

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**February 17, 2016**

**Members Present:** Presidents Brook Soltvedt and Kathy Fullin (by phone), Edith Sullivan, Ingrid Rothe, Karen Gunderson, Mary Anglim, Steve Ploeser, Susan Fulks, Barbara Mortensen, Gail Bliss, Sue Larson

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Sullivan moved and Rothe seconded to approve the January minutes prepared by Bliss. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** We reviewed the report that had been submitted by email. Fullin noted we're doing well on non-member donations. At this point we are two-thirds through our fiscal year and expenses line up with the budgeted amount.

**Program:** Sullivan filed our response to the Money in Politics consensus on January 21<sup>st</sup> and our acceptance of the LWV-WI program for 2016-17 on January 24<sup>th</sup>. She reported on the February 3<sup>rd</sup> special meeting to discuss the proposed revised LWV-WI Urban Policy position. The board agreed with the revised position and Sullivan will email the board's approval to LWV-WI. Sullivan said that Ron Seely has been confirmed as a speaker for the April 6<sup>th</sup> forum on water issues. Larson noted that Abigail Cantor with Process Solutions would also speak. Larson expects the program to focus on nitrate and lead, as they are the primary pollutants in Dane County. Fullin asked Larson to inform our administrator so she could notify Madison City Channel as well as Gunderson for the *Bulletin* and Fulks for publicity. Kelly Warren will produce a pod cast if the speakers don't object. Sullivan is starting work on the annual meeting to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Soltvedt suggested she check interest sheets for possible volunteers to help with the social hour and write an article for the *Bulletin* seeking volunteers. Fulks said she will leave the country on April 17<sup>th</sup> so she needs the annual meeting information in early April. At this point the plan is to have a social hour with refreshments from 6:00 to 6:30 followed by the speaker, the 50-year member announcement, and the Carrie Chapman Catt award. Larson will video the speaker for Sun Prairie. The annual meeting will be the last item on the agenda.

**Bulletin:** Gunderson reported that the final version of the March *Bulletin* was emailed to the office and board on February 14<sup>th</sup>. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline for the April *Bulletin*. Gunderson reviewed the proposed articles for the April *Bulletin* and led a discussion about the June-July *Bulletin*. She feels preparation of the June-July *Bulletin* should involve the new editor. We discussed potential articles for the June-July *Bulletin* and when to send it out. Since the membership renewal letters go out the last week in June, it would be best to send out the *Bulletin* after that. We'll firm up the date at the next meeting.

**Membership:** Anglim is working on a list of the 50-year members and their profiles. We have several new members and she is hoping to call to invite them to our remaining forums.

**Voters' Service:** Bliss got an email from the Madison City Clerk saying five people need help getting Voter ID's. Bliss will contact them. She reported that turnout of 22% in Madison at the February 16<sup>th</sup> primary election was better than expected. Twenty-eight people cast provisional ballots in Madison out of a turnout of about 38,570 voters. The Assembly with a minor amendment passed S. B. 295 authorizing online registration and eliminating Special Registration Deputies last night so it has to be re-approved by the Senate. It will take effect as soon as the on-line voter registration is up and running, probably later this year. Bliss will discuss the Meals on Wheels program with Marian Matthews and Janet Mills to see if it is possible to have voter information delivered with the meals. Friday she will attend a Voter ID meeting at our office.

**Publicity:** Fulks reported that all March publicity has been distributed.

**Business Systems:** Ploeser is working on the payment history screen in our software. His intention is to archive any information older than one year so that the payment history screen is easier to read. He made a function where a special button brings up special events so our administrator can reach that screen more quickly.

**Fundraising:** Larson said that on January 28<sup>th</sup> she met with Helen Horn and Caryl Terrell to discuss fundraising ideas. Terrell suggested she ask our business vendors for donations or a discount and ask LWV-WI if it asks vendors for a discount, and, if not, whether we could approach its vendors. Horn said that our assets of about \$285,000 were obtained primarily from bequests, and we could use approximately 2-4% more of the income from our investments for operations. Recognizing the importance of bequests, Larson included a form with the February 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine fundraising appeal that members could use to suggest that they could make memorial donations to LWVDC and wrote an article for the *Bulletin* discussing bequests. \$2,740 was received as of yesterday from the Valentine letter. We should also start thinking about our 100-year anniversary, which comes in four years. Some ideas are a book to sell, an historic reenactment, or a trip or tour.

**Webmaster:** Soltvedt reported that we got more site visits for this February's primary election for *Candidates' Answers* than last year's. It doesn't tell us how many people visited the site because they could have visited from more than one electronic device but it is a good trend. *CA* for the April election has been proofread for the web by Fullin, Horn, and Diane de Vos and should become active March 1<sup>st</sup>. She is working on *CA* for the *Isthmus* and has made a number of changes to our website.

**Vice-President's Report:** Rothe said that the Voter ID Coalition plans several voter events. She's working on the necessary contracts to allow LWVDC to be the fiscal agent for the Coalition.

**President's Report:**

- a. The date and time for the May meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. **Please note that this is the same date as the annual meeting.**
- b. *Candidates' Answers* – See Webmaster report.

- c. Our contract with TDS expires soon. This is our opportunity to switch to cable if we wish. Bliss suggested that the Executive Committee report back to us on the advantages and disadvantages (including costs) next month. The consensus agrees.
- d. Gunderson reported that the Nominating Committee has a full slate of candidates to present at the annual meeting. Gunderson and Cathy Berndt have volunteered to be on next year's Nominating Committee. At the July 2016 board meeting the board should nominate two board members to serve on the committee. Mike Casey, the nominee for the *Bulletin* editor, has a conflict with the Wednesday 1:00 time slot for board meetings. The consensus is that we could work out a different date and time if necessary. Larson suggested we buy a laptop with "Publisher" on it for the editor. Soltvedt said it's not a good idea to purchase a laptop for a limited use. Fullin suggested we could purchase software for the editor if he wants it.
- e. Fullin said the LWV-WI convention will be Friday/Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Sturgeon Bay. She would like an idea by the next meeting as to who could go.
- f. Phil Brinkman of the *Wisconsin State Journal* wants to discuss possible cooperation with us about coordinating candidate information for future elections. We need more information before making this decision. We have to consider how it would affect our arrangement with *Isthmus*.
- g. Fullin said the deadline for submitting reports and other materials for the annual meeting report is March 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a fiscal year report, not a calendar year report so it starts July 1, 2015 up to the date the report is written. The report should contain a summary of all that has taken place in your portfolio even if it was in the *Bulletin*. A chart could be used. March 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the annual meeting materials (which includes the budget, delegates to LWV-WI and LWV-US meetings, the nominating committee report, and any other items we need to vote on).
- h. Mortensen will write the presentation for the Carrie Chapman Catt award.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Larson suggested that we consider buying a color printer for printing letterheads and other materials to supplement our current printer. Soltvedt thinks it might not be a good idea because of the extra time to research a purchase, the extra space needed for another larger printer, and storage for materials needed for it. Also, when we move it might be to a shared office space that has a better printer. The consensus is that we could increase our budget to use more color printing for brochures, etc. Mortensen suggested we send a letter to the Latino leaders mentioned in a Wisconsin State Journal article asking about ways we could cooperate with them to encourage voter education and turnout. Anglim will look into this.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

**The next meeting is March 16, 2016.**

**The April meeting is April 20, 2016.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Mortensen, Secretary