

*The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.*  
**2011 CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD RECIPIENT**

**🎀 Cynthia Benevenga 🎀**

Fifty Years is a milestone no matter what we are celebrating. There is much perspective to be gained by staying with a project, a marriage, an organization. Our candidate to receive the Carrie Chapman Catt award has used the perspectives of economics and administration to guide our organization at local, state, and national levels during her 50-year membership in the League of Women Voters. I am referring to Cynthia Benevenga.

Cynthia is an activist, a quality she shares with our founder Carrie Chapman Catt. Her League activities are many and varied, representing LWVDC on local city and county committees. She was President of the LWVDC in 1988-90. She served as treasurer on the State League board 1990-94, and again, 1997-98. She was a voting delegate to state League conventions in 1975, 1985, 1987, and 1989. She was a delegate to the LWVUS national convention in Denver in 1988. She is very clear about the LWV being a non-partisan organization and especially enjoyed representing our League on Access City Hall, and Know Your Candidates. Her work as a money manager and administrator has especially benefited the state League office. For many years, she has volunteered to set up a viable financial system, prepare audits, and train new staff people in bookkeeping and the art and science of money management of a non-profit organization. In 2003, Cynthia was among 4 honorees who received a Tribute to Excellence Award presented at the State League Annual meeting for her volunteer efforts at the state League office.

League activities are only a part of Cynthia's civic interests. She is well known in the university community where she worked in the University of Wisconsin system administration with Regents, Vice Chancellors, the School of Education, and the College of Agriculture. In the 1970s and 80s, she was a leader of affirmative action in the university setting, helping to develop initial plans to meet requirements of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act 1972-74. She has dedicated her life to finding a better way of doing things. Her talents for planning and evaluation have benefited numerous boards and committees in the university system. Currently she serves as program chair of the University League. She has also served that organization as newsletter editor and publicity chair and as President of the organization 1994-97.

In 2000-02, Cynthia was a Board member and newsletter editor of the Alicia Ashman Public Library.

She describes herself as a “native Californian” (3<sup>rd</sup> generation) who lived in 5 other states before coming to Wisconsin with her husband and 3 children in 1965. We are grateful to Cynthia for settling in Madison where she has offered so much to the civic life of our community. Her knowledge, imagination and vitality advance the cause of any activity she pursues.