

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY  
BOARD MEETING  
November 10, 2009

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

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The October minutes were accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Vandervest presented a copy of the latest balance sheet as of October 31. At Pat Levin's request, Tom contacted Lafollette High School regarding the Spanish translation of ***Candidate's Answers***. The school has been paid for efforts to date. Two teachers previously involved have left their program, and one teacher remains on a part-time basis. Future translation efforts will be explored.

Vandervest reported that Klein Insurance carries the insurance for personnel. Fiduciary insurance to cover the Board would cost \$2800/year. An individual's homeowners insurance will not cover members at the League office, but an umbrella policy could. The League's license for tax or charitable organization status requires clarification. Vandervest will check with Pat Levin to ask if she has contacted Andrea Kaminski regarding what the State or National League might provide in terms of insurance coverage (as mentioned at the October meeting).

**Committee Reports:**

**Bulletin/Web Site** – Brook Soltvedt announced that although the submission deadline for the December-January Bulletin/ Lively Issues study materials and directory had been specified as November 10, it has been extended to just before Thanksgiving or November 25 for added flexibility. Some discussion followed as to Bulletin length, format, relevant material, whether to continue including the membership application form throughout the year, and whether to repeat calendar items after they appear initially. President Johnson pointed out that the Bulletin has distribution beyond the membership at times where it would be important to include the membership application and continuing calendar items. Carol Dutton, Program Chair, will send Brook the information concerning the Lively Issues meeting at the Concourse Hotel on January 16, 2010 for the web site. There was brief discussion as to the preferred names of the guest

speakers. The menu is the only component not finalized at present. Fred Wade will send Brook the information for the upcoming gift wrapping fund raiser.

**Fundraising and Membership** – Fred Wade reported that Sara had sent out 130 membership renewal request letters to former members. So far, one check for \$100 has been received, which covers the cost of the mailing. Sally Carpenter has prioritized a list of businesses to contact. Sara will get out more letters. The importance of continuing to recruit new members was emphasized. A discussion followed concerning attendance at general meetings, rosters, and types of nametags. Some tags are reusable. Sara can provide an update.

**Outreach** – Earnestine Moss pointed out that she and Kathy Johnson had talked about next year, working with the ACLU on democracy and reinstatement of voting privileges for felons. The State is working on this issue.

**Program** – Carol Dutton reported that the November general meeting on the Dane County Justice System with speaker Sheriff Dave Mahoney had gone well. There were approximately 50 attendees. A Badger Herald reporter was present and an article there could be forthcoming. Subsequent televising of the meetings on WYOU, availability of DVDs, and possibility of posting the meeting proceedings on YouTube were discussed. Rose Sime has been instrumental in the recording.

Concerning the January 16 Lively Issues luncheon, the room at the Concourse Hotel has been reserved from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dutton will check with Sara concerning past procedures in terms of scheduling member arrival, socialization, food service, and program. If there is a \$100 minimum for bar service, there will be a bar. Dessert will be included and a vegetarian menu choice available. Members will be charged \$23/person as compared to last year's \$20 and the cost of parking will be extra. Shirley Abrahamson and Thomas Basting will discuss election vs. merit selection of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices.

Health care and the impact of a possible federal bill on Wisconsin is the topic for February. Karen Timberlake, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action Wisconsin have accepted invitations to speak.

For March, the focus will be redistricting and/or early voting, UW professor Ken Mayer has accepted an invitation to speak. Other possible speakers for both meetings are being considered. There are no definite plans for April yet, but juvenile justice is a possible topic with the help of the Criminal Justice Committee. This meeting will take place very close to election day. Moss

suggested emphasizing voting, advocacy and outreach, emphasizing the importance of voting leading to involvement. The revision of the Dane County Government brochure is moving ahead and volunteers to help are welcome.

**Public Relations** – Gloria Meyer contacted Andrea Kaminski concerning the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the League of Women Voters in 2010 and learned the State League has no celebration plans pending at present. Several suggestions and possibilities for a Dane County league celebration were discussed, e.g., have a band that might donate its time, have a showing of the movie “Iron Jawed Angels”, declare a LWV Day, celebrate in the State Capitol Rotunda, and other ideas that will be explored further with the possible formation of a committee.

A review of policies regarding email action alerts and other electronic transmissions was proposed at the previous Board meeting. As a result, Meyer distributed a draft entitled “Policy on Use of Various Communication Vehicles”. Relevant policies and procedures will be adopted at a future time subject to clarification and acceptability. Also proposed for the near future will be revisiting the Bylaws for the purpose of updating and amending them.

Concerning the issue of providing hard copy vs. electronic materials, League members could be made aware that electronic dissemination of information will save the League money.

**Voters’ Service** – Priscilla Thain stated that a group will meet tomorrow morning (11/11/09) at the League office to help write questions for **Candidates’ Answers**. They will be provided with all questions from the last 4 years as examples. Earnestine Moss asked to see the questions. Thain also reported receiving a request for a moderator related to the upcoming Stoughton mayoral race. She will coordinate a moderator list.

**President’s Remarks:** Kathy Johnson made several announcements:

Recently the Word program files were somehow deleted from the front-desk office computer, making access to existing Word documents and creation of new Word files impossible. Word was professionally restored, a security password installed, and other adjustments made to both LWVDC computers at a cost of \$300+.

In addition both LWVDC computers were somehow switched to print in color rather than in black and white, resulting in the depletion of the three color-ink cartridges in the front-desk printer. It cost \$300 to replace all three color-toner cartridges. Both LWVDC computers are now set to print black-and-white copies only. A \$.65/copy charge has been implemented for color copies, with any color copying requiring advance request and/or notification to the LWVDC office.

The Wisconsin Association of Student Councils expressed its appreciation to the League for its participation at their recent Kalahari event.

A message from the State League asked for nominations to the State Board.

Pam Rewey and Melanie Ramey are currently members.

Links to sustainability and health care groups will be provided by Margi Kindig.

A list of State members is available.

A thank you letter was received from the Mayor of Madison for bloc grant efforts.

Alicia Ashman, long-time League member, wrote and asked to be removed from the materials mailing list.

**Other Business** – Some confusion resulted in the meeting's start time following discussion at the conclusion of the October meeting. November's agenda stated 5:30 p.m., but the Minutes said 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The 6:00 p.m. start time for future meetings was reaffirmed. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen LeRoy, Secretary