



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

## League Lines

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

### Calendar

414-273-8683

<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: [info@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:info@lwvmilwaukee.org)

For the most up-to-date information on events, see

<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

#### September

- 9 Wed., Board Meeting, 6 pm  
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee  
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617
  - 11 Fri., New Citizen /New Voter registration  
11 a.m.,  
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527  
Kit H. O'Meara, 414-226-9930
  - 23 Wed., Special Deputy Registrar Training,  
4 pm  
East Library, 1910 E. North Ave., Milwaukee  
Parking behind the library to the north  
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527  
Kit H. O'Meara, 414-226-9930
  - 23 Wed., Fall Kickoff, Salad Supper Social,  
6pm  
Diamond Tower Solarium,  
1633 N. Prospect Ave.  
Contact: Mary Stefaniak, 414-276-7557
  - 28 Mon., Natural Res. Committee Mtg., 7pm  
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee  
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067
- Date TBA on Website, <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>  
Development Committee  
Contact: Karen Jansen, 414-469-5651

#### October

- 1 Thur., 9 & 11 am and 2 pm  
New Citizen /New Voter registration  
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527  
Kit H. O'Meara, 414-226-9930
- 2 - 3, Fri. (1-9pm) & Sat. (8am-12:30pm)  
Lake Michigan LWV Annual Mtg.  
Presbyterian Camp in dunes on Lk. MI  
Saugatuck, MI  
Registration & fee deadline; Sept. 17  
Contact: Jennifer Runquist, 414-332-5067

- 9 Bulletin Deadline  
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617
- 10 Sat., 8:30-3:30  
LWVWI Ed. Network Issues Briefing  
Madison, WI  
Contacts: Laurel Fleet, 608-256-0827
- 14 Wed., Board Meeting, 6 pm  
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee  
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617
- 21- 23 Wed. - Fri., The Role of Civil Society &  
the Private Sector Working with the UN  
See full page article & forms inside and  
go to [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org)  
Contacts: Karen Jansen, 414-469-5651  
Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
- 24 UN Day Flag Raisings  
Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-228-9222
- 26 Mon., Natural Res. Committee Mtg., 7pm  
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee  
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067
- 28 Wed, 9 & 11am, and 2pm  
New Citizen /New Voter registration  
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527  
Kit H. O'Meara, 414-226-9930
- 29 Thur., 9 & 11am  
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Date TBA on Website, <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>  
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Contact: Karen Jansen, 414-469-5651

#### League Lines Production

Kerry Thomas, Layout  
Contact us at 1845 N. Farwell Ave.,  
Ste 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202  
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(414) 273-8683

**Dr. Louise Kantrow**, International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will keynote League's October 22nd program speaking about "The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector Working with the United Nations."



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Louise Petering

Welcome all, members and prospective Leaguers, to the 2009-2010 League year. League is an organization that welcomes open discussions and meetings. Your membership and voice is critical to the viability of the Milwaukee County League. Read Chris Weber-Sponnick's upbeat prompt for renewal in her article within. Then RENEW or JOIN LEAGUE - today!

By renewing now you'll save our volunteers work and League dollars. Another way we are looking to save dollars is by having you access our bulletins on our website. Those of you who elect to access the bulletin on our website would be notified by email when it is posted at [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org). Please direct an email to [Info@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:Info@lwvmilwaukee.org) to let us know you want to access the bulletin online! If you are renewing or joining, simply check the item on the membership form in this bulletin.

You may have noticed that the calendar above shows no September or November elections. However, two critical elec-  
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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."

*President, continued from pg. 1*

tions for our state are coming up in 2010: a wide-open Governor's race (exciting) and the Attorney General's race. To be ready to register eligible voters who reside anywhere in Wisconsin, please come September 23rd to the voter registration training. Then come to our Fall Kick-off, Salad Supper Social in the Diamond Tower Solarium. Bring a guest and hear briefly about plans for this year – including our three-day event in October featuring Dr. Louise Kantrow, the International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

For details of the October 22nd key event, see the article below and reservation and sponsorship forms in this bulletin.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE UNITED NATIONS**

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is pleased to sponsor a series of events October 22 and 23, 2009 focusing on “The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector Working with the United Nations.” The key dinner event on takes place the evening of October 22nd at the Italian Community Center.

International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative to the UN, Dr. Louise Kantrow, will give the evening keynote October 22nd. She will examine the rise of the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the United Nations, the precise nature of their interaction and its impact on global policy. Today, there are over three thousand NGOs, having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (UNESCO).

According to Chairman of the Panel on Civil Society's, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, “the growth of private action for the public good is a recent, massive, almost universal phenomenon.” Organizations such as UN consultative NGOs, enrich the work of the United Nations and shape the public discourse on vital issues of our day. A panel of local and regional experts will respond to Dr. Kantrow's presentation and there will be time for audience questions.

The League of Women Voters is one of the organizations with UNESCO consultative status. The League's history in support of the idea of an international organization for dispute resolution goes back to our founding in 1920. After study of the idea during WWII, League adopted a position in 1944 to support “U.S. membership in an international organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes, with the machinery to handle economic, social and political problems.”

League then launched an unprecedented campaign to support the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods agreements to establish the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. As a result, the League was invited by President Truman to be one of 42 nongovernmental organizations to serve as consultants to the U.S. delegation at the UN Charter Conference in 1945.

Since that time, the League has continued its presence at the United Nations, through its UN Observer and other activities, including the UNICEF Working Group on Girls and the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Because League supports the UN Millennial Development Goals, including clean drinking water, we have a natural interest in Milwaukee's recent designation as a Global Compact City. This designation recognizes the importance of the waters of Lake Michigan as well as local expertise in water-related enterprises.

The Global Compact Cities Programme launched in 2003, seeks to harness these local resources and achieve its Programme outcomes by identifying, harnessing, focusing and applying existing local capacity within business, government and civil society. Ten (10) overarching Global Compact Principles are to guide innovative, concrete, positive, and sustainable solutions to difficult economic, social and environmental urban issues.

The Principles challenge business and NGO participants to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, the Principles described in four areas: human rights, labor standards, environment, and anti-corruption (detailed at [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org)). A quick survey of the Global Compact website reveals that four local business and other institutions are participants as of the time indicated: Johnson Controls (2004, 3/31), Manpower (2006, 10/3), Midwest Diecasting Corp. (2008, 3/10) and UW-Milwaukee (2009, 4/21). These entities have agreed to support the Principles as they pursue their respective roles in society.

A healthy future for our region depends on developing the region's water resources in a sustainable manner, one that conserves the resource for future generations, improves its quality, and at the same time supports the health of region's environment, population, and economy – all equally critical.

This October 22, 2009 evening event provides an unprecedented opportunity to consider the possible implications of Milwaukee's status as a Global Compact City with an international expert. Use the forms below to join us for the evening and sponsor the event. And go to our website, [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org), to view other scheduled events.

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## SEPTEMBER 23RD VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

Dorothy Sherman

At this writing 10 of you have responded to the Special Registration Deputy (re)training, scheduled for 4p.m., Wednesday, September 23rd at the East Library, 1910 E. North Ave., Milwaukee. Several Leaguers were (re)trained at the state League annual meeting in Manitowoc in May. Our pool of volunteers is growing! Join this group and enjoy League camaraderie as you facilitate the voting rights of our newest citizens. Contact me, Dorothy Sherman, at 414-425-9527, to sign up for the training.

## OCTOBER LEAGUE PROGRAMS

Sue Lindberg, VP Program

The evening of October 22nd marks the key event for a series of League sponsored events with Dr. Louise Kantrow, International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative to the United Nations. On the 22nd, Dr. Kantrow will speak on "The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector Working with the United Nations." The full-page article inside provides a context for the several events scheduled during her October 22-23 stay in Milwaukee. Be sure to reserve your spot for the October 22nd dinner event at the Italian Conference Center. Please go to our website, [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org), for updated information about the events on October 22 and 23.

## LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

Chair Chris Weber-Sponnick

Current Leaguers know the value our organization provides for the community. Just look through this and past bulletins to see how much and in varied ways we promote participatory democracy. Who studies issues, develops member consensus, THEN advocates for position passage? **The League of Women Voters!** Who has the credibility to conduct non-partisan candidate and issue forums in a fair and impartial manner? **The League of Women Voters!** Who registers newly naturalized citizens to vote? **The League of Women Voters!** Who works in collaboration with other groups/agencies to develop grassroots understanding and implementation of democracy and democratic processes in emerging democracies? **The League of Women Voters!** These are just a few activities we can be proud of. Sounds very exciting to me. How about you? Please renew your membership (if you haven't already). Avoid the additional letters and phone calls soliciting renewals. Use the form on the back of this bulletin. And **Thank YOU** to those who have already renewed.

## ACTION

Chair Ruth Snedic

**National** - The LWVUS urged members to get in touch with their representatives and senators as they come back to their districts regarding Health Care legislation. We were to urge them to include a public option.

**State & Local** – No action was taken other than contacting our reps through the town hall meetings and such.

## NEW CITIZEN, NEW VOTER

Dorothy Sherman, Coordinator

A very successful July 22nd naturalization registration with 80 new voters began our 2009-10 League year efforts to help new citizens enjoy a key right of citizenship, voting. July 23rd ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse were canceled. A total of 224 citizens were naturalized and 222 brochures were passed out! Volunteers included Kit Halloran O'Meara, Tom O'Meara, Joann Kreimendahl, Anne Creamer, Beverly Katter, Kathy Slamka and Dorothy Sherman. Thanks to these volunteers as well as to our August volunteers. They were Helga and Denis Guequierre, Anne Creamer, Ruth Snedic, Beverly Katter, Kathy Slamka and Dorothy Sherman.

On August 12th, 206 individuals became new citizens, 91 registered and 196 brochures were passed out on after the 3 ceremonies. The August 13th ceremonies were canceled.

## TRANSIT HEATS UP

Kerry Thomas, Natural Resources Committee member

Get ready, get set...contrary to what the weather forecasters say, September will be hot! We are entering a pivotal time for transit in SE Wisconsin. September is loaded with plenty of transit action, and opportunities to voice your opinion! Below are just a few. Come, learn more, and speak up as major transportation policies take form and become reality!

### Public Hearings on KRM Commuter Rail

KRM Commuter Rail has reached another milestone. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been approved by the Federal Transit Administration. The final step is a round of public hearings.

As the effort continues this fall to get dedicated funding for buses, it's important to keep KRM moving forward through the maze of federal hurdles so that we can build a strong local and regional network of transit that will get us connected and spur economic development and job growth.

**Your voice is important! Please plan to attend** a hearing and make your opinion heard. At the hearing you

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will learn about KRM project updates and be able to submit your comments in writing, or make an oral comment to the court reporter record. The hearings are held from 5:00-7:00 pm (presentation: 5:45 pm).

### **Milwaukee: Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

Harbor Lights Room, Milwaukee Downtown Transit Ctr., 909 E. Michigan St.

Hearings will also take place in Racine and Kenosha. Written comments may also be provided through October 5 on the KRM website [www.krmonline.org](http://www.krmonline.org), or by e-mail: [KRMonline@sewrpc.org](mailto:KRMonline@sewrpc.org), U.S. Mail: KRM Commuter Link, P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, WI 53187-1607, or fax: (262) 547-1103

Visit [www.krmonline.org](http://www.krmonline.org) to see the study report. Visit [www.transitnow.org](http://www.transitnow.org) to see talking points and more about the KRM hearings.

See the January/February Bulletin for background transit in SE Wisconsin and on the League's position on transit. The transportation position is found in the "meeting basic human needs" section of our Social Policy category: *Access to Transportation - The LWVUS believes that energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems should afford better access to housing and jobs and will continue to examine transportation policies in light of these goals.*

See you at the hearing!



### **UEDA Annual Community Development Summit: Regional Transit: Get On Board!**

Is regional transit for Southeast Wisconsin ready to roll, or stopped in its tracks?

More than ever, business growth and employment opportunity have a common challenge - access to transit. A regional approach to transportation, workforce and building wealth is gaining traction. Though the conversation has intensified, there is much more to be done to achieve our goals. Progress made in the last year will be reviewed as we work together to make improved transit a reality for our region.

**JOIN US: Friday, September 18, 2009**

7:30AM to Noon

At the Italian Conference Center

631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee

Hear from Mayor Tom Barrett, Governor Jim Doyle (invited) and Keynote Speaker Scott Bernstein, Founder and President of the Center for Neighborhood

Technology in Chicago and other business and civic leaders from the region. Attendees will be provided the opportunity to share their transit concerns and challenges - you'll be able to share your story with the decision-makers.

Visit [www.uedawi.org](http://www.uedawi.org) to register and for complete event information. Or, call 414-562-9904. **Registration Deadline:** Friday, September 11.

### **Gridlock Hits the Airwaves**

**Set your dial to Channel 10.1 on Friday, Sept 4 at 10 PM. *Gridlock: Public Transit in SE Wisconsin*** will be rebroadcast on MPTV Channel 10.1 on Friday, September 4 at 10 PM.

Milwaukee and SE Wisconsin have been on a fascinating journey on the way to creating what many are hoping will be a modern regional transit system. This documentary gets at the heart of several questions including why the Milwaukee area lags conspicuously behind all other US metropolitan areas in implementing a modern public transit system.

**Gridlock** informs about the politics and policies behind public transportation decision-making and the ongoing efforts to study, promote and develop a modern public transportation system. See the intriguing inside snapshot of the past 3 years and watch history in the making!

Be sure to watch and let Channel 10 know you did by calling (414) 297-7520.

Visit [www.gridlockdocumentary.com](http://www.gridlockdocumentary.com) to see the trailer and more about the film maker Mark Irving and his crew at iLevel Media.

### **Milwaukee Faces Major Transit Cuts**

Dedicated funding is needed in 2009 to avoid Milwaukee County Transit System service cuts that will start in January 2010. The cuts are needed to meet budget constraints and a revenue shortfall. Governor Doyle is currently working to develop a plan for a regional framework and the urgently needed dedicated funding source for local transit in SE Wisconsin that would be integrated with the new SERTA. The legislature will then have the ball in their court to advance a bill this fall. The legislative session begins September 15. Stay tuned. WE'll keep you informed as these new policies develop.

With over half of the 150,000 daily transit trips taken in Milwaukee being made for work and shopping purposes, the impact on our economy will be felt by families and businesses alike. The urgency of avoiding more service cuts cannot be overstated.

The Milwaukee County Board will vote on the budget in early November.

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## **Next Steps: SERTA and Bus Funding a Must for KRM, and essential framework for an Integrated Transit Network.**

The newly formed regional transit body, SERTA, is the only body authorized to submit the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts application which is the next step for KRM. Two major challenges need to be addressed to improve our chances of advancing KRM through a successful New Starts application:

1. The SERTA board needs to be appointed and approve and submit the application.
2. The Governor needs to introduce, and the Legislature must pass legislation providing for the long-term funding needs of our existing transit systems, specifically buses.

The temporary SE Wisconsin RTA dissolves on September 1, 2009. The new SERTA board members must be appointed soon to keep KRM moving forward.

## **ANTI-PAYDAY LENDING, SUBJECT FOR LEGISLATION**

Dorothy Dean

The upcoming session of the state legislature will see at least 4 bills against payday lending. The bills are being introduced by Reps. Hinz (LRB 1920/2), Jorgensen (LRB 925/4), Schneider (AB 55), and Zepnick (LRB 1053/1). Not all have bill numbers yet.

The interest in payday lending is mainly because of the work of advocates statewide. Legislators are interested because of the deleterious effects payday lending has on Wisconsin and, on the other hand, because the industry is interested in stopping anti-payday lending legislation.

The Hinz bill, which was introduced August 7, is considered by advocates to be the one which most closely mirrors what consumer advocates have been suggesting. It is also the bill that contains much of what the League considers a healthy law.

### **Background**

LRB 1920/2 is titled, "Predatory Lending Consumer Protection Act". The bill covers only payday lending not mortgage lending. (Senator Taylor has introduced a bill requiring mediation before foreclosure -- one of the measures to address predatory mortgage lending. Most action on predatory mortgage lending is at the federal level.)

Payday lenders go by different names -- check cashing, payday loans, cash advance loans or check advance loans. It is all the same. They issue small, short-term, high rate loans that must be repaid in two weeks. In Wisconsin, average rates on such loans are \$20 per \$100 or 525% APR (average percentage rate). If you cannot pay the loan back in 2 weeks you incur additional interest charges as well as pay additional fees. For

example, borrowing \$200 will cost \$200 in interest if the borrower cannot pay it back in a short time.

For comparison, the average credit card charge is 13% with a maximum at about 40%. There are lenders, especially, credit unions that offer small loans for 21.7% and make money doing it. (For example, the UW Credit Union, which has branches around the state.) The simple fact is that payday lenders do not need an APR of 525% to make money. What consumers need is not short term loans but small loans for a longer term with reasonable interest rates like the credit unions offer.

The Hinz bill is the only one to provide for a 36% cap on interest rates and to define interest rates as "all costs, fees, [and] service charges." Consumer advocates believe that the only bill being introduced at this time that adequately protects consumers is the Hinz bill. There is one bill, AB 55, which caps interest at 24% but does not provide for licensing and for remedies for borrowers.

Other bills provide no cap on interest rates or don't require licensing of payday lenders. One bill even allows 1/2 of the borrower's paycheck to be the maximum loan. It also contains no provision that the borrower limit the number of loans that they take out at any one time.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE: WATER SUMMIT III- A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR LEAGUE OVERSIGHT AND INVOLVEMENT**

Mel Bromberg, LWVMC Director, MCPH, & Principal WaterSHED International LLC

Do you know water, like weather (which is already traded), will soon join other "products" priced for trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange? Water most likely will be paired with "agricultural commodities" like wheat, corn, soybeans and pork bellies. This "shocking" revelation was just one of many "opportunities" that was foretold at the summit as both freshwater and Lake Michigan become the key to unlocking Milwaukee's economic future and development.

At the third annual water summit, held July 20 at Discovery World. The conference focus was on water pricing and financing as well as processes (strike necessary) for showcasing opportunities here for water investment groups, venture capitalists and individuals involved in the regulation and setting of water rates for the public. Additionally, the summit presented information as to how best adapt financing and funding capacities to entice private sector water development in the region. This 3rd water summit was critical to the Council in helping to better define the sources of financing for the emerging water technologies sector as well as to understand the ramifications of creation of a sustainable water technology business model to support regional water

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enterprise development. Due to the recent successes within the Water Council including the designation of Milwaukee by the United Nations as a “Global Compact City for Water Enterprise” Milwaukee has declared itself as THE “Silicon Valley of water or World Water Technology Hub”, but much to its chagrin (as it recently learned from the Israeli keynote speaker at this year’s water summit), those designations were already given to the countries of Israel and Singapore making Milwaukee “third” in contention for branding itself as such.

### **Water Council Creation and Recent Successes**

The M-7 Water Council was formed in 2007 as part of the already existing seven county regional economic development group. The Council’s mission was developed from a white paper generated by Sammis White, urban planning professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. White’s paper articulated and calculated that much of the focus of business and manufacturing already in the Milwaukee area was water related. Based on information contained in this paper, and with water council co-chairs, Richard Meeusen, CEO of Badger Meter (water meter manufacturers and distributors), Paul Jones CEO of A.O. Smith (water heater manufacturers) and Julia Taylor, President of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, all began to see the “pieces to a puzzle” concerning the utility of using freshwater and Lake Michigan to sustain corporate water related development and spur new water related entrepreneurial activity to generate profit. Out of these ideas, and with impetus from White’s paper, the Water Council was created. It was recently designated a 501 (c) 3 non-profit trade organization.

Through the assistance of Milwaukee’s World Trade Center and the marketing expertise of “The Spirit of Milwaukee,” efforts were made to reach out to not only the local community but also international communities to showcase Milwaukee’s business and water technology expertise. Additional work has been done to cluster the more than 120 firms and 20,000 employees from the seven county region into a council whose focus is on the generation of additional revenues and patents in areas including water technologies, treatment processes, the beverage industries. Also multinational and private sector owners with lots of capital are to be encouraged to come to further assist in the management of water and wastewater treatment plants.

The Water Council has also generated much support for its mission from within higher education sectors. Having both the Chancellor of UW- Milwaukee on its board and the President of Marquette University has raised the stakes for using higher education to bolster economic development in the region. It has also opened up opportunities for these schools to create

new departments, hire new faculty members, and construct new facilities. All these “gifts” have been seized upon by school leadership through alignment with Water Council objectives and intentions. Among the first to be aboard, from within the research and academic sector of the Council is UWM’s Great Lakes WATER Institute. Utilizing the scientific and intellectual research capacities of its scientists and additional funding from the State Legislature and Governor Doyle, the UWM School of Freshwater Sciences was born. Both business and academia saw opportunities for partnering and patenting their latest “game changing” water technologies and processes including research breakthroughs related to aquaculture, freshwater management and conservation, food production and freshwater systems operation.

Out of this union, the Great Lakes WATER Institute would gain a larger and better equipped research facility and also be able to replace its research vessel, the Neeskey. Additionally, UWM has added new faculty positions within its College of Engineering-focused on freshwater engineering activities and programs meant to intersect within the School of Freshwater Sciences.

Not wanting to show favoritism to UWM, the Water Council also recognized Marquette University’s School of Law as a resource for developing future legal experts schooled in water rights, the development of transnational boundary agreements, and the securing, transfer, management and allocation of water for both public and private uses. Out of these needs for water policy and legal clarification, Marquette University’s School of Law recently added new water law related courses to its curriculum with first offerings for the courses to begin in 2010. Additionally, UW –Whitewater recently added a “business of water” core to its business school curriculum.

With all this educational support in place for future workforce development, the Water Council felt that it had reached an important benchmark in helping sustain the area’s workforce and in focusing on the value of the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan to the people who lived and worked in the region. Additionally, realizing that water is a growing and evolving industry, and wanting to be in on the “cutting edge” of that industry, the Council also focused its attention on K-12 education around water using Discovery World as a generator of formal and informal curricula for water issues. Area wide community and technical colleges are also involved in contributing to workforce development around water.

To that end, the M-7 Water Council has evolved over a two year period into a powerful driver for economic development using water, educational resources and water related industries in the region to ensure its own



future and the region's future economic development. Council work has been wholeheartedly endorsed and funded with support from government officials including: **Governor Jim Doyle, US Senator Russ Feingold, Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Mayor Tom Barrett.** Members of the Water Council Board of Directors include CEO's and leaders from area wide corporations like **Badger Meter, A.O Smith, Foley and Lardner, Miller /Coors Beer, Robert W. Baird and Company, Veolia Water America, and ( a lone environmental group), The Nature Conservancy represented by State Director Mary Jane Huston.** Educational leadership on the M-7 Water Council includes **Carlos Santiago, Chancellor of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Father Robert Wild, President of Marquette University.**

### **International Focus on Israel at Summit Afternoon Session**

This third water summit introduced keynote speakers whose business activities and intersections included interest in financing and start up of water technologies, water companies, or treatment processes. This included Felix Carabello, Director of Alternate Investments from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Jud Hill, Managing Partner from Summit Global Capital of Washington DC, an investment based company, a UW- Whitewater Economics Professor and a Wisconsin Public Service Commission regulator, who helps to set public water rates throughout Wisconsin.

Capitalizing on it's April 2009 designation by the United Nations as a "Global Compact City", with water technology expertise, Milwaukee invited **Assaf Barnea** from Israel's premier venture capital/water incubator company, *Kinrot Ventures*, to shed light on how he manages the water incubator for start up companies throughout Israel . Realizing that Israel is a water scarce region where water prices are likely to rise due to the scarcity, Barnea with support from the chief Israeli government scientists, discussed the founding of his company whose purpose is to help create "game changing innovative water entrepreneurs." His incubator helps them develop product lines and patents for "cutting edge clean tech" global water products and services. At the summit, Barnea described the processes as to how entrepreneurs and their projects are selected for Kinrot development and start up, the levels of Israeli government funding and support given to these projects, and the processes and the compliance procedures & requirements for companies once accepted into the two-year incubator period.

Following on the heels of Barnea's speech, Governor Jim Doyle announced a water related trade mission to Israel in November 2009 to WATEC where Israeli based water technology companies and others from around the world will have opportunities to partner with



LWV Ashland/Bayfield Counties reception for the State Board Meeting, July 17 & 18. LWV Milwaukee County President and State Board Director, Louise Petering is 2nd from the right.

Wisconsin's water technology enterprises.

Although water summit conferees were invited to participate in a final break out session at the summit, the feedback from these breakout sessions could not be shared due to time restrictions. In the past, the Water Council has used break out session information and feedback as part of community participation information for inclusion in grants it applies for. A final announcement was made at the conclusion of the summit that a new council advisory group, called the "Friends of the Water Council" would be forming to help procure funding for the Water Council to perpetuate its activities. Todd Montgomery, an instructor at UW-Milwaukee and a Vice President for Wachovia-Wells Fargo bank, will lead this "friends" group.

**Leaguers--** Next month's article follow up by Mel : "Water as a Commodity vs. Equity in Milwaukee. "

This article will focus on the push to trade water as a commodity and capitalize on freshwater resources in our market. It will pose questions to the League for further investigation concerning economic development interests of the Water Council. It will offer ideas for League for involvement in water social justice issues, affordability and governance transparency. It will suggest an oversight role for the League in relationship to Water Council activities.

## **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.

**IF YOU WISH TO DOWNLOAD THE BULLETIN ON OUR WEBSITE, CHECK HERE** \_\_\_\_

Milwaukee Co. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Website - <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>    Email Address - [Info@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:Info@lwvmilwaukee.org)**

Involvement [Check One]: Active \_\_\_\_ or Supporting \_\_\_\_    Interests: Voter Service \_\_\_\_    Lending Practices \_\_\_\_    Government \_\_\_\_

International Relations \_\_\_\_    Environment/Natural Resources \_\_\_\_    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., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202; OR join online at [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org).** Tax-deductible contributions to the LWV Ed Fund may be directed to the address above. Thank you!



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-273-8683  
<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

### **Renewal Reminder**

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**Reserve Now for  
Sept. 23 and Oct 22  
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