

**League of Women Voters of Dane County  
Board Meeting  
November 10, 2008**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Pam Rewey (President), Teague Harvey, Janet Kane, Helen LeRoy, Pat Levin, Gloria Meyer, Donna Norton, Brook Soltvedt, Priscilla Thain, and Fred Wade

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report.** Isthmus has been paid for this fall's *Candidates Answers*. La Comunidad had not billed League to date, and prior accounts still need to be settled. Levin is working on filing the 990 Federal Tax Report for 2007 which is due November 15.

Levin, Kane, and Diane Martin met with Sara on Nov. 6 to plan for a new computer. They discussed hardware, software, and technical support. Family and friends of League leaders have played an important role in our technology resources. In the future, we may need to contract with a professional company for support and to budget for these services. Levin has talked with Madison Computer Works about hardware options. We will explore upgrades as well as replacements. Back-up is important, especially for archives. CDs were recommended as the preferred media. Levin recommended using the current monitor for the new system. Levin moved to increase the computer budget to \$1400 to include software purchases. The motion was seconded by Wade and was approved. The Madison Institute will contribute \$100 toward the new system.

Levin also reported on the flyers she printed and posted in apartment buildings in Middleton. The flyers had the building address and the location of the polling place along with the LWV logo. Levin noticed that some buildings had permanent signs with community information, including the polling place. In all, she and her husband covered nearly 1100 apartments with the information sheets.

**President Rewey** led an election de-briefing discussion, and asked members to send reports about their League-related election activities to Soltvedt. The information will be compiled into an article for the Bulletin. In addition, Meyer may use it for League public relations. League members mentioned two major problems: 1) Some sites did not mail out the absentee ballots until the Thursday before election day, providing very little time to get the ballot returned by election day, and probably missing potential voters who were traveling. 2) No one was able to keep up the huge number of new registrations, providing all kinds of problems on election day. Some polling places did not have current lists. People were on the state list, but were not included on the list in the local polling place. New voters could register at the polls, but this made voting more complicated for the individual and made the lines longer for everyone.

League election volunteers recommended having buttons or nametags to wear at community events. Board members thought nametags would be helpful at general meetings too.

Rewey distributed a summary of the LWVDC Opportunity Sheet Responses for this membership year. She also asked for help with writing questions for candidates for the spring Candidates Answers. Thain volunteered, and they will ask one or two others from the opportunity sheet.

Rewey also need someone for the Wisconsin Supreme Court Study. Nominations are needed by November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Lively Issues Forum is scheduled for Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Arboretum, starting at 11:30 am. The board discussed the program costs, and set the fee for the event at \$20, slightly more than the expected break-even cost of \$15. The program is on predatory lending, and the board discussed potential speakers and explored having a panel.

**Voter Services.** Thain reported that the election-related activities were very successful. She reflected that League could benefit from public relations on these activities. She volunteered to compile a list of people and organizations who requested League services. We could send a follow-up letter with a request for financial support.

Thain reported that providing rides to the polls was not needed this year because the campaigns were very active in providing rides. She also had quite a few requests for voter education, and learned about programs through Kids Vote and the City Clerks. We could explore partnering with these groups in the future. Sally Bowers recruited high school students under the League's state-wide poll worker project.

Students from MATC will receive this year's Outstanding Voter Service Award at the Lively Issues Forum. This is a relatively new award, and board members asked for clarification about the procedure for soliciting nominations and selecting the recipient.

**Membership.** As of today, we have 276 members. November 14 is the cutoff for members to be listed in the membership directory. Several scholarships are still available for the year. Harvey suggested that we collaborate with WASC – Wisconsin Association of Student Councils. We could explain that League can be the next step for civic involvement, and we could invite 3-5 students to be our guest at the annual dinner. Some members asked about following up with those who chose not to renew their membership. Harvey explained that she had personally talked with most of them.

**Bulletin.** The Bulletin will be mailed in early December, so the deadline for submissions will be in a few weeks. Soltvedt doesn't receive committee reports from most committees. Veteran members suggested that she call the committee chairs and talk with them about what their committee is doing so that she can include the information in the newsletter.

Soltvedt also asked about scheduling board training. The board scheduled a meeting on Monday, Dec. 15 from 6-9 for board development. One question was the relationship between

the board and committees. The discussed how to be more informed about committee work. One option was to ask committees to send minutes to the board, another was to ask representatives to report at board meetings, and a third was to ask board members to serve as liaisons for specific committees.

**Fundraising.** Borders giftwrapping dates have been set for the west store, and will be set for the east. Joanne Elder is coordinating the west, and Cheryl Daniels is doing the east.

Wade reported that the Evjue proposal was not submitted because of confusion about who would receive the funds. It seems that it would be the national League Education Fund. National provides local leagues with reports of the balance in their accounts. When people make donations to League, they can specify the specific fund – League of Women Voters Dane County Voter Education Fund. Levin had assembled a packet of information about the Education Fund and passed it on to Wade.

Candidates Answers included an appeal for contributions, but it is very easy to miss. The board recommended placing the request in a box to set it off from the rest of the text.

**Program.** LeRoy reported that responses to the National Compact Vote Study are due May 1. Background materials will be available soon. LeRoy received two recommendations for program speakers – one from Minneapolis, and another from California. In addition, Mike McCabe from Democracy Now, would be able to speak on the topic. Professor Canon from UW Madison had also volunteered to talk about the popular vote.

Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies is having a conference on March 16-17. Dean Bowles asked whether League could provide a speaker on immigration. Norton volunteered to follow-up.

It's time to begin planning for the general meeting in May. One program option is to review League activities and have small group discussions about League direction.

The Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> program on domestic violence was well attended.

**Public Relations.** Meyer recommended compiling a list of contacts for media inquiries. During the election, the League received some calls from reporters, but it wasn't clear who was available to respond to the inquiries. We were not able to return calls to two reporters in a timely way.

League members staffed WKOW's voter information session. The phones rang steadily for 3 hours. There were quite a few calls from Janesville and Rockford.

The board discussed the challenges of accessing the Bulletin and study materials from the website. Because of the problems, we will mail the Bulletin and study materials to all members and use the website to post "extra resources." There is a need for additional functionality for the website. The board discussed whether it was a goal that most members would use the website rather than get materials through the mail. One way to find out would be to poll the members.

The board also discussed the need for general rules or guidelines about study materials. We could meet with Cindy Huffland to get her perspective on these issues.

**New Business:** The League received a certificate of recognition from the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign acknowledging its role in the enactment of the National Housing Trust Fund legislation, PL 110-289.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The next meeting will be December 15 at 6 pm, with a focus on board development. The next business meeting will be January 12, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Kane, Secretary