

SPOTLIGHT: *Carol Toussaint*

Q: What is your professional or volunteer background?

A: My UW degree is in Journalism which provided both professional and volunteer opportunities. Every organization I was associated with needed a person with Public Relations skills. None ever asked me to be treasurer! The League of Women Voters presented opportunities to expand my interest in government. I served on LWV boards at the local, state, and national level. It helped qualify me for leadership positions and appointments to boards and commissions at the state level including serving as Secretary of a Cabinet level agency. Probably the most exciting work with the LWVUS was planning campaigns for the Equal Rights Amendment and the Presidential Forums (1976) which laid the groundwork for the Debates to follow. The four years (1980-84) I spent as a consultant to the Madison Community Foundation as it established a secure role in the community is likely among my most valuable professional work.

Q: What do you like to do when you're not volunteering for Capitol Lakes?

A. The lecture business I operated for 30 years was probably the most satisfying because of the women who participated in it. It combined professional skills. It strengthened my interest in current affairs plus built strong personal relationships. Staying in touch with friends and family is a high priority. I used to play in a Hand Bell Choir and an African Drum ensemble at church. (No one ever asks me to join the choir!) Right now I enjoy working with Tim Conroy and Don Snyder to bring programs and speakers to a weekly Zoom session of the downtown Rotary Club to the Capitol Lakes audience.