

**League of Women Voters of Dane County
Board Meeting
October 6, 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 6:00 pm.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report. Levin provided an overview of the budget process and the responsibilities of the Treasurer. She included a brief questionnaire about budget fundamentals. One example: Up to 50% of our current budgets are relying upon the former contributions of members during the last 3 years.

Levin presented the balance sheet as of September 30, as well as Income and Expenses for the July – September quarter. For the quarter, ordinary income totaled \$14,293.29 and expenses totaled \$12,343.33, with a net ordinary income of \$1,949.96. In addition, income from investments totaled \$1,225.79, so total net income for the quarter was \$3,175.75. Investment income is expected to be low in the foreseeable future given the current economy. We have assets to support our program, but we need to keep long-term budget considerations in mind. For the short term, we can draw on money market funds to pay expenses.

Highlights of the September budget:

\$750 from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin to Sally Bowers for the poll worker project

Received a \$500 memorial which will be used toward a new computer for Sarah

We have not received a bill from La Comunidad for the Spanish edition of this fall's *Candidates Answers*. Checks of \$500 and \$100 that were sent in payment of the Spring, 2008 *Candidates Answers* have not been cashed.

President Rewey clarified last month's letter from the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization, a group working with state legislatures on policies to protect and benefit the Great Lakes. The League participates at the state level, and the Dane County League does not pay dues separately.

Sally Bowers is working on the poll worker project. Her focus is recruiting a diverse group of poll workers at area high schools.

The Lively Issues program on Predatory Lending needs to be planned. The board discussed possible speakers – Sarah Siskind and Lena Taylor were mentioned as two possibilities. Meyer proposed a public relations campaign to encourage people to check that they are on the voter list,

and to take ID and proof of residence to the polls just in case there is a problem. Concerns about problems that new registrants might encounter were discussed.

The board discussed the need for more guidance on ways of working. Some suggestions were a ½ day training, or inviting former League leaders to the board meetings. Another idea was to have a portfolio mentor for new board members – and maybe mentors for any new League member. New members might get involved more quickly if they received a personal invitation to the unit meetings. Another idea was an orientation program for new members as well as one for new board members. Maybe the first general meeting in September could talk about League and how it's organized and what the committees do. It could be a social with the focus of informing and engaging members. Finally board members expressed the need for clarification of how the local League and state League work together.

Finally, the board discussed the need for written guidelines about the content of the website. Maybe Cindy Hoffland could come to a board meeting to provide her perspective.

Bulletin. Soltvedt discussed the content of the upcoming *Bulletin*. Articles are due at the end of the week. The November program is on November 5.

Fundraising. Wade drafted a grant to the Evjue Foundation requesting \$10,000, with a primary focus on voter education and registration, including support for *Candidates Answers*. Borders will make up the gift wrapping schedule in October. Wade also checked with Borders East and asked to be on their schedule too. Wade suggested that we make an appeal in December to community members, asking for their financial support and focusing on the non-partisan role of League in educating and encouraging voters.

Membership. Harvey reported that we have 265 members, with 64 nationally recruited members. About 70% of locally recruited members have renewed. Harvey contacted non-renewing members, and the Number 1 reason was lack of time. The attitude toward the League is very positive. Harvey brought a letter to the editor about the Candidates Forum for the primary election for candidates for State Assembly in the Town of Windsor, acknowledging the expertise of the League of Women Voters in moderating the event. Rewey reported that Windsor had scheduled another forum for the final election. League members met with WKOW about a series on voting for the 5 pm news.

Program. The focus for the November 5th program on health care is still unclear, and one or more speakers need to be identified. Program decisions need to be in place by the end of the week because the Bulletin will be put together then. The board discussed a focus on Veterans Health Care, especially since Veterans Day is Nov. 11. Possible speakers from the community were suggested, though no one knew whether they would be available.

Public Relations. There is a process in place for publicizing the monthly meetings. The September meeting had a good turnout, the October one was not well attended. Meyer distributed press releases for *Candidates Answers* and *Candidates Answers* will be available at public libraries. They will also be distributed to individual members. The board discussed the number of copies needed to distribute to libraries, city halls, and other community centers.

Levin moved and Meyer seconded to not mail out *Candidates Answers* to League members. The motion was approved unanimously.

Voter Service. Thain reported that October 15th is the last day for voter registrations by League. There have been new volunteers, and Thain referred them to other League members who could use the help. There are new sites on the North side (Kindig) and at Meriter Hospital (Sime), and there are commitments for the Salvation Army Women's Shelter, the Oct.9 Naturalization Ceremony, Edgewood High School, Sheboygan Avenue Farmers Market, and Hilldale Farmers Market. She has had requests for presentations to school groups, and could use some resources targeted to students. A PowerPoint presentation could be useful. Maybe the Education Committee could put something together.

We discussed funding rides to the polls, with Union Cab donating the cab and League reimbursing drivers for their time. Four years ago, the First Unitarian Society sponsored the project. At this time, the League is unable to take on the project because it was not part of the budget and the cost is unknown. If we get calls, we will refer the caller to one of the campaigns.

New Business: Rewey discussed nominations for the Voter Service Award, which is presented at the Lively Issues program. The board recommended soliciting nominations for the award and establishing a process for selecting the recipient.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

The next meeting is Monday, November 10 at 6 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Kane, Secretary