



# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

## League Lines

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

### Calendar

414-273-8683

<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>, e-mail: [info@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:info@lwvmilwaukee.org)

For the most up-to-date information on events, see <http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

#### November

- 4 Wed., Development Comm. Mtg.  
Contact: Karen Jansen, (414) 469-5651
- 11 Wed., Board Meeting, 6 pm  
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee  
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617
- 17 Tue., Internat'n'l Relations Comm. Mtg., 10am  
Conference Room, Wauwatosa Library  
Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-476-6380
- 18 Wed., 7-8:30pm, General Meeting  
Lending Legislation  
Firefly Room, Wauwatosa Library  
Contact: Dorothy Dean, 414-247-1270
- 2 Sat., 9am - tentative  
New Citizen/New Voter  
International Folk Festival, State Fair Park  
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527  
Kit H. O'Meara, 414-226-9930
- 23 Mon., Nat. Res. Comm. Mtg., 7pm  
3002 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee  
Contact: Jennifer Runquist (414) 332-5067

#### December

- TBA Gift wrapping at a local bookstore  
Contact: Karen Jansen, (414) 469-5651
- 2 Wed., Development Comm. Mtg.  
Contact: Karen Jansen, (414) 469-5651
- 6 Sun., Winter Social, 3-5pm  
2950 N. Shepard, the Barndt home  
Contact: Joanne Barndt, 414-962-5634
- 9 Wed., Bulletin Deadline  
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617
- 9 Wed., Board Meeting, 6 pm  
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee  
Contact: Louise Petering, (414) 351-3617

- 15 Tue., Internat'n'l Relations Comm. Mtg., 10am  
Conference Room, Wauwatosa Library  
Contact: Ned Maxwell, 414-476-6380
- 16 Wed., 9 & 11am, and 2pm  
New Citizen /New Voter registration  
Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Contacts: Dorothy Sherman, 414-425-9527  
Kit H. O'Meara, 414-226-9930

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Louise Petering

A "grand affair" is how one League member described our October 22nd dinner event "The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector in Working with the United Nations." Dr. Louise Kantrow, International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative to the United Nations addressed the group. Panel members Wendy Baumann, John Palmer Smith and Peter McAvoy commented in turn and heard Dr. Kantrow's responses. Audience questions followed. Guests at the dinner included staff of UW-Milwaukee's Helen Bader Inst. for Non-profit Management, over 20 UNA-USA members, and League members.

Thanks to Karen Jansen, Chair of the

#### League Lines Production

Louise Petering, Interim Editor  
Kerry Thomas, Layout  
Contact us at 1845 N. Farwell Ave.,  
Ste 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202  
[Info@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:Info@lwvmilwaukee.org)  
(414) 273-8683



Dr. Louise Kantrow, International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative spoke at the Oct 22nd League sponsored dinner event. Panelists shown include (l to r) John Palmer Smith, UW Milwaukee; Wendy Baumann, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative; and Peter McAvoy, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center.

Development Committee for advanced notices to the Milwaukee community and for successfully prompting Committee members to solicit sponsors for the event. And thanks to Committee members for several tasks. League members Mary Kae Nelson and Mary Lou Zuege welcomed Dr. Kantrow on arrival Wednesday at Mitchell Field and joined in our supper welcome at the



Leaguer Mary Kae Nelson wraps up the evening while Dr Louise Kantrow looks on.

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

*President, continued from pg. 1*

Hotel Metro. Thanks to Mel Bromberg, Helga and Denis Guequierre, Louise Petering and Carol Wichmann, Dr. Kantrow was able to glimpse our “Great Place and on a Great Lake” while being escorted to meetings at UW-Milwaukee, Alverno College, the Italian Conference Center and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce. The October 22nd event was taped by MATA media for broadcast on Public Access in Milwaukee and West Allis. Times for broadcast will appear on our website, [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org)

Plan to attend the November 18th General meeting, “Lending Legislation” at the Wauwatosa Library for an in-depth look at payday lending legislation currently pending in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate. Join in the fun on Sunday, December 6th as we celebrate our accomplishments and visit with League members and guests at the Barndt’s home. Happy Holidays!

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!**

On February 14, Valentine’s Day 2010, the LWV will be 90 years young! Celebrate your birthday by sending a contribution to LWVWI Education Fund equal to \$1.00 for every year of your age. If you would rather not divulge the exact number, we encourage you to round up or send whatever amount you can afford! LWVWI will place 50% of your gift in an account designated for our local League. Birthday donors will be acknowledged in League Lines unless you ask us not to. Be sure to write Birthday Fund on your check, mail it to LWV WI Ed Fund, 122 State St. Suite 201A, Madison, WI 53703-2500. Or search “birthday” at [www.lwvwi.org](http://www.lwvwi.org), and donate online. Birthday Fund \$\$s are tax-deductible.

## **LENDING PRACTICES PROGRAM**

Dorothy Dean, Director

Testimony of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund was presented at a Joint Public Hearing for Assembly Bill 392 before the Assembly Committee on Financial Institutions and the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at the State Capitol. Pam Rewey, past president of the League of Women Voters of Dane County spoke in support of AB 392 on behalf of the League since that bill addresses the concerns that arose in the League’s yearlong study of payday lending in Milwaukee County in 2006-2007 and the State League adopted these lending practices positions by concurrence.

The League found that interest and charges for small,

short-term loans were excessive and exploitive. For example, a video produced by national chain payday lender, “Check ‘N Go,” shows that triple-digit APR (Annual Percentage Rate) is the norm. The example used by “Check ‘N Go” was an admitted 390% APR

A 2009 research paper for the Center for Responsible Lending shows that APR does matter, allowing the consumer to weigh the various costs of different kinds of financing on an apples-to-apples basis. A payday loan charge of \$15 on a \$100 loan has a 390% APR. Bank account overdrafts have an 18% APR and credit unions, a 16% to 22% APR, both obviously less expensive and more sensible than the grossly expensive payday loan rate of 390%.

A July 2009 report by the Center for Responsible Lending, entitled *Phantom Demand: Payday lenders create their own demand with loan terms that generate rapid re-borrowing*, clearly states that the borrowers’ need for repeat payday loans (rollovers or churning) accounts for 76% of the total volume of loans. Borrowers who cannot pay the entire loan (principal, interest and fees) at the end of the first two weeks must “rollover” the loan -- take out a new one to cover the entire cost of the first loan. Inability to pay is often due to high fees charged -- now nearly \$60 for a \$350 loan -- and the short loan period of two weeks.

Payday lending has a negative effect on the state’s economy. From only two stores in the mid 1990’s, payday lenders now have an estimated 524 stores in Wisconsin (*Financial Crisis in Wisconsin and the Need for a consumer Financial Protection Agency*, Center for Responsible Lending, 2009). Wisconsin residents do not own most of these stores. An estimated (alarming) \$168.6 million leaves the State every year now, draining dollars that could circulate in Wisconsin and maintain or expand in-state businesses and jobs.

*The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund is a member of Wisconsinites for Responsible Lending*

## **ON MEMBERSHIP**

Chair Chris Weber-Sponnick

Members of the League of Women Voters are busy people – busy with family, jobs, households; educational, fitness, recreational, and hobby activities, to name a few. But as Leaguers we also **make time to be informed and to act on community issues** (domestic and global). We do our best to meet our responsibilities. One of the membership committee’s responsibilities is to grow membership. To do so, we will be developing an action plan. We are counting on you to maintain your membership – by paying your dues! So, if you haven’t sent us your check, please

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complete the form in this bulletin and send the form and check to the League at 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Save the committee phone time so we can direct our attention to increasing membership. And to those who have paid, THANK YOU!

## **WINTER SOCIAL**

Joann Barndt, Hostess & Member

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! Come, Sunday, December 6th, 3-5p.m. for festivities with League friends and guests at Joanne & Michael Barndt's home, 2950 N. Shepard, Milwaukee! We will celebrate our recent accomplishments gathered around a blazing fireplace, player piano and a table full of holiday goodies and spirits. Join the fun!

## **ACTION**

Chair Ruth Snedic

**National** - CEDAW, the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, is the most comprehensive international treaty promoting the advancement of women worldwide. Yet the US remains the only democracy in the world that has not ratified CEDAW. Members were notified to contact our US Senators urging them to support ratification of CEDAW. On behalf of our League, President Petering urged the same.

LWVUS asks local Leagues to continue to distinguish all League levels from a new group calling itself the League of American Voters.

**State** – Using lending practices positions originally developed under leadership by LWVMC member Dorothy Dean, the State League spoke at a committee hearing on October 7th. (See Dorothy's article.) To view our positions concurred with by Leagues statewide, go to [www.lwvwisconsin.org](http://www.lwvwisconsin.org).

Members were urged to contact legislators to support AB 392, the Hintz bill, that caps interest on payday loans at a 36% APR. President Petering phoned all Milwaukee area legislators urging them to do just that and keep \$168,000,000/year in Wisconsin's economy.

Members were also prompted to call their US House Representative for support of a Public Option in HR 3200. Ms. Petering phoned each of the House members offices expressing League support for a Public Option.

### **Local**

Our members were encouraged to attend a Town Hall Meeting on environmental health issues in the Milwaukee community to make their wishes known. Five LWVMC members attended. Local leaders on the panel included

Milwaukee Ald. Bob Baumann and City HealthDept. Director of Disease Control and Environmental Health and Paul Biedrzycki.

The panel also included the head of the National Inst. of Environmental Health Sciences. Sandra McClellan, PhD, UW-Milwaukee WATER INST. and member of UW-Milwaukee/MCOW Children's Environmental Health Sciences Core Center Scientists moderated the panel. League member David Petering, PhD directs the Center and Jeanne B. Hewitt, PhD, RN, UW-Milwaukee, organized the Town Hall Meeting.

## **NEW CITIZEN, NEW VOTER**

Dorothy Sherman, Coordinator

We continue our commitment to bringing to new citizens the fundamental right of a democracy, voting. On September 11th 23 new citizens from among the 63 naturalized that day were registered by League volunteers Kathy Slamka, Ruth Snedic, Sr. Paula Marie, Beverly Katter, Mary Wissing. On October 1st, 96 of 213 new citizens were registered by League volunteers Ruth Snedic, Sr. Paula Marie Jarosz, Kathy Slamka, Joann Kreimendahl, Beverly Katter and Dorothy Sherman. October 28th volunteers were Ruth Snedic, Kathy Slamka, Beverly Katter, Barbara Overstreet and Dorothy Sherman as well as Donna Fowler and Dorothy Boyer from the Ozaukee County League.

You likely notice a repeat of some of the volunteers listed above. While the League has 30 Special Registration Deputies (SRD) who are authorized by the Wisconsin government to register eligible Wisconsin residents, we can always include more of you in the process. We are also looking for SRD's for voter registration on Wed., December 16th at the Federal Courthouse. To volunteer or become an SRD, please phone Dorothy Sherman at 414-425-9527 or email her at [Dorothy-Sherman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Dorothy-Sherman@sbcglobal.net)

## **RTA HEADS INTO PIVOTAL TIME**

Kerry Thomas, Natural Resources Committee member

### **Milwaukee is facing major transit cuts and uncertain future. RTA bill action is needed.**

As transit funding crisis in Milwaukee looms ever closer, Governor Doyle continues to fine tune his Regional Transit Authority (RTA) bill that would provide a regional framework and the urgently needed dedicated funding source for local transit in SE Wisconsin. It will then be in the legislature's hands to advance the bill. The leadership and action of Milwaukee area legislators is crucial in getting an RTA bill moving forward.

### **Buses need a solution, and quickly**

Buses are the foundation of any thriving metropolitan

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region, and directly impact critical issues that we struggle with such as poverty, unemployment, job growth, business attraction, air quality, and energy use.

**And yet, Milwaukee County Transit System and other area transit systems are quickly approaching a financial meltdown.** Dramatic and continuing service cuts and fare increases are imminent if a dedicated funding source is not found. In addition, if bus systems are not adequately funded and integrated with rail, the KRM commuter rail project will not pass federal muster and will be shelved.

This is no way keep people connected to jobs or build a sustainable and equitable region!

### **Take Action on RTA: Get RTA Bill Moving Forward!**

Please take a moment now to voice your opinion to your legislators about the urgent need for dedicated funding and regional coordination for buses. We need RTA legislation would shift transit funding off of property tax and onto a 0.5% sales tax, providing the win-win of adequate transit funding and property tax relief.

Find out who your legislators are by calling the legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9472 or visiting <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

The tipping point for a 21st century transportation system has arrived: now is our chance to create the integrated regional transit network that will support a vibrant, equitable, and energy efficient economy.

For more information visit [www.transitnow.org](http://www.transitnow.org), or email [kthomas@transitnow.org](mailto:kthomas@transitnow.org)

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Ned Maxwell, Chair

On September 22, at 6:30p.m. the IR committee met at the Wauwatosa Public Library and discussed the foreign affairs component of the current national administration. Generally we were in favor its openness to discussion it has fostered with diverse elements in various parts of the world. As Winston Churchill once said, "Jaw, jaw is better than war, war." (Use British accent here)

October committee events included our regular meeting on the 20th, but at 10a.m. Our group discussed Islam. Anne Morrissey explained in detail this interesting Abrahamic religion. In addition several of our committee members attended the 9a.m. October 23rd UN flag raising ceremony at Wauwatosa City Hall, a day before UN day (Saturday) as most city employees have off on the weekend.

Due to popular demand the IR committee will meet at

the above location, conference room in the 'Tosa Public Library, on the third Tuesday of each month at 10a.m. until the Great Decisions series, usually late February through early April. All are welcome!

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Dr. Jennifer Runquist, Chair

### **Clean Rivers Clean Lake Watershed Planning Conference (CRCLWPC).**

The 6th CRCLWPC took place on August 31st, 2009 at Discovery World. MMSD and SWWT (Southeast WI Watershed Trust) planned the event, which included speakers from the Chicago EPA office, SEWRPC, US Geological Survey, MMSD, and SWWT. SWWT was formed in the spring of 2008 with the goal of improving water quality in the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds to support a healthy regional economy and improve the quality of life. Since the watersheds include 80 municipalities and many institutions and businesses, another goal is to build partnerships and enhance collaborative decision-making and joint project implementation, engaging government, business, the building industry, agriculture, environmental and other stakeholder organizations to obtain broad agreement and to recommend funds investment that will reap the greatest benefits. Partnerships facilitate cooperation among multiple jurisdictions and recognize social and political realities.

Pat Marchese, Executive Steering Council Chair, reviewed the structure of the organization. It consists of a Steering Council, a Science Committee, a Policy Committee and Watershed Action Teams. Dr. J. Runquist, NR Chair, is a member of the Science Committee, representing the League of Women Voters Milwaukee County. League member Brenda Bantz attends meetings when possible.

SWWT is supported by MMSD, EPA, DNR, SEWRPC, the US Geological Survey, and the City of Milwaukee. SWWT provides a means of garnering grants and research funds to support its goals and projects. Over 200 members of the watershed community attended, including American Rivers; the Communities of Franklin, Milwaukee, Germantown, West Allis, Brookfield, Elm Grove, Menomonee Falls; the Milwaukee Water Works, Waukesha Water Utility as well as members of schools, foundations, consulting firms, engineering firms, environmental groups, UWM Great Lakes Water Institute, WE Energies, Clean WI, Milwaukee Riverkeepers, National Park Service, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors; this list indicates the array of organizations involved in the SWWT initiative. Mayor Barrett addressed the conference with remarks of enthusiasm for SWWT and the promise that the City of Milwaukee will be a good supporter of this water quality initiative.

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Marchese stated three goals selected by the steering council: 1) reclaim 48 square miles of marginal cropland, 2) create buffers for 325 miles of river banks, and 3) reduce loads of phosphate by 15%, solids by 40%, fecal coliform bacteria by 50%, as well as other pollutants. The Joyce Foundation will provide SWWT with 1.9 million dollars to implement goals. Regulations such as the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Stormwater Runoff Rules will be used to achieve the selected goals. Municipalities will help achieve pollution and storm water runoff goals through the use of public works departments, urban forestry departments; sewerage districts, farmers, landowners, businesses, and homeowners will assist with the process of slowing down storm water entry into the MMSD system and Lake Michigan by providing holding ponds, wetlands, rain gardens and rain barrels. Flow Management is the focus of many initiatives to deal with urban polluted runoff. A new watershed concept is being developed to provide a single permit per watershed. Such a permit process would require municipalities to work together and would include smart growth planning principles and low impact planning. Such a process would manage water flow rather than work pollutant by pollutant.

Tinka Hyde, Director, Water Division-USEPA Region 5 remarked that EPA is working on the concept of watershed permits rather than continuing with the more fragmented process that is currently used for regulating pollutants. Also watershed permitting would help put the process at the local level with cooperation among municipalities, rather than depending on state and federal staff for enforcement.

Currently there is not enough national government staff for enforcement of EPA's TMDL (Threshold Maximum Daily Load) permit under the Clean Water Act. These permits are very demanding at the state level and result in a very high turnover of staff. Instead perhaps the watershed permit would be a package, utilizing MMSD and SWWT as consultants and coordinators. Their package would be approved by the state and EPA. Then municipalities would use departments (public works, forestry, transportation, planning commissions, etc.) to coordinate reductions of storm water runoff pollutants. This result: "Design Excellence In Rather than Regulate After!" This approach would be highly effective since it would provide water utilities and sewerage districts with powers they currently lack for regulating clean water practices. (Relating to storm water permits, the National Resource Council on Stormwater Management is looking at the concept of regulating by stormwater volumes and suggests a scale where the first 1" to 2" of rainfall must be prevented from going into rivers by use of various green strategies including evaporation, transpiration, controls for construction sites, and a turbidity standard. Let's use

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green strategies instead of bigger infrastructure, which is very expensive.

Tinka Hyde reviewed threats to the Great Lakes and *drinking water safety*, such as polluted rivers and sewerage overflows. EPA is pressuring municipalities to retrofit their pipes, pumps and treatment sites that may have been constructed decades ago. Full Cost Pricing and Asset Management are recommended in order that the assets are kept in good working order. EPA is offering to train employees in both maintenance and energy efficiency for water and sewer facilities. Many municipalities and utilities are keeping rates too low. The financial income does not provide enough dollars to keep water and sewer utilities working properly for the decades ahead.

**Areas of Concern (AOC)** - Judy Beck, Lake Michigan Team Manager US EPA Region 5, discussed the \$475 million in restoration funds that will come to the AOCs in Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes. This funding will provide for invasive species work, toxic area improvement, habitat and wild life protection and protection of beaches from nonpoint pollution. Public health, sustainability, legacy sediments and fish passages are other worthy projects for the Restoration Funds. A call for RFPs (research funding proposals) should come soon.

**Watershed Action Plans (WAPs)** - Another focus of the conference was the status of the WAPs for the greater Milwaukee Watersheds. The action plans will work on **1. public health, 2. habitat and 3. nutrient issues**. For example phosphate (nutrient) and bacterial loads (public health) must go down. However, in order to accomplish this, data must be provided. Data will be collected at 18 points on the Menomonee and 10 points on the KK Rivers. As we know, polluted stormwater comes in overland and through storm water pipes and off roads and parking lots. In some places bacteria counts are higher than expected. Computer simulations can predict expected levels based on landuse maps. However at some monitoring points bacteria counts are higher than those from similar land use monitoring points. Of course this may be due to contamination with sewage via some unknown route. The Menomonee Watershed Action Plan is aiming for a 54% reduction in fecal bacteria, 27% in solids and 35% in phosphate. For the KK high coliform levels were found at the headwater. For the KK Watershed Action Plan load reductions are planned as 45% for bacteria, 23% solids, 11% phosphate. Regulations such as NR151 (stormwater runoff rules) require reduction in pollutants (bacteria and chloride from road salt) and long term data monitoring. Implementation of NR151 includes street sweeping for total suspended solids, green roof projects, downspout disconnection, rain gardens and barrels, bioswales along roads, buffers on private and public lands,

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greenseams land purchases, use of sand instead of salt, changes in airport anti-icing chemicals, etc.

**Data Collection** is being done by the US Geological Survey to characterize the rivers for both habitat and **pollution goals**. The real time monitoring includes oxygen concentration, water temperature, conductance (relates to chloride concentration), water flow rates (flashiness), turbidity, phosphate, bacterial fecal coliform and E. coli. Since concentrations and water properties vary by weather and seasons, a rain gauge network is in place on the Menomonee, Milwaukee and KK Rivers. Water levels are monitored and samples are taken for future lab work. Data collected may be included in the National Water Information System or can be found at [mmsd.com/H20](http://mmsd.com/H20) information or at the USGS web page. Chris Magruder, Community and Environmental Liaison MMSD, discussed the MMSD H2O site. Obviously there is a relationship between stormwater runoff and parameters such as turbidity and water quality. Oxygen concentration varies because of photosynthesis during the day and respiration during the night. The public can follow changes of the monitored parameters on the MMSD website.

**Habitat goals** are being developed by the Habitat Subcommittee. Tom Slawski, who is Chair of the Habitat Subcommittee and received his PhD from the Great Lakes Water Institute, stated that first you must define the stream habitat as far as its physical and biological conditions. Some data exists, but big data gaps are common.

The KK - What is natural? The stream was reworked starting in 1876 with canals and railroads, so there is 125 years of structural change. While there are early maps from 1836 that show the KK with its wetlands and tributaries before the canals and railroads impacted the KK, cement channalization, dams, drops, agriculture, impervious surfaces, really increased unabated since the 1950s. These are bad for fisheries. Storm discharge is bad because water flow can become too fast that organisms are sheared from their substrates, greatly affecting water chemistry. Water quality, water chemistry, physical properties, biology, interactions, hydrology all affect fisheries. River banks have been eroded and flood plains compromised. Where would work be useful and is there anything left from the original river? In the case of the KK it is 30% concrete channel, 30% within pipes and 30% "natural." What kind of restoration and habitat design would make a difference in the subwatersheds? Perhaps the concrete can be removed from the channels but the closed pipe areas will probably have to remain. The KK currently maintains 11 fish species. The Menomonee Action Plan covers 136 sq. mile with 55 miles of rivers. There are 335,000 residents with land use 60% urban and 40% rural. The Menomonee retains 30 fish species, the Milwaukee 60. There are

still some good remnant areas, but can we turn back the clock? The fish communities are very fragmented and we need to work to remove fish passage impairments. Tom thinks that improvement in river aesthetics and fish habitat will be most important in engaging the public, even though public health and nutrient goals are also extremely important.

## **Judicial Recusal & Financing Judicial Campaigns**

Our Wisconsin League's valiant effort to get the state Supreme Court to establish jurist recusal rules based on campaign contributions and independent expenditures has failed. The court has stated that campaign contributions and independent expenditures to influence an election will not by themselves be cause for recusal. The Supreme Court has failed the citizens of this state. Are the seats on the highest bench in Wisconsin for sale to the highest bidder? Fair, impartial, equitable are traits that should describe our courts.

Another approach to restore the credibility of the Supreme Court and the court system is the public financing of judicial campaigns. Fortunately the Impartial Justice Bill is on the move as this bulletin goes to press. Assembly Bill 65 and Senate Bill 40, which the League heartily supports, would provide full public financing for qualifying candidates for the Wisconsin Supreme Court who voluntarily agree to abide by a spending limit of \$400,000.

## **Natural Resources Committee Field Trip**

Dr. Jennifer Runquist, Chair

On Friday July 10, the NR group toured the Grand Trunk Yards wetlands, which is part of the grounds managed by both Mr. Eric Reinelt, Director of the Port of Milwaukee, and by the Board of the Harbor Commission. Permission to enter was required from the Port. The gate into this part of the port is near Skipper Bud's and the southwest section of the port lands. Jennifer Runquist, Louise Petering, Denis and Helga Guequierre and Barb Eisenberg braved the degraded wetland wearing headnets, hats or lots of OFF (DEET). Although boats and barges are still using the inner harbor, much of the land appears to be inactive and may be developed in the future.

The acreage had been characterized in 1991 to be remnant wetland. SEWRPC's Don Reed, a well-known wetlands expert, did that work. The plant community area consists of predominantly disturbed vacant land and small areas of marsh. Disturbances to the plant community include filling, dumping and grading. Although the Grand Trunk site contains no regionally

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LWV - Milwaukee County Natural Resources Committee members tour the Grant Trunk Yards wetlands. Clockwise l to r: Helga Gueguierre, Denis Gueguierre, Louise Petering, Barb Eisenberg, Jennifer Rundquist.

### **A Grand Affair: The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector in Working with the United Nations**

Leaguers, members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the October 22nd dinner event: *The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector in Working with the United Nations* sponsored by LWVMC. Keynote speaker Dr. Louise Kantrow, International Chamber of Commerce Permanent Representative to the United Nations, addressed the group who was joined at the podium by panel members Wendy Baumann, John Palmer Smith and Peter McAvoy commented in turn and heard Dr. Kantrow's responses.



Panel member Peter McAvoy comments, then asks Dr. Kantrow how local communities can understand and make connections with global issues..

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significant wildlife habitat, the adjacent open waters of the inner harbor constitute a Class II waterfowl wildlife habitat. The subject vacant lands, including wetlands in their present condition, provide marginal habitat for shorebirds, marsh birds and migratory songbirds. No federal or state designated rare, threatened or endangered species were observed on the site during the field inspection in 1991. Gregory Bird, our guide, provided a list of all the plants identified on the site to us. Greg is a proponent of wetlands rehabilitation on the GT lands, perhaps as a component of the expansion of the UW-Milwaukee's School of Fresh Water Sciences and the Great Lakes WATER Institute.



League members and Oct 22nd panelist Dr. John Palmer Smith welcome Dr. Kantrow to Milwaukee as they dine at the Hotel Metro. l. to rt. Dr. Kantrow, Director Mel Bromberg, Mary Lou Zuege, Director Helga Gueguierre, Dr. Smith and President Louise Petering



October 22nd guests in discussion with panel member, Dr. Smith.

## 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.

IF YOU WISH TO DOWNLOAD THE BULLETIN ON OUR WEBSITE, CHECK HERE \_\_\_\_

Milwaukee Co. Dues [Circle One]: \$60 Individual \$75 Household (2 or more individuals) \$25 Student \$25 Limited Income  
\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$160 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Website - <http://lwvmilwaukee.org> Email Address - [Info@lwvmilwaukee.org](mailto:Info@lwvmilwaukee.org)

Involvement [Check One]: Active \_\_\_\_ or Supporting \_\_\_\_ Interests: Voter Service \_\_\_\_ Lending Practices \_\_\_\_ Government \_\_\_\_

International Relations \_\_\_\_ Environment/Natural Resources \_\_\_\_ Health Care/Social Policy \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: Circle your preferred means of contact, indicate your interests & involvement level, and mail this form with your check to the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202; OR join online at [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org). Tax-deductible contributions to the LWV Ed Fund may be directed to the address above. Thank you!



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-273-8683  
<http://lwvmilwaukee.org>

### Renewal Reminder

Check expiration date on address label. Renew now online at [www.lwvmilwaukee.org](http://www.lwvmilwaukee.org) or use the form inside.

### Save the Dates

Nov. 18, 7pm, Lending Practices Mtg  
Dec. 6, 3-5pm, Winter Social  
Jan. 16, K-12 Education Luncheon