

June 6, 2011

To: LWV Judicial Issues Committee

From: Andrea Kaminski

Re: **Summary of meeting with Theresa Owens, Clerk of Courts office**

Ethel Himmel and I had a very good interview today with Theresa Owens who works for both the Chief Justice and the Clerk of Courts. She answered the questions that arose in our last committee meeting. Here is a quick summary:

1. Volunteer committees for the court system - appointments to these committees are overseen by the Appointment Selection Committee. Many of the appointments are out of date, because the timing depends on: how often the Committee meets and when the Court approves the nomination. She also noted that a staff member who works on this is on family leave.
2. There is a Resume Form on the Courts website by which citizens can apply to serve on a committee. She said the following committees might be the best fit: Access to Justice; WI Judicial Commission; State Bar Board of Governors. People also may complete the Resume Form and simply indicate a general interest in policy, particularly Special Committee work.
3. Theresa will have my email address added to the Supreme Court's press list so I receive press releases, which I can forward to you or others.
4. There will be 10 days notice for Open Admin Conferences in the future.
5. The state Supreme Court has tracking data for individual cases and petitions, but they have not compiled them into a statistical report. Theresa notes in her email below that the National Ctr for State Courts has some data, but apparently the federal court system does a better job of this. This might be a good project for a student.
6. The only way to know about motions to disqualify is to do a case search on the courts website.
7. The staff is aware that orientation of new justices needs improvement, and they are working on it.