

League of Women Voters of Dane County
Minutes of the March 9, 2010, meeting of the Board

Attending: Carol Dutton, Teague Harvey, Kathy Johnson, Pat Levin, Gloria Meyer, Brook Soltvedt, Fred Wade. Absent: Helen LeRoy, Earnestine Moss

The meeting was called to order by President Johnson at 6:12 PM.

Helen LeRoy was absent. Corrections were made to the draft of the February minutes. Fred Wade moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Priscilla Thain seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

Pat Levin presented the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 year. She also compared the end-of-year balance sheets for '07- '10 (year-to-date). A typical operating budget is \$45,000-\$55,000, with the major variable being the cost of printing Candidates' Answers. The typical annual deficit is \$15,000. This year will be typical.

Each year the League receives approximately \$4000 from an endowment from the Ogg estate. This continues into perpetuity. Fundraising income (from gift-wrapping and Brat Fest) is way down. The cost of national membership will be going up by 0.60/member this year and another 0.40/member next year.

Levin will need to purchase a new edition of QuickBooks and other software in order to do the payroll, at a cost of about \$900. Hiring Middleton Payroll Service to do the payroll instead will cost only \$25/pay period, which would cost \$300/year if we change the Office Administrator's pay schedule from biweekly to monthly.

There was more discussion of ways to economize on our expenses. In addition to the planned publication audit, using smaller envelopes (6" x 9") for mailing could help. There is no money in the budget for a salary increase for the Office Administrator.

The Board asked that \$300 be added to the budget for additional computer training for Sara Markham. Specifically, it's important that the office computers be kept updated and free of viruses and malware. Carol Dutton may do the training on a volunteer basis, but we should budget money to hire someone to help.

Brook Soltvedt reported that the League Web site got 900 hits on Primary Election Day. She needs *Bulletin* contributions right away. Based on prior submissions, she recommends that their length be cut in half.

Fred Wade reported \$3320 in Valentine contributions, \$1405 of it to the Ed. Fund. The total is \$900 less than last year, but less of it was assigned to the Ed. Fund this year. The average contribution this year was just under \$100 compared to just under \$130 last year.

Only one person has signed up for Bratfest, and most of the positions are already filled. On April 1 the assignments open for anyone. Wade applied for a \$6000 Evjue Foundation grant to cover the cost of *Candidates' Answers*.

There will be another May Challenge grant. A different anonymous person has agreed to match up to \$1500 in donations in the month of May. The May/June Bulletin will have an article about it, and it will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Teague Harvey reported on Membership. There are 236 members; 132 local; 13 are second memberships in a household (less expensive); 26 are 50-year members, whose fees are waived. Harvey has had the opportunity to “talk up” the League with other student organizations at the UW. She thinks the League should have a presence at the Wisconsin Association of School Councils meeting in Green Bay at the end of April, as it is a logical extension for those involved in student government to move into the League in adulthood. Kathy suggested Harvey contact the Green Bay League to see if they can send someone to the meeting.

Other ideas for increasing membership: Update our brochure to make it look more modern and include our Web site address. Bring membership and contribution envelopes to the forums.

Carol Dutton reviewed plans for the next forum: two greeters are needed and the West Side discussion group will bring snacks and water for the speakers. Dutton reviewed a summary of Unit Meeting responses for this year, which Sara compiled. There was discussion about how we should follow up after forums and unit meetings so that the ideas don't just end up in a drawer. Ideas included having the President-Elect review Discussion Meeting reports and get back to the membership via articles in the *Bulletin*.

The Program Committee put together a slate of topics for 2010-2011: climate change, campaign finance reform, land use, charter schools, redistricting, changing demographics in Dane County, homelessness, population increases, and government and criminal justice in Dane County. Because there may be state or national issues that we should address, members attending the Annual Meeting will be asked to rank their interest in these topics to help the Program Committee determine the final schedule.

Priscilla Thain reported that League members are scheduled to moderate several forums. A Mt. Horeb forum was to be moderated by Helen Horn, but a candidate objected to the League's involvement. Helen Horn will moderate a Stoughton forum. Mary Bean and Carol Carstensen will each moderate a forum in Monona. Soltvedt will post information about these forums on the Web site. Thain will arrange for another training session for moderators.

Thain also reported that five League members (Carol Kiemel, Barbara Mortensen, Claire Rider, Brook Soltvedt, and Priscilla Thain) were trained as Special Registration Deputies at the GAB.

Kathy Johnson gave the President's report. She attended a meeting at which CRANES proposed to organize the thirty or so environmental groups in the area to make them more effective. Although several League members, including Caryll Terrell and Connie Threinen, are active with CRANES, the League cannot agree to become involved unless or until they have established bylaws and we know that they will not be advocating for specific candidates, only for positions. In that case we could give them money from our outreach fund.

Annual Meeting news: Carol Kiemel is writing up the Carrie Chapman Catt award presentation. Only two new 50-year members have self-identified. The Board voted to purchase a special plaque to recognize large donors. The plaque will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The timing for the meeting will be 5 to 5:30 gathering and social time; 5:30 to 6:30 business; meal from 6:30 to 7:15; 7:15 program, which will include singing.

The Nominating Committee proposes the following Directors: Debra Speckman for Membership, Gail Bliss for Fundraising, and Lisa Bu for Publicity. For next year, the proposed Nominating Committee is Lois Kiggins, Chair, Barbara Karavolis, and Joanne Elder.

Rose Sime sent a request that the League donate to WYOU in recognition of all the services they provide us. Pat Levin moved that the League donate \$100 to WYOU. Priscilla Thain seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Brook Soltvedt moved that the meeting be adjourned and Teague Harvey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.