

**League of Women Voters of Dane County
Board Meeting
March 9, 2009**

Minutes

Members Present: Gloria Meyer (Acting President), Teague Harvey, Janet Kane, Helen LeRoy, Pat Levin, Brook Soltvedt, Priscilla Thain.

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

The February minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report. Levin presented the balance sheet as of February 28, 2009. We will be using savings to fund operations, since investment earnings have declined substantially.

A League member negotiated the cost for layout of the Spanish version of *Candidates' Answers* for a cost of \$1,000. The cost seems high, given the number of copies for the Spanish version compared to the English version. We plan to apply for a grant to continue the Spanish version, but if we do not secure funding we may need to discontinue the printed version. We will post the Spanish version on the League's website. The board unanimously approved a motion to pay La Comunidad \$1000 for the spring 2009 Spanish edition of *Candidates' Answers*.

Board members can review the status of the budget by logging into QuickBooks in read-only mode. Directions for logging in are at or near the beginning of the large black binder near the workroom computer.

Levin lead a discussion of a few remaining issues for the proposed budget for the 2009 fiscal year – costs associated with the new website, the future of the Spanish Edition of *Candidates' Answers*, and liability insurance. The board approved spending \$750 for the Spanish Edition of *Candidates' Answers*. A motion to accept the proposed budget for the 2009 fiscal year passed unanimously.

Half of the contract for the new website has been paid and the redesign has begun. There is a shell of the new version, but it could not be reviewed at the meeting because of technical difficulties in accessing it from the League office. Soltvedt will set a time for people to review a draft of the website.

Acting President Meyer invited Connie Threinen to the board meeting so she could present information about CRANES – Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability. The group has asked to use the office on a regular basis for their meetings. Several League members are members of CRANES, and the goals of the group match will with League positions. Being part of CRANES fits the League approach to working with coalitions. The board has concerns about tying up the

workspace, especially when there are tight deadlines. In addition, there are questions about liability and lease agreements if unaffiliated groups are permitted to use the space. After Connie left, the board developed and approved a new policy on groups meeting at the office:

Meyer found that the League's liability insurance had been cancelled in 2005. She also learned that current liability insurance is a condition of our lease. Over the last few weeks, she worked with current and past League members to get insurance coverage so we would be in compliance. The board approved a motion to establish an ad hoc committee on insurance to review our insurance needs.

The Nominating Committee submitted a report of candidates for the board. The board noted two corrections: the dates of Fred Wade's term, and the spelling of Tom Vandervest's name. In addition, the board recommended a few changes to balance when terms are up. Carol Dutton is nominated as Secretary to finish the second year of Janet Kane's term – but the board recommends a two year term for her position. And Tom Vandervest is recommended as an appointed director until Pat Levin finishes her term.

Connie Threinen e-mailed the board with statements she made to county committees on behalf of the League. The board discussed the need for a procedure where statements are sent to the board and then posted on the website.

The board also discussed the lack of connections between the board and functioning committees. One way that board members could be more informed would be to invite committee chairs to report at board meetings.

Rewey e-mailed a request to the board to purchase 10 League of Women Voter pins at 50 cents each. The board amended the request to 20 pins, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Voter Services. Thain reported that we have had a large number of requests for moderators and that quite a few dates have been scheduled. The League needs a coordinator for the Capitol Square Voter Registration table to take over from Myrna McNatt.

The ad hoc committee that puts together *Candidates' Answers* is preparing recommendations for how to improve the layout and reduce repetitious information. *Candidates' Answers* is our biggest public face and provides an important and valued public service. The board discussed board input into the process.

Bulletin. Soltvedt has not received any articles for the upcoming Bulletin. She plans to put it together over the weekend and asked for information by Friday.

Fundraising. Meyer revised Wade's draft of a fundraising appeal to area businesses. Board members made additional suggestions, and she will incorporate them and send the letter back to Wade. Any other suggestions should be sent directly to Wade.

Following up last month's discussion, the board discussed a possible dues increase. The local league gets \$14 for each local member and \$5 for each national member, a \$9 difference.

Membership. Teague reported that over the last 2 months, membership has increased from 239 to 254. Since the Lively Issues luncheon, six new members joined and one person renewed. Twenty-six people at the local level have renewed for the upcoming fiscal year, and ten at the national level. The board discussed whether national members expect to receive mailings about local league activities. The board had several questions about the difference between national and local membership and will continue to explore this issue in the future.

Public Relations. Meyer met with Rose Sime to plan the publicity for the March meeting on Four Year Old Kindergarten. They sent e-mails to day care providers, school board members and candidates, and officers of Parent Teacher Organizations. Flyers were put up in area schools, libraries, and community centers. A reporter from the Wisconsin State Journal contacted Meyer and took a copy of the meeting tape. Fifty-three people signed in on March 4th – 19 members, 33 non-members, and 1 undesignated person. Meyer emphasized the effectiveness of targeting publicity to groups with an interest in the issue. Meyer also publicized *Candidates' Answers* for the April election.

Program. LeRoy has not received details about the April meeting. Diane Martin is in charge of the plans, and Sarah has sent her an e-mail asking for meeting details.

Material for the annual report is due to Sarah by April 15. LeRoy plans to include suggested topics for 2009 programs. She asked about national and state topics, but it seems that the list won't be available by mid-April. She will contact committee chairs to get their recommendations for programs and to ask whether the committee could plan and conduct a program in the coming year. The board discussed focusing on recruitment and a social for the September meeting.

The annual meeting is set for May 6 from 5 to 9 pm, and details should be included in the upcoming Bulletin. Meyer reported that the meeting will be held at the Lussier Center, though some board members questioned whether people would have difficulty finding the place. It may be too late to find a different venue. Meyer will contact Rewey and ask her to get the specifics about the meeting to Soltvedt by the weekend. Meyer also volunteered to coordinate the program for the May 6th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 6 – 8 pm. Priscilla Thain has volunteered to take minutes since Janet Kane cannot attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Kane, Secretary