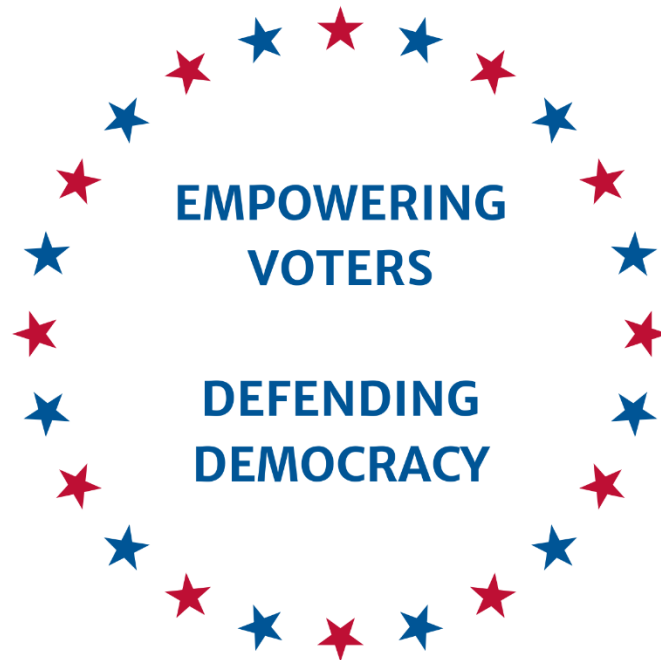




Annual Meeting Report

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



Meeting materials will be available to members online at www.lwvdanecounty.org or, upon request, printed copies may be mailed or picked up in person.

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LWVDC Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Off-Board Positions, Work Group Leaders, and Discussion Unit Leaders

Below are just some of the incredible volunteer leaders who power the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Thank you to all our leaders and volunteers for your time, energy, and wisdom over the past year.

Board Officers

President	Barb Feeney
Vice President–Governance	<i>Mara Eisch (through 04/23)</i>
Treasurer	Jean Jacobson
Secretary	Marjorie Schuett

Directors

Advocacy	Lili Crane*
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program and Advocacy	<i>Lisa Hassenstab (through 10/22)</i>
Voter Service	Sue Jennik
Director At-Large	Sue Fulks
	Jill Jokela*

**Board Appointed*

Chairs and Coordinators

Adopt-a-Highway	Doug Johnson
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Amanda Hingst
	<i>Lauren Surovi (through 11/22)</i>
Dane County Voter ID Coalition Liaison	Ingrid Rothe
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair	Barb Feeney, Interim
Financial Advisory Committee Chair	Susan Dietzel
Fund Development Chair	Wendy Hathaway, Interim
Membership Chair	Barb Feeney, Interim
Nominating Committee Chair	Lisa Janairo
Webmaster & Enews Editor	Brook Soltvedt

Advocacy Steering Committee

Serene Arena, Sam Braithwait,
Jan Fullenwider, Ralph Petersen,
Janie Riebe, Louise Robbins &
Marti Stamper

Program and Advocacy

Book Discussion Coordinators

Kelly Haslam, Jeannine Ramsey &
Louise Robbins

Work Groups

Reproductive Rights Forum
Protect Your Right to Vote Forum

Joy Cardin & Amanda Hingst
Lili Crane, Janine Edwards, Jill Jokela &
Andrea Kaminski

An Economy for All Forum
State Constitution: Are Changes Necessary?
Wisconsin Supreme Court and Judicial Integrity

Nancy Scherr, Marti Stamper & Susan Stein
Tori Fitzgerald & Dan Stapleton
Chair: Janine Edwards; Betty Eberle,
Mary Eberle, Erin Everett, Elizabeth Kanne,
Jordan Nickell, Marjorie Schuett
Chair: Aileen Nettleton; Julia Olson,
Jeannine Ramsey, Louise Robbins

Where We Live Forum

Forum Technology Support
Land Acknowledgements
Lively Issues Luncheon
Member Survey

Julia Gilden, Amanda Kruger & Julia Olson
Louise Robbins
Sybil Pressprich, Lisa Ryan & Sue Wellnitz
Chair: Aileen Nettleton; Gloria Meyer,
Jeannine Ramsey, Shirley Senarighi

Discussion Unit Leaders

Coordinator
Central West
Downtown (Capitol Lakes)
Northeast Side
Prairie Ridge
West/Middleton

Karen Michael
Kathy Johnson
Aileen Nettleton & Ingrid Rothe
Karen Gunderson
Dorothy Wheeler & Dot Whiting
Ralph Petersen & Helen Horn, Gloria Meyer

Voter Service

Voter Service Co-Chair
Candidates' Answers
Candidate Forums
Know Your Candidates TV Interviews
Apartment Outreach
DMV Voter Registration
Event Scheduling Team
High School Voter Education
Homeless Liaison
Library Liaisons
Senior Center Liaison
UW–Madison Liaison

Beth Fultz
Kathy Fullin & Brook Soltvedt
Erin Grunze
Shel Gross
Kelly Smithback & Dan Stapleton
Laura Gottlieb & Peter Gottlieb
Mary Detert, Joan Provencher & Kathy Shurts
Jill Jokela & Joan Provencher
Gail Bliss
Kathy Fullin & Shirley Haidinger
Shirley Haidinger
Beth Fultz

President's Report [Barb Feeney]

This past year has been a whirlwind of continued adaptation of the LWVDC and of personal learning for me and others new to leadership roles. We have completed our first full year with Executive Director Wendy Hathaway on staff. I can say with confidence there is no going back to trying to operate our organization of over 500 members without this full-time staff position. Without that kind of support, the demands on leaders and volunteers are simply too great, which limits our ability to grow and meet the evolving needs of our community. We have made enormous strides in operations and internal and external communications with a full-time professional on staff.

This year has seen the LWVDC tiptoeing out of pandemic mode. "Zooming" is in our lives for good, but we are also back to real life for work and play. We are now searching for the right mix of meeting virtually and in person. Virtual meetings are practical and convenient and improve accessibility for our members. However, there is no question that they cannot fully replace the in-person experience. Highlights of this year from where I sit include:

The development of new partnerships in the community. We carried out joint activities with seven organizations in the greater Madison area. Our ability to reach new communities is enhanced by these partnerships, and we have only just begun.

The Strategic Planning Initiative. We are taking a much-needed look at where we want to go and how we will get there. Stay tuned to hear more details in the months ahead.

UW-Madison Leadership Development Fellow. Kimmy Rooney has brought her professional skills to meet an urgent need: improving member engagement and leadership development processes.

An enormous, and enormously successful, voter outreach effort for the fall 2022 and spring 2023 elections. You know what we did here, and many of you were part of it.

Multiple high-quality forums on critically important topics and advocacy actions. The quality of what was offered was outstanding and has upheld our reputation as a premier source for trusted leadership on the policy issues of our day.

Running in the background, essential but often invisible:

- Stewardship of our finances: the bedrock under us allowing us to carry out our mission.
- Support for our important technology tools.
- Outreach to new members and management of the LWVDC membership roster.
- Numerous communications functions.
- Efficient and effective administrative staff who keep the wheels turning.

All of this was possible because of you, our members. We were grassroots before it was cool ... and we plan to stay that way.

Vice President's Report [Mara Eisch]

At the beginning of this year, the development of the Governance Domain was the charge of the Vice President. There have been many hurdles, barriers, and struggles with initiating this area of work. Strategic Planning has assisted in developing a direction for Governance within LWV Dane County. After a year of discussion and small groups, plus the assistance of McKenzie Zdrale, a graduate student with UW-Madison's Board Leadership Course, the following materials have been developed and proposed:

- Governance Domain Charter
- Outline of Governance Committee Responsibilities
- Updated Organizational Chart
- Code of Conduct Policy

Recommendations for FY 2023-24 include the following:

- Evaluation and self-assessment of the Board, domains, and committees
- Development and adoption of an organization-wide project management model
- Facilitate implementation of strategic plan initiatives

Our organization is experiencing a great deal of change, due in part to changes in our local community and the nature of nonprofit, member-driven organizations everywhere. As we strive to carry out our mission, remain relevant, and provide the most impact possible, the developing Governance Domain and Committee will be on hand to support the evolution of LWVDC.

Treasurer's Report [Jean Jacobson]

Income Statement

LWVDC is forecasted to complete FY 2022-23 with an operating loss of \$77,463 as compared to a budget operating loss of \$95,012 and an actual operating loss of \$50,990 in FY 2021-22. Investment management fees are expected to total \$3,135 for the year. Investment dividends and realized gains through February equal \$8,453; unrealized gains related to market values have gained \$30,243 from the start of the fiscal year. No estimate for the balance of the year is provided due to the unpredictability of the stock market. A net loss of \$80,593 is expected for the year after taking investment activity into account.

Revenue is estimated to total \$147,263 for FY 2022-23 versus revenue of \$137,010 in FY 2021-22 and a budget of \$158,709. The gain in revenue over the prior year reflects the addition of two Dane County and Voter ID Coalition contracts (\$12,000) and ticket sales from the planned in-person Lively Issues Luncheon. The Fall Appeal was very successful (\$32,000) but was the only major appeal planned for the fiscal year. The smaller February Appeal for members and a planned May Challenge directed at nonmembers may help bridge the shortfall to budget. Work on grants continues, but to date, only smaller grants have been received.

Operating expenses are forecasted to total \$224,726 for FY 2022-23 versus the prior year of \$188,000 and the budget of \$253,721. The full-year impact of the Executive Director position, costs associated with an in-person Lively Issues Luncheon, and one additional publication of *Candidates' Answers* account for the increase over FY 2021-22 spending. Operating expenses are estimated to be less than budget primarily in the area of consultant services (i.e., grant writing, technology, website redesign, and graphic design). In addition, there has been a vacancy in the BadgersVote Voter Service internship program for approximately half the year.

Balance Sheet

Cash on Hand is expected to end the year at \$55,103, a decrease of \$6,261 from the June 2022 balance of \$61,364. The estimated operating loss of \$77,463 draws down our cash balance. The drawdown is mitigated by withdrawals from the Memorial Trust Fund as approved by League membership last year. The withdrawals to support the first-year salary of the Executive Director position will total \$60,000, while the 4.5% withdrawal to support operational needs totals \$25,216. The plan is to split the latter withdrawal into one draw in the fourth quarter of FY 22-23 and the second in the first quarter of FY 2023-24.

The June 2023 value of the Memorial Trust Fund is expected to be \$602,499, down from the June 2022 value of \$637,258. Changes in fund value are reflective of cash withdrawals, dividends, investment advisor management fees, and both realized and unrealized gains from asset transactions. It should be noted that the current withdrawals from the Memorial Trust Fund are the first since 2007.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

INCOME STATEMENT COMPARISON

FY 2022-2023 ESTIMATE

	FY 2021-22 Actuals	FY 2022-23 Budget	FY 2022-23 Estimate
REVENUE			
Membership Dues	36,907	35,025	37,618
Contributions and Bequests	89,045	100,000	83,473
Grants	5,500	16,800	7,125
All Other Revenue	5,587	6,884	19,047
TOTAL REVENUE	137,039	158,709	147,263
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES			
Rent	24,542	25,016	25,017
Office Related Expenses	14,661	19,776	14,138
Staff Salaries and Benefits	79,118	105,233	109,061
All Other Expenses	4,777	19,999	4,718
Subtotal	123,098	170,024	152,934
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPENSES			
Event Expenses	959	5,300	3,870
Internship Program	8,409	12,912	6,583
Printed Materials	5,095	8,797	7,115
Publicity and Advertising	5,809	2,800	3,790
Candidates' Answers	5,017	8,800	8,872
All Other Expenses	3,307	5,250	4,132
Subtotal	28,596	43,859	34,362
ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES			
Strategic Planning Retreat & Training	2,514	9,730	8,361
Membership Payments to LWVWI & LWVUS	32,871	27,908	27,969
All Other Expenses	947	2,200	1,100
Subtotal	36,332	39,838	37,430
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	188,026	253,721	224,726
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	(50,987)	(95,012)	(77,463)
Investment Management Fees	(1,361)	(4,000)	(3,135)
Dividends/Interest/Realized Gains/(Losses)	237,861	12,700	8,453
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	(322,886)	0	30,243
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	(86,386)	8,700	35,561
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(137,373)	(86,312)	(41,902)
4/11/2023			

FUNDING RESOURCES for OPERATING INCOME(LOSS)	FY 2021-22 Actuals	FY 2022-23 Budget	FY 2022-23 Estimate
Money Market Withdrawal - Executive Director	30,000	0	0
MTF Withdrawal - Executive Director	0	73,900	60,000
MTF Withdrawal - 4.5% Operations	0	15,700	25,216
Cash Surplus/Usage	(20,987)	(5,412)	7,753
4/12/2023			

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY			
ANNUAL REPORT			
BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON			
FY 2022-2023 ESTIMATE			
	6/30/22 Actuals	6/30/23 Budget	6/30/23 Estimate
CASH			
Old National Checking Account	15,495	48,261	21,896
Old National Money Market Account	37,166	27,184	27,184
Memorial Trust Fund Cash	8,703	6,023	6,023
Subtotal	61,364	81,468	55,103
ALL OTHER ASSETS			
Undeposited Funds	0	1,500	1,524
Prepaid Expenses, Rent & Deposits	4,440	4,088	4,315
Subtotal	4,440	5,588	5,839
INVESTMENTS - Memorial Trust Fund	637,258	579,554	602,499
TOTAL ASSETS	703,062	666,610	663,441
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable & Credit Cards Payable	4,086	7,386	6,317
Unearned or Deferred Revenue	12,825	7,500	12,875
Subtotal	16,911	14,886	19,192
EQUITY			
Unrestricted Net Assets	823,524	756,988	686,151
Net Income	(137,373)	(86,312)	(41,902)
Subtotal	686,151	670,676	644,249
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	703,062	685,562	663,441
4/12/2023			

Finance Committee [Jean Jacobson]

The Finance Committee is a standing committee of the LWVDC and is appointed by the Board of Directors at the first Board Meeting of the fiscal year. The committee consists of at least five members, including the Treasurer and two Board Directors. The duties of the committee include monitoring the financial condition of LWVDC, preparing an annual budget, monitoring investments, and ensuring compliance with all legal filing requirements.

Members of the Finance Committee completed the following projects this year:

- Established a Simple IRA plan, which is open to all employees meeting specific payroll requirements. The League provides up to a 3% match on employee deposits. December was the first month of employee deferrals.
- Engaged a local CPA firm to complete the annual 990 tax return. Prepared a working file of source information for the CPA firm.
- Completed the annual Financial Review as required by the LWVDC Bylaws. Review was completed by a member of the committee who is a CPA but who had not been involved in any financial transactions related to FY 2021-22.
- Sponsored a social pop-up event at Capitol Lakes Retirement Community for members and other interested parties. A short presentation on the Memorial Trust Fund was well received.
- Approved a plan to advertise for a volunteer part-time bookkeeper with the condition that, if a volunteer does not step forward, the Treasurer will include the position in the upcoming budget for FY 2023-24. Committee recommended the position be delayed to a January start date.
- Reviewed the proposed FY 2023-24 budget, suggesting recommendations for the Board to consider at their March meeting.

Many thanks to the members of the Finance Committee: Julie Allen, Susan Dietzel, Barb Feeney, Wendy Hathaway, Helen Horn, Paul Lindquist, Gordon Ridley, and Linda Syth. The work of the Treasurer is made so much easier because of the guidance and support of these individuals.

Financial Advisory Committee [Susan Dietzel]

The Financial Advisory Committee acts in a fiduciary capacity with respect to the Memorial Trust Fund (MTF), a Board directed quasi-endowment fund. The committee is accountable to the Board of Directors for overseeing the investment of all assets owned by, or held in trust for, the MTF. The committee's primary responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure the management and disbursement of the fund's assets are consistent with the mission of the League.

- Formulate investment policies for the fund that are consistent with the League’s anticipated financial needs and in consideration of the League’s tolerance for assuming investment and financial risk.
- Retain, evaluate, and, if necessary, replace the investment advisor or investment manager(s).

LWV Dane County engaged with local investment adviser eCIO in February 2022 to manage the investment portfolio. Prior to that, the Financial Advisory Committee managed all investments within the MTF. Calendar year 2022 was a challenging year for all investors as markets trended downward. Engaging a professional advisor provided support in the rocky market as well as better returns than benchmark markets. The net return for funds managed by eCIO since inception through year-end was –8.04%. In February, the eCIO advisor team provided a year-end review to the Board, giving Board members greater awareness of the status and activity of the invested funds. The value of the MTF on December 31, 2022, was \$640,087 as compared to a value of \$775,802 on December 31, 2021.

At the June 2021 and June 2022 Annual Meetings, LWVDC membership approved withdrawals from the MTF to support the hiring of an Executive Director. These withdrawals are intended to subsidize the annual salary and benefits for three years at the rate of 100% in year 1, 66% in year 2, and 34% in year 3. The first-year subsidy, which did not begin until April 2022, will be complete at the end of FY 2022-23 and will have used monies from the MTF (\$60,000) as well as from the money market cash account (\$30,000).

MTF policy allows for the withdrawal of up to 4.5% of the value of the MTF, averaged over five years, to support the operations of the League. It is expected that an allowed withdrawal of \$25,200 will be taken at the end of FY 2022-23 or in early FY 2023-24. This withdrawal will be the first since 2007.

Many thanks to the members of the Financial Advisory Committee, Caroline Liedtke, Sally Carpenter and Helen Horn. Their long-time commitment and guidance to the Committee is invaluable.

Fund Development Committee [Wendy Hathaway, Interim]

The financial base of LWVDC is mainly composed of members and nonmembers alike who are deeply committed to empowering voters and defending democracy.

- In October 2022, our Fall Fundraising Campaign kicked off with a \$13,150 matching donation by several generous supporters. Member and nonmember donors contributed an additional \$18,777, raising a total of just under \$32,000.
- The traditional February appeal to celebrate the League’s birthday (February 14) brought in over \$5,000.
- A fundraising appeal focused on former members and nonmembers is planned for May to help finish off our fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

We were very fortunate to receive an award for \$2,500 from the Rotary Club of Madison in recognition of Gail Bliss and her tireless work in the area of voter outreach, especially those who've been historically underrepresented. Two LWVDC members—Joy Cardin and Andrea Kaminiski—nominated Gail for this honor.

Last fall, two community organizations helped raise money for the League: local bands The Civil Engineers and Magic Conch raised \$850 through a Celebration of Democracy benefit concert, and Boulder's Climbing Gym raised nearly \$1,000 in their October Climb for a Cause campaign.

In the summer of 2022, the Board contracted with a grant consultant to research available funding sources that would be a good match for our organization. LWVDC received grant funding from the LWV Education Fund to support voter outreach to new citizens, youth, and formerly and currently incarcerated people. A grant from the Evjue Foundation helped fund *Candidates' Answers* and other outreach materials. And Dane County awarded two grants to help fund the voter outreach work of the Voter ID Coalition (of which LWVDC is a founder and a partner).

The Fund Development Committee is hard at work crafting a fundraising strategy and identifying priority projects for the coming years to continue to grow and diversify our revenue.

We are deeply grateful to those who have chosen to make contributions of any size.

Program and Advocacy Committee

[Sue Jennik and Lili Crane]

The Program and Advocacy Committee's responsibilities are to recommend program priorities for Board and membership approval and to plan and present the selected topics and recommended actions to the membership and the community at forums and other informational meetings.

Many League members help plan and present the Program and Advocacy activities. Their work is greatly appreciated. The priorities approved by the membership and the Board for the past year were Election Integrity, Economic Opportunities for All, Campaign Finance Reform, Neighborhoods for Social and Racial Equity, Judicial Integrity, Climate Resistant Rural and Urban Communities, and Reproductive Justice. In addition, the Board approved adding the topic of Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Program Work

- Seven forums were presented on the issues listed above. An average of 90 people attended each event. In addition, the Lively Issues Luncheon on April 29 featured Gloria Ladson-Billings speaking on "Race, Education, and Civic Engagement."
- Five Discussion Units regularly meet to discuss the issues raised in the forums: Central West; Downtown (Capitol Lakes); Middleton/West; Northeast; and Prairie Ridge. An average of 27 members attended each of these meetings in FY 2022-23.

- The Program Committee organized five Book Discussions on the following titles: “Policing the Womb” by Michele Goodwin; “Thank You for Voting” by Erin Geiger Smith; “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich; “On the Line” by Daisy Pitkin; and “Dark Money” by Jane Meyer. An average of 12 members attended each discussion.
- The Program Committee prepared and distributed an online survey for LWVDC members to help select topics for the Program and Advocacy Committee to use as priorities for planning for public forums, book discussions, advocacy actions, and more in 2023-24. (These priorities are subject to approval by the Board and the membership at the Annual Meeting.) The following issues had the highest votes:
 - Civic Education and Engagement (43 votes)
 - Public Education Challenges (40 votes)
 - Court Integrity and Redistricting (36 votes)
 - Criminal Justice (35 votes)
 - Reproductive Rights (35 votes)

Advocacy Work

The committee performed the following advocacy work:

- Organized work group structures for members to work on issues, including Voting Rights, Campaign Finance Reform, Judicial Integrity, Reproductive Rights, and Climate-Environmental Justice.
- Created a letter writing campaign that includes training, templates, and issue papers.
- Assisted the LWVWI Judicial Integrity Committee in preparing educational materials about Wisconsin Supreme Court election issues.
- Contributed articles on important current issues to the LWVDC *Bulletin* and Enews.
- Updated the Advocacy web page with more information on activities and actions.
- Provided support and expertise for Program Forums and resource development.

Voter Service Committee [Sue Fulks and Beth Fultz]

The Voter Service Steering Committee (VSSC) oversees and directs the work of volunteers who provide citizens with unbiased factual information and nonpartisan assistance to register and prepare to vote. The Voter Service (VS) work is carried out by nine subcommittees working under the direction of subcommittee chairs who report to the VSSC.

Ongoing Work

With two important election cycles this year, our VS volunteers provided direct support to Wisconsin residents through both voter registration tabling and voter outreach activities. Volunteers were on hand to answer many important questions and highlight how to use the MyVote and VOTE411 websites. More than **50 events** were successfully held in such varied locations as Epic, State Street Night Markets, the Orton Park Festival, a Fitchburg Voter Outreach Picnic, the Union Corners Clinic, and the Sikh Temple in Middleton. We also supported events sponsored by the Disability Vote Coalition.

Our **liaison projects** match volunteers with senior living centers, apartment buildings, and public libraries. Municipal clerk liaisons in 15 Dane County towns and villages worked with their

local clerks to make sure the clerks' websites provided current and accurate election information to voters.

With funding from an LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) grant, the **High School Action Team** expanded outreach to student teams in seven schools. Student leaders received training and then organized voter registration drives and election literacy activities for their peers.

League-created bookmarks and other election information were provided to voters through collaboration with Meals on Wheels, St. Vincent de Paul and other food pantries, and the Boys and Girls Club. Regular outreach at two farmers' markets continued with an average of 75-100 contacts each Saturday. Partnerships with homeless service agencies resulted in many voter registrations, including help obtaining photo IDs for 14 voters and seven applications to begin the ID petition process.

Twelve volunteers shared information about voting and assisted with voter registration at six different events at **Madison College** during the fall and spring.

Our strong relationship with **UW–Madison** and the **BadgersVote Coalition** continued. VS hosted a three-week registration event in September where we helped 985 students register to vote and provided voter information to 139 others. At a smaller event in January, we helped 30 students register and promoted awareness of the Spring 2023 elections. LWVDC provided funding for two student intern positions on the **BadgersVote Team**. Their work promoting voter engagement through social media and in-person events went a long way toward achieving unusually strong student turnout in the November 2022 and Spring 2023 elections.

Twenty-one **Voter Helpline** volunteers responded to more than 700 inquiries from Wisconsin voters from July 1, 2022, through March 29, 2023. The most frequent questions concerned voter registration, polling locations, absentee ballots, and voter IDs.

Ten volunteers reached out to **196 provisional voters** for the August, November, and February elections to make sure voters knew how to get a qualifying photo ID and present it to their municipal clerk by the Friday following the election. This effort will also happen after the April 2023 election.

Moderators for **Candidate Forums** (primarily, local races for nonpartisan offices) were provided upon request. **Know Your Candidate** TV interviews were moderated in collaboration with the Madison City Channel.

Candidates' Answers were posted on our LWVDC website and **Vote 411** before each election. Print copies were distributed in the Wisconsin State Journal, in the Capital City Hues, and on The Capital Times racks. They were also delivered to libraries, larger senior facilities, and the UW–Madison campus.

Looking Ahead

Members Laura and Peter Gottlieb spearheaded a new voter outreach **pilot project** at the two **Dane County DMVs**. Using the DMV's MyVote computer kiosks, LWV volunteers helped DMV clients register online after they finished their business at the DMV. During the open registration period before the November, February, and April elections, the project engaged 93 volunteers for a total of 59 days, registered 1,079 voters, and provided election information and awareness to thousands more.

In collaboration with Jewish Social Services, the Catholic Multicultural Center, the Literacy Network, and the Dane County Office of Immigration, LWVDC held two **Immigrant Town Halls**, where immigrants living in the Madison area were invited to meet and interact with local elected officials and share a meal. Approximately 70 immigrants attended the two events. This project received financial support from LWVUS.

LWVDC collaborated with Wisconsin Interfaith Voices for Justice and the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign, the Urban League of Greater Madison, Fair Wisconsin, and the Voter ID Coalition to hold **five canvass events** before the fall 2022 and spring 2023 elections.

LWVDC member Carol Blemker led several **mock voting training events** at the Literacy Network to help prospective new citizens practice registering to vote.

We are thankful for the dedication of so many voter outreach volunteers this year and look forward to planning for elections in 2024.

Dane County Voter ID Coalition

The Dane County Voter ID Coalition was founded more than 10 years ago by the League of Women Voters of Dane County and the NAACP Dane County Branch 36B in response to new voter identification requirements. The Coalition's initial purpose was to assist individuals who needed a photo ID to vote. Since then, the Coalition has expanded its mission to assist eligible voters at all stages of exercising their democratic rights, including registration, obtaining a voter ID, requesting an absentee ballot, and providing witnesses for those who are unable to find one for their absentee ballot.

As the fiscal agent for the coalition, LWVDC is proud to support this vital work. The Coalition welcomes other community organizations with the same nonpartisan goals to join these efforts. Members are particularly focused on serving those who may face barriers to voting, including people of color, low-income individuals, those who move frequently, and people who have completed their sentences after a felony conviction.

The Voter ID Coalition Steering Committee directs much of the Coalition's work, with Earnestine Moss and Ingrid Rothe acting as co-chairs for the NAACP and LWVDC, respectively. This work includes the following:

- The Voter Helpline, which is staffed by volunteers and available to callers in Dane County and across Wisconsin every day of the year.
- Providing cab rides for voters who need to obtain a photo ID at DMV customer service centers.
- Supplying local food pantries with printed materials about voting ahead of elections.
- Raising awareness about upcoming elections through large banners and signs around Madison.
- Leading canvassing efforts in low-turnout wards.
- Tabling at large events to provide information and engage with voters.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion [Barb Feeney, Interim]

The League of Women Voters of Dane County created the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee several years ago to assist and guide the organization toward growth in these areas. The responsibility of incorporating DEI considerations into the organization should be shared among all LWVDC members, not just the DEI Committee.

The DEI Committee is working on several new initiatives and always looking ahead. Committee members recently developed a “Roles and Responsibilities” document to more clearly define its focus for new and potential committee members.

The committee also serves as a resource on land acknowledgments, with Louise Robbins providing land acknowledgment addresses for in-person events. We thank Louise for her dedication to lifting up the interests of Native American communities.

Finally, the DEI Committee's "Recommendations to the LWVDC Board," accepted by the Board on July 14, 2021, has been updated to reflect the current status of the recommendations. The results of this update will be shared with the Board in the coming months.

In 2022-23, LWVDC collaborated with several organizations representing diverse communities. The Program Committee invited a diverse group of speakers with unique perspectives to participate in our forums. LWVDC sponsored events. And our members volunteered at outreach tables on-site. This demonstrates how DEI can be integrated into the League’s work across domains.

LWVDC members were also encouraged to attend internal and external trainings, such as those hosted by LWVWI: “Implicit Bias: Empathy on Purpose” in November 2022 and “Pathways to Address Concerns of Bias Within the League of Women Voters” in February 2023.

LWVDC leaders now have access to a calendar of Religious and Cultural Days of Observance, ensuring that League activities are not scheduled on the most important days of observance for various religious and cultural communities.

Members can learn about the interests of diverse communities through the weekly-distributed Enews, which includes news, feature stories, learning opportunities, and events. We commend Enews Editor Brook Solvedt for her diligent research in providing such valuable resources.

Member Service Committee [Barb Feeney, Interim]

The “Membership Committee” has made the thoughtful decision to change its name to “Member Service.” This shift reflects our dedication to supporting our members and helping them find their place within the LWVDC. Our focus and our passion are not just attracting and retaining members but serving them in a meaningful way.

In recent years, LWVDC has grown to a membership of more than 500 people. This is a testament to all our leaders and members, current and former, who made this an organization people want to belong to; however, our size also presents some challenges. Fortunately, we

had the assistance of UW-Madison Leadership Development Fellow Kimmy Rooney to help us navigate these challenges.

Last fall, Kimmy reviewed how membership works at the League, including how we welcome new members, the range of available activities and volunteer opportunities, and how we input and use data. She also conducted surveys of our Dane County members and reviewed volunteering trends across the country. From that, she created a series of recommendations to help our members connect with one another and serve the community through our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

The Member Service team is now implementing some of those recommendations. This includes strengthening the existing process of how we welcome new members and introduce them to the League.

Other activities in 2022-23:

- Revising our online orientation presentation for new (or new-ish) members, offered every six to eight weeks.
- Following up via phone call with members who did not renew their membership. (It is too easy for those email reminders to get lost in the shuffle!)
- Recommending changes to the Member Survey based on feedback collected from domain leaders and staff.
- Interviewing long-time members who are joining that exclusive club of 50-year LWVDC veterans.

As of January 31, 2023, we had 559 members, including 26 Life Members and 12 Student Members. This is quite an increase compared with 528 members reported on January 31, 2022.

Executive Director Letter [Wendy Hathaway]

The end of another busy year is a great time to both reflect and look ahead toward the exciting opportunities that await us in the coming year.

There's a lot for LWV Dane County volunteers and leaders to be proud of: connecting with hundreds of potential voters and helping them register to vote; addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time through educational programming and advocacy campaigns; ensuring that our organization has the resources and structures we need to achieve our goals; and exploring creative strategies to welcome new members and foster engagement and participation among all members. I truly wish I could highlight each of you individually.

LWVDC Leadership Development Fellow Kimmy Rooney joined us in August 2022 and jumped right into learning about the League and its members with great enthusiasm and energy. During her time with us, she put to use her research, teaching, and people skills to give us a clear path toward growing our community of members and future leaders who are ready to contribute their skills and expertise to our mission and make long-lasting connections with one another.

I must also thank LWVDC Office Administrator Kerry Helmer, whose hard work, dedication, and zeal for serving our members have helped to make the organization stronger, and we are grateful for all that she does.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that await us in the coming year.

In April, we wrapped up the first stages of our Strategic Planning process for our local organization, but truly, this kind of big-picture, organization-wide planning never ends; we're all responsible for keeping our shared goals front and center and maintaining momentum. This ongoing work helps us to develop a clear and cohesive vision for LWVDC's future, which in turn better equips us to respond to the evolving needs of our community and to strengthen our impact as a leading voice for civic engagement and informed decision-making.

This fall, we'll be joined by a Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships Fellow from UW–Madison who will be tasked with crafting civic education materials; developing a strategy to build and strengthen inclusive, authentic community partnerships; and expanding LWVDC volunteer engagement opportunities. The timing couldn't be better; ahead of a major election cycle, the League will play a critical role in empowering our community to become active and engaged citizens. This truly is an "all hands on deck" moment for democracy, and we need all members to get involved, whether by joining a planning committee, training to conduct voter outreach, participating in educational programming and discussions, or supporting our back-end infrastructure in areas like finance, fund development, and communications.

I want to close by thanking every single member for your dedication to the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Your contributions — your tireless energy, your passion, your great ideas, your extensive knowledge and expertise — are what make this organization so special. I am honored to work alongside such an incredible group of individuals dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy.

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to writing, editing, designing, mailing, and posting of our Annual Meeting materials, as well as those who helped in the planning of our in-person gathering!