

The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.
2014 CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD RECIPIENT
☞ Brook Chase Soltvedt ☞

Brook became a member of the Dane County League in 2006. In 2008 she joined the Board as Bulletin editor, and in 2009 became the webmaster in addition to editing the Bulletin. In the past couple of years, she has gone off the Board and focused her attention on our website. This year, she took on the very challenging and time-consuming task of being the Vote 411 Coordinator.

She has done a wonderful job keeping our web page attractive and informative. She updates material quickly and accurately, fixing any problems with our study material links and awkward wordings. She uses graphics to make the website visually appealing.

Brook has been a valuable resource to the state League as we have moved toward use of the national 411 website. Dane County was the first league this year to contact candidates and ask for their responses, and our experiences were helpful to other Leagues and to the state coordinator. This is a very technically challenging system and Brook has done a superb job of figuring out how to use it.

In addition, because we publish *Candidates' Answers* on our website, Brook has been the coordinator of the candidate portion of *Candidates' Answers*, organizing the responses and providing them to *Isthmus* for printed publication.

It is all the more remarkable that Brook accomplishes all this for us while working full-time as a Senior Information Processing Consultant at the UW Department of Instructional Technology. She plans to leave this position this summer and focus on her editorial work on the college textbook *Principles of Biochemistry*.

Brook had a difficult childhood, having lost her father at age 2 and mother at age 11. She was raised by an older sister in rural Vermont. She graduated from Wellesley College with highest honors in Molecular Biology, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1981 she moved to Madison and earned an MS in Molecular Biology from the UW in 1985.

In addition to her work as a science editor, Brook has edited a dozen books on international cuisine with author Joan Peterson under the general titles *Eat Smart in _____*, and co-authored *Eat Smart in Peru*.

Brook's two sons from her first marriage were born in the late 1980's. She married David Nelson, a semi-retired professor of Biochemistry at the UW, in 1999, and lives with him and two well-fed cats in Nakoma. She is an advocate for bats and would be happy to explain their value to the environment to you.

We are so fortunate that Brook has been willing to invest her truly formidable talents in League projects. As co-presidents, Ingrid Rothe and I don't know how we would have gotten through this first year without Brook's contributions.