

**Stephen Lord**

**Seat Selection**

Participating Member - Serve until 2020 annual meeting (2 seats)

**Contact Information**

**Name**

stephen lord

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[Map It](#)

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**Current Occupation**

self employed

**Any past felony convictions?**

No

**Background:**

**Please indicate your involvement with WORT, past or current.**

I am the "Curator" for the Monday 8 O'Clock Buzz show, since January 2016. The work involves producing a podcast for each program segment (typically 3 per week). This involves audio, image and text editing/creation and posting the podcasts to [wort-fm.org](http://wort-fm.org).

In January 2016, I also joined the WORT Web Collective. My work in the collective has been primarily the clean-up of the WORT Calendar venues, plus updating events for a select group of venues.

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

I am studying at the UW-Madison, for continuing education purposes--usually 1 course a semester. I was a volunteer for more than 3 years at The Barrymore Theatre creating emails announcing upcoming shows. I also did some volunteer photography work for a

Dane County Habitat for Humanity Restore online auction. I was on the board and was Treasurer of the Lake Edge Neighborhood Association.

## **Ideas**

### **What are your goals for WORT?**

I view the volunteers, the website and the building as WORT's 3 most valuable assets. I want to raise the community awareness for these assets in order to focus some organizational energy towards their preservation and development.

In addition, I want to work to increase the financial stability of the organization, through analysis of the current income/expense situation, and working to develop new avenues of funding. Ultimately, WORT must have a financial reserve that can meet all of its expenses for at least a year. I cringe when I overhear someone say that WORT may be on shaky ground financially--because I fear it could potentially become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Becoming financially secure, with money in reserve, is essential to WORT's mission.

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

WORT's major responsibility is providing a far-reaching channel for voices, expression and news normally, marginalized by the "business" of mass communication, where profit is the ultimate goal. In addition, WORT provides a way for folks engage in a volunteer capacity doing work that is creative, fun and satisfying.

### **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 think it may be possible to build a community/social aspect to volunteering--a group identity that doesn't appear to exist. We have scores of regular volunteers that don't know much about each other, yet share something in common, fundamentally. And, these folks are brilliant and generous. I believe there would be value to the organization for developing a community/social aspect to volunteering--by having volunteer events (get-togethers) and a website section devoted to volunteers.

I am also interested in working on finding ways to making the website more self-sustaining. The website represents a \$100+K investment (as it is now) as well as 1000's of hours of volunteer and staff work. Yet, that ever-growing content avenue is simply an added expense for WORT. It is as necessary as a roof on a building, yet it is a relatively new significant expense. There may be ways to enable the website to become more self-sustaining. It's importance can only grow and so some of its costs will grow, as well. Setting goals and developing ways to help it pull its own weight should be considered for WORT's overall health.

Finally, I'd like to work on making the building the best it can be. Well maintained, clean, energy efficient, healthy, hazard-free, safe and secure.

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

I believe that my experience in operating successful businesses, my curious, analytical nature and my fundamental belief that diversity is strength, will be a good fit for the WORT Board. I believe in making a positive difference. I also, want to work with the great people comprising the Board--I can contribute and I can learn a lot, too.

**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.**

6 to 8 hours