

**League of Women Voters of Dane County  
Board Meeting  
September 8, 2008**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Pam Rewey (President), Janet Kane, Helen LeRoy, Gloria Meyer, Brook Soltvedt, and Fred Wade

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

The minutes were approved as corrected (meeting date, and reference to state and national conventions of the **League of Women Voters**).

As the minutes were reviewed, several issues came up for discussion/clarification.

- Some members were not able to access the on-line Candidates Answers for the fall primary. We will check that the link is working.
- Bulletin space is at a premium. Rather than summarizing board meeting minutes, we could make approved minutes available through the website and just include the link in the Bulletin.
- The speaker for the Oct. 1 program on the Great Lakes Compact will be Shahla Werner, Chapter Director of the Wisconsin Sierra Club.
- The board discussed the challenges of the timelines for copying, assembling, and mailing program information and study materials.
- We are waiting to hear about the costs and training to enable the PDF feature of the new copier.
- Rewey has a volunteer for the poll worker project. She will work with LWV-WI to arrange for the person to be hired for the position.

**Treasurer's Report.** Levin sent a written report summarizing recent activities. We have paid our 2008 dues to LWV-US (\$4,285) and our first quarter dues to LWV-WI (\$1,096.88). To date we have collected \$7,760 in membership dues along with \$3,884 in contributions in addition to memberships.

**President Rewey** encouraged board members to attend Making Democracy Work on October 3 and 4 in Stevens Point. Several members had conflicts with the dates, but others said they would try to attend. Dues for the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization are due. This organization works with state legislatures on policies to protect and benefit the Great Lakes, and they are sponsoring a conference in Indiana this fall. The board approved paying the \$25 membership fee.

The board discussed the need for an environmental committee. We have several programs on environmental issues this year. Diane Martin proposed the topic of air quality. She may be interested in being on a committee and/or may have suggestions of others.

**Bulletin.** Soltvedt reviewed the content of the upcoming Bulletin. Articles are due on Wednesday, Sept. 10. The October program is on October 1, so there is a very tight timeline to

get the information out. Voter registration is a major emphasis this fall. Rewey distributed copies of the new voter information flyer. The Bulletin includes a list of monthly programs, with dates and topics. Several people mentioned that they appreciated the list. At the request of the Education Committee and the Children and Families at Risk Committee, the program on 4-year old kindergarten was moved to March, and the one on air quality was rescheduled for May.

**Fundraising.** Wade reviewed records of the Leagues fundraising activities from 1990. The board discussed funding needs. One priority is voter education, including publishing *Candidates' Answers*, training moderators for candidate forums, and registering voters. Several people mentioned that the voter registration booths could use some upgrading with tables and chairs that are easier to transport. Wade is exploring funding from the Evjue Foundation.

*Candidates' Answers* includes a request for financial support from readers. One member questioned whether this appeal is permitted under the Leagues' policies. Also, board members wondered whether we can acknowledge grant support in the publication if we do get a grant to cover some or all of the cost.

Wade also proposed an appeal to area businesses and industries. In the 1990's we had some corporate support, but this has not been a focus lately. Wade proposed another campaign to solicit donations. We discussed ways to recognize contributors, such as a list in the membership directory or in the annual report.

Wade also suggested approaching women philanthropists. They may be interested in an organization with a focus on women.

Holiday gift wrapping is coming up. Rose Sime coordinated this in past years. Fred will check with her about procedures for setting this up. There was some discussion about whether the activity is appropriate for publicizing the League and its mission. Some people enjoy supporting the League this way.

**Membership.** The board sent a huge "Thank you" to Harvey for all her work on the September Open House. People were pleased with the attendance, and several new people were at the meeting.

**Program.** LeRoy asked about the availability of a slide projector for the October program. Rewey will check whether Capitol Lakes has projection equipment. Board members questioned whether the speaker needed a projector for a power-point presentation rather than slides, and, if so, whether she was planning to bring a computer (Mac or Windows or Vista?). Soltvedt may be able to get a projector if we need one for a computer.

LeRoy also asked about the focus for the November 5<sup>th</sup> program on health care. The board discussed several options for speakers and topics. Many members were interested in health care for veterans. Since this is the day after the fall elections, members were also interested in what might happen in the next legislative session in Wisconsin. Mark Miller was suggested as a possible speaker.

The board also discussed electronic submission of study materials and duplicating copies for study packets. Members expressed concern about copyright, and that we have permission to distribute the study materials.

**Public Relations.** Meyer reported that the Open House had a good turnout, and that she will continue to advertise future programs as she did the open house. She sent a press release to Isthmus about the on-line availability of Candidates' Answers, but the announcement did not get published. Meyer asked Isthmus staff about what happened, and is waiting to hear back. In the future, if we do an electronic version, we may want to buy an ad to publicize its availability. If an ad is prohibitively expensive, maybe we could negotiate a reduced rate as a public service.

The board discussed sending program announcements to groups that would have an interest in the topic. For example, we could invite veterans groups to a program on veterans' health care.

It is important to encourage members to attend – and to bring a friend interested in the topic.

The board discussed working with an advertising agency or university class on a project. Sometimes these groups will draft brochures or flyers for an organization – but we felt that we have or could design our own. The challenge for us is printing and distributing our materials. One idea that came up was to work with an advisory group to develop a campus campaign to recruit League members. Meyer will continue to explore some options.

We would like to advertise our monthly programs to people who live downtown. We thought we'd ask League members who live downtown whether they could put up a poster about an upcoming program in their building.

**New Business:** Wade asked for clarification of the Leagues' tax exempt status, the role of the Education Foundation, and which activities fell under the Education Foundation.

Kerry Killman from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services talked with Rewey on the possibility of collaborating with the League. They will continue talking to plan something for the spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Kane, Secretary