

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2009

Members Present: Kathy Johnson (President), Carol Dutton, Helen LeRoy, Pat Levin, Gloria Meyer, Earnestine Moss, Brook Soltvedt, Priscilla Thain, Tom Vandervest, Fred Wade

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

The August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Levin presented: 1) a Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2009 and 2) preliminary report of Income and Expenses for the period July through August 2009. The reports will be filed for review. Although the membership renewals are coming in slowly, payment to both US and State leagues are up to date. Pat reported that the web site payment was also up to date. There was some discussion concerning timing for requesting/collecting payment of annual dues. One suggestion was to accept member payments at the annual meeting in May, clarifying that the payment would be for the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Committee Reports:

a. Bulletin/Web Site – Brook Soltvedt asked for October Bulletin materials by Thursday, September 10. Renewed members have been sent access information for the new web site at [http:// www.lwvdanecounty.org](http://www.lwvdanecounty.org). The previous web site had still been coming up on Google, but the previous site forwards contacts to the new site. Brook will continue to appreciate receiving feedback concerning the site plus items for addition to it, including calendar events.

b. Fundraising – Fred Wade reported that only one person had volunteered in response to a call for member participants for a potential fundraising committee. He suggested possibly sending out letters to selected community members. Another possible source for contributions might be former League members, of which there are 126. A fundraising strategy would be to develop a target data base and identify potential donors. Donors could be named in the Bulletin and on the web site. Donors to Candidates Answers could be acknowledged there. The publication has a distribution reach of 62,000 people.

c. Membership – Gloria Meyer met with Teague Harvey recently. They discussed ways to involve new members, starting with the Units. By sending names of new members to Unit leaders, the leaders could personally invite new members to meetings and look into establishing mentoring relationships for them. There have been 40 new members over the last few years. Sara reported that a group from Lake Mills/Jefferson County is looking for advice in establishing a League there. Also, LWVDC will have a booth at the upcoming Bob Fest on September 12 and will have brochures available there.

Arrangements for refreshments for the September 9 general meeting were reviewed.

d. Community Outreach – Earnestine Moss informed us of the success of the recent community event at Elver Park. Families United and others came together to enjoy basketball, fun activities, a speaker, and the message that a lot can be done by joining together to become a larger part of the community to make progress and to fight violence.

e. Program – Carol Dutton reviewed plans for introducing committee chairs, who will give a 1-2 minute presentation following Kathleen Falk's presentation at the September general meeting.

The Land Use Committee is planning the October general meeting on ***Perspectives on a Dane County Regional Transit System***. The study materials are now on hand and will be available shortly on the web site and in the October Bulletin.

Regarding future topics, the January Lively Issues luncheon concerning election or merit selection of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices will include Tom Basting, former Wisconsin State Bar President in favor of pro merit selection and Justice Shirley Abrahamson who supports judicial election. Fred Wade is involved in the planning.

Carol suggested redistricting, campaign finance, picture IDs, or other voter related aspects might be added to the March topic on early voting.

f. Publicity – Gloria Meyer expressed concern that President Obama's speech scheduled for September 9 might impact attendance at the League's September general meeting. To facilitate audience participation, portable microphones will be available if possible. Gloria has sent announcements of the meeting to other organizations.

g. Voter's Service – Priscilla Thain described her recent letter to the Opinion Page of the Wisconsin State Journal on behalf of the League on health care. Mention was made of TV reporter Carleen Wild's series on negative experiences of individuals related to health care.

Kathy Johnson discussed starting preparations for production of the next **Candidates' Answers** publication. County Board elections will be coming up and then the race for Governor in the fall of 2010. Related discussion centered on whether Laura Chern plans to continue her role with **Candidates' Answers**, how to condense the repetitive general information involved, encouraging contributions to publication production, inclusion of photos, and ensuring that deadlines for information be made emphatically clear to potential participants.

President's Remarks – Kathy Johnson further discussed arrangements for the September general meeting to take place the following evening. She will bring copies of Kathleen Falk's biographical information for introduction purposes. She will also bring a packet for the Lake Mills group planning to form their own League. There will be a clipboard for signups and Tom Vandervest will sit at the table where an attendance sheet, name labels, and pins are available.

Other Business - Sara has information in the office about an upcoming Shorewood Hills meeting concerning the new Marshall Court district in the office neighborhood. The State League will participate in an Ethics Workshop and judicial recusal seminar in Milwaukee on September 16. Also from the State League calendar: October 10 - Issues briefing in Madison, and June 18-19, 2010 - State meeting in LaCrosse

New Business –Assisting Sara with antiviral software updating for the office's computers through Madison Computer Works was discussed, as was updating the answering machine's message when appropriate to let callers know in a timely manner when their messages might receive a response.

Gail Bliss has agreed to chair the International Relations Committee's 8 -week **Great Decisions 2010** series beginning in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen LeRoy, Secretary