

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY  
BOARD MEETING  
November 14, 2011

**Members Present:** Earnestine Moss (President), Donna Norton, Deborah Speckmann, Brook Soltvedt, Lois Kiggins, Kathy Kuntz, Barbara Mortensen, Gail Bliss, Kathy Johnson

President Moss called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Bliss moved to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2011 meeting prepared by Brook Soltvedt. Speckmann seconded. Unanimously approved. Secretary Mortensen said she'd be away from 12-18-11 to 2-15-12. Bliss offered to prepare the minutes in her absence.

**President's Report:** President Moss asked if LWVDC should support the Charter School Initiative of the Madison Urban League. Soltvedt said the Education Committee didn't support the Initiative. The consensus is that we would accept the recommendation of the Education Committee. We're still looking for a replacement for the Voters Services chairperson. Speckmann suggested we have a Voters Services co-chair as the work is sufficient for two people. LWVDC was notified that it didn't receive a grant that was applied for from the LWV-US. Also LWVDC still hasn't been notified if it received an Evjue Grant that was applied for.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Johnson presented the balance sheet and income and expense statement for the period ending 10-31-11. Total Assets are \$211,737.23. Our net income for the period from 7-1-11 through 10-31-11 is -\$2,091.03. Kuntz asked whether the LWVDC expenses for the Roggensack September General Meeting have been sent to LWV-WI to be reimbursed from the Joyce Foundation Grant. Treasurer Johnson will check with Pat Levin about this.

**Bulletin/Web site Report:** Soltvedt stated that the bulletin is ready to be put on the web site. The *Donate Button* is almost ready for several pages on the web site such as the Voter ID page and the Candidates Answers page. LWVDC can also use a *Donate Button* on e-mails to members. She is looking into putting our logo on the pages or using the LWV-WI logo. She added that we should review our policies and procedures to update them. They were written before computers came into use and are out of date. Johnson said we should also consider that we are not developing people to take charge of duties at less than a board level when we are reviewing our policies and procedures. It was decided to have a meeting on 12-12-11 that would be open to all members to discuss this and bring the results to the January board meeting.

**Fundraising Report:** Bliss stated that the first Voter ID is free but if a person loses this there is a \$16 fee for a subsequent ID. This is a poll tax. Should LWVDC pay a volunteer (Steve P.) the \$16 he paid for a person who lost his ID? The consensus is that we will reimburse Steve P. and pay \$16 for one lost ID per person for any others who may request this as long as we are able to do so. Bliss asked for comments on the press release regarding raising funds and awareness of Voter ID issues that was sent out by e-mail. Everyone was in favor of the latest form. Kiggins will send the press release out. Bliss went to City of Madison training for Voter Education Ambassadors to go to food pantries, etc. Moss called the Dane County Clerk's office to ask about training Special Registration Deputies as well as using the Madison SRD certificate

for other municipalities. Bliss said each municipality has different requirements for training and different training schedules. Bliss will meet with the Department of Motor Vehicles and Andrea Kaminski of LWV-WI to find out more about procedures for obtaining a Voter ID.

**Membership Report:** Speckmann updated the board with membership statistics as of 11-11-11. LWVDC has 16 new members for fiscal year 2011-12 plus 141 dues-paying members who have renewed. The total membership of 205 includes 50-year members who do not pay dues. If the Dane County Clerk agrees to have SRD training, Speckmann hopes to provide membership materials at the events.

**Outreach Report:** Moss said that a Black Women's Council has been formed. She encouraged the Council to work with the LWVDC. She also attended meetings at Mt. Zion Mission Ministry Education Forum and North side Community. Bliss attended a Dane County United meeting to talk about Voter ID and voter registration. A woman she met there is interested in working with LWVDC to assist disabled voters.

**Program Report:** Kuntz presented the Consensus Report from the Education Committee from the October study on *The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education (2011)*. Johnson made a motion to accept the report. Soltvedt seconded and it was unanimously approved. Soltvedt said there is congestion at the sign-in table for the general meetings and suggested that there be a check-off for members to speed up registration. Moss suggested two different sign-up lists, one for members and one for non-members. Kuntz stated that we had 80 people attend the November meeting and good attendance at the September meeting as well. It appears that the turnout improved because we had high-visibility speakers and good publicity provided by Kiggins. We should develop a strategy to follow up with non-members who attend the meetings to invite them to become members. Kuntz outlined the options for a venue for Lively Issues. The board decided to accept the option for the West Side Club. The speakers will be Andrea Kaminski and Melanie Ramey of LWV-WI who will speak on the topic *Forward Ever, Backward Never: Keeping Elections Open and Fair in Wisconsin*. Kuntz asked for ideas for the three remaining spring programs. Ideas for speakers for environmental topics, Voter ID, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, and redistricting were discussed.

**Publicity Report:** Kiggins will start publicity for Lively Issues as soon as possible. She will be out of town from Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** There will be a meeting on 11-18-11 to discuss questions for Candidates Answers. If anyone has ideas for questions she is invited to attend or e-mail questions to the office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mortensen, Secretary