



President's Message

Dear Leaguer,

As this year comes to a close, it is a satisfying feeling to look back on all that we accomplished. We set a number of goals for ourselves and achieved them all.

1. Program: We planned for four general meetings on the topics of Infrastructure (social policy), Redistricting (government), Human Trafficking (international), and Storm Water Runoff (natural resources), and then added a program meeting on the Judicial Referendum.
2. Finances: On the income side, we were able to raise enough money to avoid dipping into reserves. On the spending side, it looks like we are going to end the year under budget.
3. Membership: We increased our membership by over 10 percent.
4. Communication: We have transitioned to an electronic newsletter and maintained an up-to-date website. Board members were trained in the use of Google Docs as well as a new electronic system for preparing board reports.
5. Voter Services: We revised our brochure, "How to Register and Vote in Wisconsin", and had it translated into Spanish. We registered over 1,000 voters and moderated more than a dozen candidate forums.



All of this required people power. For everyone who helped us meet our goals this year, you have my deepest gratitude. Thank you.

On July 1, my term as your president will come to an end. My own personal goals were to get to know League members and learn new things about how the League operates. I can safely say that the League is a great place to develop leadership skills. And now it is time to pass the gavel on to new leaders. And the work of the League continues . . .

See you at League,

Joanne Barndt

President

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CALENDAR

May 2015			
7	Thurs	9 am 11 am	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
13	Wed	6-7:30 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Joanne Barndt, 414-962-5634
14	Thurs	10 am	International Relations Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room, 7635 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222
18	Mon	12-2 pm	Membership Committee St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355
20	Wed	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Annual Meeting - League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: League Office, 414-273-8683
27	Wed	7-8 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting place TBA Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-225-0460; Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739
28	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195

June 2015			
1	Mon	1:30 - 2:30 pm	Voter Services Committee 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, mjom365@gmail.com
5-7	Fri-Sun		2015 Annual Meeting - League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Best Western Hotel Chequamegon, Ashland Information: http://www.lwvwi.org/NewsEvents/2015AnnualMeeting.aspx
10	Wed	6-7:30 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Joanne Barndt, 414-962-5634
12	Fri	11 am	Naturalization / New Voter Registration - Flag Day Ceremony Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
15	Mon	12-2 pm	Membership Committee St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355
24	Wed	7-8 pm	Natural Resources Committee Meeting place TBA Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-225-0460; Carol Diggelman, 414-232-3739
25	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
29	Mon	1:30 pm	Voter Services Committee 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, mjom365@gmail.com

Join Us:

- To Elect Our New Board Members
- To Plan Our Future
- To Honor Our Leaders and Members
- To Celebrate Our Achievements
- To Have a Good Time

Annual Meeting of the Membership

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Saint John’s on the Lake

1800 North Prospect Avenue

“Mental Health in Milwaukee County – Update”

Héctor Colón, Director, Milwaukee County Health and Human Services

5:30 pm Social Gathering – Cash Bar

6:00 pm Dinner – Choice of Chicken, Wild Salmon, Vegetarian Pasta

Cost: \$35.00

6:30 pm Speaker – Héctor Colón**

7:30 pm Business Meeting**

**Members can choose to come solely for the speaker and/or business meeting.

For more information contact: League Office at 414-273-8683.

Please **RSVP ONLINE** by Wednesday, **May 13th** to <http://tinyurl.com/RSVPtoLeague>. Pay online via PayPal OR mail your check for \$35 per meal to LWV-Milwaukee County, 1845 North Farwell Avenue, Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202. If you are not able to RSVP online, mail in the form below.

Name _____

Guest _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please choose one:

_____ Grilled Chicken with asparagus, broccoli in a creamy parmesan sauce over pasta

_____ Wild Salmon with lemon caper cream sauce, asparagus and mashed potatoes

_____ Vegetarian Pasta

___ I am unable to attend the Annual Meeting. Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution to support the League’s work. Please make check payable to LWV-Milwaukee County. Thank you!

Héctor Colón

LWV-MC Annual Meeting Guest Speaker



Héctor Colón is the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services for Milwaukee County. He oversees a \$280 million budget and over 1,000 employees. The Department of Health and Human Services consists of four divisions: Behavioral Health, Delinquency and Court Services, Housing, and Disabilities and Management Services.

Mr. Colón received his BS and MS degrees in Occupational Therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also earned certificates in Management and Leadership at Harvard Business School, Marquette University, and UW-Madison.

Mr. Colón has held several cabinet and leadership-level positions in the Governor Doyle and Mayor Barrett administrations. In addition, Mr. Colón served as Associate Executive Director for the United Community Center and Assistant Director at Wisconsin Correctional Services.

Election Night Reporting

Louise Petering, Coordinator

A warm thank you to 30 League members and friends for successfully reporting results for the spring 2015 election cycle. Twenty-four individuals called in election results from Milwaukee County municipalities for the February primary elections and April general elections. Ned Maxwell put in long evenings at the Wisconsin Election Service as League Representative for both elections. My thanks to Ned and to the reporting team: Joanne Barndt, Marilyn Boeldt, Dorothy Dean, Jerry Frederickson, Alexis Gassenhuber, Ellen Goldstein, Helga and Dennis Guequierre, Ann Hetzel, Camille Johnson, Sarajane Kennedy, Terri Lowder, Mary Kae Nelson, Janet Nortrom, David Petering, Dorothy Sherman, Kathy Slamka, Ruth Snedic, Naomi Soifer, Mary Sussman, Phyllis Wax, and Carol Wichmann. Thanks to Susan Ellman, Barbara Hill, and Alexis for helping to prepare reporter packets.

Finally, thanks to other member volunteers Bette Arey, Celeste Jantz, Kerry Thomas, and Susan Weistrop. Our next regularly scheduled Wisconsin election is February of 2016. Enjoy your summer and nine-month break from elections!



95th LWV Anniversary Member Appeal

Mary Kae Nelson

This year the League of Women Voters celebrates our 95th anniversary. The League was founded by suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920, just six months prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, which secured the right to vote for women. But working toward women's suffrage was just the very start. Our work—and our impact—expands far beyond 1920!

Over the past 95 years, Leagues across the country have been fulfilling our mission of “Making Democracy Work” in the areas of voting rights, civic engagement, money in politics, environmental defense, health care, and more. And we have a lot to show for it!



In honor of our 95th anniversary, we appealed to our members to donate \$95, or whatever they could, to the LWV-MC so that we can continue our good work in Milwaukee County and beyond. To date, over \$3,000 has been donated to help further our great work. The generous support of our members is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to contributors: Joanne Barndt, Christine Bauer, Hulynn Farr, Nancy Florsheim, Jerry Fredrickson, Carla Giordana, Michele Goldstein, Chris Hansen, Ann Hetzel, Barbara Hussin, Minna Jones, Beverly Katter, Sarajane Kennedy, Jan Martin, Mary Jo McDonald, David McIntosh, Barbara Jean Miller, Nancy Moews, Anne Morrissey, Mary Kae Nelson, Louise Petering, Anne Plouff, Barbara Rasmussen, Ruth Snedic, Mary Stefaniak, Dan Stefanich, Marilyn Swiontek, Gabrielle Verdier, Susan Weistrop, Carol Wichmann, Cornelia Zerban and Mary Lou Zuege.

If you have not made your tax deductible contribution, please do so now. The generosity of our members is amazing. This is why I'm so proud to be a member of the League.

In Memoriam

Marianne Steigerwald passed away on March 13, 2015, at the age of 93. Marianne had been a member of the League for over 50 years and was originally inspired by a visit and speech by Eleanor Roosevelt. Marianne served as President of the Wauwatosa League in the 1970s. From 1970-75 she served on the League State Board. Marianne chaired the League's International Relations Committee for more than 25 years and spearheaded the campaign to have Wauwatosa fly the UN flag on United Nations Day. Marianne also served on the Governor's Commission on the United Nations for 6 years. From the mid-1960s through the mid-1990s, Marianne served on the Board of the Institute of World Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Marianne's great interest in her fellow man was global in reach. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that memorial donations be made to the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County.

League-Hosted Class Attracts New SRDs

Peggy Creer

The LWV-MC hosted a training class for Special Registration Deputy (SRD) certification at the Wauwatosa Library on February 28. Claire Woodall of the Milwaukee Election Commission conducted the training for 27 people, half of whom had not previously been SRDs. The group included LWV members and non-members. The registrants who qualified that day are certified until December 31, 2016.



It is possible to become an SRD by attending a training class offered by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission most Thursdays at 10 a.m. Those classes are held at the Election Commission Office, Room 501 City Hall. **It is not necessary to be a resident of the City of Milwaukee in order to become certified to register voters in the city, but it is necessary to be a resident of Wisconsin.** Contact Claire Woodall at clwood@milwaukee.gov or 414/286-3459 to become an SRD. League members whose SRD numbers begin with 2013 can be recertified without retaking the class or test.

Voter Registration at Monthly Naturalization Ceremonies

The Milwaukee County League registers new citizens at bi-monthly naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Milwaukee. New citizens at these ceremonies come from throughout Wisconsin, so it is helpful to have SRDs with certification from as many municipalities as possible. For more information on naturalization ceremonies, contact Mary Jo McDonald at mjom365@gmail.com or 414/962-8195.

SRD Certification in Other Municipalities

Many municipalities in the greater Milwaukee area will honor Milwaukee SRD certification, enabling you to become an SRD in their communities without additional training. Milwaukee County communities honoring the City of Milwaukee SRD are Cudahy, Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, Oak Creek, Shorewood, St. Francis, Wauwatosa, West Allis, West Milwaukee, and Whitefish Bay. In Waukesha County, New Berlin will accept City of Milwaukee SRD certification.

To become an SRD for these communities, it is important to call in advance to make an appointment to meet with the election clerk for each community. By submitting any necessary information in advance, they have time to prepare the required paperwork before you arrive. **Be sure to take your Milwaukee SRD card with you.**

Milwaukee municipalities contact information: <http://county.milwaukee.gov/municipalities>

City of Madison contact information: <http://cityofmadison.com/election/deputyregistration>

It is possible to obtain SRD certification for the City of Madison through training at their website.

Help the League Keep its Information Current

Please contact Peggy Creer at subdebpeg@gmail.com or 414/961-7004 with names of those communities where you are certified as an SRD. By informing Peggy, you will enable the League to contact you when there are voter registration opportunities. We'd also appreciate knowing if you are an Election Day poll worker in your community.

Storm Water Runoff General Meeting

Helga Guequierre

On Saturday, April 18, Krista Grimm, from the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region, presented an informative program on storm water runoff to a group of Milwaukee and Ozaukee Leaguers and guests at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin. She showed us that what we do to prevent our basements from flooding also keeps our Lake Michigan healthy. The ideal scenario is for all rainwater that falls on a property to be absorbed on that property, as was the case before development. Mimicking the native wetlands is the most economical way to combat the effects of increasing heavy storm events.

Green infrastructure is the key to protecting our property, rivers, and lakes. The use of green infrastructure—rainwater harvesting, rain gardens with native plants, bio swales, permeable paving, and green roofs—can reduce the need for grey infrastructure. Grey infrastructure—sewer pipes, deep tunnels—is very expensive.

Further information is available on the LWV-LMR website: lwvlmr.org.

On Membership

Chris Weber Spornick

Reading the April Board meeting reports reinforces that our leadership is truly committed to “making democracy happen”. Is there any other organization that consistently provides such important and necessary resources to our community?

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is organized to effectively engage citizens and potential citizens. We provide understanding of the critical issues that affect public policy. While our long-time members are well aware of this core responsibility, it’s important that we repeat it often.

Because individual members commit time, diverse efforts, and financial support, we have an appreciable impact.

Our annual business meeting is May 20. While our main purpose is to re-organize with a new Board of Directors for LWV-MC, it’s also a great opportunity to again see and be inspired by members who care enough to support citizen education and action. You will receive the meeting packet by email or USPS. Read the reports and be ready to question or comment on them.

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

League Member Annette Robertson Attends the Centennial Celebration of WILPF at The Hague

From April 27-29, 2015, Annette Robertson of Milwaukee attended the Centennial Celebration of the founding of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at The Hague in the Netherlands. The WILPF is one of the oldest international peace organizations with members in 38 countries.

Her grandmother, Annette Jacobi Roberts, will be honored as a distinguished foremother of the WILPF. Annette's grandmother was inspired by a speech on world peace in Milwaukee in 1912 by Baroness Von Suttner who was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905. She then sought out like-minded women and in the 1920s participated in organizing chapters of the WILPF in Wisconsin.

The WILPF was founded at a conference at The Hague on April 28, 1915. There were 1200 women from 12 countries in attendance. At that conference

the women passed resolutions which stressed the urgent need for women to have "equal political rights with men" and urged the "creation of a 'Society of Nations,' to work for a 'constructive peace,' and a world court". They protested "the odious wrongs of which women are the victims in time of war, and especially against the horrible violation of women which attends all war." The 2015 conference, "The Power of Women to Stop War", is intended to inspire participants by considering the work of the women who came before and to act as a spur to continue the unfinished tasks for peace and justice.

Annette was accompanied by her daughter Carol and current Milwaukee WILPF members, Mary Laan and Veronica Rogers. Mary is coordinator of Move to Amend. Veronica was President of the WILPF in Sierra Leone in the 1990s, participating in the process which ended the rebel conflict there.



Joan Robertson (center) with daughter Annette Robertson (left) and granddaughter Carol Alexander Barnes (right)

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Arney lives in Wauwatosa and is especially focused on climate change.

JoAnn Bachar is a retired psychotherapist who knows Joanne Barndt. Her interests include the environment, social justice, and urban ecology.

Sequoia Baker works as an aide to County Supervisor Khalif Rainy. She expects to complete her bachelor's degree at UWM in December.

Edith Brown is a retired social worker who is joining the League because she's interested in information and advocacy on issues facing Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the world.

Barbara Carhart is joining through her League friends, Annette and Joan Robertson.

Mara Henningsen was invited to join by Wendy Baumann. They work closely together at the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Cooperative.

Patricia Martin was invited to join League by members Roz Tornatore and Betsy Van Horn. She teaches at Marquette part-time and lives in Berlin, Germany, part of the year.

Cathy Miller worked for various non-profit organizations and foundations in the areas of education, healthcare, and public health over the years. She has had a lifelong interest in politics, women's rights, and community activism. She joined the League because of its strong positions in areas of great importance to Wisconsin.

Jerilyn and Jeff Percy live in Brookfield, and they're joining at the urging of church friends.

Leticia Smith became an SRD at our February training. As she is a retired court administrator, she volunteers at Legal Action of Wisconsin.

Mark Unak is a neighbor of Beverly Katter whose mother belonged to the Tosa League years ago. He and his wife are friends of Mary Kae Nelson.

As usual, we are so very fortunate to have a list of new members. As indicated, many of them join because they know someone who's already a Leaguer. But that means each individual probably knows only a few others. So welcome them enthusiastically—you already share great concern about issues.

Shirley Halloran
Membership Committee

CHANGE IN DUES

Please note that LWV-MC dues for 2015-16 are likely to increase. Pending approval at the May 20 Annual Meeting, the new dues will be:

- \$70 for individuals
- \$110 for households

Five years has passed since LWV-MC has increased its yearly dues. LWV-US collects \$32 and LWV-WI collects \$30 (for a total of \$62) from the \$70 individual amount.

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

Email Address: league@lwvmilwaukee.org

Milwaukee County Dues (circle one):

\$65 Individual \$100 Household \$ 25 Student

\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$165 Centennial (supports action & activities)

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

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work/Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ Email _____

Interests: Voter Service _____ Lending Practices _____ Government _____

International Relations _____ Environment/Natural Resources/Water _____

Health Care/Social Policy _____ Education _____ Other _____

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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

league@lwvmilwaukee.org

414-273-8683

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Suite 102

1845 N Farwell Avenue

**JOIN UP!
JOIN IN!**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

