

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

### BOARD MINUTES

October 11, 2017

**Members present:** President Brook Soltvedt, Ingrid Rothe, Paul Lindquist, Cathy Berndt, Mike Casey, Dorothy Wheeler, Helen Horn, Gail Bliss. Absent Sue Fulks, Mary Anglim, Diane Liebert.

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Horn moved approval of the September 13 minutes as amended, Casey seconded. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Horn reports we have paid in full PMP & PMA so we are showing a negative income, but we have paid for the full year. Evjue Grant expense was the final printing from that grant.

Dane County Contract amount looks right, some of the reimbursement for last year. Please combine 4126 and 4151 under "Dane Co Contract" instead of having a separate line for cab rides. Joyce Foundation was a \$200 check, doesn't need its own line.

We need to discuss the expenditure of earnings on our investments. We have the opportunity to use up to \$10,000.

After discussion, Casey moved and Horn seconded increasing the text size in Spring Candidates' Answers, which is expected to add four pages to the length of the insert. Motion approved unanimously.

A plan to order 100 copies of the 2017 Wis. Taxpayers Alliance "The Framework of Your Wisconsin Government" at \$9.95/copy to hand out at LWVDC meetings was postponed until Susan Fulks is available to consider whether the High School Voter Education project wants copies. We do not plan to give them to each member because that would be a "benefit of membership" and impact the deductibility of dues.

Rothe suggested we consider contributing to legal fees for voter ID or fair maps. No action taken.

**Program:** Wheeler presented information to make a decision on where to have the Lively Luncheon. Options include:

Park Hotel	\$450 for room with Capitol View, and \$250 for plain room and \$20/meal
Concourse	Free room with lunches \$24.60
Capitol Lakes	Free room and lunch under \$20

Wheeler moved and Lindquist seconded holding the Lively Issues Luncheon at Capitol Lakes. Rothe abstained. Motion approved.

The date can be either 1/13 or 1/20, based on the availability of the speaker. The decision should be made as soon as possible, because we need to let Capitol Lakes know which date we wish to reserve.

Rothe will check on food – something vegetarian, other than what we got the last two years. After some discussion, Horn moved that we ask Bobby Peterson (of ABC for Health) to discuss how federal health law changes (including ACA & Medicaid) would affect WI. Second choice Robert Kraig, of Citizen Action of WI. Rothe seconded. Passed.

The February 2018 program will again be encouraging members to attend a local government meeting.

For March 2018 Rothe will be lead on a program on fair voting maps. She is planning on talking to Barry Burden regarding current developments.

**Bulletin:** Casey sent 10 paper bulletins to members without e-mail. We have a more than 40% open rate, so more than 50% did not open the bulletin. There is no way of knowing how many of them didn't read it before either. Absent any complaints about ending the print Bulletin, we will continue the online-only publication.

Directory – Since only 83 wanted it in print, we will attempt to deliver at LWVDC meetings/forums. We need to determine who picks up their directory, and keep the directory as a member benefit, not just leave them for anybody to pick up.

Casey has most of what he needs for the October bulletin. He will pick an action alert. The bulletin will come out late next week. Should we do a winter bulletin? Horn suggested a mid-January bulletin to encourage people to go to Feb local Gov't meetings. Agreed.

**Fundraising:** Berndt will be writing to non-members to solicit funds for *Candidates' Answers*. (CA)

**Membership:** Anglim provided a written report. Casey asked if 140 non-renewals was typical for this point in the year. Lindquist says software for renewal tracking has glitches.

The jail tour group was smaller than expected due to last-minute cancellations. Anglim will offer another tour.

**Voters' Service:** Lindquist noted many volunteers participated in National Voter Registration Day, September 26. Citizens were not that excited/tuned in. Soltvedt noted that Madison had more sites than any other city in the USA except New York City. Horn noted that there was a NY Times story about the State of New York registration deadline for party affiliation having passed, and it is over a year before partisan elections!

Shirley Haidinger and Paul Malischke are actively working to increase the number of addresses listed in MyVote, the on-line voter registration system. Only the addresses of registered voters in the old SVRS database were included in WisVote when it was created in early 2016. Addresses from new construction or where there was no registered voter in SVRS have to be added by clerks (or WEC, on request). Haidinger and Malischke are using Access Dane to create lists of apartment addresses for the Madison Clerk's Office to add to WisVote so citizens using MyVote to register at these addresses won't get an error message.

Bliss reports that she has sent requests to all senior liaisons asking if they wish to continue.

**Vice President:** The Voter ID Hotline number, which was started in Dane County, will now be publicized statewide. In 2016 Molly McGrath was employed by Voter Riders and was active in providing assistance to individuals calling the hotline. She is now at ACLU, working on Voter ID issues. She requested expanding the use of the number statewide and will find assistants for callers outside Dane County. The State League concurs with this.

Rothe reported the Voter ID Coalition was having trouble finding a room on campus for their forum discussing the report co-authored by Professor Ken Mayer "Estimating the Effect of Voter ID on Non-Voters in Wisconsin in the 2016 Presidential Election", funded by the Dane County Clerk.

Associated Students of Madison (ASM) has a very ambitious effort to encourage interest in voting. Malischke is assisting with data, relating to the Big Ten Challenge. The address issue, discussed above is of concern to ASM.

At their most recent meeting with Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Rothe, Soltvedt, Fullin, Malischke and Matthews discussed the missing address problem (discussed above as work Haidinger and Malischke are doing). Asked if her budget is big enough to do early in person absentee voting, no clear answer. We are not sure what court action will happen, or when. The 7<sup>th</sup> circuit may be waiting to see how the Texas case, which is going to US Supreme Court, turns out.

**Publicity:** Fulks provided a written report. Inspire US has given us a box of postcards with LWVWI logo that could be used for students to pledge to register and vote. They are interviewing for a Southern Wisconsin staff position. Lindquist said Middleton High school provided Proof of Residence for 17 year olds at their registration event. Soltvedt provided information at Shabazz.

**Website:** Soltvedt provided a list of items added or changed on the site.

**President's Report:** Book discussions went well, even though small. Several people canceled at the last minute. Next time we will try fewer sessions.

Soltvedt proposed we give away the old office chair. Board concurred.

CA Questions – What do we want to ask? Suggestions welcome, send to Lindquist.

Kathy Fullin recommends that the Voter Service Award be given to Jack Eggert, the Middleton High School sophomore who organized voter registration at the high school this year and last year. Lindquist expressed support.

**New Business:** Soltvedt moved that we contribute \$150 to the Capitol Lakes Resident Association Staff Appreciation Fund for the superb service provided for our meetings. Seconded by Lindquist. Two abstentions (Rothe & Bliss)

Soltvedt is concerned about mentoring future leaders. She introduced a teams of three concept used in Milwaukee. The Nominating Committee: Chair Karen Gunderson, Fullin, Fulks, Mary Ellen Schmidt, and Rothe are open to suggestions.

Motion to adjourn by Horn, seconded by Casey at 4:06 PM

**The November meeting is November 8, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the office.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Bliss, Secretary