wisconsin; Black Votes Matter; Supermarket Legends; Grassroots Southshore; Clean Slate Milwaukee; League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Rid Racism Milwaukee; SEIU Wisconsin State Council; 9 to 5 Wisconsin; Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin; Centro Hispano; VoteRiders; Democracy 2020.

Each organization or team of organizations took responsibility for registering voters at different sites throughout the city of Milwaukee.



Volunteer Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) from the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County joined Co-op volunteers from Citizen Action of Wisconsin and SRDs referred by the Milwaukee Election Commission. They registered voters and provided voter registration information at the Milwaukee Public Library downtown and at each of the 12 branch libraries. The League also registered voters at Job Corps, the Martin Luther King VA Resource and Referral Center, and Alverno College.

The day kicked off with press conferences in Milwaukee and Madison. The Milwaukee press conference was at Ezekiel Gillespie Park at 2478 North 14th Street at 10 a.m. Speakers included State Senator Nikiya Harris-Dodd; Representative Mandela Barnes; Mike Wilder of Wisconsin Voices; and Mary Kae Nelson, our League Co-President. The press conference was moderated by Anita Johnson from Citizen Action of Wisconsin and VoteRiders. Anita is also a member of our Milwaukee County League. The Madison press conference included Andrea Kaminski of the state League. You can see a video of her presentation by going to: <http://tinyurl.com/kaminskivideo>.



Op eds submitted by League members appeared in Madison, Green Bay, and Appleton newspapers. An op ed submitted to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* by the Milwaukee County League was not published. Anita Johnson was interviewed by radio station 860 about National Voter Registration Day.

The numbers of those registered that day tell only part of the story. Collaboration among so many organizations and the outreach were outstanding. Results included raised awareness about the need to register to vote, or maybe more importantly, to re-register if you had a name change or change of address since you last voted. At the libraries, voter information emphasized that a citizen can register to vote year-round during open registration periods at all neighborhood libraries in the City of Milwaukee.

Total Results for the Day: 163 registered voters!



Results from League sites: 39 volunteers; 41 completed registration forms; 9 incomplete forms due to lack of Proof of Residence (POR) sent on to the Election Commission for follow-up; 34 individuals unable to register due to lack of POR/"on paper"/not a city resident. We spoke with 255 individuals.



## National Voter Registration Day 2015 (Cont.)

Thanks to the volunteer SRDs who helped register voters: Janet Badura, Mary Bowser, Carol Brill, Peggy Creer, Michele Derus, Jack Dierks, Martha Donovan, Mary Fiedler, Nancy Florsheim, Janice Frank, Mary Frank, Mark Gennis, Edith Gilman, Emil Glodoski, Ken Greening, Shirley Halloran, Dale Hofmann, Sandy Hofmann, Arkesia Jackson, Patricia Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Patricia Kennedy, Audrey Keyes, Chris Klages, Mary Jo McDonald, Janet McGrorty, Vivian McLemore, Kit Murphy McNally, Mary Kae Nelson, Kirsten Richard, Pat Rieselbach, Frank Sandberg, Ruth Snedic, Diane Steigerwald, Catherine Tully, Phyllis Wax, Claire Woodall, and Ruth Zubrensky. Thanks to Sarajane Kennedy for helping us connect with Alverno College.

The League is grateful for the support of the Milwaukee Election Commission and the Milwaukee Public Library system in helping to make National Voter Registration Day a success in our community.

### Comments by Mary Kae Nelson at Ezekiel Gillespie Pocket Park on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday September 22, 2015



Good Morning. I am Mary Kae Nelson, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County. The League is proud to participate in the fourth annual National Voter Registration Day.

Registration is the key to helping Americans participate in the political process. Research has demonstrated that simply asking a friend or relative to register and to vote can have a positive impact.

Voting is a right. Voting is a preservative right – it leads to all other rights.

The polling place is the one place where we are all equal – we each have only one vote. Me, you, Bill Gates, the 18-year-old down the street, the elderly man at the retirement home, even Aaron Rogers – we are all equal in the polling place when we exercise our right to vote. Don't give your power away by not getting registered and by not voting in every election.

The League of Women Voters is open to men and women. League volunteers work year-round to register eligible voters, to educate voters, to provide election information, to conduct candidate forums, and to advocate for voters rights. We do this because we believe our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard. League volunteers have been doing this since our founding in 1920.

Kudos to the Milwaukee Election Commission for all they do to ensure that eligible citizens in the City of Milwaukee get registered so they can exercise their right to vote. We also commend the Milwaukee Public Library. Librarians at all Milwaukee branches are Special Registration Deputies. Eligible citizens can register to vote year-round at any Milwaukee Library during open registration periods.

Dozens of League volunteers have stepped up to the challenge here in Milwaukee today to be at every Milwaukee Public Library to provide information like our *How to Register and Vote in Wisconsin*, and to register eligible voters.

We are excited to once again be a part of National Voter Registration Day across our Milwaukee community. We will be working to touch as many eligible voters as we can so that they can all participate in our great democracy.

#### **The Voter Production Crew:**

Chris Hansen, Sr. Editor & Layout  
Shirley Halloran, Editor  
Louise Petering, Advisor

Contact us at:  
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
[League@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:League@lwvmilwaukee.org)

## League of Women Voters Infrastructure and Economy Project Summary

Carol Diggelman, Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair

This fall, the Infrastructure and Economy project of the LWV of Wisconsin (LWV-WI) offered four “Rebuild America’s Infrastructure and Economy” programs in Milwaukee, Madison, Oshkosh, and Eau Claire. The goal of this project was to educate citizens and to advocate for increased infrastructure investment.

Sponsors included Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association (\$2500), Wisconsin Counties Association (\$500), and the Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee (\$200). Funding support from the sponsors went to the American Society of Civil Engineers-Wisconsin Section (ASCE-WI Section) Scholarship Fund and UW-Milwaukee Foundation to fund the Holahan Prize for Outstanding Teaching Assistants in Economics.

Hosts were Milwaukee School of Engineering Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management Department, UW-Oshkosh Engineering Technology Program, UW-Madison Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, and Greater Eau Claire Alliance for Strong Communities. ASCE-WI Section provided speakers for infrastructure report card presentations. Colleagues of Dr. William Holahan, Professor Emeritus, UW-Milwaukee Department of Economics, gave the economics presentation in three of the four programs.

Audience feedback indicated that presentations were timely, informative, and interesting. Audiences ranged from 40 to 70

and included elected officials, public employees, sponsors, interested citizens, and many students. The question and answer sessions were lively. Accommodations were wonderful and the hosts very helpful. LWV local support at the various venues was excellent. **The collaboration between the LWV, ASCE, three academic institutions, and one community organization in four Wisconsin communities is one the LWV is proud to have been a part of. We appreciate the many kinds of support, expertise, and time so generously given to this project.**

Tapes of all presentations will soon be available to anyone wanting to view them on the LWV-MC website at: <http://lwvmilwaukee.org/>.

Tapes of the LWV-MC’s October 2014 general meeting presentations were viewed by at least one of the sponsors listed above which contributed to their funding this project. A link to important information related to this project is the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Infrastructure Report Card at: <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>.

A series of ASCE “Failure to Act” reports are linked at: [http://www.asce.org/failure\\_to\\_act\\_economic\\_studies/](http://www.asce.org/failure_to_act_economic_studies/).



### November 18 Unit Meetings

Join us for November Unit Meetings on Money in Politics. We will update League positions on campaign finance through discussion and consensus. Unit meetings are your opportunity as an individual League member to be heard.

#### Afternoon Unit West –1:00 pm

St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church  
1615 Wauwatosa Avenue (North 76<sup>th</sup> Street), Wauwatosa  
Contact: Gloria Weiskotten at 414/354-9783

#### Evening Unit West –7:00 pm

9038 W. Orchard Street, West Allis  
Contact: Ruth Snedic at 414/771-7690

#### Evening Unit East –6:00 pm

St. John’s on the Lake  
1800 North Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee  
Contact: Rich and Sue Lindberg at 414/271-1257

## **MONEY IN POLITICS: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

### **LWV Update on Campaign Finance Position**

(adapted from LWV-US website article)

**Sarajane Kennedy, VP Program**

For the 2014-2016 biennium, the LWV-US Board recommended, and the June 2014 national convention adopted, a multi-part program to include: “A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of changes since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment.”

The LWV-US Money in Politics Committee was charged with conducting a member study and consensus to update the League’s position on campaign finance in order to obtain member understanding and agreement on the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment. Leagues across the country are being asked to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in our current position on campaign financing.

Early in its work, the committee concluded that a gap exists in the LWV campaign finance position with regard to the First Amendment.

#### **Some Historical Background**

Adopted in 1974, the League’s campaign finance position focuses only on the financing of election campaigns as it relates to the democratic process, i.e., opportunities for undue influence, opportunities to ensure equity among candidates, protection of the public right to know and to fully participate. In 1976, the United States Supreme Court approached the question of financing of election campaigns from the point of view of what the money actually funds and the interests of donors, candidates, and independent spenders in preserving their ability to express political views through the activities being financed.

Activities that the U.S. Supreme Court focused on largely involve free speech. Election campaigns develop messages for publication, from speeches and debates to paid advertising in various media. Money is required to coordinate the messaging and to pay for the advertising. Under the Court’s approach, a system of campaign finance protects the rights of the individual candidate to disseminate his/her message as well as the rights of his/her donors to express views through the message. The system protects the rights of other political actors who may

wish to make election expenditures independent of the candidates or to advocate in support or opposition to particular public policy issues. To the Court, this campaign speech (as opposed to campaign finance) is central to American democracy and is what the First Amendment was designed to protect.

The League position, with its more collective approach, does not answer the question of whether all or some political activity constitutes free speech protected under the First Amendment. Because it does not address that question, the position does not balance the First Amendment interests of candidates, donors, independent spenders, and issue advocates against the interest in equitable competition among candidates for office, preventing undue influence, and enhancing voter participation.

#### **Where the Approaches of the League and the Supreme Court Intersected**

For almost 40 years, the Supreme Court’s approach and the League’s approach intersected in one important aspect. Over that time, the Court recognized the risk that campaign contributions are corrupting or appear corrupting, especially if those contributions are very large or come from the general funds of corporations or unions. Historically, the League has been able to argue successfully through litigation and through legislative action that contribution limits and the exclusion of corporations from participating directly in the political process should be upheld. The position has also allowed us to support enforcement mechanisms and other reforms.

That changed with the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision. The Court drastically extended its views on free speech to allow unlimited independent spending in candidate elections by corporations and unions. It entirely discounted any danger from any undue influence other than quid pro quo (“something for something”) corruption. That radically transformed the election landscape.

Proposed constitutional amendments in response to *Citizens United* and subsequent cases have focused on reversing the Court’s rulings that corporations have full political speech rights and that funding a political campaign is protected speech. Congress and the states have the authority to regulate “the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections,” which the Court has deemed protected speech.

**(Continued on next page)**

## MONEY IN POLITICS: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW (Continued)

The League is pursuing a strategic, multi-dimensional approach at the federal and state levels to overcome or limit the Court's decision in *Citizens United*. To date, the League has not supported or opposed particular legislation to amend the Constitution. Even putting aside the considerable practical barriers to ratifying an amendment as well as unintended consequences of the various proposed amendments, we believe that our current campaign finance position does not address First Amendment considerations. To update the League position on campaign finance to include the First Amendment requires member understanding and agreement on these issues. The LWV-US Money in Politics Committee was thus tasked with undertaking member study and consensus, in addition to educating members and the public broadly about money in politics issues.

### The League's Position

*Statement of Position on Campaign Finance, as Announced by National Board, January 1974 and Revised March 1982:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. *This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office—presidential and*

*congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.*

The League's position on Campaign Finance reflects continuing concern for open and honest elections and for maximum citizen participation in the political process. The League's campaign finance reform strategy has two tracks: (1) achieve incremental reforms where possible in the short term, and (2) build support for public financing as the best long-term solution.

To varying degrees, current law reflects some League goals: full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; one central committee to coordinate, control and report financial transactions for each candidate, party or other committee; an independent body to monitor and enforce the law; and the encouragement of broad-based contributions from citizens.

### Why Money in Politics Matters to the League of Women Voters

Money in politics matters because the goal of campaigning is to convince voters, either for or against a candidate or issue. Thus, campaigning is ultimately about communication. In our modern age, this includes speech and money. It is very important that one continually keeps combining campaign, communication, free speech, and money in one's thinking.

**For a complete and detailed history of the League's activities in the area of campaign finance reform, consult "Representative Government" in *Impact on Issues* at <http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues>**

**The Money in Politics consensus questions with links to background materials may be found on the national League website at <http://tinyurl.com/consensus-questions>**

**Also follow this link for additional materials: <http://tinyurl.com/Money-in-Politics-Review>**

### Money in Politics By the Number

\$258 million – amount raised by Super PACs backing presidential candidates in the first six months of 2015.\*

\$16 million – amount raised by Super PACs backing presidential candidates at that point in the 2012 cycle.\*

58 – number of persons contributing at least \$1 million to a Super PAC.\*

70% – percentage of voters who approved a Milwaukee County advisory referendum on November 4, 2014, to amend the U.S. Constitution establishing that (1) only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights, and (2) money is not speech, and therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

\*Source: LWV-US President Elisabeth MacNamara's League Update of September 9, 2015

**To learn more, attend the Saturday, November 14 General Meeting.  
Unit Discussion Meetings follow on Wednesday, November 18.**

League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County and Common Cause in Wisconsin  
Co-sponsor a presentation - Open to the public



"Citizens United Carpet Bombing Democracy - Cartoon" by DonkeyHotev is licensed under CC BY 2.0

## Money in Politics

### *Overview of Issues & Review of Pending WI Legislation*

with remarks by  
Lawrence DePuis, Legal Director, ACLU  
Edward Fallone, Professor, Marquette University Law School

**Saturday, November 14, 2015**

9:00 a.m. - Gathering 9:30-11:00 a.m. - Program

**Saint John's on the Lake**  
1800 N. Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee 53202

Free guest parking on the south side of the South Tower. Building entrance is on the Lake Michigan (back) side of Saint John's

For more information, visit [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Relations Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Firefly Room of the Wauwatosa Library. On Thursday, November 12, the topic is human trafficking. On Thursday, December 10, the topic is Brazil.

Attendance has been steadily increasing, so get there early to get a good seat and let your voice be heard. We view a 20-minute video from the Great Decisions program, then proceed into a solutions phase for an hour or so.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." Eldridge Cleaver  
"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate." Henry Tilmann

Ned Maxwell

## On Membership

**Chris Weber Spornick, Membership Chair**

If you're like my husband Jim and me, this time of year you receive requests from numerous worthy organizations for financial contributions. I can't listen to favorite radio stations, go to my mailbox, or even answer the phone without being asked for money. These groups are doing work I want to support, so in the past I have aided some of them financially. How to decide who to continue writing a check to is an individual decision.

Jim and I continue membership in the League of Women Voters because we recognize that it fills a unique niche in community activities and education. If LWV-Milwaukee County weren't here, who would register new citizen voters? Who would provide community education on county/state/national issues and encourage citizen action? Who would hold unbiased candidate forums by inviting community residents to hear and ask questions, thereby becoming informed voters?

The League of Women Voters is indeed worthy of my continued support and yours. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so soon. You can renew by sending a check to the office or by PayPal. Any contribution above membership dues goes toward supporting members who would otherwise be unable to join. I hope to see you at League activities soon.

## The League of Women Voters is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee

Fall is the time of year when we find ourselves thinking about what in our lives we are thankful for. The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is grateful to the generous individuals and organizations who include us in their workplace planned giving.

And this time of year is when Community Shares and United Way kick off annual workplace giving campaigns to support worthy non-profit organizations in the community. The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, a federation of over 50 nonprofit organizations. Community Shares supports organizations working for social justice, animal welfare, and the environment. Payroll contributions from people like you enable us to continue the League's work to educate voters and make sure that elections are free, fair, and accessible to all eligible citizens.

We hope that we can count on your support during the 2015/16 campaign. If you check the "Acknowledgement Requested" box on your Combined Giving pledge card, you enable us to thank you for your gift! Encourage your friends and colleagues to remember the League of Women Voters in their workplace giving, too. Payroll deduction is a convenient and painless way to give. A little from each paycheck will hardly be missed, but it goes a long way in helping organizations such as the League. Please be as generous as you can.

## NEW MEMBERS

**W. Brian Chiu**, Milwaukee  
**Brooke Creagh**, Shorewood  
**JoAnn Durrett**, Milwaukee  
**Elizabeth Graham**, Milwaukee  
**Rebecca Kiefer**, Cudahy  
**Genevieve Kirchman**, Shorewood  
**Chris and Jessica Larson**, Milwaukee  
**Donna Metzger**, Milwaukee  
**Kate Moreland**, Glendale  
**Janet Quail**, Whitefish Bay  
**Mary Sussman**, Milwaukee  
**Joan Urdan**, Milwaukee

These individuals have joined LWV-MC during September and October of 2015. We welcome them!

Shirley Halloran, Membership Committee



## Harris to Lead LWV-US as Executive Director

In September, the League of Women Voters of the United States named Wylecia Wiggs Harris as its new executive director. Dr. Harris brings extensive executive experience with the American Nurses Association and the American Heart Association to her leadership role at the League. In an introductory blog post, Dr. Harris described her commitment to the League and its principles:



*I was drawn to join the League because of its noted impact on American history and politics coupled with my desire to continue to serve and support mission-focused organizations that work on issues about which I am passionate. I wanted an organizational home committed to principles that are important to me – inclusion and empowerment. And, I wanted to help protect the fundamental right to vote that my foremothers and forefathers made so many sacrifices to attain. I'm excited to help continue the League's fight to protect the right to vote, most notably our need to restore the Voting Rights Act which became law 50 years ago and ensured that every American citizen, regardless of race, ethnicity or language, had equal access to the right to vote.*

\* \* \*

*After 95 years of Making Democracy Work®, the League must continue to build on its legacy of empowering people across our country to have their voices heard in the political process and to keep the power of our democracy in the hands of the people. The 2016 elections will greatly influence our country, and the League stands as a beacon of hope and bright light that has illuminated important issues throughout our*

*history. Our important work has benefitted generations of citizens and has served as the voice for the voiceless. It is critical that we continue to be vigilant, visible and ensure that our democracy works for everyone.*



**Wylecia Wiggs Harris**  
Executive Director, League  
of Women Voters

SAVE THE DATE

**January 9, 2016**  
**9:30 am - 11:30 am**

General Meeting  
“Engaging the Emerging Electorate”

- ▶▶ How will recent changes in election laws in Wisconsin impact voter turnout among the new American majority?
- ▶▶ What strategies are needed to insure that the emerging American electorate is represented in upcoming elections consistent with their representation in the total number of eligible voters?

Watch your email for location  
and program details

### Winter Social

Mark your calendars and invite your friends!

**Sunday, December 6**  
**11 am – 2 pm**

for festivities with League friends and guests at  
Helga and Denis Guequierre's home

**Break Water Condominiums**  
**1313 N. Franklin Place**  
**Unit 1101**  
**Milwaukee**

Phone: 414-225-0460

(Street parking available on E. Knapp,  
E. Ogden or N. Prospect)

Join the fun!

## Finance and Development Committee

Carol Wichmann

The leadership of our local League (LWV-MC) has established a Finance and Development Committee. Initially, the committee will concentrate on fund-raising by identifying alternative sources of revenue. As it matures, the committee will take on a greater role by working with the Treasurer to create some financial guidelines for LWV-MC.

As you know, in the past LWV-MC has relied upon membership dues and election night reporting as the primary revenue sources. What you may not remember is that your membership dues are, for the most part, passed on to the National and State Leagues, leaving on average roughly \$3.00 per member per year as revenue for our local League. (This is why the membership dues were increased for the present year.) The leadership has recognized that continuing to increase dues could be a hardship on some and is unsustainable in the long term.

Election night reporting (ENR) has, in the past, been a major source of revenue for LWV-MC and, in election years, provided the bulk of our income. Thanks to ENR and the volunteers who report election results, LWV-MC has built up some cash reserves. This year, should it become necessary, LWV-MC may have to withdraw as much as \$13,000 from

those reserves if we can't raise additional sources of income. Some hard choices may have to be made. In the future, as electronic results reporting takes hold, we anticipate ENR income will decrease even more and our reserves could be depleted.

As you can see, the Finance and Development Committee will be critical to maintaining our programs and activities. The committee has met monthly since August and has already identified a development plan and created an information brochure to publicize LWV-MC. We are creating a *Friends of the League* database to conduct a direct financial appeal to the greater Milwaukee community. We will pursue foundation grants throughout the year.

Will you help us? You may not be able to attend a monthly meeting but perhaps you could help fold brochures, insert letters into envelopes, make photocopies, research databases for foundations, or just lend a hand where needed. Presently the committee consists of Joanne Barndt, Michelle Goldstein, Marilyn McKnight, Mary Kae Nelson, Claire Woodall, and Carol Wichmann as chairperson. Please contact any one of us if you can lend a hand.



## Join the League of Women Voters

Not a member yet?

Use the form on the reverse side

to sign up today.

**Join Up! Join In! Join the League of Women Voters - Today!**  
**Non-partisan, non-profit since 1920!**

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement and leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

Website: [lwvmilwaukee.org](http://lwvmilwaukee.org)

Email Address: [league@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:league@lwvmilwaukee.org)

**Milwaukee County Dues** (circle one):

\$70 Individual            \$110 Household            \$ 25 Student

\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships)            \$170 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Financial support available upon request -- call 414-964-9988

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**Please** complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

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