



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

Calendar

New web site!! <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: info@lwvmilwaukee.org 414-273-8683

November

- 7 Tue. - VOTE - General Election, 7am-8pm
- 7 Tue. - Election Night Reporting
Contact: Barb Hoppe, 414/355-5872
- 8 Wed. - Board Meeting, 6pm
Board Meeting
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.
Washington Park Library
Contact: Louise Petering 414/351-3617
- 15 Wed. - Consensus, Part I: Energy Study,
Supper, 5:30pm
Program, 6:30pm
Heinemann's, Corner 76th St. and Bluemound
Supper Reservations: Contact Brenda Bantz,
414-702-0997. See "State Studies" insert.
- 23 Thur. - Thanksgiving
- 27 Mon. - Intrnl. Relations Committee, 9:15am
Topic: US Coverage of the Middle East;
Are We Getting the Full Picture?
Lucille Bowen's home
4215 N. 100th Street, #240, Milwaukee
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald 414/371-7836
- 27 Mon. - Natural Resources Committee, 7pm
Topic: Energy Study Consensus
Jennifer Runquist's home
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist, 414/332-5067

December

- 3 Sun. - Winter Social, 3-6pm
4pm Convenient/Predatory Lending Talk
5pm Celebrating/toasting our Successes
Fran and Steve Swigart's home
1529 E. Hartford Ave., Milwaukee
?s, Contact: Fran Swigart (414) 962-8984
(See Articles, p. 2)
- 13 Wed. - Board Meeting & Bulletin Deadline
Washington Park Library
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.
Contact: Louise Petering 414/351-3617
- 20 Wed. - New Voter/New Citizen - PENDING
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Contact: Fran Swigart (414) 962-8984



Mary G. Wilson, LWV-US President; Sue Edman, Director-Milwaukee Election Commission; Louise Petering, LWV-MC Co-President; and Kit Halloran-O'Meara, LWV-MC Voters' Rights Study Co-Chair meet at the election commission office. (Left to right)

Another League goal, advocating for voters rights, got a boost from LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson during her October 18 & 19 visit here. Kit Halloran, Fran Swigart, Janet Nortrom, Helga Guequierre and Katherine Kane helped with arrangements for Mary's visit. She spoke to over 60 Leaguer's and guests about her six state tour and League's mission to overcome barriers to voting - by getting over, under and around them - whether through legislative, judicial or administrative action on our part. Mary also met with Sue Edman, Director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission, and members of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Editorial Board. She gathered information on Wisconsin voting processes and issues and shared League's positions as well. Several of us attended the *continued on pg. 2*

LEADERS LINES

Louise Petering & Angela McKenzie, Co-Presidents

The beginning of our League year has been busy - and meaningful. Our Sept. 20th kickoff members and guest heard why the proposed constitutional amendment, the "ban on civil unions," is discriminatory and unacceptable for inclusion in any constitution. The forum was taped by the West Allis Community Media Center and copies of it were distributed to the 22 Leagues around Wisconsin for their own and public access programming. Our goal is to defeat the amendment on November 7th.

SAVE THE DATES

December

3 Sunday, 4-7 p.m.
Celebrate our Successes and hear about our local study (Article p.)

May

7 Monday
2007 Annual Meeting
Keynoter, State Supreme Court, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson.

BRING THIS BULLETIN TO NOVEMBER 15 GENERAL MEMBER MEETING FOR CONSENSUS ON THE ENERGY STUDY

ARE YOUR ANNUAL DUES PAST DUE?
Check the address label for your dues due date.
Check "dues paid through" date on your address label. Not paid?
Complete the form on back of this bulletin & send in with your Dues!!!

* Article Inside

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4th Street Forum with Mary, and later Kit got her to an interview with WUWM's "Lake Effect." The Runquists, Fran and Louise enjoyed Mary's company for dinner. Watch our website, <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, for information on media items relating to Mary's visit.

Our many local efforts in voter advocacy have proceeded smoothly. We thank the following members for their roles in "making democracy work."

Sept 7, 1st Cong. Dist. Democratic Primary Forum, Greendale – Fran Swigart, Ruth Snedic

Sept 12, Commentary on Election Day, CBS58 TV News 5 7a.m. – Marilyn Boeldt

Sept. 20, Forum on "Ban on Civil Unions," LWV Milw. Co. Louise Petering, Fran, Ruth

Oct. 9, CBS58 TV Interview, Voting, Pollworker Supply, & Statewide Database issues – Ruth

Oct. 9 & 10, Distribution of over 5000 "Voting in WI" cards to 20 community groups

Oct. 14, Rep. Gwen Moore's Workshop for Prospective Citizens – Carolyn Castore

Oct. 18, LWVUS Pres. Mary G. Wilson's Voter Advocacy Forum – see above

Oct. 19, CBS58 TV News Commentary LWVUS Pres. Mary G. Wilson

Oct. 21, Hunger Task Force Advocates Training Ruth Snedic & Rosemary Bigelow

Oct. 24, Metro Milw. Missionary Baptist Church, Community Education in Govt., Attorney General Forum Fran Swigart

Oct. 27, Goodwill Industries, Voter Education Event Fran Swigart

REMEMBER: VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7TH, VOTING "NO" ON THE "MARRIAGE AMENDMENT" AND "DEATH PENALTY" REFERENDA.

Please mark NOVEMBER 15TH, 5:30 p.m. on your calendar for the general member supper meeting: Phase one of the state energy study MEMBER CONSENSUS. Check the bulletin calendar for time, place and reservation information. The Natural Resources committee is ready for your participation. Materials for this meeting appear near the end of this bulletin. The Energy consensus will be completed at February 21 unit discussion meetings.

Looking ahead, program planning and the Voting Rights Study consensus will take place at January 17 unit discussion meetings. Please SAVE THE EVENING OF MAY 7TH FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING WITH KEYNOTER, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT, THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY ABRAHAMSON!

WINTER SOCIAL

Fran Swigart

Reserve Sunday, December 3, 2006, 3-6p.m. for festivities with League friends and guests at Fran and Steve Swigart's home! The social will celebrate our achievements this year (election night reporting, a membership increase, etc.) and Dorothy Dean will give us a better understanding of our local study on convenience/predatory lending. Plan to gather no later than 4p.m. for Dorothy's presentation. Following her remarks we will toast ourselves for a dynamite first half of the 2006-07 League Year. Invite family, friends, and co-workers as we enjoy one another's company and celebrate our good works in "making democracy work!"

Please add your seasonal specialties – appetizers or cookies – to the holiday table. Beverages will be provided. Directions: Swigarts live at 1529 E. Hartford Ave. in Milwaukee on the southwest corner of Hartford and Newhall – 4 blocks north of Locust & 3 blocks west of Oakland. Coming from the north on Oakland turn right at the third stoplight south of Capitol Drive. Parking is available on the street, but be sure to note winter parking restrictions.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stefaniak, Membership Co-Chair

Welcome to our new members, Eldred Hansen, Karen Jansen, Geraldine Schosser, Marilyn Swiontek, Jean Farfield, Rita Weinberg, Deanna Durham and David Thomas. As you read these names you will note at least one of them is a gentleman. Remember, membership in the League is open to all US Citizens 18 years of age and older, men and women! Current members, please find these new members listed in the new directory (to be out in December) and invite them to join you at League events and unit discussion and general meetings. New members, you will find our get-togethers informative and stimulating. Contact numbers for each event are included in the League Lines Calendar.

Dee Sitzberger recently was recognized this summer at the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups annual convention in Appleton for her many years and thousand of hours as a volunteer assisting retired people in Milwaukee County, especially through her understanding of the state Medicare Integrity Project. Congratulations Dee!

ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING

Barb Hoppe, Coordinator

Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to phone in election returns from nine southeastern Wisconsin counties, and 19 municipalities in Milwaukee County! And thanks to Barb Kohlbeck for League staffing at WES, Carolyn Castore for coordinating at CBS and Rich and Sue Lindberg for staffing at AP. Your feedback about poll conditions on election day continue to help us smooth our process, develop relationships with those we serve, increase our visibility in the community, and provide funds for League work. I appreciate that many of you are again devoting the evening of Nov 7th to our efforts.

MASTERING THE WEB

Dorothy Dean, Webmaster

Please Say "Yes" to League Email - if you have Email

With a League membership that is growing each year, we are always considering ways to communicate better with each other. Though Email is an attractive choice for many League communications, it will never replace League Lines. But it does provide a useful, fast way to inform members of key League events, fast-moving legislation, or needed phone calls or emails to legislators.

To use email more efficiently we are creating a special list. It will allow you to opt-in, if you wish, and allow us to easily keep the list current. If we have your email address, you will be receiving an email invitation to join this list. The message will explain more. Please respond positively to the invitation. The number of messages per month will be about 5 -10 depending on whether the Legislature or Congress is in session.

If you have questions, feel free to call me at 961-7315.

Establish Your Identity on the Web

I have noticed that many League members share an email account with their husband. It is simple and free to set up your own individual account with your own name and your own identity. Advantages to your own account are:

- 1) You would no longer have to sort your email out from your partner's email.
- 2) You can create your own identity online.
- 3) You can use your email account from anywhere in the world where you can get Internet access.
- 4) The email stays on the Hotmail, Google or Yahoo server, not your computer, hence the system protects you from many kinds of viruses and spam.
- 5) The service provides ways to organize your mail, save it, put it in folders by subject, etc. and provides huge storage space -- usually 250 MB (megabytes).
- 6) You can establish a list of your email contacts with the account like an address book.
- 7) You can attach files, photos, etc. to your messages.
- 8) Because it is free you can close it any time you like with no monetary penalty.

The first step is to choose a service. Hotmail, Gmail (owned and operated by Google) and Yahoo are the big three offering free email accounts. Recently, there have been privacy issues with Yahoo and Google, which make them less acceptable to some people. I use Hotmail, but any of the three is good.

Each service has its own web site (I will list them at the end of this article). Signing up is easy. 1) Decide on a name for your account. It is recommended by experts that you not use your name in the account name (or account ID, as it is sometimes called). They recommend that you use a neutral word or a word plus numbers. If you want to use the account primarily for League business, then you might want to include "LWV" in the name. The format for the account name is the same for all free services: for example, <your ID>@hotmail.com, or <your ID>@gmail.com (without the "<>"). If someone else has chosen your special name, the service will suggest a few that are available. You might choose a name that shows your support for or your role in the League like "LWVresources"@hotmail.com.

2) Once your name is chosen and entered, you will be asked for a password. Like any other password, choose something that is tough for someone else to guess. Don't use your birthday or your children's names. You will need to have JavaScript and cookies enabled in your web browser and there is advertising on the page as you view your mail. I have never found the advertising intrusive. You can easily turn JavaScript and cookies off if you are going to surf new web sites.

Here are the web sites:

Hotmail: <http://join.msn.com>

Gmail (Google): <http://mail.google.com/mail>

Yahoo: <http://login.yahoo.com>

And if you run into problems you can always contact me by calling 961-7315. (Talking is still more efficient than typing!).

VOTER GUIDE NOW ONLINE

Andrea Kaminski, LWVWI Exec. Director

The Voter Guide to September and November races for Wisconsin offices (Legislature, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Sec. of State, Treasurer) and Congress is available online and easily accessible through our website at www.lwvwi.org.

The League collaborated with Common Cause in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign to ask candidates for state office six questions on campaign finance, ethics and other reforms. Candidates to the United States Congress also received questionnaires on a broader range of issues. Updating of the questionnaire will continue through October.

As of this writing: Democratic Governor Jim Doyle returned the survey and answered yes to all six questions, as did Nelson Eisman the Wisconsin Green Party candidate for Governor. Their Republican challenger, Green Bay Congressman Mark Green, did not respond and did not go on the record on these issues.

Three of the four candidates for Attorney General responded -- incumbent Democrat Peg Lautenschlager, her Democratic Primary challenger, Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk and Republican JB Van Hollen, a former U.S. Attorney. Republican Paul Bucher, the Waukesha County District Attorney, didn't respond to the questionnaire.

Over half of state legislative candidates did not take a public stand on reform issues. Of the 36 candidates for state senate, 16 answered the questionnaire and one other replied but refused to answer. Nineteen did not reply at all.

Of the 206 candidates for state assembly, 134 did not reply to the survey. Sixty-seven answered the questions, while five refused to answer.

Among legislative leaders, both Senate Republican Leader Dale Schultz and Senate President Alan Lasee responded. Senate Democratic Leader Judy Robson, Assistant Senate Republican Leader Neil Kedzie and Assembly Republican Leader Mike Huebsch did not respond and Assembly

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Democratic Leader Jim Kreuser replied that it is his policy not to answer such questionnaires.

Take a look at what your candidates had to say and let them know what you think about the issues.

ACTION

Ruth Snedic

Our action alert team was notified about several forums, meetings and workshops of interest. The team members also lobbied their respective representatives as individuals on key national, state and local issues. Please see the article on the Housing Trust Fund elsewhere in this bulletin for your action.

NATIONAL - Members opposed the Warrantless Wiretapping bill in the House. It would legalize eavesdropping on ordinary citizens without any individualized warrant, sanctioning the NSA warrantless wiretapping program. The changes made to the bill were generally not to our liking and it passed. Members also opposed the "Voter ID" bill (H.R.4844) yet again. Named the "Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006" it would create new barriers to voting by requiring every voter to provide government-issued, current and valid photo identification at the polling place in 2008.

STATE – We held a public issues meeting regarding the gay marriage amendment with experts in the field and urged our members to vote against the proposed constitutional amendment and to encourage others to do the same.

LOCAL - Our Milwaukee City members were asked to support the establishment of a Housing Trust Fund by attending meetings and calling on their alderperson to support the Housing Trust Fund. The Fund would provide affordable, good housing for the mentally ill and people with few resources.

Representing our Milwaukee County League, Co-President Louise Petering contacted Representative Sensenbrenner asking him:

- To support HR 5388, the "DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act."
Rep.Sensenbrenner replied saying he would keep our views in mind as the Judiciary Committee reviews this pending legislation.
- To vote against HR 4844 the "Federal Election Integrity Act" and the barriers it creates to voting 1) a Voter ID issued by the feds or a state govt. beginning in 2008 for voting in federal elections, with states paying for IDs for qualified indigent voters 2) those casting a provisional ballot to provide required ID within 48 hours for their ballot to be counted. The bill passed the House and failed to pass the Senate before the recess.
- To support legislation that would curb the US contribution to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and address global warming. The Representative stated "CO2 has never been regulated as a pollutant in the US" and cutbacks in ... in the US, without international cooperation, would do

little to slow the buildup." "US CO2 restrictions would increase the cost of energy in the US...at a time of high energy prices."

- To oppose HR 5005 and 5092, both related to firearms and opposed by the League and the Brady organization. HR 5005 was reported favorably from the Judiciary Committee and 5092 passed the House. Rep. Sensenbrenner views this as supporting Second Amendment rights.
- To support S2430, the Grt. Lks Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006.
- To oppose HR5825, a bill that would legalize the NSA's warrantless wiretapping.

NOVEMBER BALLOT, STATEWIDE REFERENDA – VOTE "NO"

**WISCONSIN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ON MARRIAGE – VOTE "NO"**

What it Says: "Marriage. Shall section 13 of article XIII of the constitution be created to provide that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state and that a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state?" See: [http://www.lwvwi.org/cms/images/stories/PDFs/Marriage Amendment Statement.pdf](http://www.lwvwi.org/cms/images/stories/PDFs/Marriage%20Amendment%20Statement.pdf) for League's statement opposing this item. Please note: Wisconsin statute already defines marriage as a only valid for one man and one woman.

**WISCONSIN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON THE DEATH
PENALTY – VOTE "NO"**

What it Says: "Death penalty in Wisconsin. Should the death penalty be enacted in the State of Wisconsin for cases involving a person who is convicted of multiple first-degree intentional homicides, if the homicides are vicious and the convictions are supported by DNA evidence?" See <http://www.lwvwi.org/cms/content/view/30/60/> for League's statement opposing this item. If you are interested in viewing a movie about the death penalty, go to your library and ask for "Exonerated."

PROGRAM PLANNING

Sarajane Kennedy, Coordinator

The grassroots of the League will be front and center at our January unit discussion meetings on the 17th. You, the member, need to bring your ideas for local and state studies to this unit meeting to share with others. Be prepared to advocate for your ideas. Each unit will decide what its members wish to put forward. Units' suggestions for local studies will be collated, forwarded to the LWVMC Board for possible recommendation to members at our annual meeting in May. Suggestions for state studies will be handled similarly. Please contact me 414/453-3494 if you have questions.

HOUSING TRUST FUND (HTF)

Sue Lindberg, Coordinator

Now is the time for you to push for as much funding as possible for the HTF.

The low-down:

The HTF ordinance has been pushed back till November when the 2007 city budget will be taken up. There are two critical pieces of legislation needed to make the HTF a reality, an ordinance and the budget. The ordinance will codify the recommendations that were supported by the recently passed resolution including the establishment, operation and funding of a housing trust fund. Without this the fund would not be written into the city statutes, which means it wouldn't exist. The mayor's September budget included a small amount of money for the HTF (\$1.9 million over 10 years - about \$200,000 per year). We know that in order for the HTF to be effective it needs to be appropriately funded and that \$200,000 doesn't cut it.

Important dates:

Please contact Ruth Snedic 414/771-7690 if you can represent the League on:

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 2 & 3 - Finance & Personal (F&P) committee will vote on budget amendments. No need to show up on these days but please make your calls before then!

Wed., Nov. 8 - Zoning & Neighborhood Development (ZND) committee will vote on the HTF ordinance. It would be good to have a good representation from the coalition to show that we are committed to seeing this through!

Fri., Nov. 10 - Common Council will vote to adopt the 2007 city budget. Again, no need to show up, but we will need to do what we can to make sure the appropriate funding is included in the final version of the budget.

Tues., Nov. 14 - Common Council will vote on the HTF ordinance. Again, it is important that we have a good representation from the coalition at this meeting.

Make your calls:

It is still important that everyone calls their alderman and the mayor! The phone number to the Common Council office is 286-2221. The phone number to the mayor is 286-2200.

If your alderman is Murphy: thank him for taking the lead on this important issue (he's the author of the resolution and ordinance).

If your alderman is McGee, D'Amato, Wade or Hines: thank him for sponsoring the ordinance.

If your alderman is Hamilton, Bauman, Donovan, Witkowiak, Davis or Bohl: thank him for voting for the resolution and ask him to support the ordinance.

If your alderman is Puente, Dudzik, Witkowski or Zielinski: ask him to support the ordinance. Call the mayor and ask him to support the HTF ordinance and to fully fund it in the budget. It is important to note which aldermen are on the two committees:

F&P – Murphy, D'Amato, Davis, Donovan, Witkowiak

Z&ND – D'Amato, Wade, Murphy, Hamilton, Bauman

NEW VOTER/NEW CITIZEN Surprise Visitor at October Ceremony

Fran Swigart, Coordinator

When the clock struck 9 AM on October 26, Judge Rudolph Randa entered the ceremonial courtroom to conduct the Naturalization Ceremony for 74 new American Citizens. Everyone stood up for the Judge and then there was buzz in the courtroom. Right behind Judge Randa was Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner who represents the Fifth Congressional District of Wisconsin which includes many of the communities where members of our League reside.

Cong. Sensenbrenner congratulated the group of newly sworn in citizens and said that we are proud to be a nation of immigrants. He also said that the group should be doubly commended for doing this process legally. He thanked them for their patience with the process of becoming a citizen and noted those being naturalized had been in the pipeline for citizenship during a major reorganization of the Citizenship and Naturalization Service. He estimated that the backlog of people in the system right now should be eliminated by early 2007. He also spoke about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

It is the first time in Judge Randa's service to the Federal Bench conducting these ceremonies (14 years) that a United States Congressman has attended a ceremony. No mention was made about his upcoming re-election bid.

LOCAL STUDY CONVENIENT/PREDATORY LENDING

Fran
Dorothy Dean, Study Chair

Predatory lending is a growth industry. It is growing nationwide and leeching wealth out of families and communities -- usually those that can least afford the loss. It is difficult to define a predatory loan. However, if we look at as consumer, it is any loan that takes advantage of consumers by selling them a loan product that is unsuitable for the borrower. It is unsuitable because it is more expensive than necessary. Predatory loans are secured by the consumer's house. Predatory loans may be first mortgages, but what is more likely is that it is a refinance loan, home equity loan, debt consolidation loan, or home improvement loan. The debt consolidation and home equity loans are often loans turning unsecured debt (credit card debts, unpaid bills) into debt secured by the consumer's home putting the home at risk. Elderly and the poor who are struggling to pay for medical care are often victims of predatory loans

Home loans are regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. There are local and national efforts to deal with predatory loans legislatively. Several states have legislation regulating the lending industry. Most do not. There is a growing effort at the national level to have Congress pass regulatory legislation. Information on about the issue is easy to find on the Web.

Convenient lending is also a growth industry. The people most likely to use payday lenders are single moms. Convenient lending in Wisconsin is largely unregulated. Convenient lending includes pawn brokers, payday lenders, car title lenders and currency exchange or check cashing businesses. Payday lending is the biggest offender. Consumers are encouraged to roll over what they owe into a new payday loan. That typical consumer rolls over the payday loan 8

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times. The way that payday lenders operate, the APR (annual percentage rate) interest ranges from 390% to 572%. It has been suggested that payday lenders are filling the niche formerly held by loan sharks.

There are efforts, largely unsuccessful, to legislate some sort of regulation of payday lenders. There is so much money to be made, that lobbyists are bought by the dozen.

The City of Milwaukee Task Force on convenient lending, which concluded its business in May of this year, has a full report with attachments online at the City of Milwaukee web site. <http://legistar.milwaukee.gov/mattersearch/index.aspx> When you get to the site enter #050489 in the search box.

I welcome anyone who would like to help with our local study on these two types of abusive lending. Dorothy K Dean, dorothykd@hotmail.com 414-961-7315.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mary Stefaniak, Committee Member

Editors Note: As Leaguers know, everything is hinged to everything else. So IR and NR are related. For more on global warming see the NR articles in the "Study Section" of this bulletin.

"Global Warming: Breaking the Gridlock" was the subject of the committee's September meeting. For background material we used several articles, principally Al Gore's book "An Inconvenient Truth" and an article from the Atlantic Monthly by Roger Pielke Jr. titled "Breaking the Global-Warming Gridlock". Gore's book concentrated on the science behind rising CO2 levels and global warming resulting in climate change and an increase in natural disasters. Since most people cannot feel the effects of global warming (as they could with increased ozone levels), there is little action on the part of government to enact legislation to reduce CO2 levels.

The article from the Atlantic Monthly states that to break this gridlock, we must concentrate more on reducing the increased devastation caused by natural disasters. It states that there is no evidence that extreme weather events or climate variability has increased in a global sense throughout the 20th century. What has increased is societies' vulnerability to weather events due to overpopulation of some areas, deforestation and destruction of wetlands etc. To break the gridlock, we need more political action to "reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters. This would offer what global warming does not: a clear, uncontroversial story rooted in concrete experience, observable in the present, and definable in terms unambiguous and widely held human values." Reducing global warming would be a part of this overall strategy and thus be far less divisive as an energy policy.

ABOUT LEAGUE: MEETING TYPES

Different kinds of meetings foster different objectives. League "Unit Discussion Meetings" enable members to talk more in depth with one another, develop a topic or arrive at consensus. Our "General Meetings" allow members to hear presentations and ask questions of presenters. Often these topics are discussed at subsequent "Unit Meetings."

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jennifer Runquist, NR Chair

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Update

MMSD will be completing the 2020 Facilities Plan by 12/31/06. Public input will be sought through June 2007 with Commission approval being sought in May, 2007 for submittal to WDNR by June 30, 2007. The six Plan elements are 1) Wet Weather Control, 2) Biosolids, 3) Existing Facilities and Operations, 4) Watercourse, 5) Best Management Practices and 6) Policies and Programs. The 2020 Facilities Plan is responding to state and federal regulations for Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), requirements of the State Discharge Permits, including Provisions of the Wisconsin DNR Stipulation.

The DNR Stipulation in the Plan requires MMSD to implement an \$800-\$900million regional Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance Program. (This is in addition to current capital improvements costing \$900 million.) The 2020 Plan requires MMSD to meet wet weather regulatory requirements in a cost effective manner using existing facilities to their fullest extent and minimizing construction of new facilities. A framework will be developed to address the longstanding Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) problems ("sewerage" increases to MMSD during rain events 10-30 fold due to combined sewers, leaky sewers, leaky manholes, illicit connections, open clean-out ports, etc.). In addition with the Regional Water Quality Management Plan MMSD will work with SEWRPC to provide a framework for future water quality improvement in SE WI. However, in this regard MMSD's plan will only address sanitary sewer overflows and will result in a small but insignificant improvement in water quality. Significant improvements in water quality will not occur unless polluted stormwater runoff is addressed (oil and gas, road salt, pesticides, fertilizers, wildlife and pet deposits, etc.). Stormwater pollution is addressed in the Best Management Practices Plan.

Some of the specifics of the Wet Weather Management Plan (WWMP) include more useful monitoring of peak flow, relief sewers or reduction in I/I, addition of more treatment capacity at South Shore Treatment Plant using a faster treatment method, more pumping for the increased capacity of Deep Tunnel, and improved treatment operations at Jones Island. The WWMP has the price tag mentioned above of about \$800-900 million. In the Programs and Policies Plan better data collection will be sought for beach bacteria research and pathogen source identification. This latter program will help communities identify and eliminate possible illicit sanitary sewer connections to storm sewers.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Marianne Steigerwald, Chair

At the June LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis, representatives from the UN held workshops on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Below is a brief overview of the goals. To read more, search the web for the goals.

When 189 heads of state and government met as representatives of their citizens in 2000, they agreed that there was an urgent need to “free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty” suffered by more than a billion people. These leaders from rich and poor nations committed themselves to set eight time-bound targets that, when achieved, would end extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. The targets are:

- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2) Achieve universal primary education
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4) Reduce child mortality
- 5) Improve maternal health
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- 7) Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8) Develop a global partnership for development

These goals have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest. Below is a quote from United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi A. Annan.

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual.

We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

Join the League Today!

Become a member of the League of Women Voters and help *Make Democracy Work!*

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 _____

Involvement [Check One]: Active ___ or Supporting ___ Interests _____

Please Note: Please circle your preferred means of contact and mail this form with your check to the **League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, P.O. Box 100785, Milwaukee, WI 53210**. Thank You. (Non-tax deductible contributions may be made to the LWV Milwaukee County. For a tax deductible gift to the LWV Milwaukee County, write a separate check, minimum \$50, payable to the LWV Education Fund. Mail contributions to the membership dues address above.)



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

P.O. Box 100785
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414-273-8683
<http://lwwmilwaukee.org>