

Contact Information

Name

Stu Levitan

Email Address

slevitan@wortfm.org

Member Type?

Participating Member

Length of term

Until June of 2028

Current Occupation

Retired

Any past felony convictions?

No

Background:

Please indicate your involvement with WORT, past or current.

I have served on the WORT board since 2015, and the past two years have had the privilege of serving as board chair. I currently have two volunteer activities -- the weekly feature on the Wednesday night news Madison in the Sixties, which I've been doing since 2016, and as one of the hosts in the Madison BookBeat collective. In the distant past (early/mid-1980s), I hosted A Public Affair and the Breakfast Special. In 1982, I wrote the Community Development Block Grant application that secured federal funds for the vinyl library.

Please indicate your involvement with communit(ies) in WORT's listening area.

From 1975 to 1980 I was a newspaper reporter for the Capital Times and Madison Press Connection, mainly covering local community news and politics. From 1980 to 1985, I served as president of the Bassett Neighborhood Association, and from 1982-1987 was the Dane County Supervisor for the Bassett/Miffland/State Street district. Since 1980, I have served on the board of the nonprofit Madison Development Corporation, including three terms as its president; MDC helped finance our move into the Bedford St. studio, and has a considerable affordable/workforce housing portfolio in the neighborhood (including the Bassett Warehouse Apts.) More recently (2021-2023), I served on the Student Council, Associated Students of Madison (UW student government). From 1982 to 2019, I served on/chaired several City of Madison boards and commissions relevant to communities in our listening area,, including the Landmarks Commission, Community Development Authority, Plan Commission and Civic Center Commission.

Ideas

What are your goals for WORT?

My primary goal is to ensure that we not only survive but continue to thrive, both externally and internally. To remain viable and vital in the coming years, we must develop greater diversity in all categories in all aspects of the station, adopt new strategies and technologies to reach and retain new listeners, and develop new revenue streams to offset the likely reduction or elimination of funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It was to address the last two goals that I proposed, and the board created, the Task Force on WORT's Future.

What do you see as WORT's major responsibilities to the community?

By approving WORT's amended Mission Statement, the membership has established our major responsibilities: to provide unique and diverse

programming, especially by programmers and for audiences underrepresented by other media. That programming should challenge our listeners' cultural and intellectual assumptions, expand their musical and cultural experiences, and enhance the open discussion of public issues.

There are many areas where WORT could improve and many new activities WORT could undertake. Please list specific tasks on which you would be willing to work.

I am eager to continue to work on improving board/staff relations and board productivity, developing strategies to meet current and coming challenges, and successfully representing the station to our community partners and potential funders.

Why do you wish to be on WORT's Board of Directors?

I would like one final term on the board to do the work listed immediately above.

The Board currently meets monthly on a Wednesday night. Meetings are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. and may finish as late as 11 p.m.. Are you able to regularly attend Board meetings?

Yes.

WORT's Board is an active participant in station affairs. Board members do committee work and participate in pledge drives and other fundraising events. Board members are expected to commit to five to ten hours a month in addition to meetings. Roughly estimate the time you have available for work in addition to Board meetings.

I have 20-30 hours per month for WORT work outside of board meetings and my ongoing volunteer activity.

Feel free to add any additional relevant material.

WORT has long been one of the most important cultural resources in the city and region; in the current political and social climate, we have become even more critical. I hope I continue to have the great privilege of participating in our governance.