



President's Message

Calendar

May 2011

6-14	Fri-Sat		Civic Hosting with Delegation from Azerbaijan. Contact: Mel Bromberg, 414-352-9758, for a complete schedule of activities.
9	Mon	10 am	International Relations-Great Issues Discussion Group. Conference Room, Wauwatosa Library 7635 W. North Ave Contact: Gloria Weiskotten, 414-354-9783
11	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting CANCELLED
18	Wed	6:30 pm	Annual Meeting Eastwood Condominium Party Room, 3942 N Oakland Ave, Shorewood. Contact: Joann Barndt, 414-962-5634
18	Wed	9 am 11 am 1 pm. 3 pm	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527

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Put May 18th on your personal calendar now. Our Annual Meeting this year is going to be a little different. In planning, our goal was to keep the cost reasonable so more can attend. It is going to be a celebration of our successes this year and give us more opportunity to visit with long time and new League friends. Two of our own members, Barbara Toles and Jeanette Bell, will be telling us about their transition from being a LWV leader to being elected to the Assembly. Joanne Barndt and Mary Lou Zuege have planned a fun, special evening for us. Attendance at the Annual Meeting is very important for you as a member and for the organization as a whole. Please make every attempt to attend.



On April 9th, Barbara Beckert, Director of the Milwaukee office of Disability Rights Wisconsin, did an excellent job informing us about the history of and the challenges facing the Milwaukee Mental Health Complex as well as some of the implications of the proposed State Budget. Barbara is also a League member and shared a wealth of information with us. If you weren't there, you missed out on a great experience.

Thank you to Louise Petering and her crew for another outstanding job coordinating Election Night Reporting. A League presence at the closing of the polls and our calling in results to the media not only keeps us visible, it helps balance our local budget. Plus, it is always interesting and a fun volunteer opportunity.

When I accepted the invitation to be your League President, one of my goals was to increase our visibility. I can tell you, we achieved that goal in April; we are very much alive and well! Currently, election issues are in the public eye. I was interviewed by WTMJ while attending a Town Hall meeting on Voter ID. [click [here](#) to read Mary Kae's quote]. Channel 58 interviewed me in my living room with questions about the missing votes in Waukesha. They came to the League because we have credibility but most of all because we are non-partisan. The National Coalition of 100 Black Women and County Supervisor, Nikiya Harris sponsored a well-attended forum on the proposed Voter ID legislation. I was honored to serve on a panel with representatives from the ACLU, NAACP, Milwaukee Urban League and 9 to 5. (Continues on p. 2).

Calendar, cont.

June 2011

8	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
9	Thu		Bulletin Deadline
10&11	Fri-Sat		LWV Wisconsin Education Fund Annual Meeting, UW-Whitewater. Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988.
16	Thu	9 am 11 am 1 pm. 3 pm	Naturalization/New Voter Regis- tration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527
17-20	Fri - Mon		LWV-US Council 2011 Leesburg, VA

President's Message cont.

The public hearing on the proposed State Budget held at State Fair Park attracted at least ten LWV members. Some of us testified and some were there to observe. Our LWV Milwaukee County testimony has been shared with others and was delivered in person the next day at the Capitol on LWV Legislative Day.

Barb Hussin, Carol Wichmann, Dorothy Sherman, Kathy Slamka and I traveled to Madison to hear Jack Norman, Institute for Wisconsin's Future, tell us how to communicate the need for a fair tax policy to fund Wisconsin's future. Then we headed to the Capitol to lobby local legislators about LWV concerns and positions.

Mel Bromberg, Sue and Rich Lindberg and others have been busy making final plans for hosting the delegation from Azerbaijan. The delegation of men and women will be in Milwaukee May 6th to the 14th. Leaguers are welcome to join us for many of our activities. The Azeri delegation will be making their final presentation on Friday, May 13th. It would be wonderful to have many of our members come to meet our new Azeri friends and to listen to their presentation. It will be held at the International Institute of Wisconsin.

Best Wishes,

Mary Kae Nelson

League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County Board Members for 2010—2011

Officers

President	Mary Kae Nelson	414-964-9988
Vice President	Susan Lindberg	414-271-1257
Secretary	Joann Krimendahl	262-255-2127

Directors

Membership	Chris Weber-Sponnick	414-535-1197
Voters' Service	Anne Baynton	414-961-1467
New Citizen/ New Voter	Mary Brod	262-784-0372
Bulletin Editor	Anne Creamer	262-373-0591
State Board Rep. and Election Night Reporting	Louise Petering	414-351-3617
International Re- lations	Mel Bromberg	414-352-9758



Hannah Dugan, Mary Kae Nelson and Sarajane Kennedy compare notes after a Supreme Court candidate debate sponsored by Marquette University School of Law.

New Citizen/New Voter

Dorothy Sherman, Coordinator

At the naturalization ceremonies this year we have been unable to register voters because SRD certifications expired December 31, 2010 and have not yet been renewed. However, League members still attend in order to welcome new citizens, give them upcoming election information, and distribute our Voter Guide to help direct them to the registration process in their own municipalities. At the January 20th ceremony Mary Brod, Barbara Overstreet, and Sharon Munson gave out 305 voter guides; on February 17th Ruth Snedic and Sharon Munson gave out 308 guides; and on March 17th Helga Guequierre and Joann Kreimendahl distributed 308 Guides.

If you would like to help distribute the Voter Guide at the ceremony please note the following second quarter dates: **May 18, June 16, July 14 and August 18. On each date there are four ceremonies, at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.**

If you can volunteer for any of the above ceremony dates, or if you'd like to become a Special Registration Deputy (SRD) when the next training session is held please contact Dorothy Sherman at 414-425-9527 (Dorothy-Sherman@sbcglobal.net) or Ruth Snedic 414-771-7690 (ruth9.snedic@milwpc.com). We will keep your contact information on file, and notify you of the training session dates and times as soon as we receive them.

SRDs are trained and certified for a 2-year term as set by state statute. The Government Accountability Board has informed us that due to unusual GAB staff workload priorities (involving special elections, recall elections and Voter ID) state training for SRDs has been suspended until after the May Special Elections. The SRD program will be revisited in mid-May and training may be scheduled depending on Board staff work priorities at that time.

However, please be aware that municipal clerks are also authorized by state law to train and appoint SRDs for their municipalities who may collect voter registration applications during periods of *open* registration. In addition, Election Day Special Registration Deputies can register voters at the polling places on election days. These SRDs must be qualified electors of the municipality and must be appointed as an ED-SRD by the municipal clerk. The municipality must have a resolution in place that allows for the appointment of ED-SRDs.

Election Night Reporting

Louise Petering, Coordinator

With the help of 65 different League members and friends on April 5th, our League reported general election results from 9 southeast Wisconsin counties: Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Jefferson and Dodge. In Waukesha County we were assigned to report on local races only, not countywide and statewide races. Had we reported on the statewide Supreme Court race, I believe the surprise turnaround in the race would have been prevented.

I thank all who volunteered their time and mileage to report in February and April. It is you committed reporters, those who help organize and mail packets, and our League representatives at the election services who together make Election Night Reporting a success. I appreciate the commitment you make to Election Night Reporting and the resulting financial support it provides for our League. For financial details about the project, please see the budget in the Annual Report.

Action and Advocacy

Ruth Snedic, Chair

National

In late February the LWVUS urged our members again to oppose S.194 to eliminate the public financing system for presidential elections. The system may be in need of repair but not abolishment. This kind of legislation should be debated and be the subject of hearings to give everyone a chance to comment.

Our members also took action regarding the spending bill that would roll back and defund programs that protect us from polluters. The Clean Air Act has periodically been targeted so we have had to be diligent in our protection of it by making calls and sending emails to Congress. Critics have tried to take away the EPA's enforcement responsibilities. We will be vigilant in our protection of the regulations.

This year in March the Affordable Care Act was one year old. While some of the measures don't kick in until 2014, some are taking affect now. Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions and young adults can stay on their parents' health plans until age 26. Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage.

State

Our state League has testified against the controversial Voter ID Bill and asked all of us to lobby our senators and assembly people to vote against it. It is a draconian piece of legislation that would be one of the strictest in the country. It would also be very expensive to

implement while taking away the rights of our citizens to vote without difficulty. We are in limbo at the moment as senators and representatives are working on certain aspects of it that they deem troublesome. We think all of it is troublesome and unnecessary and have lobbied against it.

We have lobbied against the governor's budget repair bill. It strips employees of their collective bargaining rights, defunds recycling programs, reduces health care and environmental protections, and cuts mental health and transit funds. A robo-call from someone pretending to be the League asking people to support the bill was called on to cease using our name or one too similar as to be confused with us.

Senate Bill 11 could result in risking \$46.6 million in federal transit aid. It dumps money for transit back into funds to be used for roads and highway construction and would eliminate RTA's. We oppose this and our members have been encouraged to go to the hearings and oppose this and other measures in the repair bill.

Local

The Green Energy Summit was held in Milwaukee in March and our League logo was included in the volunteer part of the program as an underwriter. We provided volunteers for the Summit.

League Lines Production Crew

Anne Creamer, Editor and Layout
Louise Petering, Advisor
Barbara Hussin, Proofer

Contact us at:

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414-273-8683

Membership

Why I'm a Leaguer

Mary Lou Zuege

I became a League member shortly after our daughter was born. She just turned thirty-nine, and I'm still here!

The League has been my training ground, a place to learn how to engage in public discourse and better function in a political world. I have had opportunities to refine inquiry techniques, grow leadership and organizational skills, and become a better public speaker.

Moreover, I have come to know amazing people. People who are curious and public-minded, eager to learn new things and put that information to work. People who respect the ability of others to make good decisions when presented with impartial and unbiased information. People who value the participation of all citizens in making government work. People who know that we grow personally and as a community when we solve problems and share laughter together.

For me, the League is a place of reason in a chaotic world. And, that's why I stay!



A large crowd turned out March 19th for a candidate forum co-sponsored by the League. Leaguers Anne and Chuck Baynton are in the front foreground.



League member, Mary Lou Zuege, moderates a forum for County Executive candidates, Chris Abele and Jeff Stone.

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 - <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

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

Milwaukee County Dues (Circle One):

\$65 Individual \$90 Household (2 or more persons) \$25 Student \$25 Limited Income
\$100 (supports \$25 memberships) \$165 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work /Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ e-mail _____

Interests: Voter Service ____ Lending Practices ____ Government ____
International Relations ____ Environment/Natural Resources/Water ____
Health Care/Social Policy ____ Other _____

Please complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County

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Join Up!
Join In!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

