



President's Message

Summer is quickly coming to a close. It has been hot, exciting and full of League activities. Most of us were following the action of the Olympics in London. The athletes were able to compete in the Olympics because they set a goal, worked, and trained for years and then achieved their medal or other honors. Our League and its leaders deserve a medal. We set a goal last year of improving our visibility in the community and increasing LWV membership. We earned a "gold medal" in both areas! Our goal this fall is to retain all our members, long-time and new, and to increase our member involvement. We need YOU to register new voters in high schools, colleges, and the community this fall, attend the Kick Off supper at Lake Park, or attend some of our general and small unit discussion meetings. Joining a committee or checking out a Board meeting is a great way to learn more about our League.



A speaker will brief us on public/private partnership at our Kick Off supper on Wednesday, September 12th. This is a follow-up of our national study "Privatization of Government Services." It is always fun to socialize in beautiful and historic Lake Park. Please attend.

Fall will be a busy season with elections just around the corner. September 25th is National Voter Registration Day. Leaguers will be out all over Milwaukee County registering new voters. Reserve the date and please join us on the 25th! We received a grant from the national non-profit VOTE group to help underwrite the activities and to print more copies of our revised *Voting in Wisconsin* brochure.

Please remember, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. The League does not support or endorse any political party or candidate. As your president, I am not allowed to participate in any partisan political activities or make any contributions to political candidates. Members, as individuals, however, are able to volunteer on political campaigns, which is an amazing way to work with citizens from a wide variety of ages, and economic, racial, ethnic, and educational backgrounds.

September is the new beginning of our LWV program year. Please put our dates on your calendar and join us.

Fondly,

Mary Kae Nelson

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Mary Kae gives presentation to new and prospective members at the Summer Social as Celeste Jantz looks on.

CALENDAR

Action to Support Voter Turnout through October 17th

September			
6	Thu	9 am, 11 am	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Sharon Munson, 414-358-8393.
8	Sat	8:30 am – 1 pm	Board Meeting and Training Contact: LuAnn Bird, 920-203-2692
12	Wed	5:30 pm	Fall Kick-Off Salad Supper see p. 5 for details Lake Park Pavilion Community Room Contact: Chris Weber, 414-535-1197 
13	Thu	10 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group St. Matthew's EV Lutheran Church, 1615 N Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222, or Gloria Weiskotten, 414-354-9783
17	Mon	12 noon	Membership Committee Meeting Contact: Chris Weber, 414-535-1197, or Beverly Katter, 414-277-9158
20	Thu	9 am, 11 am 1 pm, 3 pm	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Sharon Munson, 414-358-8393.
24	Mon	6 pm	Natural Resources Committee Shorewood Village Center (below the library) 3920 N. Murray Ave, Shorewood Contact: Helga Guequierre 414-225-0460, or Brenda Costigan, 414-702-0997
25	Tue		National Voter Registration Day Register new voters at colleges and high schools Contact: Ruth Snedic, 414-771-7690 
28-29	Fri-Sat		Lake Michigan LWV Annual Meeting, Indiana
October			
4	Thu	9 am, 11 am	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Sharon Munson, 414-358-8393.
9	Tue		Bulletin Articles Due
10	Wed	6 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988
11	Thu	10 am	International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion Group St. Matthew's EV Lutheran Church, 1615 N Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-258-9222, or Gloria Weiskotten, 414-354-9783
13	Sat	9am—2:30 pm	State Issues Briefing—Madison Contact: LuAnn Bird, 920-203-2692
20	Sat	9 am	General Meeting—Affordable Care Act, Facts and Myths See p. 3 for details 
22	Mon	6 pm	Natural Resources Committee Shorewood Village Center (below the library), 3920 N. Murray Ave, Shorewood Contact: Helga Guequierre 414-225-0460, or Brenda Costigan, 414-702-0997
24	Wed		Unit Meetings—LWV Health Care Position See p. 6 for details
24	Wed		United Nations Day (67th Anniversary)
25	Thu	9 am, 11 am 1 pm, 3 pm	Naturalization/New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave. Contact: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527 or Sharon Munson, 414-358-8393.



League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County
October General Meeting

Co-sponsored by LWVMC and St. John's on the Lake

**Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:
Facts and Myths**

Saturday, October 20, 2012



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



St. John's on the Lake

1800 N. Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee 53202

Free guest parking on the south side of the South Tower

Enter on the Lake Michigan (back) side of the building

RSVP to the League office: 414-273-8683

Daily we read attacks against the Affordable Care Act and health care reform. Often the people making the attacks do not actually know what is in the law. A panel of professionals will provide the facts as they discuss the contents of the law and its impact on individuals, businesses, health care providers and the future of health care in this country.

For more information on this event, visit our website, www.lwvmilwaukee.org or email us at: league@lwvmilwaukee.org.

Panelists:

Richard E. Rieselbach MD, MACP
Health Policy Consultant
UW Medical Foundation

William Holahan, PhD
Emeritus Professor and Chair, Department of Economics
UW-Milwaukee

Kevin Kane
Healthcare Organizer
Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Program Notes

Sarajane Kennedy, Program Vice-President

2012-2013 Program Plans

At its August meeting, the Board of Directors approved the 2012-2013 Program Calendar. We are excited to have four general meetings and four unit discussion meetings planned for the coming League year. Topics include the Affordable Care Act, Campaign Finance, Electrical Energy Use, and Judicial Independence. In addition, we will focus our energies in September and October on action to support voter turnout for the November election. Be sure to see the related article elsewhere in this *VOTER*.

See all meeting dates, as well as other important information for League members, in the printed "Program Calendar 2012-2013," available at the September 12th Kick-off. Don't go home without one.

October 20th General Meeting – Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act - The Facts

Our first general meeting on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. focuses on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). We've all seen and heard a great deal about the ACA, some of it fact, much of it fiction. We are assembling a panel of speakers who know what is in the law: that it ends discrimination against people with preexisting conditions; that it provides tax credits to small businesses; that it lowers healthcare-related costs; and that it requires insurance companies to give out annual rebates if less than 80% of the premium dollars they collect goes toward medical care. There's more, so attend the October 20th meeting and bring your friends and family. In the meantime, the Kaiser Family Foundation website, <http://healthreform.kff.org/> is an excellent source of information about the Affordable Care Act and health care reform in general. Pay attention, as well, to the almost daily newspaper articles and editorials on the topic and come prepared with questions for the panelists.

National Convention Actions

Sarajane Kennedy

Agriculture Position Review and Update

At the LWVUS Convention in June it was moved and passed to review and update the League's Agriculture position. **The motion called for a review that will investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.** In late 2012, the LWVUS Board will discuss the proposed study, solicit committee members, and define the scope.

For those of you with a particular interest in this topic, you might want to subscribe to the LWVUS Leaders Up-

date. It is published just once a week – every Thursday afternoon. It will add minimally to the number of e-mails coming into your inbox, but it will add greatly to your current knowledge and information from LWVUS. This list is intended for all members, not only the official officers/directors of the League.

Later this year, LWVUS will form a committee on this topic and launch the review and update. The national committee will research and prepare materials for consideration by local Leagues around the country in the 2013-2014 program year.

Concurrence with LWVDC Position on Criminal Sentencing

Also at Convention, delegates concurred with and adopted the LWV District of Columbia position on alternatives to imprisonment and no mandatory minimum drug sentences. You may recall that all three of our unit meetings concurred with this position at our program-making meetings in January and reported the same to national League.

Position on Privatization

The LWVUS now has a [position on Privatization](#)! At its June 2012 meeting, the LWVUS Board approved this new position, which is based on responses received from our League along with 226 other Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study.



On Membership

Chris Weber Spornick, Membership Chair

Whew—it's hot. And not just the weather. The very active Membership Committee has been *hot* to recruit and follow up on people who would grow and contribute to the League and our community. It takes a lot of *warm* welcoming to engage folks to the point of joining. But once they do become Leaguers they often are not *tepid* in their commitment to our activities. Longer time members: let's not be *lukewarm* in our initiating of new (or returning) members to the League. And a bold message to those who have not renewed their membership: **Please do so before the end of September.** You have probably been phoned to urge your renewal. We have a growing local League, this is a busy year, and we cherish your membership, whatever your activity level. Use the join/renewal form on the back of this bulletin and enclose a check payable to League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County or renew online at lwwmilwaukee.org. Thank you.

New Members

Correction from last issue: Shana Calbreath has not retired from We Energies.

We will continue new member bios in our next issue.

Action Report

Ruth Snedic

It seems like every time I write my action report it sounds like a repeat from the month before, and, in fact, it pretty much is. We have been lobbying for the Disclose Act for so long but victory has eluded us. Many groups have been pressuring Congress to bring reform to the campaign finance system. Perhaps we will have that victory in time. Partisanship has created so many problems for our debate on this and other legislation that it can get discouraging. In the wake of the *Citizens United* decision, disclosure is even more vital to give voters the information they need to know who finances our elections.

The same broken record is true with the Clean Air Act. There are constant threats to this legislation, which regulates the discharge of mercury, arsenic, lead and other toxins. We have been fighting to keep this Act relevant to everyday life and to keep these pollutants out of our lungs. So if our lobbying regarding it sounds like a broken record, I guess it is.

Everything is a bit quiet with Congress recessing for the month and with our state legislature out until fall. We will have elections on state races, as well as national, which will keep everyone busy.

Andrea Kaminski, state executive director, wrote a nice press release taking to task all the phony accusations regarding fraud in our election system. Our members should have received it. We are losing poll workers as a result of this nastiness just when the need is greatest. Wisconsin doesn't deserve the black eye these critics are giving it.

Editor's note: For more information on these important issues and more, visit the national League website, lww.org, or the state website, lwwi.org.



Fall Kick Off Salad Supper Social



When: Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Time: 5:30 pm
Where: Lake Park Pavilion Community Room,
downstairs under Bartolotta's Lake Park Bistro
3133 E Newberry Blvd., Milwaukee

Program: "Creating successful public/private partnerships."
This is a follow-up of our LWVUS study on Privatization.

Also "Getting to Know You" and highlights from our program committees

Bring a salad or dessert to share.
Beverages and table service are provided.

Please come and learn about the exciting LWV year ahead!

Contact: Chris Weber, Membership Chair, [414-535-1197](tel:414-535-1197), or the League office, [414-273-8683](tel:414-273-8683)

Our Democracy Needs You!

Take Part in Preparing for Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2012

As you know, from our founding almost 93 years ago, the mission of the League of Women Voters has been to educate voters on the issues and to increase voter participation. During September through mid-October*, we will be focusing on action to promote voter turnout. That means registration efforts to both increase the number of our members who are Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) and to find opportunities for us to register folks who are eligible to vote but not yet registered.

How can you get involved?

- **Become a Special Registration Deputy for the City of Milwaukee**

(you do not need to reside in Milwaukee to be an SRD)

Monday, August 27, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 pm the City of Milwaukee will provide special registration deputy (SRD) training at Zablocki Library, 35th Street and Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee. Session will last until 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Ruth Snedic, 414-771-7690, ruth9.snedic@milwpc.com by August 22 to confirm that you will attend this training.

- **Become an SRD in your own community as well if you do not live in the City of Milwaukee**

Contact your municipality's clerk to request such training. If you are deputized for the City of Milwaukee, some municipalities will grant SRD status for their community based on that.

- **Once deputized, contact Ruth Snedic, 414-771-7690, ruth9.snedic@milwpc.com or Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527, Dorothy-Sherman@sbcglobal.net to learn how to help with registration efforts arranged by LWVMC from September through October 17th.**

Even if not deputized, you may be of assistance with other aspects of voter registration activities, so let Ruth or Dorothy know you are willing help as needed.

- **Celebrate September 25, 2012 National Voter Registration Day**

We invite you to be a part of this nationwide non-partisan effort to register thousands of voters on one single day – September 25, 2012. More than 250 national and regional organizations, celebrities, businesses, and high-profile leaders, including LWVMC, have already signed on to participate.

Our efforts to register eligible voters on that day,

as well as before and after that day, are vital to a strong turnout at the Tuesday, November 6th General Election.

- **Vote Tuesday, November 6, 2012 and encourage everyone you know to vote**

It's not just a presidential election, we're also voting for education, health care, and our community.

*Special registration is only permitted up to 20 days before an election. People may register, but must do so at their municipality up until the Friday before the election or on the day of the election at their polling place.



Unit Discussion Meetings

The public is invited to all League meetings. Many members say that discussion units are the backbone of the League. This is the place where you learn, discuss, contemplate, share, vent, and socialize. Topics vary. Participants are bright and interesting. We welcome you!

Afternoon Unit West—1:00 pm

St. Matthew's EV Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa
Contact: Gloria Weiskotten: [414-354-9783](tel:414-354-9783)

Evening Unit West—7:30

Location varies
Contact: Ruth Snedic: 414-771-7690

Evening Unit East—6:30

Shorewood Village Center South
(below the Shorewood Public Library)
3900 block of N. Murray Ave., S. of Capitol Dr.
Contact: Barbara Hussin: 414-351-0819

Welcome to Celeste Jantz, our new office assistant. Celeste will be working for us part-time after working at Community Shares as their Membership Systems Coordinator. Celeste has an MS in Urban Studies from UWM and is dedicated to working in the nonprofit sector.

We look forward to working with Celeste and know that her talents will be much appreciated.

Natural Resources

Lake Superior Regulation: Addressing the Uncertainty in Upper Great Lakes Water Levels – Report to the International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Water Institute Public Hearing

Helga Guequierre, Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair

Under the “Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909”, the interests of domestic and sanitary water uses, navigation, and power and irrigation (in order of precedence) are to be given consideration in the development of regulatory plans for the Great Lakes. This report recognizes further interests: ecosystems, coastal zone uses, and recreational boating and tourism, as well as First Nations and American Indians’ economic, cultural, and spiritual needs.

The Upper Great Lakes Study was launched five years ago to determine whether using the outflow from Lake Superior to regulate the levels of Lakes Huron and Michigan would be feasible. A first report was issued in 2009 and the final report was released in March 2012. The purpose of the study was to address the recurring challenge of “how to manage fluctuating lake levels in the face of uncertainty over future water supplies to the basin while seeking to balance the needs of those interests served by the system.” Both reports determined that the negative impacts on Lake Superior outweighed the positive effects on Lakes Huron and Michigan. Since increasing the outflow from Lake Superior was not deemed feasible, a number of other solutions were studied including restoration structures, submerged sills, fixed dikes/weirs, hydrokinetic turbines, inflatable flap gates, and inflatable rubber weirs.

The study authors again failed to come up with a solution for restoring water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan. A number of methods to slow down the increased discharge of water caused by past natural and man-made changes were considered and dismissed as taking too long, being too costly, and harming some areas while helping others. Also, they could cause problems for endangered sturgeon in the St. Clair River.

At the hearing in Milwaukee, one of a series of public hearings being held at sites around the Great Lakes, about sixty people heard the presentation and many took the opportunity to make comments on the proposal. Concerned citizens expressed appreciation for the work of the Study Committee but disagreed with its conclusions. Speakers from Sierra Club and the Alliance for the Great Lakes spoke in favor of the installation of submerged sills in the upper St. Clair River to slow down the discharge and thereby raise the water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan. The general reaction of the public was that something must be done to restore the water levels on the Lakes.

More information is available at: iugls.org. Comments on the study are accepted until August 31, 2012.



International Relations

International Relations/Great Decisions Discussion group will meet on September 13th to discuss *State of the Oceans: Waves of Change*. “The most recent scientific consensus suggests that the ocean is highly vulnerable to cumulative human action, including fishing, resource extraction and pollution—effects that are exacerbated by climate change. An increasing number of citizens and policy makers fear that the rapidly deteriorating condition of the oceans will profoundly affect human welfare.”

Our topic on October 11th will be Indonesia: *Prospects for Prosperity*. “Many are seeking clues to Indonesia's transition to a stable, prosperous democracy from rigid authoritarianism that might serve as guidelines for other predominately Muslim countries that are trying to make a similar change as the Arab Spring sweeps across the Middle East.”

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 \$90 Household (2 or more persons) \$25 Student \$100 (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 _____ e-mail _____

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,

OR join online at: lwvmilwaukee.org. If you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Voter* electronically,
please email us at league@lwvmilwaukee.org. Thank you!



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league@lwvmilwaukee.org

414-273-8683

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ste 102

1845 N Farwell Ave,

Join In!

Join Up!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

