

**League of Women Voters of Dane County
Board Meeting
February 9, 2009**

Minutes

Members Present: Pam Rewey (President), Janet Kane, Pat Levin, Gloria Meyer, Brook Soltvedt, Fred Wade

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

The January minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report. Levin provided a monthly report as well as a draft for next year's budget. As of February 3, 2009, the running balance for the Education Fund is \$3,024.27. The investment report for the period from July 1 through December 31, 2008 shows that memorial fund investments have dropped by 31% over the six months, with an end-of-year value of \$95,262.17. As of January 31, 2009, the League has \$163,056.09 in Assets and Equity.

Levin also summarized membership counts over the last 6 years. In January, 2005 we had 275 members, including 9 Honorary (non-dues-paying) members. This year, January 2009, we had 239 members, including 24 Honorary. We discussed possible strategies to increase membership

The preliminary budget proposal for the 2009 fiscal year has expected income of \$39,600 and expected expenses of \$47,500 – a shortfall of \$7,900. The projected shortfall for the current fiscal year is \$12,003. The board explored areas for budget adjustments including the Spanish edition of Candidate's Answers, printing and postage, office equipment, and dues.

Levin proposed making a brochure to send to area businesses to ask for their support. Her daughter is skilled in design and layout and may be able to help us.

President Rewey led a discussion about the March 10 deadline for the annual report. The board decided to distribute the annual report at the May meeting rather than mailing it out prior to the meeting. Members who would like a copy of the report but do not attend the meeting can request a copy from the office.

We need to find someone who can make arrangements for the annual meeting. Rose Sime has made the plans in prior years. Pam will talk to her about this spring's meeting.

The board discussed accessibility at the Arboretum. The ramp is quite long and challenging for those with non-motorized wheelchairs and walkers. In addition, handicapped parking is a considerable distance from the entrance, and the pavement can be snowy or icy. The board recommends that these concerns are addressed in selecting venues for future meetings.

Candidates' Answers is a major League activity. Meyer moved to ask the committee to review the content and procedures of the publication and to make recommendations for improvements.

The Nominating Committee is meeting on Wednesday. Rewey is unable to attend the March board meeting. Meyer volunteered to chair the meeting.

Bulletin. Soltvedt will work on the next Bulletin this weekend. She asked board members to submit their articles by Thursday or Friday.

Soltvedt convened an ad hoc committee to explore hosting and website design since DaneNet will discontinue services in June. The committee received proposals from two groups and recommended contracting with ThayerNet. The board approved spending up to \$2,000.00 for website services from ThayerNet including hosting/domain fees, basic site setup, and specific features to be negotiated.

Fundraising. The February fundraising letter was sent. In past years it brought in around \$3,000. The Brat Fest sign-up is coming soon. Wade will write an article for the Bulletin and describe the process for signing up.

Wade led a discussion about community fundraising. He revised the Valentine letter to use to in a campaign targeted to area businesses. Meyer had some suggestions for shortening the letter and will revise Wade's draft. The board discussed details of a fundraising campaign – materials, date(s) for mailing(s), names of business contacts, follow-up with calls or visits.

Wade reported that the state League's 501(c)3 status will not be settled soon. At the present time, tax deductible contributions can be made through the League of Women Voters US Education Fund. Wade will submit a grant request to the Evjue Foundation, explaining that funds to the national organization can be specified for local League use.

Wade also recommended a dues increase. Board members will check on whether dues increases are planned for state or national.

Public Relations. After the Lively Issues luncheon, Meyer sent a photo and article about the Voter Service Award to MATC. The Feb. 4th meeting was publicized, and the turnout was good. She is working with the Education Committee to publicize the K4 program in March. Those planning the program are also considering an OpEd article. Meyer noted that there have been recent articles about 4 year old kindergarten in local newspapers.

The board also brainstormed places for recruiting new members and the need for a brochure for information and outreach. We have brochures about League membership, but we could use some that ask for donations to support the League's activities.

Program. Carol Kiemel will pick up materials for the March 4th general meeting. Study materials for the April meeting are due in early March.

Membership. Report deferred until the next meeting.

Voter Services. Report deferred until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

The next meeting is Monday, March 9th, 6 – 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Kane, Secretary