



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

League Lines

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

Calendar

414-273-8683

<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: info@lwvmilwaukee.org

January

9 Wed., Board Meeting, 6 pm
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee
Contact: Louise Petering (414) 351-3617

12 Sat., Immigration Luncheon
11:15 Social, 11:45 Luncheon
Wisconsin Club, Deutscher Room
900 West Wisconsin Avenue
Contacts: Ruth Snedic (414) 771-7690 &
Sue Lindberg (414) 271-1257
Reserve by Jan., 7. See form inside

Mid January, Training for statewide
Special Deputy Registrar credentials
Contacts: Carolyn Castore (414) 454-0856
Louise Petering (414) 351-3617

23 Wed., Unit Discussion Meetings
**Program Planning & Consensus,
Immigration Study**
Choose your location & time below and
BRING THIS BULLETIN & see
<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

AFTERNOON UNIT, West, 1 pm
St. Matthew's Church
1615 Wauwatosa Ave.
Contact: Minna Jones (414) 476-5249

EVENING UNITS
EAST – 6:30pm
Shorewood Public Library,
Community Rm. South
Contact: Barbara Hussin (414) 351-0819
WEST – 7:30pm
Location Varies
Contact: Ruth Snedic (414) 771-7690

26 Sat., Internatn'l Relations/Great Decisions
Mtg., 1:30pm
Topic: US Image Abroad
Lucille Bowen's home,
4215 N 100th St., Apt #240
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald
(414) 371-7836

28 Mon., Natural Resources Comm. Mtg., 7pm
1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067

February

2, 9, 16 & 23 – Sat., Internatn'l Rel.,
Comm/Great Decisions Mtgs
For details see www.lwvmilwaukee.org
Contact: Marianne Steigerwald,
(414) 371-7836

13 Wed., Board Mtg. & Bulletin Deadline
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee
Contact: Louise Petering,
(414) 351-3617

19 Tue., **SPRING PRIMARY &
ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING**
Contact: League Office,
(414) 273-8683

25 Mon., Natural Resources Comm. Mtg.
1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee
Contact: Jennifer Runquist
(414) 332-5067

27 Wed., Unit Discussion Meetings
Topic: Election Administration
Choose your location & time below,
BRING THIS BULLETIN & see
<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

AFTERNOON UNIT, West, 1pm
St. Matthew's Church
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Louise Petering

Happy New Year and many thanks to all of you for supporting League through your memberships and donations of time. Your contributions make League more fun and more effective, and they make Milwaukee a better community.

Thanks especially go to Joanne and Michael Barndt for hosting our Winter Social. Leaguers and guests enjoyed a merry time singing with the player piano and chatting in front of the fire and around the dining room table. As usual the food was scrumptious! Thanks too to Mel Bromberg and Sister Paula Marie Jarosz who joined me for a



Enjoying good company at the Winter Social.

November meeting with US State Department sponsored political leaders from India and to Helga Guequierre and Kit Halloran who joined a December meeting with a group from Germany. We discussed League's organizational structure, how we engage in the political process, and elections. In March, Dorothy Dean, Kit Halloran-O'Meara and I will reach out to UW-M's Osher Inst. for Lifelong Learning with a talk, "Beyond Single Issue Politics – the League of Women Voters."

Join us as we begin the New Year with the January 12th luncheon and panel discussion on "Immigration,"

continued on pg. 2

continued from pg. 1

our national study topic. Then come to the Unit Discussion Meeting of your choice on January 23rd for Program Planning and the "Immigration" study consensus. And keep coming to Unit Discussion Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month through April. Please see the calendar for the specific topics of those meetings and note the April Units will feature consensus on our local Predatory Lending study.

2008 brings four elections! The Spring Primary is on February 19 & the General Election on April 1 (no fooling). Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars so that you do vote, either at the polls or by absentee. Please save those two evenings for election night reporting. We will be contacting past reporters early in January.

As we gear up for elections, we will need your help to conduct candidate forums. In addition we will be holding a training session for Leaguers who wish to be "special deputy registrars." Once we are trained, we will be able to register eligible citizens statewide including those newly naturalized at the Federal Court House here in Milwaukee.

Whether it is election night reporting, candidate forums or voter registration that interests you, please phone (414) 273-8683 to let us know of your interest. Join those who have already signed up – the more the merrier and the more effective we will be in "making democracy work."

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stefaniak, Member, Membership Committee

Congratulations and thanks, Barbara Hussin and Karen Campbell, for your contributions to the Milwaukee community. **Barbara** was featured in "M" magazine's November northshore edition for her work to establish a statewide golf tournament for women on the course at Brown Deer Park. Importantly, the tournament raised \$15,000 for charities this year. **Karen**, LWV Milw. Co. corresponding secretary and board chair of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, was honored with Planned Parenthood Central Region's prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award.

We extend our sympathy to Dick Capstran on the death of his wife **Betty**, a long time League member.

PROGRAM PLANNING TIMES TWO

Barbara Hussin

Every two years local leagues participate in the LWVUS program planning by making recommendations on the national level. There is double duty on program planning this year because of the change by the state league allowing yearly input for state study recommendations. Leagues can exercise several options: Recommend a review of a previous position, a new study or no study.

The program planning process takes place as PART of the topic of the January unit meeting so with that time limit, it is imperative that **members do their homework!** To increase your understanding, included in this bulletin are brief summaries of both national and state positions. (Full information is available in your LWV Impact for Issues and LWVWI State Position Papers --- both can be read on line at www.lwv.org and www.lwvwi.org, the national and state websites, respectively.)

National and State positions came about through member agreements of previous studies and they allow us to take action on page 2

policies and legislation on national and state levels. This yearly review now allows us to measure current public policy issues against our established positions to ensure we can take action where needed. The last program planning process led to the adoption of the current national study on Immigration and the State study of Election Administration as well as a focus on educating members and the public on health care issues.

ACTION

Ruth Snedic, Chair

National

Social Policy - Senator Harkin sent Congressman Obey language containing the birth control pricing fix (S2347/HR 4054) for inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill. Leaguers were to call Obey's office with the request that Obey please support the bill and include it in the bill.

Government - The LWVUS asked the members to lobby on restoring civil liberties. Congress gave sweeping new surveillance powers to the Executive Branch, including widespread wiretapping of American citizens, in the so-called "Protect America Act." The Senate Judiciary Committee will be considering legislation to reinstate protections for civil liberties by restoring checks and balances. We were asked to contact our senators to repeal the warrantless wiretapping provision or to repeal all of the "Protect America Act."

State

Social Policy - Our president Louise Petering sent a message to Chancellor Reilly and the Bd. of Regents of the UW System urging them to reject the proposed policy change that would unnecessarily restrict students' ability to fund student organizations.

Social Policy - We were asked to call Speaker Huebsch and ask him to schedule a vote for AB377 and then call our Assembly representative to ask them to help schedule a vote for the Compassionate Care Act. Bi-partisan support for the bill is growing, thanks to the leadership of Republican Terry Musser of Black River Falls.

Government - Action was needed on the AT&T cable bill AB207/SB107. We were asked to urge the addition of the Illinois version of safeguards to the bill. The bill passed without most of those safeguards and returned to the Assembly for approval of Senate changes. Members are asked to lobby the Governor to veto it or try to change portions of it using his line item veto powers. Bill Moyers production company was videoing the efforts to change the bill. We should watch to see if it airs on his program.

Natural Resources - Senate Committee approved the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act, SB81. The bill probably will not be scheduled for a vote until the New Year. Leaguers are asked to call their representatives and senators on the Joint Finance Committee to let them know we want them to schedule a vote of this bill in favor of curbing global warming.

Local

Social Policy - The Milwaukee County House of Correction work farm was in danger of being eliminated with the Walker budget. We lobbied our County Board members to reinstate the monies for this. The inmates work on the farm and grow the produce and distribute it to the poor through the networks of food pantries, food kitchens and homeless shelters. They have

continued on pg. 3

restored work farm. It appears to be a popular program with the majority of the board members.

Social Policy - Sue Lindberg, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, gave testimony in support of a system that includes a formula that equalizes funds for spending per student. Because of the delay in passing a state budget, MPS would have to pick up the shortfall by raising property taxes. In her testimony she asked the District leadership to work to remedy the inequities resulting from this delay in passage of a state budget.

Natural Resources - Public comment was given by the LWVMC regarding the Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update. The Plan "is a good structure for coordinating community efforts towards improving water quality using the Watershed Approach." Importantly, MMSD and SEWRPC have developed much data so that efforts can successfully be targeted towards remediation of real pollution sources. The full comment can be viewed on our website.

HOUSING TRUST FUND UPDATE

Sue Lindberg, Vice President, Program

We are disappointed that only \$400,000 for the Housing Trust Fund was in the final city budget, but at least we got \$400,000. Proposals for the first allocation of funds are being reviewed. There is \$2.5 million available for this distribution. Watch for news about projects to be funded.

The Housing Trust Fund Coalition is a dedicated group. We hope to keep the issue of affordable housing before the public. MAKE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AN ELECTION ISSUE! Raise this issue with anyone running for city or county offices. If you would like to join the coalition, let me know. Join the fun; one idea is to build a large snow house in Cathedral Square.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jennifer Runquist, NR Committee Chair

Editor's Note: Jennifer Runquist is our representative to the Citizen Advisory Committee of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). MMSD is working cooperatively with the Southeastern WI Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) in developing and implementing a Regional Water Quality Management Plan (RWQMP). The first article below describes the RWQMP; the second provides members with the comments developed by the Natural Resource Committee at its Oct. meeting and submitted to SEWRPC in late Oct.

SEWRPC Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds for Public Information Meetings/Public Hearings October 2007

Plan provides:

- Recommendations to abate water pollution
- Basis for local eligibility for Federal and State sewerage system loans and grants
- Basis for issuance by WDNR of WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (WPDES)
- Basis for public and private sanitary sewer extension approvals

Pollution Sources Summary: Sanitary Sewer Overflows, 2%; Combined Storm and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (Milw. and

Parts of Shorewood) 7%; Rural Agricultural Runoff, 34%; Urban Non-Agricultural Runoff, 55%.

Recommended Plan Components: Land Use Element, Surface Water Quality Element and a new Groundwater Management Plan element (not presented).

For the land use element the conveyance facilities are sized using year 2020 population and land use based on community-supplied information. MMSD regional storage and treatment facilities, sized using 2020 population and land use based on 2035 regional land use plan. Preservation of identified primary environmental corridors and natural areas and critical species habitat sites through public interest ownership, state-local floodplain and shore land wetland zoning, state rules on sanitary sewer extensions and local land use regulations.

For Surface Water Quality the following are sought:

- Urban and rural nonpoint source pollution abatement
- Point source pollution abatement measures in areas outside the MMSD planning area
- Includes MMSD 2020 Facilities Plan recommendations
- Instream water quality measures
- Inland lake measures
- Other surface water quality measures

Expanding on the surface quality element describes the Rural Runoff Control Plan as including realistic level of implementation of Chapter NR 151 rules for storm water management, manure and nutrient management, controls on barnyard runoff, Riparian buffers, wetland and prairies restoration, restriction of livestock access to streams, manage milking center wastewater, manage private onsite waste treatment systems. The Urban Runoff Control Plan includes full implementation of Chapter NR 151 rules, enhanced program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the stormwater management system and to control urban-sourced pathogens, fertilizer management (low phosphorus fertilizer), chloride reduction (roads and water softeners), green features such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and stormwater trees, management of pet litter, marina waste, control of non-migratory waterfowl, litter control. **The Point Source Pollution Abatement Measures in Areas Outside the MMSD Planning Area** include facilities planning for Cedarburg/Grafton, Caledonia, Fredonia, Jackson, Mt. Pleasant, Newburg, Racine, Raymond, Sturtevant, and Yorkville, as well as programs to maintain and operate facilities effectively. **The Instream Water Quality Measures** include restoration of selected degraded stream channels, evaluation of MMSD Kinnickinnic River flushing station, develop dam abandonment and associated riverine restoration plans, design stream crossings to allow passage of aquatic organisms, and for fisheries protect remaining natural channels, minimize number of stream crossings and remove or retrofit obstructions to fish passage. **Other Surface Water Quality Measures** include identify and address local sources of beach contamination, conduct household hazardous waste collection programs, conduct pharmaceutical and personal care product collection programs, and identify and address exotic invasive species in lakes and riverine areas. **Water quality monitoring recommendations** include continue current MMSD, WDNR, and USGS monitoring programs, continue to upgrade citizen-based programs, modify or expand existing programs to include monitoring on tributaries, add fishery and macroinvertebrate monitoring at long-term stations, add habitat monitoring stations, standardize quality assurance and control and sampling protocols and analyses.

continued on pg. 4

continued from pg. 3

Plan also calls for studies of system capacities at Jones Island and South Shore, monitoring actual population and land use changes, evaluating the success of the recommended efforts to “hold the line” on I/I, continued efforts to improve and refine the MMSD real-time control strategy for the deep tunnel including the effect of upgraded pumping capacity from the tunnel to Jones Island, demonstration project for physical-chemical treatment at South Shore, continued study of blending at South Shore (methods to disinfect sewerage faster than current digestion method).

Cost Analysis: 2.7 billion, or 61.5 million annually mostly going to abate urban and rural run off pollution.

Ability of Recommended Plan to Meet Water Use Objectives and Water Quality Standards: Not 100% of the time, need to look at maps which provide estimated improvements in selected water quality parameters for streams and watersheds.

Implementation of Plan: Assignment of implementation responsibilities, apportion costs between public and private sectors estimated by community, information on grant funding programs. Possibly there will be an action plan for each watershed initiated by MMSD. Possibly watershed-based permits will be developed for WWTP (wastewater treatment plants), municipal separate storm sewer systems, and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Perhaps an expanded state cost-share funding and/or water quality credit trading could provide incentives to address unpermitted agricultural/rural nonpoint sources.

Next Steps: Adoption of plan by the Regional Planning Commission Dec. 2007, WDNR approval, USEPA approval of plan., and endorsement of plan by counties and other local units of government.

Public Comment on the RWQP from the League of Women Voters Milwaukee County

1. The Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update is a good structure for coordinating community efforts towards improving water quality using the Watershed Approach. Importantly, MMSD and SEWRPC have developed much data so that efforts can be targeted towards real pollution sources.

2. It is unfortunate to allow Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) or Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) into our drinking and recreational waters. The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin was active in state implementation of the federally mandated Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1986 and 1996 to clean up WI's waters sufficiently to reach the federally mandated “swimmable, fishable waters” standard. We think that Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) should be aggressively reduced. Lets not just “hold the line” on I/I but reduce it. Service communities need to do their part in reducing excess rainwater coming into the sewerage collection system so that sewerage systems handle sewerage, not rainwater and, hopefully, CSOs and SSOs can be eliminated.

3. Communities need to be responsible for eliminating Illicit Discharges (human sewerage) into the storm water system that drains into rivers and Lake Michigan. We commend the effort, which allows us to distinguish between human waste and other waste in our storm water management system.

4. State funding is not adequate for inspections and grants to abate water pollution due to agricultural practices or urban runoff. In 2003 the League Women Voters of WI determined that

the dedicated revenue sources for water quality programs were insufficient and proposed that new or reallocated funds should be combined with General Purpose Revenues to meet WI's needs for management of its water resources.

5. Monitoring for viruses and parasites in streams and lakes should be required, not just for E. coli, oxygen, phosphorus, etc., although these parameters are also important indicators of water quality.

6. We have concerns about sewerage blending, which means disinfecting sewerage faster with chlorine, perhaps, rather than the normal, slower process. In the slower digestion method followed by drying, all biological entities are removed, whether tested for or not. Faster methods may not destroy all pathogens present. Further, in the case of chlorine, which evidently is removed after treatment, are other molecules that are chlorinated in the treatment process then discharged with the water? Many chlorinated molecules are hazardous to health.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GREAT DECISIONS SERIES

Marianne Steigerwald, IR Committee Chair

The League's IR Committee will again be following UW-Milwaukee's 8-week Great Decisions Series beginning with its discussion on the “US Image Abroad.” We will meet on Saturday, January 26, 2008, 1:30 – 3:30 pm at Lucille Bowen's home, 4215 N. 100th St. Apt. 240. The Tuesday lecture series at UW-Milwaukee runs from Jan. 22 – Mar 12 and takes place in the UW-Milwaukee Union Ballroom from 7:00-8:30 pm. The lectures are open to the public for a modest admission and are listed below.

For information on ordering Great Decisions books and the February/March discussion group schedule contact: Marianne Steigerwald, (414) 371-7836.

January 22

US IMAGE ABROAD

How can we improve America's standing in the world?

Dr. Steven Kull, Director, Program on International Policy Attitudes

January 29

NATIONAL SECURITY

Is the war on terror the right framework for US security policy?

David Shorr, Program Director, The Stanley Foundation

February 5

US-CHINA RELATIONS

Rivalry or partnership?

Dr. David Lampton, Director of Chinese Studies, The Nixon Center

February 12

DEALING WITH OUR ENEMIES

Should the US engage or isolate “Rogue Regimes”?

Amb. David Mack, Vice President, Middle East Institute

February 19

IRAQ

What is the US Role Going Forward?

Huda Ahmed, Award-winning Iraqi journalist

continued on pg. 5

February 26

LATIN AMERICA

How Should the US Engage with the New Left?

The Hon. Jamil Mahuad, Former President, Republic of Ecuador

March 4

ENERGY POLICY

How to Balance Economic Interests, National Security and Environmental Concerns?

Jason Grumet, Executive Director, National Commission on Energy Policy

March 12

THE NUCLEAR THREAT

How Can the US Counter Nuclear Proliferation?

Joseph Cirincione, Director for Nuclear Policy, Center for American Progress

IMMIGRATION STUDY

Editors Note: This study was adopted at the LWVUS Convention in 2006. Initially voted a three-year study, the timeliness of the issue and the 2008 national election prompted the National Board to shorten it to a two-year study. The January 12 luncheon precedes our consensus Unit Discussion on January 23rd. Attending the luncheon will provide you with local information about the issue. For a national perspective see the Feb., June and Oct. issues of the National "Voter" and the last two issues of our bulletin, "League Lines." If you've misplaced these, find the information at our website (<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>) and the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org). Please think about the consensus questions below as you review the study materials. Do reserve for the January 12 luncheon using the form provided in this bulletin.

Consensus Questions for January 2008

(Rate each of the following "High Priority", "Lower Priority", "Disagree" or "No Consensus")

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following.

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants & Citizens with Spouses & Minor Children.
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution in Home Countries
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- j. Rights of Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)
- k. Education and Training

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows (rate each one):

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants

- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in the U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of U.S. Employers
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry
- f. Assess Fines Before Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status

Question 3: Federal Immigration Law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal permanent residence in the U.S.
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as Students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country

Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal Immigration law should include:

- Social Security Card or Other National ID Card with Secure Identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.

Question 4b. Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

- i. Physical Barriers (such as fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- ii. Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points
- iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with non-immigrant Visas Until They Leave the country/US.
- iv. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure identifiers
- v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- vii. A program to allow immigrant workers to go in the out of the U.S. to meet seasonal, sporadic labor needs
- viii. Significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees

Question 5: Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by state and local governments with large populations.

Consensus No Consensus

Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

Consensus No Consensus

Question 7: Comments

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Marianne Steigerwald, Chair

The United Nations - Does It Work? October Report, Gloria Weiskotten

Chair's Note: The International Relations Committee program for October featured a talk by Dr. Gary Shellman, president of the Milwaukee Chapter of the United Nations Association. Wisconsin is one of the few states with a governor's commission to organize activities that promote knowledge and support of the UN. At one time the LWV-WI had the state board IR chair, Marianne Steigerwald, serve as delegate to the commission. Marianne shared summaries of the commission meetings with all the local leagues. A current commission member will report the proceedings of their meetings to our IR committee in November.

The UN originally was conceived by the victorious powers after World War II to promote and support colonialism. But in actuality it has been a supporter of the rise of nationalism and national independence. In its early stages countries used their veto power to maintain a balance of power around the world. Nations used rhetoric along with negotiations to maneuver and retain and use their power. The UN was the middle ground for the cold war.

The UN peacekeeping forces have played a role in the international activities of Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Hungary, the Suez, Indochina and other countries to prevent further conflict and promote peace. There are probably 18-23 places in the world presently with peacekeeping forces. The UN has been sometimes called a failure because it did not take military action, but it must be invited to step in by the country involved. It has no armed forces and depends on volunteers from member nations, most of whom come from the Scandinavian countries. Americans refuse to serve under other countries commanders so we do not actively supply any armed troops. The UN does not have a quick response team of combat forces but this is now being discussed. The troops who volunteer have to provide their own supplies so the African Union Troops in Darfur were not effective because they came from poor countries and had little equipment.

The "food for oil" program in Iraq was not corrupt but the private oil contractors were corrupt. The amount of money involved was insignificant compared to other costs.

One of the greatest successes has probably been the UN refugee service. It is vital because there are more refugees now than ever before in history. The UN sets up camps and provides medical supplies. The UN has provided food to alleviate hunger in the world. The World Health Organization has eradicated some diseases and is addressing HIV worldwide.

The UN is concerned with global warming. Each country is to take care of its own projects for environmental clean-up. The UN is sending seed money for economic development and promoting training for a market economy in third world countries. The UN does not receive credit for the many things it does that are going well.

There is a need for reorganization because of all the new countries and the shift of importance of countries other than in Europe. All countries need to be included in the work of cooperative coexistence in the world.

Wisconsin UN Commission, John Edwards on Moral Leadership, and China-Export Juggernaut November Report, Mel Bromberg

The LWV International Relations Committee focused on three diverse topics at its November 27 meeting. League Member, Marge Maxwell was the hostess for the meeting attended by 10 League members and a guest speaker.

Kate Marrs, guest speaker and member of the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on the United Nations, spoke about her present and past tenure in the group, the organization of the Commission and its current foci. The Commission's mission is to sponsor statewide education programs about the United Nations, coordinate Wisconsin's participation in observance of United Nations Day, and express views on issues affecting United Nations communications to public officials and the media. Marrs stated that WI's Commission is the only one in the United States to function on a year round basis. This year's agenda for the Commission focused heavily on Darfur issues. Marrs presented key points and excerpts from the book *Not on Our Watch*, written by John Prendergast and Don Cheadle (the actor). Marrs selected passages from the book that emphasized what individual citizens can do to help end the long-term genocide in Darfur. Among those key points included raising both awareness and funds, writing letters, individual stock divestment for those companies that do business and might potentially collude with the Sudanese government. Additionally, Marrs stressed it was important to join citizen based organizations that lobby for human rights, as is the case with the League of Women Voters. Marrs reminded the group that December 10 was International Human Rights Day and to participate in observance of that day.

The second speaker, League member Doris Zwickey, reported from the September /October 2007 Foreign Affairs Journal on John Edwards' (former D-Senator, NC, and Democratic Presidential candidate/2008) Foreign Policy strategy for 2008.

Edwards' policy paper entitled "Re-engaging with the World/ A Return to Moral Leadership," calls for the United States to be a beacon and a shining example to the world, rather than hated and disrespected by foreign countries because of our national security policies. His moral leadership strategies focus on restoration of American's reputation after 9/11 including the need to re-engage foreign countries with the message that we are still "leaders of the free world." He has proposed the creation of a "Marshall Corps" of nation building specialists, increasing 6 fold American spending on education in poor countries, creating a cabinet level position on global development, and focusing on offering respect and admiration back into the office of the US Presidency. He suggests that we move beyond war in Iraq in our US foreign policy to re-engage countries with a history of courage, liberty and generosity. With regards to the superpowers of China and Russia, the United States should employ selective engagement with these countries on areas of common concern and consensus. Focusing on Iran, Edwards believes the US has an opportunity to help Iran reshape its leadership and nuclear policies through pursuit of a "carrot and stick" policy. The policy strategy employed will be one where Iran receives rewards or deterrents for understanding the message that the international community will not allow it to pursue a course of nuclear weapons. Edwards' further expands on his philosophy of moral leadership stating that it entails leading with a history of courage, liberty and generosity.

continued on pg. 7

With world issues such as Darfur, global poverty and climate change, Edwards states that such issues require the United States to re-engage the leadership of all and to confront such challenges directly with the tools of "smart power." These tools include reshaping our national security policy by infusing it with the ideas of constitutionalism, pluralism, respect for the free press and rules of law and order to govern better.

Finally, League member Carolou Nelsen summarized different newspaper and journal articles on China. Some focused on China's current power as an exporter, "smile diplomacy" whereby China engages nearby countries to do business with it, effects of China's new economic policies on the environment, health of its citizens, and political policies that it intends to pursue in the future to maintain its status as a world economic "juggernaut".

Additionally, international relations committee members were asked to provide input to questions to be used in the upcoming "Great Decisions" series on the UW-Milwaukee campus. This year's questions will ask US Presidential candidates about their perspectives on various foreign policy issues. The candidates' responses to these issues will be compiled into handbooks and then an expert speaker will be brought in for Great Decisions to respond to the candidates positions on that particular foreign policy issue.

Islamaphobia: The Role of the Media

Dorothy Dean, Director

We probably all have our complaints about the media. From no coverage to inaccurate coverage to treating the news as entertainment with Fox being the worst offender. Since the destruction of the twin towers in Manhattan, there has certainly been more interest in and media coverage of Muslims and the Muslim worlds. And "worlds" may be the correct way to look at it. For there are as many branches of Islam as of any religion. Like the other two major religions -- Judaism and Christianity -- Islam had its start in the Middle East. There are many similarities among the three. However, the media (as well as the

US government and to some extent, US popular culture) has singled out Islam as a religion that is tightly linked with terrorism. This means al-Qaida and the Taliban and oppression of women are the things we usually see in the media as representative of Islam.

There has always been a casual ignorance of and consequent fear of Islam as something radically different, hostile to Christianity and somehow un-American. A Sikh male in Texas was killed because his murderers wrongly identified him as Muslim. A mother of six in California was killed as she picked up her children from school. She wore a headscarf and did not carry a purse. In Detroit, ten men beat a man in front of his house. While beating him, the attackers called him an Arab, a Muslim and "not American". There are more examples like these in communities across the country.

The seminar, October 20, sponsored by the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Center and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, brought national speakers to Milwaukee to address ways of combating Islamaphobia in the media.

Islamaphobia equates terrorists, like al-Qaida, with all Muslims. It is like saying the KKK represents all Christians. A 2006 USA Today/Gallup poll showed that 39% of Americans have "at least some feelings of prejudice against Muslims" and 34% said Muslims living in the US were "sympathetic" to al-Qaida.

The seminar presented excellent speakers including Dr. Anna Manasson McGinity, Assistant Professor at UW-Milwaukee; Ms. Edina Lekovic, Communications Director from the Muslim Public Affairs Council headquartered in Washington, DC. Covering the history of relations between Christendom and the Islamic world to the present day, all 5 speakers had a serious message for Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

For more information on Islamaphobia and its negative effects on our society see: <http://www.mpac.org> which is the national web site. Perhaps the League should seriously consider partnering with the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Center on other events of interest to both groups.

Immigration Study Luncheon - Reserve by January 7

Immigration Study Committee

Join League members and guests for a stimulating program at the Immigration Luncheon

Saturday, January 12.

11:15 Social, 11:45 Luncheon

Wisconsin Club, Deutscher Room
900 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee

Panelists:

Christine Neuman Ortiz, Executive Director, Voces de la Frontera

Enrico Figueroa, Program Director, Roberto Hernandez Ctr., UW-Milw

Sarah Blackwell, Milwaukee area American Immigration Lawyers Assn.

Reserve for the luncheon **by January 5, 2008** using the form below. Lunch is \$15, including a cup of soup; your choice of coffee, tea or milk; tax and tip. Valet Parking and Coat Check gratis.

To reserve, choose your luncheon below and send this form with your \$15 check to:

LWV Milwaukee County, P.O. Box 100785, Milwaukee, WI 53210 Contact: Sue Lindberg, (414) 271-1257

____ VEGETARIAN PITA (Fresh garden vegetables tossed in basil vinaigrette, grilled then served over mesclun greens with toasted herbed pita points, shredded Asiago cheese, mandolin carrots and Roma tomatoes.)

____ TORTILLA CLUB WRAP (Shaved smoked turkey breast, honey ham, hickory bacon, torn and shredded lettuce rolled in a vegetable tortilla with herbed mayonnaise, accented with southwest slaw and fresh melon.)

Name _____ Phone # _____

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Immigration Luncheon
Jan 12
See form on page 7