

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

## 2018-19 BOARD MINUTES

October 10, 2018

**Present:** Aileen Nettleton, Paul Lindquist, Helen Horn, Gail Bliss, Mary Anglim, Mary Ellen Schmit, Sally Gleason, Sue Fulks, and Christine Clements.

**Absent:** Brook Soltvedt, Kim Langley, and Maria Spinozzi.

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by President Nettleton.

**Minutes** – Clements reports having made changes based on feedback. Moved by Gleason seconded by Anglim to approve the minutes. Approved.

**Program** – The school safety forum went well with about 40 people attending. The November program on the Electoral College is canned. It would be good to have someone who knows about American History available to answer questions.

Capitol Lakes is available both Jan 12 and 19. The board prefers 1/12/19 because the MLK weekend may be hard to get speakers on diversity and inclusion.

Anglim plans to hold a meeting of the program committee to make recommendations for spring programs.

**Bulletin** – Deadline this Saturday – Writing assignments discussed. There will be a December bulletin this year, but no January bulletin.

**Fundraising** – Clements reports that two versions of the fund raising letter went out to non-members. Thanks to a last minute offer there was \$1,000 in matching funds offered. We got five new donors, and \$1,640 from outside sources. She plans to meet with Georgianna Hernandez later this month.

**Treasurer** – Our financial status is sound. We gained about \$50,000 July 2017 to June 2018. We brought in \$16,969 over expenses last year. And added about \$33,000 in memorial fund thanks to gains in the stock market. We have been bringing in more non-member contributions. We need to be looking for productive ideas for doing more. Clements recommended a strategic plan. Horn concurs, it has been several years since our last strategic plan. Nettleton, Soltvedt, Horn and Clements will meet as a planning subcommittee.

The 2018-19 budget is on track, comparable to last year, except for increased costs for office and staff. We have paid all state and federal per member payments, the same as last year. More detail will be provided next month.

**Membership** – Twenty new members joined in September, and we still have 70 to 75 non-renewals. The letter sent last month generated about 25 renewals. many of those who have not yet renewed have joined in the last couple years. The committee will call the remaining non-renewals, but expect to mostly leave messages since people tend not to answer phone calls from unknown numbers. They will also send an email with a click to join link, and ask for feedback. What drew you to LWV? What's working? What can we do better? What are you

hoping to get out of joining LWVDC? Nettleton stressed the importance of connecting, especially with new members and asked for ideas to increase connections.

The All Welcome Informational Social will be Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to noon at the Northport Goodwill Community Room at the corner of Sherman Avenue and Northport Drive. Board members are to bring breakfast food finger food or fruit to supplement the food purchased by the membership committee. Moved by Schmidt to approve up to \$200 budget for the welcome programming. Seconded by Horn. Motion carried. Nettleton will speak starting at 10:30, followed by Soltvedt, Fulks and Bliss. Sign-up sheets will be available for various activities. Board members will be wearing identifying article.

**President** – The Voter ID coalition contract is finally done. Banners, billboards and handbills have been developed encouraging voting and providing the ID hotline number for help.

The Executive Committee reported out several actions

- Approved of Kathy Fullin testifying to the County Board about streaming committee meetings, with a specific recommendation for funding a test for one standing committee in the 2018-19 budget.

- Approved the Voter Service Committee request for funding for computer equipment to facilitate IPAV voting at the UW.

- A band called The Civil Engineers wants to raise money for LWV. They will play election night at the High Noon Saloon called “Let’s Go Democracy: A Benefit for the Heroes at the League of Women Voters” They have agreed to modifications in the fundraising plan to meet legal non-profit requirements).

Nettleton discussed volunteers for various action/advocacy teams and the need for an action team coordinator. Next month’s meeting will include discussion of structure. Nettleton discussed various structures with Andrea Kaminski who noted that Door County uses observer teams.

**Send notes to Nettleton with ideas on how to organize our advocacy work.**

**Voter Service** – Statistics for the last two months: 145 outreach events, 600 shifts, about 150 volunteers. We get an amazing number of volunteers who really know what they are doing.

Buying new tech –There was a trial run for the chromebooks at UW yesterday at the UW Staff resource fair. The idea was to help get the staff to promote registration. Plus, 16 staff people registered.

The 15 Wisconsin Voices tablets are so locked down that they aren’t working. Wisconsin Voices has agreed to allow them to be unlocked. Lindquist needs them back for the update that should make them more useful.

We ordered 6000 extra copies of Candidates’ Answers. 4,000 for the Morgridge Center, and 2,000 for LWVDC distribution. Plus what we pull from the leftover copies of Isthmus.

**Publicity** – Press releases regarding Candidates Answers Online and the October’s forum were submitted to media contacts.

**High School Voter Education** – Fulks reported that they started the year with a three goals

- 1) Register seniors,
- 2) Help those students become informed voters, and
- 3) Train some high school students to register peers.

Training has taken place at a couple of schools and more training will be done prior to the spring elections. It is getting harder to bring volunteers into schools due to increased security. The project has registered quite a few seniors, but also run into some issues:

The signatures of individuals deputized by the county clerk were not accepted in lieu of POR attached to registration forms.

Inspire pledge cards were handed out to Freshmen thru Senior's at West High School, but younger students should not be asked for personal information such as birth dates. Being minors they cannot consent to sharing personal information. Shirley Haidinger had pointed out that according to EL 3.20 personal information (such as DL # and birth date) cannot be retained by an organization doing a voter registration drive. The board was asked to clarify our policy. Lindquist suggested collecting only month and year so that privacy is protected but reminders can be sent around the time the student turns 18. LWVWI is encouraging the use of pledge cards from Wisconsin Voices. Their pledge card can be customized. There is only one more high school registration drive, tomorrow.

Bliss moved that LWVDC stop using InspireUS pledge cards at high school registration due to privacy concerns related to collecting birth dates. Seconded by Clements. Approved.

**Website** – Phillip Heckman posted the November forum information, and Soltvedt has been adding action alerts.

**President's request for action** – Approved the renewal of membership in Lake Michigan ILO \$50/year.

Moved by Horn to accept the extension of the lease with a 3% per year increase. Seconded by Anglim. Approved.

Adjourned 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bliss

Secretary

