

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2009

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

The July minutes were approved with some modification in a motion by Dutton and seconded by Wade.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Levin presented several interim financial reports, stating the final adjustments for FY 2008-2009 would be presented at the next Board meeting in September. She summarized the arrangements in terms of member dues payments, portions of which go to both the US and State Leagues. The Dane County League nets approximately \$7/member from member dues. Levin reminded us that our League operates much differently than others, more like a State unit with a complex budget, an office, and related operational and overhead expenses.

The annual investment balance a year ago was \$154,000, compared to \$103,000 as of June 30, 2009, the loss reflecting the current state of the economy. Levin mentioned the difficulty in maintaining up-to-date investment balance information due to receiving individual reports on an irregular basis. She suggested the Finance Committee take a look at current procedures.

Committee Reports:

a. Bulletin/Web Site – Brook Soltvedt pointed out that the office deadline for receipt of September Bulletin materials is Thursday, August 20.

Soltvedt thanked those who had reviewed and/or offered suggestions for the new web site. When it is approved, she will send access information to paid members and pay the developer his balance due. Items such as calendar events and news should be submitted to Brook for addition to the web site. Several questions were raised concerning specifics, such as whether to omit dates from issue positions when position information is made available to the general public and the amount of contact information concerning individual members that should be made available publicly. Soltvedt transferred the position dates from the

previous web site. Many are very general and should be reviewed periodically. The time involved to do so is a consideration. Following review, a statement could be added such as "Reviewed and readopted." Concerning member information, it already appears in the Bulletin, which is found at libraries and the Wisconsin Historical Society. One suggestion was that only committee chair's names appear, whereby interested individuals could call the League office for more information. Earnestine Moss pointed out the importance of visibility for the League. Brook reminded the members that Sara must be informed of any related decisions. A motion was made and passed to approve the web site and pay the developer.

b. Voter's Service – Priscilla Thain. Since there is no election this fall, voter's service activity has been somewhat reduced lately. Thain expressed interest in the League's position on health care reform and the public option. She has written an item for the September Bulletin quoting the US League President and the August 12 New York Times "primer on health care." In view of the misinformation currently being spread throughout the country, the importance of consulting fact check web sites was emphasized.

Tom Vandervest informed Board members of the Mad as Hell Doctors Tour from the state of Oregon that plans to visit Madison on September 17 in support of health care reform.

c. Community Outreach – Earnestine Moss invited members to attend an upcoming event on August 29 at Elver Park, which will include a march and fun activities to focus on improved community relations in southwest Madison.

Moss reported on her recent participation and attendance at the NAACP convention in New York City and thanked the League for its support. She found the experience to be extremely positive.

d. Fundraising – Fred Wade reported the addition of \$582 since last month, bringing the total up to \$18,382. He plans to check with Sara re: volunteers and will present a fundraising proposal in September.

e. Membership – Teague Harvey informed us that 60% of the 253 members have renewed so far, with 5 new members including 3 recruited nationally. The payment deadline for membership directory inclusion is November 13. Ten scholarships are available, and Carol Kiemel has scholarship information, as well as Harvey. The League should consider contacting individuals profiled or mentioned in local business women magazines as potential members. Suggestions for publicizing the September general meeting to attract new members, included contacting the UW League, NAACP of Madison, Centro

Hispano, Dane United, CUB, College Democrats and Republicans, for example. Kathy Johnson has invited the AAUW this year.

Discussion followed concerning arrangements for the September 9, general meeting featuring Kathleen Falk as the speaker and whether to socialize prior to or after Falk's presentation. Falk will speak first and refreshments will be available.

Harvey volunteered to bring punch, Kathy Johnson will bring League informational pamphlets from the office, and each Board member will bring a food/refreshment item. Earnestine Moss will be a greeter and name tags for both members and visitors will be available

f.Publicity – Gloria Meyer briefly described the July 25 rally in support of health care reform at the State Capitol. The event was not covered by the *Wisconsin State Journal*. Meyer has spoken with television reporter Carleen Wild and will talk to David Wahlberg of the *Wisconsin State Journal* concerning local coverage of this issue.

Meyer plans to review the interest sheets returned by League members in order to assemble a public relations committee. After training others to handle these functions, Meyer can help Teague with membership matters.

g.Program – Carol Dutton reviewed plans for the October and November general meetings. Connie Treinen is involved with planning the October Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) program. In November, Dane County Sheriff Mahoney will speak about alternatives to incarceration and progress on implementing recommendations of a 2007 Criminal Justice Assessment report. A new League criminal justice committee has been formed to prepare study materials for November and pursue related issues. Fred Wade will be involved in planning for the January Lively Issues meeting centered on appointment or election of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices. Related to the Lively Issues meeting, the problems associated with logistics at the Arboretum Center were brought up, and Dutton reported she had been checking with other possible venues, e.g., the Inntowner and Concourse hotels. The Concourse presents some viable possibilities.

Dutton asked for input as to how action priorities are developed and who might be contacted to work on this area.

Old Business – The new Financial Advisory Committee has not yet met. Helen Horn's involvement is important and will help with continuity. A separate committee for investments is desirable. While the financial committees are being revamped, both old and new should meet together. Fred Wade and Tom

Vandervest will meet with the committees this fall. Kathy Johnson will ask Helen Horn to call a meeting when the committee is formed. There is a need to ensure a process of checks and balances.

New Business – Re: the State League calendar, the following items were offered: October 10 - Issues briefing in Madison, and June 18-19, 2010 - State meeting in LaCrosse. Brook will put this information on the web calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen LeRoy, Secretary