



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

JULY/AUGUST 2010

414-273-8683

Calendar

New web site!! <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: info@lwvmilwaukee.org

For the most up-to-date information on events, see <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

July

- 15 Thur., New Citizen/New Voter
9 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527
Mary Brod, 262-784-0372
- 22 Thur., Board Meeting, 6p.m.
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee
Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988

August

- 9 Mon., Bulletin Deadline
Contact: Anne Creamer, 262-373-0591
- 19 Thurs., New Citizen/New Voter
9 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527
Mary Brod, 262-784-0372
- 26 Thur., Women's Suffrage Day!
- 30 Mon., Natural Resources Committee
6:30p.m.
Shorewood Village Ctr., 3920 N. Murray Ave.
Under the Shorewood Library
Contact: Helga Guequierre, 414-225-0460

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Kae Nelson

I am very excited to be your new president and look forward to working with each of you this year. The League of Women Voters is a very special and unique organization. As a new mother, I attended my first League meeting in Indianapolis in 1975. I joined the North Shore League in 1977. I was able to learn about clean air, clean water, and international security at the national level and shared services at the local level. I feel very fortunate to have worked on Marital Property in Wisconsin from an idea, to a state study, to educating the general public, to lobbying and then to finally witnessing it being passed into law. I have always appreciated the League's being a

grassroots organization that studies an issue, comes to consensus and then takes action on its positions.

For me, the best part of being a member of the League of Women Voters and what has brought me back to being active in League are the personal connections I've been

blessed to form. In the process of working on League projects, I have gained wonderful life-long friends. As a young mother I was so fortunate to have supportive role models that encouraged me (and provided babysitting for my two small children) so that I could spend the day lobbying in Madison, attend workshops and develop leadership skills by serving on the North



The 2010-11 LWVMC Board Back row, l. to rt.: Mel Bromberg, Joann Kreimendahl, Anne Creamer, Carol Wichmann, Chris Weber Spornick, Sarajane Kennedy, Mary Brod and Karen Jansen. Front row, l. to rt., Vice Pres. Sue Lindberg, 2010-12 Pres. Mary Kae Nelson, Out-going Pres., Louise Petering.

Shore board as development chair, membership chair and eventually, president. Many of the skills I have used in my professional career as well as in other volunteer positions I learned while being active in the League. I look forward to making new friendships and to renewing old while
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League Lines Production

Anne Creamer, Editor
Kerry Thomas, Layout
Louise Petering, Advisor

Contact us at:
1845, N. Farwell Ave., Ste. 102
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"The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join LWV - where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels."

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working with our board and on new League projects.

I urge each of you to help me continue the wonderful, dedicated work done for us by Louise Petering and her board. I will need your support to carry this momentum forward.

THANKYOU

Louise Petering, Outgoing President

When the nominating committee announced that Mary Kae Nelson had accepted the nomination for president of the Milwaukee County League, I exclaimed "thanks" knowing all the good work we had done would be in good hands!

A second thanks to you for the generous gift certificate for "Minors Garden Center. My interest in gardening obviously is not a secret, but what you do not know is that Dave and I will soon have a patio laid in our backyard. Your gift of plants will be included in the design and be a reminder of you, your generosity, and League. Many thanks from my heart and my green thumbs!

ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING

Louise Petering, Coordinator

Fall elections will be coming up on Tuesday, September 14 and Tuesday, November 2. Please keep the evenings of those two days open for election night reporting and contact me at 414-351-3617 if you would like to join the 30+ reporters who call in results on election night.

Both election evenings promise to be exciting, because key County, State, and Federal offices are in contention. These include: partisan County and State Assembly and Senate offices, five constitutional offices of the state (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Sect. of State, Treasurer, and Atty. General) as well as all US House seats and the US Senate seat currently held by Russ Feingold. Election night will be interesting, so keep the date open.

NEW CITIZEN/NEW VOTER

Mary Brod, Liaison to the Board,
Dorothy Sherman, Coordinator

The revised edition of the Voter's Guide has been printed! Enormous thanks go to Joann Kreimandahl for the many hours she spent on the text and layout, and to Ruth Snedic and Dorothy Sherman for their input/review and coordinating with the printer. The new Guide is easy to read and printed in beautiful red, white, and blue colors. We are now awaiting response from funding sources.

Here are the data from the naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse:

- April 22nd - 44 of 145 new citizens registered to vote
- May 20th - 99 out of 219 new citizens registered to vote
- June 10th - 113 out of 299 new citizens registered to vote.

Volunteers for all these dates included Ruth Snedic, Joann Kreimendahl, Gloria Weiskotten, Virginia Sandquist, Beverly Katter, Diane Steigerwald, Barbara Overstreet, Helga Guequierre, Sr. Paula Marie Jarosz, Sharon Munson, and Dorothy Sherman.

We are now emailing our Special Registration Deputies about twice a month to appeal for volunteers at the court dates and any other voter registration opportunities. If you are a trained SRD but have not received one of the emails, or if you are not a SRD but would still like to assist in distributing our new Voter Guide, please let us know so we can make sure you are on the email list.

A few details about the ceremonies you may not be aware of:

- Most volunteers use metered street parking at \$1.50 per hour. If you get a receipt the League will reimburse you.
- We enter the front doors and must go through security inside.
- We sit in the jury box of the courtroom. The ceremonies last about 20 to 40 minutes.
- The voter registration takes place in the atrium on the first floor.
- You must bring your SRD number with you and a copy of your certification.

Please contact Dorothy Sherman at 414-425-9527 (Dorothy-Sherman@sbcglobal.net) or Ruth Snedic 414-771-7690 (ruth9.snedic@milwpc.com). If you'd like to become a SRD, please contact Mary Brod at 262-784-0372 (mebrod@sbcglobal.net) to be added to the list for the next training session.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair Chris Weber-Sponnick

It is that time of year again, when we ask you pay your annual dues. Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting voted to increase dues to \$65.00 individual, and \$90.00 for household. Student and low income remain the same at \$25.00. We don't like raising dues but we keep very little, most goes to state and national for their work and support. Most of our members are long time supporters who are deeply appreciated. All League leaders do League work uncompensated, even for expenses. We really need members for the work they do to promote democracy and well being in our communities. You are the energy behind our work in promoting clean environment, clean elections, consumer justice, safety, and so much more. So please send your check to the office at 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Otherwise we will give you a friendly phone/email reminder.

Some notes on long time amazing Leaguer, Pauline Scribner:

Pauline died in November at age of 104 years. LWV was her favorite organization. She was Vice President and active
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continued from pg. 3, Pauline Scribner

in the study of international relations and the Great Decisions program. She was a graduate of UW Madison and taught history at Janesville High School until she married and was not allowed to work. Pauline was one of the founders of Laubach Literacy Association (now Wisconsin Literacy Association) and taught adults how to read 3 hours every week for 30 years. She exercised 3 hours 3 times a week till she was 98 years old, then reduced it to 2 hours 3 times a week. She loved folk dancing, bridge and crossword puzzles. She never took medicines. AMAZING!

Congratulations, Barbara Hussin!

Barbara is the 2010 recipient of the state Leagues' Meg McLane Advocacy Award. In the late 1990's Barbara became the chair of the newly reconstituted Legislative Committee. Under her leadership the committee was broadened so its members came from outside the state board and Madison. Since at least 2004, Barb has been following the Corrections portfolio on the Legislative Committee and advocated for the rights of individuals who are incarcerated or trying to reintegrate into society following prison.

For many years in the early 90's Barb was the League lead of a joint Benedict Center/League of Women Voters Milwaukee County Court Monitoring Project (CMP) dedicated to finding alternative solutions to overcrowding of men and women in the Milwaukee County Jail. CMP activists elected to create a Revolving Bail Fund to loan 50% of the amount of very low bail (initially \$1500) to individuals unable to pay bail to be released before their court date, which was often weeks away. Barb researched the availability of funds and the Benedict Center secured a \$25,000 grant to seed the bail fund.

Equally as meaningful, but on the fun side, Barbara's golfing led her to found the Badger Mutual Insurance/Brown Deer Women's Amateur Golf Tournament in 2000. The focus of the tournament is a charity that provides funds to two centers, Lissy's Place, which supports disadvantaged young women who have aged out to the foster care system, and Belle Resource Center, which supports victims of domestic abuse. Both help clients become responsible, independent members of our community. In 2008 the tournament raised a total of \$18,000 for the charities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATE LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

Louise Petering, LWVMC Delegate

(Other delegates representing our League were Carolyn Castore, Barbara Hussin and Sue Lindberg)

First, kudos and cheers for Barbara Hussin, recipient of the Meg McLane Advocacy Award! We are proud of you. Read about Barb in the Membership article in this bulletin.

Who would have thought that serious Steve Hiniker, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, would have given us one of the best laughs at our State League Annual Meeting as he spoke on "Earth-Friendly

Transportation Options for WI." Laugh too as you carefully view the address on Wisconsin Eye. Find a link to Wisconsin Eye on our website, <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>. Do note that the options Mr. Hiniker presented are also friendly to our pocketbooks, commute time, and lands.

More serious and urgent (not that Steve isn't both) was WI Supreme Court Justice, Ann Walsh Bradley as she spoke on the "Sustainability of OUR Courts." I've taken the liberty of emphasizing the word "our" here, because I understand the essence of her address was that recent court decisions have put the courts in moneyed pockets (my words). Those decisions have seriously undermined the fairness, independence, impartiality, neutrality and non-partisanship of our courts that we all must be able to count on in court. League will address the issue in action and program this coming year.

In addition to electing State board members and adopting a budget & program for the next year, delegates heard about the Membership Recruitment Initiative that is now expanded to include Wisconsin. Our League is eligible to apply, so encourage your board to apply and grow our League! The Initiative works!



The Transitioning presidents, l. Mary Kae Nelson, incoming; and rt., Louise Petering, out-going.

Sister Mary Ellen Paulson, long time League member, 9 year President of the Friends of WI Libraries, and recently retired MPS substitute teacher for 25 years with Annual Meeting speaker, Wm. Andrekopoulos.



Mary Stefaniak, Annual Meeting registrar (standing left) reporting the presence of a quorum at the LWVMC May 19 Annual Meeting. Out-going Pres. Louise Petering to the right.

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. (Jul/Aug 2010)

IF YOU WISH TO DOWNLOAD THE BULLETIN ON OUR WEBSITE, CHECK HERE: ____

Milwaukee County Dues [Circle One]:

\$65 Individual \$90 Household (2 or more persons) \$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:** Voter Service ____ Lending Practices ____ Government ____
International Relations ____ Environment/Natural Resources/Water ____ Health Care/Social Policy ____ Other _____

Please Note: Circle your preferred means of contact, indicate your interests & involvement level, and **mail this form** with your check to: the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202; **OR join online** at: www.lwvmilwaukee.org. Tax-deductible contributions to the LWV Ed Fund may be directed to the address above. Thank you!

Website - <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

Email Address - Info@lwvmilwaukee.org



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