



## Calendar

### July 2011

13 Wed 6:30 p m Board Meeting  
1845 N. Farwell Ave  
Contact: Mary Kae Nelson,  
414-964-9988

### August 2011

10 Wed 6:30 p m Board Meeting  
1845 N. Farwell Ave  
Contact: Mary Kae Nelson,  
414-964-9988

### League Lines Production Crew

Anne Creamer, Editor and Layout  
Louise Petering, Advisor  
Barbara Hussin, Proofer

#### Contact us at:

1845 N. Farwell Ave, Ste. 102  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
league@lwvmilwaukee.org  
414-273-8683

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## President's Message

Summer greetings to everyone. I'm writing this message from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Nothing like spending time in the tropics with family to speed my recovery from surgery!



The hard work of Mary Lou Zuege and Joanne Barndt made our Annual Meeting a huge success. A highlight was when members Jeanette Bell and Barbara Toles shared their perspectives on being in the state legislature. Attendance was great and included four new members. Thank you for making it a successful, fun evening. We now have a budget, a new local study and new by-laws which is another step in qualifying for 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Sarajane Kennedy has gotten us better prepared for the upcoming program year while home recovering from knee surgery. Our national study, "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education," is getting underway. Be sure to review the attached information and go to the national website so you can join us as we learn more and prepare for member agreement in late October.

Our new website is up and running. Be sure to check it out at <http://lwvmilwaukee.org/>. We deeply appreciate the many hours Anne Creamer, Sarajane Kennedy, Dorothy Dean and Dana Kader Robb put in investigating different options and then getting our new website set up. Thank you.

I am blessed to have a loving family, many friends and you Leaguers who have helped me get through diagnosis, surgery and now recovery. I appreciate each of you.

Have a wonderful summer.

*Mary Kae Nelson*

## New Citizen/New Voter

Sharon Munson, Director, and Dorothy Sherman, Coordinator

At this time we are unable to register voters statewide at the naturalization ceremonies. The LWV can only register new citizens that live in the City of Milwaukee provided you get certified as a Special Registration Deputy (SRD) by the City of Milwaukee. You do not have to live in the city to receive the two year SRD certification. Milwaukee training sessions are offered on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. at a warehouse near Richards and Capitol Dr. Please check with the City of Milwaukee website—click on Election Commission to get registration information, the exact address and verify the time schedule. So far the following Leaguers have been certified: Sharon Munson, Ruth Snedic, Dorothy Sherman, Sr. Paula Marie Jarosz, and Lois Malawsky. Since the presidential election is coming soon, we hope at least 25 of our members will get certified as SRDs in 2011. Terms will expire in 2013.

The new Wisconsin Voter ID law will require a designated photo ID to vote in 2012. Details of this law will be discussed at the SRD training sessions. Lawsuits may affect implementation.

Since the League is not working to report election results for the July 12th recall election, you may be interested in volunteering to be a poll watcher in order to observe if voters are having problems voting because of the new law. The 10-day residency requirement has been changed to 28 days for 2011. Contact the state League office if interested in poll watcher on-line training.

Volunteers for the recent naturalization ceremonies included Ruth Snedic, Phyllis Wax, Sharon Munson, Helga Guequierre, Dorothy Sherman and Joann Kreimendahl. We need a volunteer for the two morning sessions and a volunteer for the two afternoon sessions for July 14 and August 18.

Call Dorothy Sherman 414-425-9527, Dorothy-Sherman@sbcglobal.net, or Sharon Munson 414-358-8383, sharonsnorkels@hotmail.com) with questions.

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## In Memoriam: John Abelt

John Abelt, a long-time Leaguer, died after a brief illness on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at the age of 91. When League membership was open to men in 1973, John joined the Wauwatosa League where his wife Rosemary was a member. Over the years he was active in the Wauwatosa Parks Study, the Legislative Breakfast, and was also a faithful and contributing member of unit meetings, the International Relations Committee, Great Decisions discussion groups as well as many other League functions.

John was also active at Glengary House independent living residence, where he was the resident representative meeting with the staff. He led the Bible study for his fellow residents, led the exercise program, and conducted the orientation for new residents. John also loved to entertain the children of visiting families.

In addition to his League activities, John attended Great Decision lectures at UWM and played golf with his friends. John was a graduate of Yale University and served his country in the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII. John led a full and varied life and will be missed by many people.

Contributed by: Mary Stefaniak, Gloria Weiskotten, Minna Jones and Zabelle Malkasian.



John Abelt

## On Membership

Chris Weber, Chair

We are finally experiencing spring, even summer. It's a time of nature's renewal and League membership renewal. In order for our League to remain an effective voice in our community, state, nation, and indeed world, we need strong and numerous members promoting active citizenship. LWV Milwaukee County is growing with new members. That is exciting and needed for rejuvenation. But we value our current members just as much. Our seasoned members provide League-style skills and wisdom. Most members have renewed their membership. Thank you to those who have. For those who haven't yet written that check please do so soon. The membership committee enjoys speaking to members but perhaps you don't quite enjoy the phone call urging renewal. Please complete the form on the back of this issue and enclose your check.

Mail to:

League of Women Voters Milwaukee County

1845 N. Farwell, Suite 102

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Thank you.

## LWVWI Annual Meeting – Whitewater

Joann Kreimendahl

The Annual Meeting began on Friday, June 10, with dinner and a session on the Member Recruitment Initiative, followed by a reception hosted by Whitewater LWV. Representing LWVMC were Chris Weber, Carol O'Neill, Joann Kreimendahl (delegates), Louise Petering (state board) and Carolyn Castore.

The session on Saturday started with round table discussions at breakfast and continued with the keynote speaker, Dr. Charles Franklin of the political science department at UW-Madison. He spoke on the impact of partisan polarization in Wisconsin politics. Two breakout sessions followed: 501(c)(3) training and LWVWI Members-Only Website. The meeting closed with the plenary session where new bylaws and the budget for LWVWI Education Network were approved and current positions were re-adopted. The proposed slate of officers was accepted with Melanie Ramey agreeing to serve as president for the next two years.

Thanks to Whitewater LWV for their gracious hosting; the UW-Whitewater campus was a great place for the meeting.

## New Website!!

When Dorothy Dean resigned as webmaster after five years of outstanding work, we decided to switch our web hosting service to League Easy Web (LEW), which is used by many constituent Leagues throughout the country.

It is now up and running at the same web address, <http://lwvmilwaukee.org/>, but with a different look. We went live on June 24th, 2011 after many hours of work by Sarajane Kennedy and Anne Creamer, who are the temporary webmasters.

Please be patient with us as we learn the system. Although LEW provides templates, they must be customized, and it takes time to upload all the content we intend to include on our site. We will be uploading more content as soon as possible. Comments and suggestions are welcome! If you are interested in the webmaster position, please call Mary Kae at 414-964-9988.

# LWVUS Education Study

Anne Creamer

At the June 2010 LWVUS national convention, a study of the role of the federal government in education was approved by the delegates. In fall 2011, LWV Milwaukee County will hold both a general meeting and unit meetings on this topic. To prepare for those meetings, please read the background papers prepared by national League. You will find the pertinent information on the LWVUS website, and we encourage you to read it prior to our fall meetings. If you open this issue of The Voter on our new website, this [link](#) will take you directly to **The Education Study Background Papers**.

The LWVUS website has so much information that it is sometimes hard to find exactly what you're looking for, so I've included a partial screen shot below to show how to navigate to the appropriate pages. To reach the page shown below, first go the LWVUS website, <http://www.lwv.org>, then on the left-hand menu bar click on **Issues**, then **Projects and Programs**, then on the right side click on **Taskforces and Studies**. That will bring you to the web page below:

The screenshot shows the LWVUS website interface. At the top is the LWV logo and navigation links: ABOUT US, SUPPORT US, JOIN US, CONTACT US, FIND A LOCAL LEAGUE, LOGIN. Below is a banner with the text 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Making Democracy Work'. A secondary navigation bar includes NEWS AND EVENTS, PROJECTS, ISSUES, TAKE ACTION, LIBRARY, FOR MEMBERS, and a search box. The main content area is titled 'FOR MEMBERS' and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home → For Members → Projects and Programs → Public Education. A sidebar on the left lists various sections like 'Leaders' Section', 'Essential League Resources', and 'Projects and Programs'. The main article is titled 'The LWVUS Education Study' and contains text about the study's scope. To the right of the article are two callout boxes: 'Background Paper' and 'Webinars LWV Studies- Education and Privatization'. A blue arrow points from the 'Background Paper' box to the right.

This page's url: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public\\_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/)

This link will take you to the above mentioned **Education Study Background Papers**

The following two links are at the bottom of the above web page and together with the Background Papers will provide you with additional information needed to become fully informed about the League's position on education.

[The Education Study Leaders' Guide](#)

[Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives](#)

This issue of The Voter includes an insert with the study scope and a hard copy of "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives."

## Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Sarajane Kennedy

### Adoption of a new League study

At the annual meeting in May 2011, members of the LWV Milwaukee County adopted the following new county study for 2011-2012:

Study of electrical energy use by Milwaukee County and its 19 municipalities through interviews of appropriate individuals in each of the 20 entities with each entity completing a survey

**Scope:** The survey to be completed by all 19 municipalities plus the County concerns electrical energy use in buildings per se, office technology, and outdoor spaces (street lights, traffic lights and parks lighting). The study does not include vehicular use. Once surveys are completed, the study committee will summarize them, share the information with all 20 communities, and make recommendations to our League, possibly to adopt a position and then advocate.

**Please note:** As of this proposal, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) has not discussed energy savings. The Natural Resources Committee believes that by gathering information and sharing it, we could prompt Milwaukee County municipalities to actively discuss what communities have found to be beneficial in saving energy and money.

### Bylaws Changes

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is seeking 501(c)(3) status for all local Leagues. In order to comply with Department of Revenue re-

quirements for such tax exempt status, certain changes had to be made to our bylaws. Following the recommendation of the attorneys advising LWV Wisconsin on this matter, members unanimously approved several by-laws changes in anticipation of meeting the requirements for this status. If LWV Wisconsin is successful in this regard, more information will be forthcoming.

### Approval of 2011-2012 Budget

### Election of Board Members

Elected to the board for 2011 - 2013:

Secretary - Carol O'Neill

Directors

- Joann Kreimendahl, formerly secretary, portfolio unspecified
- Sharon Munson, New Voter-New Citizen
- Eva Roberson, portfolio unspecified
- Anne Baynton, reelected, Voters Service/Voters Rights

Nominating Committee for 2011-2012

- Ruth Snedic, Chair
- Barbara Overstreet
- Audrey Keyes.

Mary Kae thanked those leaving the board, recognizing the contributions of Sue Lindberg, Mel Bromberg, Carol Wichmann, and Mary Brod. The membership joined her in acknowledging the new and continuing board members.



New Leaguer Angelica Delgado won the Relaxation raffle basket, presented by Mary Kae Nelson.



LWVMC members who have held elected office. Dorothy Dean, Jeanette Bell, Barbara Toles, Louise Petering and Sarajane Kennedy.

## The Leap from the League to the Legislature

Sarajane Kennedy

This year's annual meeting took a new approach to accomplishing the business of the League in a more social and well-received format. After an hour of sampling luscious desserts, vying for tempting prize packages, and visiting with each other, we heard from two LWVMC members who made the leap from Leaguer to Legislator: Jeanette Bell and Barbara Toles.

Both credited their experiences in the League for feeding their interest in good government and serving the people of their districts and of Wisconsin, as well as for expanding their knowledge of issues. Jeanette, a long-time member of the West Allis unit, persevered in her quest for political office, achieving victory on her third attempt. In her view, it was the fact that she had run twice before that put her in the position to capture the lead over four other candidates in the primary and win the election. She began her tenure in the legislature when Tony Earl was governor. After 12 years in the legislature and having completed a master's in public administration, Jeanette left the legislature to run for and serve as West Allis mayor for several years.

Barbara was called upon by several folks in the community to run for the legislature when she was serving as president of the LWVMC. She had never given a thought to political office, but found herself thinking about it and worrying over it once it was proposed to her. She decided to run as a way to better serve her community and was elected in 2002 and continues to serve.

Not only were their paths to the Wisconsin State Legislature different, but as they talked about their experiences in the Legislature, the sharp contrast between serving in the past and serving now was evident to all. While there were disagreements among legislators during Jeanette's tenure, legislators of different parties still "hung out" together, gathering at various Madison locations after meetings and sessions. There was a greater measure of civility. Committee meetings and hearings were places to learn more and perhaps change one's mind about the issue. As Barbara described her experiences, even in 2002 things were not quite as congenial, and Jeanette's description of life in the legislature does not at all resemble Barbara's experience today. While legislators still speak on the issues, there is little, if any, changing of minds and members of different parties rarely mingle.

One thing, however, remains true; both Jeanette and Barbara continue to be committed members and supporters of the League. In enthusiastic applause, members expressed thanks to both of them for their service in elected office and for their membership and continued support of the League and its work.



Jeanette Bell and Barbara Toles

**The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join the League of Women Voters —where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state and national levels.**

## Leaguers in Action 2010—2011



Welcome to our newest members: Megan Knudson, Angelica Delgado, and Danette Lank. In background: Jan Martin and Carolyn Castore



Carol O'Neill, Ruth Snedik, Lester Voge, and Louise Petering admire the game Lester created.



Sr. Mary Ellen Paulson, Mary Lou Zuege, and Sr. Paula Marie Jarosz preparing for the by-laws revision at the Annual Meeting.



Mary Kae Nelson presenting LWVMC gifts to Door County's delegation from Azerbaijan

**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 - <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

Email Address—[league@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:league@lwvmilwaukee.org)

**Milwaukee County Dues (Circle One):**

\$65 Individual      \$90 Household (2 or more persons)      \$25 Student

Financial assistance available call 414-964-9988

\$100 (supports \$25 memberships)      \$165 Centennial (supports action & activities)

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 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please** complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County 1845 N. Farwell Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53202;

**OR join online** at: <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>. Tax-deductible contributions to the LWV Ed Fund may be directed to the address above. Thank you!

info@lwvmilwaukee.org

414-273-8683

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ste 102

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Join Up!  
Join In!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

