

LWV DC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
August 2017
Co-Presidents – Bailey Koepsel & Shirley Senarighi
lwvdcprez@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES FOR TO LWV DC ACTIVITIES! (Details follow the list of dates!)

SEPTEMBER

F 9/8 8:15-10:00 a.m. LWV DC Board Meeting at Sunshine House
M 9/11 4:30-6:00 p.m. Ethics Code for Local Government Officials at Sturgeon Bay City Hall
W 9/13 9:50-10:50 a.m. Get to Know the LWV at the YMCA in Sturgeon Bay
TH 9/28 4:30-6:00 p.m. Snack & Learn about LWV Observer Corps & Action at Bjorklunden, Lawrence University
F 9/29 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn about LWV Observer Corps & Action at Stone Harbor

OCTOBER

M 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30; 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Exploring the Many Layers of Local Government LEARNING IN RETIREMENT Class at the Door County Government Center in downtown Sturgeon Bay
W 10/4 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. & TH 10/5 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS - Tools for Talking when Stakes are High at Stone Harbor Conference Center Boardroom
W 10/25 4:00-5:30 p.m. Board meeting at Door County Library in Sturgeon Bay
TH 10/26 4:00-5:30 p.m. Discussion of Current Judicial Issues at Sturgeon Bay Library

NOVEMBER

F 11/3 10:00-11:30 a.m. Advocacy Workshop with Write On DC & DC Civility Project at Forestville Town Hall
TH 11/9 4:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner & Learn about LWV DC Voter Service Activities at Stone Harbor
F 11/10 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn about LWV DC Voter Service Activities at Liberty Square Bistro
W 11/15 1:30-3:00 p.m. Advocacy Workshop with Write On DC & DC Civility Proj. at Scandia Village
W 11/29 4-5:30 p.m. Board meeting (location TBD)

DECEMBER

F 12/15 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch & Book Discussion on *Evicted* at Stone Harbor

SEPTEMBER 8

BOARD ORIENTATION & FIRST MEETING FOR 2017-18

The first board meeting for 2017-18 will be held on Friday, September 8 at 8:15–10:00 a.m. at Sunshine House. This meeting will include an orientation to board roles and responsibilities. All members are welcome to attend any board meeting.

Your 2017-18 Board:

Co-Presidents:	Bailey Koepsel & Shirley Senarighi
Co-Vice Presidents:	Pat Scieszinski & Lisa Barnaby
Co-Secretaries:	Susan Kohout & Charlynn Hansen
Co-Treasurers:	Sandy Brown & Open Position
Directors:	Barb Graul Seth Wiederanders Mark Moeller Helen Bacon Cheryl Bishop

Do you have an interest in bookkeeping and numbers? Please contact lwvdcprez@gmail.com if you (or someone you know) would like to work with Sandy as treasurer of the LWV DC. Sandy travels and really needs someone to work with her.

SEPTEMBER 11

INFORMATIONAL SESSION ON CODE OF ETHICS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The public is invited to an information session at which Attorney Daniel Olson, Assistant Legal Counsel with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and Door County District Attorney Colleen Nordin will speak to the Wisconsin state statute that pertains to the Code of Ethics for local government officials and employees. Please join us Monday, September 11, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Sturgeon Bay City Council Chambers for this program. Attorney Olson will explain the statute and how to recognize and avoid conflicts of interest. He will also share some of the pros and cons local communities might consider in deciding whether or not to develop a local ethics policy. Door County District Attorney Colleen Nordin will explain the steps people can take if they feel an Ethics Code violation has occurred and the legal processes the D.A.'s office follows should someone officially file a complaint of an Ethics Code violation.

Since 2001 Attorney Olson has been providing legal assistance to municipal attorneys and officials through telephone inquiries, written opinions and briefs, workshop presentations and published articles. He has assisted in writing League of Wisconsin Municipalities handbooks and planning the Municipal Attorney's Institute. District Attorney Nordin received her J.D. from Marquette University Law School in 2008. That same year she was admitted to the State Bar of Wisconsin as well as admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin. She was elected to her current position in 2016.

The LWV DC does not have a specific position as to whether a municipality should or should not adopt their own Ethics Policy. However, its members do promote an ethical culture in local government. Equity, transparency, integrity, commitment, and stewardship are standards for excellence in democratic local governance.

SEPTEMBER 13

GET TO KNOW THE LEAGUE

League leaders will share league history, mission, and current activities at WISDOM WEDNESDAY AT STURGEON BAY YMCA on Wednesday, September 13, 9:50–10:50 a.m. You do not need to be a YMCA or LWV DC member to attend, and **no RSVP is required, but would be helpful to the YMCA in planning seating; call the YMCA at 920-743-4949.** It will be a great way to learn about how the LWV functions. Those interested in continuing the conversation will meet for an early lunch at Stone Harbor after the YMCA session. Join us!

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

LEARN ABOUT OBSERVER CORP AND ACTION WITH THE LEAGUE!

Learn about the LWV DC Observer Corps and how and when the LWV DC takes action or advocates on issues at one of two sessions scheduled as follows:

Snack & Learn - Thursday, September 28, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Bjorklunden, Lawrence University near Baileys Harbor

Lunch & Learn - Friday, September 29, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Stone Harbor in Sturgeon Bay

Several league members have volunteered to be observers of local governmental meetings. Would you consider joining them? Each observer corps volunteer "adopts" a board or committee and attempts to attend

many of this group's meetings. Other League members occasionally serve as a "substitute observer." Observer Corps members identify themselves at meetings by wearing League of Women Voters pins. We believe there are benefits not only to the observers, our organization, and the community, but also to the governmental board or committee being observed as well. Our role is to gather information about what the governmental body is doing and the issues facing our community. We also learn *how* issues are being addressed.

The LWV DC takes action only when warranted and supported by previously determined League positions. Come learn what "taking action" might entail. Action might include holding public informational meetings, submitting media releases and letters to the editor, observing governmental units, contacting elected officials, and testifying in various ways.

The League promotes government openness, transparency and accountability as vital to a healthy democracy. Our Observer Corps and Action efforts help us achieve this goal. Come learn more about it! **RSVPs are appreciated; email lwvdcprez@gmail.com or phone 920-495-6156.**

OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT – Exploring the Many Layers of Local Government

Mondays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Door County Government Center in downtown Sturgeon Bay.

This exploration of local government by the League of Women Voters of Door County will share the mission, challenges, and interactions of the many forms of local government in Wisconsin – county, city, village, town, and school board. The first session will provide an overview and explore the types of questions participants have. Sessions 2-5 will be devoted to panel presentations by elected and appointed officials of each type of local government. Susan Kohout will conduct the class. This is a great learning opportunity for all, but especially those who have moved to Wisconsin from other states. **There is still room for LIR member participants in this class. Call the LIR office asap at 746-4947 to register!**

OCTOBER 4 & 5

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS

The Door County Civility Project is collaborating on a workshop for fall with United Way Door County, DC Nonprofit Group, and DC Community Foundation. The LWV DC is a member of the DC Nonprofit Group.

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS - Tools for Talking when Stakes are High, Wednesday, October 4, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 5, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Stone Harbor Conference Center Boardroom. Fee: \$50 per participant to cover costs for book, food and facility. (Corporate value \$1,200 registration fee per participant.)

Crucial Conversations is a course that teaches skills for creating alignment and agreement by fostering open dialogue around high-stakes, emotional, or risky topics - at all levels of your organization. By learning how to speak and be heard (and encouraging others to do the same), you'll begin to surface the best ideas, make the highest-quality decisions, and then act on your decisions with unity and commitment.

In this intense, two-day workshop, participants will learn how to:

- avoid moving to silence or violence during crucial conversations
- maintain dialogue
- speak persuasively, not abrasively
- share strong opinions without shutting down contrary views
- use specific skills to keep everyone sharing information
- establish and maintain mutual purpose and mutual respect

- move from healthy dialogue to taking action and achieving results

Register by phone: 920-746-9645 or email: julie@unitedwaydc.com

Mail registration payment to: United Way of Door County, PO Box 223, Sturgeon Bay, WI

OCTOBER 25

LWV DC BOARD MEETING 4:00 p.m. Upstairs Conference Room, Door County Library in Sturgeon Bay

OCTOBER 26

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT JUDICIAL ISSUES

All are welcome to join the discussion of current judicial issues including the War on Drugs, mental illness in jails and prisons, sentencing reform, and how current policies affect children and youth in our community on Thursday, October 26, at 4 p.m. at the Sturgeon Bay Library. We will review current League positions on these topics, discuss what local officials have to say on the matter, and brainstorm to develop priorities. Join us for this free and open discussion.

NOVEMBER 3 & 15, JANUARY 25 & FEBRUARY 8

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! How to Advocate Effectively

In collaboration with the Door County Civility Project and the League of Women Voters of Door County, Write On presents a series of sessions designed to give you effective strategies to communicate your requests, opinions, and concerns with your elected representatives. This isn't just about voicing strong opinions through letters to the editor – it's much, much more! As important as *what* you do, *how* you do it can make a huge difference as to whether or not your message is really listened to, read, and understood in order to make the impact you want.

While you will learn quick tips on how best to be heard by elected officials, you'll also have time to identify an issue of concern, who you want to influence, and what you want to accomplish. Then, you will begin a draft of communication to an elected representative – script for a phone call, postcard, email or letter to an elected official or to the editor to inform the public of your concern.

Four sessions will be held throughout Door County, with facilitators from the Civility Project, League of Women Voters, and Write On. You may attend one or more sessions.

Friday, November 3, 10:00-11:30 a.m.	Forestville Town Hall, Forestville
Wednesday, November 15, 1:30-3:00 p.m.	Scandia Village, Sister Bay
Thursday, January 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.	Door County Library, Sturgeon Bay
Thursday, February 8, 4:00-5:30 pm	Egg Harbor Town Hall, Carlsville

Register for a workshop by contacting Write On, Door County at writeondoorcounty.org.

LWV members are also needed to facilitate these sessions. Contact lwvdcprez@gmail.com or call 920-495-6156 if you can help!

NOVEMBER 9 & 10

LEARN ABOUT OBSERVER CORP AND ACTION WITH THE LEAGUE!

Learn about the LWV DC Voter Service programs at one of two sessions scheduled as follows:

Dinner & Learn - Thursday, November 9, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Stone Harbor

Lunch & Learn - Friday, November 10, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Liberty Square Bistro Voter Service

The League is dedicated to ensuring that all eligible voters – particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities, the elderly and low-income Americans – have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote. We understand that the leaders we elect make the decisions that affect us – our job, health care, energy costs, security and more. The League encourages and helps eligible voters to get registered, get to know the candidates and issues, and get out and vote.

In order to accomplish this, we need MANY LWV members involved in planning and implementing voter service activities. Come learn about all the ways you can volunteer. No one LWV member can do it all, but if many can do even one piece, we will be able to accomplish so much. **RSVPs are appreciated; email lwvdcprez@gmail.com or phone 920-495-6156.**

Voter Service activities include:

- Conducting voter registration support
- Encouraging young people to register and vote - birthday cards about voter registration to 18 year-olds
- Distributing election information on all aspects of voting
- Conducting local candidate forums
- Providing information on "How to Run for Public Office"
- Conducting "Get out the Vote" campaigns

NOVEMBER 29

LWV DC BOARD MEETING 4:00 p.m. Location TBD

DECEMBER 15

LUNCH & BOOK DISCUSSION - EVICTED

As the days get shorter and there is more time to curl up with a good book, consider reading *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, a Pulitzer Prize winning book by Matthew Desmond. This book has come to our attention as a thought-provoking discussion of housing issues in Milwaukee. This book follows the lives of eight families struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

Consider reading *Evicted*, and then join others in discussing the book at the December 15 Lunch and Learn at 11:00 a.m. at Stone Harbor in Sturgeon Bay. (You can enjoy the soup/salad bar or order off the lunch menu.) There are multiple copies of *Evicted* available through the library, as well as e-books and audiobooks available in downloadable media. **RSVPs are appreciated; email lwvdcprez@gmail.com or phone 920-495-6156.**

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVES

SMART PHONE APP – At the LWV WI Annual Meeting we were introduced to the *Try Voices* mobile app which provides contact information for state and federal elected officials. Once downloaded on your phone, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin will contact you through the app with action alerts that will increase the efficiency and impact of our advocacy efforts. Go to <https://tryvoices.com/lwvwi> for more information on this app and how to download it.

PRESIDENT

Donald J. Trump president@whitehouse.gov <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse/> (202) 456-1111

U.S. SENATORS

Ron Johnson <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov/public> (202) 224-5323

Tammy Baldwin
<https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback> (202) 224-5653

U.S. HOUSE (8th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT)

Mike Gallagher
<http://gallagher.house.gov/> (202) 225-5665

WISCONSIN GOVERNOR:

Scott Walker <http://walker.wi.gov/contact-us> (608) 266-1212

WI SENATE DISTRICT 1

Frank Lasee Sen.Lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266 3512

WI ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2

Joel Kitchens Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266-5350

One complimentary copy of the 2017-18 Official Directory of Door County (**a listing of contact information for county, city, village and town officials**) can be picked up at the County Clerk's office at the Door County government building. This directory is also online at the Door County government website:

<http://www.co.door.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=16450&locid=137>