



New BOD Application from | Betty Chewing

1 message

Background:

Please indicate your involvement with WORT, past or current.

For several years, I was the Friday morning engineer for the remote Breakfast Special initially from Dolly's Restaurant on Williamson St. and then from another restaurant. For a few years I hosted my own Public Affair program 6:30-7:00PM on which I interviewed a range of people from Madison and beyond (Noam Chomsky, Parker Palmer, Isabel Allende, holocaust survivors, an engineer working on the initial Nuclear bomb, Tammy Baldwin in her first political run for the legislature, etc.). I was on the WORT Board of Directors a few times. I helped out asking for money during pledge drives as well as answering phones at the beginning of WORT.

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

I am heavily involved in community affairs on the east side of Madison. I helped start and name the SASY Neighborhood Association and continue to be on its Board. In addition to being chair of the Environment Committee, I help with Atwoodfest annually and for 25 years have coordinated the summer and winter solstice celebrations in Olbrich Park. I also am on the Friends of Olbrich Park (FOOP) Board. I am the neighborhood representative on the Olbrich Botannical Society Board of Directors.

Ideas

What are your goals for WORT?

My goals for WORT are simple:

1. To be an independent voice for news and public affairs even as the country faces threats of censorship and worse. This includes historical as well as current analyses of threats and opportunities.
2. To share culturally diverse music and other arts from around the world (including our own).
3. To encourage independent minds and generous hearts to collaborate in making this a better "world" for all, not just for subgroups of privilege
4. To offer a workspace of mutual respect and support at WORT needed to carry forward the goals of WORT.

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

1. To help the community receive independent news, public affairs, music, philosophies
2. To help people from less visible, vulnerable communities to have a voice on the air (through shows, interviews, music, etc).
3. To publicize community events
4. To offer creative programs that are fun. "Rockin John" is just plain fun!
5. To carefully explore, sift and winnow technological change for what will enhance WORT'S goals of WORT and what will not.
6. To continue playing an educational role for people in the community interested in learning skills related to engineering and programming. I've watched many build on their volunteer experience to move into the industry.
7. To protect this incredible resource supported so well by our community for 50 years.
8. To communicate clearly and honestly in a timely fashion what the status is of the station.

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.

As a listener sponsor rather than a volunteer, I suspect I have a great deal to learn about new activities already under discussion. Please know I'm open to working on a variety of areas wherever WORT would find me most useful. In my other board roles I've served on human resource committees, hire committees, work climate survey committees, program planning, recruitment and election committees. I have designed digital tools to enhance virtual education. As a 20 year member of a current performing Irish band, I bring experience working with musicians.

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

First and foremost, I love WORT (World's Oldest Radio Transmitter) and what it stood for...an independent community founded and supported station. Big money did not start this station. It grew from the humble roots of the community. It was built on an idea. How outrageously wonderful to trust that the community would support a radio station both financially and with the volunteer engineers and programmers. I was simply a spectator as friends Vinnie, Julie, Joanie, Mark, and others brought it into being. I had an assignment their first night of broadcasting from the Winnebago Station to report whether WORT could be heard as far away as Sauk City where we had just moved. I excitedly called my friends that night when we found the station and it sounded great! Over the years, I became more involved. It was a gift to get to be a phone answerer during pledge drives where I also excitedly asked for money. Then I got to engineer the 6 AM Breakfast Special for years. It was so exciting as a woman to have that opportunity. Don Alan was so patient as he taught me the steps and skills. I did that for years. Then I had the opportunity to host my own public affair program. As just one of many projects coming from that program, I got an idea to interview 3 generations of Jewish women in one family to document how each generation was affected by the holocaust. That tape is now in the Holocaust Museum in DC. I would never have done any of these things without WORT. Having served on the WORT Board of Directors before, I'm well aware each Board has its special challenges and opportunities in each era. It would be my honor to give my very best to collaborate with my peers to help WORT be healthy financially and climate-wise in order to meet its mission. It will always be the one station I turn to for independent delivery of music, news, public affairs, cultural diversity, and hope.

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. I'd be pleased to do so.

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 would have 5-10 hours a month in addition to meetings. I would have more time than that in the summer and fall.