

# La Crosse Wisconsin Voter

No. 118

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area Newsletter

July/August 2012



## THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Jane Klekamp, President, LWV of La Crosse Area

### Sheroos

The “nuns on the bus” have been my (s)heroos this week.

No matter what one’s feelings are about religion, the bravery exhibited by the nuns has been inspiring. The risks they are taking by speaking out after the Vatican appointed a bishop to correct what the church calls “serious doctrinal problems” has been impressive. The church has indicated the nuns are focusing too much of their work on poverty and economic justice while being silent on abortion and same-sex marriage, referring to them a radical feminists.

Sister Simone Campbell was quoted as saying “That I spend too much time working for people in poverty. I wear that as a badge of honor.”

In response to being called radical feminists, Sister Simone responded with: “Oh my heavens. I actually have to laugh. We are strong women. We’re educated women. We ask questions. We engage in dialogue. That’s all we do. We stay faithful to the gospel and trying to live it.”

I wonder if they would be willing to be honorary members of the League?

I hope you are having a wonderful summer, asking questions, and engaging in dialogue.

### League Dues are Due and Tax Deductible!

Our La Crosse League dues come due July 1. July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of our fiscal year, a change that took place a few years ago and means that we have to get in the habit of paying dues in July.

Please use the attached envelope and pay as soon as you can. That helps so we don’t have to remind folks.

We set our dues at \$60 per individual. Due to the concern over tight budgets, the local League does not ask for any additional dues and ALL of the dues go to State and National League. A family membership adds an additional household member and costs \$90. New members are invited to join the league at the first year rate of \$30.

**A new reality** is that the Wisconsin League asked for and eventually received **501 (c) 3** status late last year. Your dues are now tax deductible up to \$75.

Because our dues only cover our per-member payments to state and to national, we have no wriggle room at the local level. We WELCOME extra money, and that too, is tax deductible. If you have questions about this, please go to the LaCrosse League website. We do relatively little lobbying, and never for candidates. Please consider an additional donation maybe in recognition of something nice in your life.. like a birthday...

Dues and donations may be mailed to Dee Peacock, LWV Treasurer, at 2102 South 29<sup>th</sup> Street, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Like us on Facebook...



...for up to date information on  
new events, changes of venue,  
and relevant news items!

## 2012-2013 Program Planning

The LWV Program Committee will be meeting to plan program topics and speakers for the 2012-2013 year. If you have suggestions of program topics and/or speakers, please send them to Sheila Garrity at [Smg1514@centurytel.net](mailto:Smg1514@centurytel.net).

## New Board Members Seated

The La Crosse League board welcomed two new members to the board. **Thank you to Betty Kruck for her years of service on the board and her recent work on the Program Committee.** The new board members introduce themselves below:



**Ellen Frantz:** I have been a League member for many decades now and had many wonderful women as role models as I “grew up” with the league. It has always been an important addition to my professional life as an attorney. I had been a board

member and president in the past and now find I have the time to get more involved. League is the best way I know of to stay “in the know” about important issues and to help make democracy work.



**Sheila Garrity:** I’ve lived in the La Crosse area since the later 1970’s and currently live in La Crescent, MN. I am the mother of three adult children and one fabulous granddaughter. For many years (20!) I have served as the executive director for the

La Crosse Community Foundation which is a non-profit, charitable foundation that issues grants and scholarships that improve the quality of life in La Crosse and assist area students as they pursue technical and college studies. I’ve spent eight years on the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors, serving on the Board of Public Health and the Criminal Justice Management Council. Currently I’m a member of the La Crosse Downtown Rotary. I have a master’s degree in Servant Leadership from

Viterbo, am an Affiliate of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration., and serve on several community boards and advisory groups.

## New League Member



**Marilyn "Minx" Hanson** and her husband, John, retired to a log cabin on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi after some 30 years in Florida or the Bahamas. As a school library media specialist in Palm Beach County, she

participated in library remodeling and new construction and saw the need for economical, professional, decorative signage and informational graphics. Retirement freed the time to establish a small web business, BiblioBanners.com, with a portfolio of digital images and display products that she has printed professionally to a library's specifications. Her first degree was a BA from the University of Minnesota in broadcast journalism (back in the days when they rolled credits manually on huge drums). A masters in educational media brought her to UWL in the early 1980s for the two-year program. It was in the school television studios in Florida that she developed an expertise in video production and live broadcasting in the elementary school.

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## **The National League of Women Voters- Privatization Study & Position**

The Privatization of government assets, services and functions has been occurring for decades at all levels of government. The consequences of “privatizing” a government service or function, in particular, may enhance the function or service. Alternatively, it may reduce or alter functions and services. Government revenues may be reduced or lost and jobs may be cut. In some instances, this may have a detrimental effect on the “common good” or public well-being. The national league studied Privatization over the past year and then sent consensus questions to the local league to “weigh in” their opinion regarding policies and parameters that should be considered when any governmental entity is planning to undertake some type of privatization process.

**The following members met Thursday, March 29, 2012 to discuss and decide collectively the group’s feelings about the issues of Privatization.** Ellen Frantz led the discussion with members, Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Peg Perri, Judy Shure, Marlene Sund, Nancy Hill, Glen Jenkins, Craig Brooks, Jane Klekamp, and Sheila Hilke. Lee Rodman provided her personal opinion via written responses.

In our previous newsletter our local league’s responses to the Privatization Consensus Questions was published for the general membership. The board endorsed the results. Our response was sent on to the National league by early May. Our local leagues opinion and other leagues throughout the US determined the following position taken by the National League in regard to Privatization:

### **National League Privatization Position**

**Background:** The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues across the country that participated in the Privatization Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this important issue. Committee Chair Janis McMillen (KS) and her Committee: Diane Dilanni (TN), Carole Garrison (VA), Ann Henkener (OH), Cathy Lazarus (CA), Nora Leech (WA), Muriel Strand (CA) and Ted Volskay (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

**Position:** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)

*(National Privatization Position, continued on Page 4)*

### **National Privatization Position, Continued from Page 3**

- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.



The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

*~Statement of Position as Announced by National Board, June 20, 2012*



## **Local League of Women Voters Positions**

### **Education:**

- SUPPORT of the La Crosse Area School Districts efforts to provide educational facilities and opportunities.

### **Library Services**

- SUPPORT the continued membership in and adequate funding of the 'Winding Rivers Library System by La Crosse County and the City of La Crosse.
- SUPPORT the library services of Books by Mail and Film by Mail for out-county and city residents.
- SUPPORT the current level of services provided the city and county branch libraries.
- SUPPORT the increased funding of the County Library System to provide for expansion of services.

### **Government Affairs**

- SUPPORT efforts of government to provide just and humane programs of social services to the community.
- SUPPORT expansion of the Human Services Board.
- SUPPORT the opportunity to receive family planning information.
- SUPPORT of the establishment of an elected County Executive.
- SUPPORT intergovernmental cooperation

### **Zoning**

- SUPPORT of the zoning ordinance of the City of La Crosse as outlined in the City Master Plan with emphasis on the inclusion of a flood plain and open space district.

*(Local Positions, Continued on page 5)*

## **Local Positions, Continued from Page 4**

### **Parks and Recreation**

- SUPPORT of the provision of adequate park facilities and recreational programs for the residents of La Crosse County as a function of government
- SUPPORT planning for these facilities as a combined effort of citizens and the Board of Parks Commissioners.
- SUPPORT the funding of city supported facilities and programs by alternative methods which recognize the use by non-residents of the city.
- SUPPORT the provision of playground space and facilities uniformly throughout the city of La Crosse, as much as is geographically possible.
- SUPPORT the concept that it is the responsibility of the Parks Board of Supervisors to provide better communication on facilities and programs not only for newcomers to the community but also to keep established citizens aware of programs.

### **Reapportionment**

- SUPPORT a position on reapportionment that encourages municipalities of La Crosse County to coordinate and cooperate with one another and the County to develop reapportionment and redistricting plans.

### **Human Resources**

- SUPPORT of the La Crosse City Housing code prohibiting cooking facilities in rooming units within rooming houses, i.e. a rooming unit without a private bathroom.
- SUPPORT of enforcement of compliance with La Crosse City Housing and Building Codes by not permitting an owner to rent a vacated unit until compliance is made.

## **Want to know more about National, State, or Local League Positions or get involved?**

### **Find the League on Facebook:**

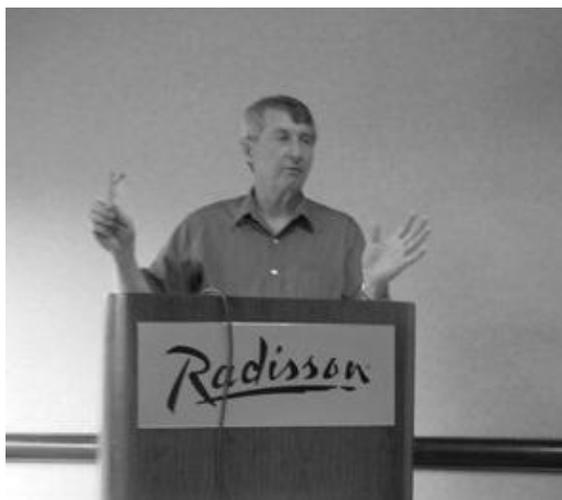
- National: search *League of Women Voters of the U.S.*
- State: search *League of Women Voters of Wisconsin*
- Local: search *League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area.*

### **Find the League on the web:**

- National: <http://www.lwv.org/>
- State: <http://www.lwvwi.org/>
- Local: <http://lwvlacrosse.org/>



## ***May/June with the La Crosse League of Women Voters***



***Who owns the Water: March Schultz speaks at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Learn.***



***Chancellor Gasim Badri from Sudan and Dr. Mohammed Elhindi from UWL speak to the LWV, the AAUW, and other community members on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Waterfront. Dr. Badri is the Chancellor of the Ahfad University for Women in the Sudan. Ahfad University is a private, non-sectarian university for women founded in 1966 by Professor Yusuf Bedri with 23 students in one department, Family Sciences. The university now has over 5,000 students and offers a five-year Bachelor's Degree in six undergraduate schools and a Master's Degree in two areas. The goal of AUW is to prepare women to assume informed leadership roles in their families, communities and the nation. AUW works to achieve this goal by offering high quality instruction with emphasis on strengthening women's roles in national and rural development and achieving equity for women in Sudanese society.***



## Contact Info for National Issues

League of Women Voters <http://www.lwv.org/>

Library of Congress site <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Senate <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov>  
<http://kohl.senate.gov/>

House of Representatives  
<http://www.kind.house.gov/index.html>

Supreme Court <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

**State Senate:**

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senhome.htm>

- District 31 Senator Kathleen Vinehout, 608-266-8546 or 877-763-6636,  
[Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 32 Senator Jennifer Shilling, 608-266-5490 or 800-385-3385;  
[Sen.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**State Assembly:**

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/asmhome.htm>

- District 91 Rep. Chris Danou, 608-266-7015 or 888-534-0091, [Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Danou@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 92 Rep. Mark Radcliffe, 608-266-7461 or 888-534-0092,  
[Rep.Radcliffe@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Radcliffe@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 94: Rep. Steve Doyle, 608-266-0631 or 888-534-0094, [Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov)
- District 95: Rep. Jill Billings, 608-266-5780 or 888-534-0095, [Rep.Billings@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Billings@legis.wi.gov)
- District 96: Rep. Lee Nerrison, 608-266-3534 or 888-534-0096,  
[Rep.Nerrison@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Nerrison@legis.wisconsin.gov)

## Contact Info for State Issues

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin  
<http://www.lwvwi.org/>

Governor's Office <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/>

Government Accountability Board  
<http://www.gab.wi.gov>

Court System <http://www.wicourts.gov/>

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## Local Contact Information

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area  
<http://www.lwvlacrosse.org/>

**La Crosse County:**

Staff <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/directory.htm>

County Board <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/CoDirctry/2SupervDist.pdf>

**City of La Crosse**

Staff

<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?nid=94>

Council

<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.aspx?NID=338>

For neighboring counties, check websites [[Buffalo](#), [Crawford](#), [Eau Claire](#), [Jackson](#), [Monroe](#), [Pepin](#), [Pierce](#), [Trempeleau](#), [Vernon](#) Counties]

**2011-2012 League of Women Voters of La Crosse Area Board:**

Jane Klekamp, President

[president@lwvlacrosse.org](mailto:president@lwvlacrosse.org)

Dee Peacock, Treasurer

Sandy Sechrest, Secretary

Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins, Membership Chair

[membership@lwvlacrosse.org](mailto:membership@lwvlacrosse.org)

Sheila Garrity, Program Chair

Ellen Frantz

Nancy Hill

Maureen Kinney

Peg Perri

Carla Townsend

Newsletter: [news@lwvlacrosse.org](mailto:news@lwvlacrosse.org)

*Note that the website addresses are linked in the electronic version of this document – available on our website*

## League of Women Voters La Crosse Area



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