

I first met Larry in 1999 when he came up to Madison to meet and have dinner with my two board chairs - Bill Kraus and Mary Lou Munts and with former Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl and me. Tony was then, as now, on the Joyce Board and a champion for the work of Common Cause. Larry was very kind, funny and extremely smart and wanted to help CC/Wisconsin in the quest to get some much needed political reform accomplished in Wisconsin.

Beginning in 2000, Larry and the Joyce Foundation provided support for CC/Wisconsin which enabled us to take the lead in pushing for the resignation and prosecution of Wisconsin's top legislative leaders (including the State Senate Majority Leader and the State Assembly Speaker) in a campaign finance corruption scandal that engulfed the state in 2001-2002. Continued Joyce support through Larry helped us lead the fight in replacing the corrupted and compromised Wisconsin State Elections and Ethics Boards with an independent and non-partisan Government Accountability Board that was established in February of 2007. And Larry's continuing support and encouragement provided CC/Wisconsin with the ability to push for the successful passage and enactment into law of the Impartial Justice Bill - providing full public financing (and matching fund grants) to candidates for the Wisconsin Supreme Court who agreed to spending limits of \$400,000 in December of 2009.

None of these significant reforms would have occurred without the support and encouragement of Larry Hansen and the Joyce Foundation.

But Larry's greatest gift to me and to CC/Wisconsin was his wisdom and judgment. In the late Summer of 2005, there was a serious divide in the Wisconsin reform community over support for a compromise campaign finance reform measure, as well as over tactics and strategy in dealing with the Legislature and Governor. Larry met me at a now closed bar in Madison and over several adult beverages and food, he calmly and kindly encouraged me to go forward and pledged his continued support for our work and for the direction we had decided to take. His sharp wit and intelligence and ability to discern what was needed to advance reform was remarkable and unmatched and further discussion about what we needed to do to get there was not needed. It was understood.

Larry Hansen was a unique and amazing individual and did more than any other person in the Midwest to advance meaningful political reform in this region—and perhaps in the nation.

Larry and I discovered that we had first met in 1982 when he was traveling around the country with former Vice President Walter Mondale, who was running for President in 1984, and I was managing the campaign of a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Pennsylvania. Mondale came to do a fund raising event for my candidate and Larry was with him. Small world.

Larry Hansen was a very good man and I will miss him very much both professionally and personally. But his memory will inspire us to fight for a better democracy in Wisconsin and in the nation forever.

---Jay Heck, Executive Director of Common Cause in Wisconsin---