

**League of Women Voters of Dane County
Board Meeting
July 21, 2008**

Minutes

Members Present: Pam Rewey (President), Teague Harvey, Janet Kane, Pat Levin, Helen LeRoy, Gloria Meyer, Donna Norton, Priscilla Thain, Fred Wade

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Rewey.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 2nd joint board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Levin presented a preliminary report of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. Income for the year was \$30,037.37 while expenses totaled \$50,153.17 for a budget shortfall of \$26,986.56. Most of this negative balance was due to capital gains losses of \$20,097.68. During the year, efforts were made to hold down expenses, so that expenditures were about \$5,000 under what was budgeted. Levin explained that in the short term, funding is in place for our operations, but we will need to do targeted fundraising for Candidates Answers in future years.

Levin also reported on negotiations with La Comunidad about costs for the Spanish language version of Candidates Answers from two years ago. There was a misunderstanding about the cost, and League members are working on a resolution of the problem. In addition, the cost for this year's publication was billed at \$600 rather than \$500. Norton moved and Wade seconded that the League pay the additional \$100 requested. Levin added an amendment that in future negotiations the billing be based on a rate per page. Wade added an amendment that future agreements for fees must be brought to the board for approval. Norton accepted each amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

President Rewey asked for comments on the board packets that were distributed at the last board meeting. Harvey asked about the criteria for selecting issues for study. National selects some issues and others are at the discretion of the state and local units. The LWVUS adopted a study for this year entitled: "The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President."

Meyer asked for clarification of the public relations portfolio. Discussion clarified that the fundraising function is a separate portfolio. Food arrangements for the Open House and for the Lively Issues meetings need to be made, and plans for a display of membership materials and other information. These are not publicity functions. Veteran board members explained that there are supplies in the storage room. Sara has the key.

Publicity for the upcoming open house is a top priority. The board discussed target audiences for the open house (Sept. 3) study issue – Dane County Bar, Madison Institute, Wisconsin State Journal, law students, political science departments, and the LaFollette Institute. Downtown residents may also be interested. The #1 audience is our own members.

This year one focus will be voter services in conjunction with the presidential election.

The Board selected meeting topics for the year:

September – Governor’s partial veto power
October – Great Lakes
November – Health Care
December – no meeting
January – Predatory lending
February – National study on the popular vote compact
March – Air quality
April – Four year old kindergarten

President-elect Norton lead a discussion on program planning for the first general meeting and identified materials needed for the packet.

Bulletin. The timeline for the bulletin was discussed. Initial plans were to have articles ready by August 10, but they may be needed sooner to get the issue out before the September 3rd meeting. Rewey will check with Soltvedt about the deadline.

Fundraising. Wade attended a program at Edgewood College and explored potential fundraising opportunities. He also asked Sara to pull together past fundraising activities to review what has been done. Levin suggested sponsoring production of a play about Joshua Glover. The play was commissioned by the Supreme Court. Corporate sponsorship may make it possible to bring the play to area schools.

Membership. Harvey reviewed membership efforts from past years and plans to contact people who have not renewed for this year. The board discussed displays for the September 3rd open house and will encourage committees to provide information about their activities. The board members traditionally provide refreshments for the open house.

Program. The program calendar is listed above. LeRoy asked for suggestions of speakers for topics of the year. Campaign ethics is another important topic, continuing work that was started in 2003. LeRoy also asked about the process for assembling the study packets for each general program. This is usually done by the committee sponsoring the program.

Public Relations. Meyer asked about funds for flyers and other publicity materials. Levin explained that most printing is done in house. The budget includes a line item for committees as well as for publications. Board approval is needed for expenditures.

Voter Service. Thain reported that the League has many voter registration sites, with coordinators for each location:

Capitol Square Farmer’s Market – Myrna McNatt
West Side Farmer’s Market – Priscilla Thain
St. Vincent Food Pantry – Carol Kiemel
Monona Farmer’s Market – Mary Bean

In addition, several new sites are being set up:

Northside Farmer's Market (Sunday) – Dorothy Wheeler

South Market Farmer's Market (Thursdays) – request from South Madison librarian

The League was invited to register voters at the Johnny Winston Jr. Street ball and Block Party. The fee for a table is \$40. The board decided that we would not participate this year. The League was also invited to register voters at the State Historical Society on September 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in conjunction with a lecture by Professor Cannon. There is not cost for this event. Thain agreed to be part of the event. Finally the YWCA has requested voter registration services. Thain is talking with them to arrange a time.

In summarizing these activities, Thain noted that we are getting stretched thin on members to register voters. In addition, we have only two sets of table and chairs, one at the office and one at Thain's home near the Westside market. The furniture is heavy and difficult to transport. Thain recommended that any additional efforts be at low voter turnout locations, individual events, or indoor locations where tables are available. The board also discussed our signs, which could use some upgrading. Meyer volunteered to explore possible options.

A Candidate Forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 14 at 6:30 pm in the Town of Windsor for the 7 candidates for Assembly District 47, currently held by Eugene Hahn who is not running again. Rewey is able to be the moderator.

The state League has proposed a poll worker recruitment project. Local Leagues will work with election officials to recruit a wider variety of poll workers. Thain will ask Sara to publicize this project and help recruit a coordinator.

There is a question about the procedure for registering naturalized citizens. A member has attended the naturalization ceremony and was told that individuals could not register until after the ceremony. We will check on the details with Steve Pickett at the Government Accountability Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting is August 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Kane, Secretary