

DRAFT

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2010.

Members Present: Earnestine Moss, Lisa Bu, Brook Soltvedt, Gail Bliss, Kathy Johnson

President Moss called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Kathy Johnson moved to approve the minutes with minor corrections; Soltvedt seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Johnson gave the checkbook balance as of Aug. 30 as \$17,686.90. Most of this is from membership renewals. The per member payments for the first quarter have been made to the State League, but the National League payments have yet to be made.

The State League has gotten official approval of its 501(c)3 status. They need our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for our local League to gain 501(c)3 status. With this status we can have our own Education Fund and will also qualify to be a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin.

Bulletin/Website: The September *Bulletin* went out via email some time ago. It went out in postal mail on 9/3. *Candidates' Answers* is posted, as is info about the September Forum and the State League Issues Briefing. Soltvedt will draft the October *Bulletin* this week, but is going to be out of the country in mid-September. Sara Markham has graciously volunteered to complete it.

Lisa Bu will serve as backup Webmaster in Soltvedt's absence. She will inactivate the primary information and the news item about the September 15th forum when the events have passed.

Fundraising: Gail Bliss has drafted an application for assistance with fundraising from UW student members through the UW Chapter of Fundraising Professionals. The deadline is Friday. We are seeking help in reinvigorating corporate and community support for the League, and especially *Candidates' Answers*.

Bliss continues to actively seek sources of underwriting for *Candidates' Answers*, in hopes of being able to restore the print edition for primary elections, and Spanish editions. Many local corporations such as MG&E, CUNA, American Family, and others have foundations that might offer support. American Family's grant program has a large employee component. Successful grant applications usually are sponsored by an employee. Bliss needs help in identifying members employed by such organizations.

Our membership “scholarships” should be advertised more widely in community newspapers such as *Umoja*, *La Comunidad*, and *The Madison Times*, and through student publications.

Outreach: Moss reported that the Urban League of Greater Madison has an effort underway to increase diversity on City of Madison boards. She also attended the monthly meeting of Communities United.

Program: Doug and Kathy Johnson will be out of town for the September forum, so Doug will be unable to record it for WYOU. Diane Martin has agreed to do the videorecording in his absence. Johnson reminded the group that someone with the Membership Committee needs to stop at the Office to get the member name badges, membership envelopes, and sign-in sheets to take to the meeting. Since Speckmann was not in attendance and does not drive, Bliss agreed to pick up the materials. The Downtown unit will be bringing refreshments, but needs some help.

With the departure of Carol Dutton, the League needs a new Program Director. The Nominating Committee needs to find someone, but the Committee needs two Board members, to be appointed by the President.

Public Relations: Bu has sent out a press release about the Sept 15 meeting to media organizations. *The Capital Times* will publish it as a letter to the editor closer to the date. She distributed the flyer to the Central Library for distribution to the branches. She invited many environmental organizations to attend.

Voters’ Service: Priscilla Thain was absent. She reported by email that Helen Horn will moderate a candidate forum for the Assembly District 77 Seat on Thursday September 9, at 7:30 PM in the Shorewood Village Hall, 810 Shorewood Blvd. LWVDC has once again been asked to be a co-sponsor of the Global Affairs Forums, currently proposed for October 10 for US Senate and for October 17 for the 2nd Congressional District, in Grainger Hall on the UW campus. The Board agreed by consensus to co-sponsor these forums (as we have for several years). Volunteers will be needed to staff a League information / membership table.

Soltvedt reported that Gloria Meyer is organizing a voter registration effort at the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry prior to the November election.

President’s Report: New office space: Speckmann and Bliss spent time with a Realtor looking for a suitable replacement. All the properties they viewed had less space, less-central locations, and/or were considerably more expensive than the current space. Given that the PREST building has no imminent sale in the works, that Shorewood has a history of slow action on zoning decisions, and that our lease requires that we be given 6 months’ notice, the Board agreed by consensus to stop actively looking for a new location. If a good option comes along, it will be considered. It is unlikely that a better opportunity will be found than we have in our current location, so we will wait until we are forced to move.

RTA communication from Phil and Libby Lewis: While the letter was informative, the Board questioned why it was emailed to members without any information as to the purpose or the intended audience. Was it meant for League files? As information for members? Should it have been posted to the Environment and Land Use Committee's web page? Soltvedt will follow up with the Lewises as to their intention, and with Sara Markham to remind her of the Communication policy.

Outreach: Moss plans to attend the Wisconsin Association of School Councils (WASC) Fall Leadership Institute, October 17-18 in the Dells, but is looking for a backup in case she is unable to attend. There were no volunteers at the meeting.

Old Business: Connie Threinen requested meeting space for CRANES on September 24 (in the evening). According to Board policy for the use of meeting space in the office, CRANES can meet up to three times a year in the office, as long as no more than 12 people attend. The room cannot accommodate more people. Threinen also asked for membership representation on the CRANES Board. Discussion was tabled until Board members have a chance to read the Bylaws and Mission Statement of CRANES before deciding whether LWVDC should engage in this sort of arrangement with the organization. President Moss has some information from Threinen about CRANES and will distribute it at the next LWVDC Board meeting for discussion

New Business: Sara Markham has requested guidance from the Board about the disposition of items she has inventoried. These include videotapes and audiocassettes of League programs and some rusting metal folding chairs not currently in use. Soltvedt agreed to review the list of program recordings and make a recommendation to the Board. Voter Service will be consulted about the chairs.

Moss reported that the Urban League of Greater Madison has proposed the creation of single-sex charter schools aimed at increasing achievement, particularly for minority and low-income students. She is forwarding information she has to the Education Committee.

At 8:07 PM Soltvedt moved to adjourn, and Lisa Bu seconded.

The next meeting of the Board is October 11. Lisa Bu and Brook Soltvedt both expect to be out of town and unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Brook Soltvedt, acting in the absence of Secretary Barbara Mortensen.