

Minutes of September 12, 2018 meeting

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
2018-19 BOARD MINUTES
September 12, 2018

Present: Paul Lindquist, Sally Gleason, Mary Ellen Schmit, Susan Fulks, Mary Anglim, Maria Spinozzi, Brook Soltvedt, Christine Clements

Absent: Helen Horn, Kim Langley, Gail Bliss, Aileen Nettleton

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Soltvedt. Gleason moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Schmit. Motion passed.

Dane County Voters Coalition Report: Ingrid Rothe, co-chair of the Dane County Voter Coalition, provided an update on contract negotiations with the Dane County Clerk regarding the creation and distribution of voter registration materials. The Dane County Clerk wants to target communities that have low turnout, especially those negatively impacted by new voter ID laws. The ACLU spent substantial money on artwork for updated materials but they were all for Milwaukee, so Dane County will have to go through the original designer to make adjustments in materials. Half of a \$15,000 budget will go for mass mailing and most of the remainder for printing of voter materials. There is also an additional \$2000 for cab rides, and 5 percent overhead goes to the League. The contract is ready to sign. Fulks moved, Clements seconded, acceptance of the contract as recommended and permission for Rothe and Soltvedt to sign on behalf of the league. Motion carried.

The Coalition is developing a banner to hang over the South Park St. pedestrian walkway: "Vote" with dates and logos (Dane County Voters Coalition, LWVDC, NAACP, County Clerk). Hanging the banner requires a permit from the City of Madison, and the League needs to provide proof of liability insurance to get the permit. The League assumes liability although the banner is created by the coalition and paid for by our purchase order with Dane County.

Rothe leaves.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Langley was absent and the report was not available. The reconciliation recommended to Horn by an informal review and discussed at the August meeting was completed. The treasurer continues to work on reconciling and resolving issues. The board discussed the practice of internal review and the need to reconcile the balance sheet with accounts at each fiscal year end. A review of the Bylaws Article VII, Section 2,

indicates requirements for internal review by a non-board member. This should probably wait until the treasurer completes her current review and reconciliation.

Program Report: Anglim reported that the September forum on election security went well. We only have an audio recording as the videorecording failed. The October forum will address School Safety. There is a lot of money in the DOJ to make schools safer and provide more mental health support for students. The speakers at the forum will be from the DOJ Office of School Safety, and Coordinator of School Safety and Security Officer from the MMSD, and a UW student developing a Students Demand Action group. There is a possibility of a representative from the Verona school district, but we want to be sure there's room on the program for students, and not just adult discussion. Work is beginning on the November program focused on the National Popular Vote Compact.

Ideas are being collected for the January luncheon topic and speakers. Under consideration is racism, ethnic communities and implicit bias.

Anglim leaves.

Bulletin Report: Spinozzi stated that October Bulletin articles are due tomorrow, September 13, with board member review next week.

Fundraising Report: Clements reported that a September appeal would soon be sent out to non-members for Candidates Answers. Last spring's fundraising more than covered the cost of the March Candidates' Answers, but fell short by about \$1700 of covering the cost of the October edition. Last spring's CA fundraising was about \$1700 below estimated costs. Because a request went out last spring, two different appeals will be sent, one to those who gave in the spring and a second to those who didn't, including non-members new to the database.

A brief discussion took place about the updated estate-planning materials available on the website. The need to do additional edits on the brochure to align it with the updated web pages was discussed. Soltvedt will make the brochure available in an editable format.

Membership Report. Co-directors Gleason and Schmit have prepared a reminder renewal letter that the office is mailing this week. Nonmembers who attended the September forum are being solicited for membership. The League acquired 17 new members in August, and 9 to date in September with more than half the month remaining.

All new members are contacted by email and/or phone. If they add a comment about their expertise or interests to their membership form, it is included on the New Member Spreadsheet and can be acted on by the caller.

Schmit and Spinozzi will be at the UW Student Public Service Fair to represent and promote LWVDC.

Voter Service Report: Lindquist reviewed Voter registration/outreach opportunities and stated that information is available on the Voter Service Central webpage. Weekly e-mail newsletters have offered opportunities for voter outreach sign up. Schmit will send the Voter Service Central page to all new members who indicate an interest in voter registration/outreach

The Voter Service Team Steering Committee agenda will include brainstorming about establishing a mentoring/intake person for voter services. There may be a need for a triage person to ascertain the level and area of interest and guide new members into engaging with this activity. Some don't understand the need to attend voter ambassador training with the City Clerk in order to assist in voter registration.

The Bus Pass drive at UW was a great success! Many people have gone through training and shown up to help register students. Over 1300 students have been registered so far, which means they won't have to register on election day. Students were also provided with information on early voting, and informed that having a student voter ID card didn't mean they were registered for voting. This is a common misconception.

Eleven tablet computers from State League set up for WisVote with the Wisconsin Voices app have been acquired. There are still some issues with them. The tablets are locked down to only using voter app., which means they can't connect to other wifi. This is a problem where there is no cell service, as it means they can't find out if they're already registered to vote, among other things.

National voter registration day is Sept. 25!

Vice-President Report: Soltvedt reported that the League had participated in the Open Doors for Refugees Naturalization Ceremony last year providing voter information. We have been asked to participate this year on Sept. 20th. We will provide a somewhat different flyer that provides additional information beyond our standard brochure. Many of those being naturalized have links to the university and have been in the U.S. for some time. It was also reported that *Brava* magazine is making us the nonprofit of the month in November. They will interview Ingrid Rothe and Brook Soltvedt. They may film and interview at the Naturalization Ceremony.

In additional news, Soltvedt will substitute for President Aileen Nettleton at the quarterly State League conference because Aileen is away. It is expected that Candidates Answers will go

live on Sept. 15th, but it still needs additional proofing. We were waiting to get from the county what will be on the ballot, and then referenda research had to be completed.

The “Know Your Candidates” videos were cancelled because there were too few responses.

League member Kathy Fullin will give testimony at the Sept. 13th County Board Budget Meeting (Public Hearing). She will speak about accessibility to Board committee meetings, and transparency in committee deliberations and actions, and in support of Engage Dane, a new group to see how county board can do a better job of engaging with citizens. Currently Board meetings are televised but the decisions have often already been made in committees by the time they reach the board. Her recommendations include *1. A pilot project to record most meetings of one standing committee, holding as many meetings as possible in rooms equipped for remote videorecording by Madison City Channel, 2. Establishing a method for the public to communicate with all members of committees, including citizen members, 3. Posting all times and locations (and agendas, when possible) more than a few days in advance.*

Publicity/High School Voter Ed Report: Fulks is currently in conversation with the State League about pledge cards for high school students. Twelve high school students have been trained for an action team to assist peers in registering to vote and provide the League with information to better support students. Sun Prairie, Monona Grove and MMSD East, Memorial and West High Schools will all participate in voter education activities this fall.

Webmaster Report: Brook Soltvedt reported that the office administrator is currently able to update the website. The September presentation (slide deck) and student materials have been linked. Other updates are coming. Voter service information and the Dane County Budget Hearing statement will be posted soon.

President’s Report: President Aileen Nettleton was absent. A brief update was provided by Past President Soltvedt. The Office Administrator received a very positive review of her probationary period, and was awarded the pay increase offered upon successful completion of her probationary term.

No old or new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

Christine Clements, Acting Secretary