

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2009

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

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

The September minutes were approved with several modifications.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Levin presented: 1) preliminary Balance and Income and Expenses sheets as of September 30, 2009. A \$10,000 CD that came due on October 7 has since been moved into the Anchor Money Market funds to avoid a service fee; and 2) a report for the Education Fund for July through August 2009 reflecting a balance of \$3429. The membership renewals continue to come in slowly.

The Finance Committee met on October 9, with members Kathy Johnson, Pat Levin, Tom Vandervest, and Fred Wade present. Other members are Betty Custer, Sally Carpenter, Helen Horn, and Carol Toussaint. Subcommittees are being formed to deal with three different aspects: investments, budget, and planning and development. Each person will be on at least two of the subcommittees.

President's Remarks: Kathy Johnson announced two notable events coming up in the near future. On Monday, October 19 Kathy will represent the LWVDC at a high school student council meeting at the Kalahari Resort in Lake Delton. A focus will be registering to vote at age 18. On Sunday, September 25, local cable channel WYOU begins a fund raising effort. Andrea Kaminsky and Melanie Ramey will participate in a round table discussion from 5:30-6:30 that day in support of WYOU. Johnson reviewed letters to the editor by Connie Threinen and Libby Lewis regarding the transportation issue. Attendance at the October General Meeting on a regional transit system included 54 members and 13 nonmembers.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin/Web Site – Brook Soltvedt reported that Google tracking of hits to the new web site indicates there have been few so far and that it might be a good

idea to generate an email reminding members to logon to the new web site. Soltvedt has received articles on Climate Change (Sue Larson), the October RTA talk (Libby Lewis), and Pay Day legislation (Pam Rewey) for the November Bulletin. There was also a discussion about defining and formalizing policies for electronic transmission of information related to both web site and email, including action alerts, updates, study materials, and bulletins. Soltvedt, Meyer, and Thain will meet soon to discuss these issues and draft guidelines, taking into consideration overall League membership needs in terms of how individuals currently receive information – electronically or in print.

Fundraising and Membership – Fred Wade initiated discussion about possible ways to raise funds as well as build the membership. Strategies could include contacting by phone or sending letters to women profiled in local magazines or who had been candidates for local offices in the past. Methods for mailings and names of current members who might help in the effort were put forward. A list of past donors should be reviewed, businesses could be called to obtain names of those within an organization to contact about possible donations. A suggestion was made to look into legacy giving. Wade commented that strategy had been tried several years ago. Carol Dutton suggested activities related to the League of Women Voter’s 90th birthday in 2010 might be tied to fundraising also. It was agreed that a committee should be formed to work on the birthday celebration idea and that Andrea Kaminski should be contacted concerning potential State League plans. The movie “Iron-Jawed Angels” could be part of a program. Both Mary Bean and Rose Sime were mentioned as potential contributors to planning for this celebration.

Publicity – Continuing the preceding conversation, Gloria Meyer offered to contact Andrea Kaminski about State League plans. Meyer suggested reviewing policies regarding email action alerts as mentioned above.

Program – Carol Dutton reported that the Criminal Justice Committee had been working hard and study materials are available for the November general meeting Increasing *Effectiveness in the Dane County Justice System* with speaker Sheriff Dave Mahoney. Diane Martin Liebert pulled the information together. A follow-up topic, perhaps for April, could be Dane County juvenile justice.

Regarding other future topics, the contract has been signed with the Concourse Hotel for the January Lively Issues luncheon on election or merit selection of Wisconsin Supreme Court justices. Health care and the impact of a possible federal bill is the potential topic for February and names of several speakers were proposed. Among them were: Tammy Baldwin, Karen Timberlake, Jon Erpenbach, and Mark Miller. As yet, there is not a League study committee for March to discuss early voting or redistricting. Apparently the Government

Accountability Board (GAB) is holding off on a decision concerning casting early ballots. Possible speakers proposed for March were: Mike McCabe and Ken Mayer. And last, but not least, Dutton mentioned that the revision of the Dane County Government brochure is moving ahead and volunteers to help are welcome.

Voters' Service – Priscilla Thain announced a call for ***Candidates' Answers*** questions for the spring 2010 nonpartisan office elections. A committee headed by Laura Chern will get started on the project sometime in November.

Other Business – A suggestion to continue to begin future Board meetings at 5 p.m., rather than 6 p.m., was briefly discussed but no action taken. The issue of Insurance coverage and establishment of a committee to look into insurance for the office were also mentioned. Pat Levin and Tom Vandervest will look into the matter. Perhaps the State League/Andrea Kaminski can provide information as to how they handle this. Pat Levin will call Kaminski.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen LeRoy, Secretary