

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

2018-19 BOARD MINUTES

November 14, 2018

Present: Aileen Nettleton, Paul Lindquist, Helen Horn, Gail Bliss, Mary Anglim, Mary Ellen Schmit, Sally Gleason, Christine Clements, Brook Soltvedt, Kim Langley, and Maria Spinozzi.

Absent: Sue Fulks.

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

Minutes – Moved by Gleason, seconded by Anglim to approve the minutes after typos were corrected.

Treasurer - Langley explained the reports. As the fiscal agent for the Voter ID Coalition, LWVDC has paid for get-out-the-vote efforts, including social media, billboards, bus advertising, the banner hung over Park Street, door hangers and other materials encouraging individuals without ID to call the hotline. ACLU has also paid for some of these items. It can take up to six weeks to get reimbursement from Dane County.

Discussion items included questions about line items. Langley states that once a category is included in QuickBooks, it can't be removed. There are many duplicate or similar categories. Langley would prefer not to create even more.

Profit and Loss is July – Nov. is quite long and easier to see on the Excel spreadsheet.

Issues included – the differences between contributions and fundraising – needed to see how well fundraising appeals are doing. Clements, Langley and Cindy Lindquist will look at this issue. The Access database doesn't always agree with QuickBooks. Access keeps track of donations by individual and QuickBooks by category.

- The purchase of the copy machine is under equipment maintenance, rather than creating a new category for equipment purchase. The new copier was approved by email vote and costs \$4,400. We will save significant per-copy costs 2018-2022.

- Some 50 year members are designating their donations to pay for memberships for limited income members. We have money to use for this purpose.

- 5280 Special Projects includes Voter ID, the county contract and the Evjue grant. One line was identified to be moved by journal entry to another account.

- Send specific questions to Langley

We should make sure that the Mozy Backup system is properly configured to back up what we need.

Langley is treating prior years as if they have been closed until a few final technical items can be addressed. Overall the organization has more than sufficient funds. The Board needs to address strategic planning to expand our efforts and efficiently use our resources. We want to make the LWVDC better able to meet future challenges.

Finance and Budget – Horn reported that the Financial Advisory Committee met October 17, 2018, and decided not to change the portfolio composition. Due to our \$70,000+ cash reserve, the investment funds would not need to be liquidated quickly to address a possible future deficit.

Budget timeline –

- January - Gather budget requests (to budget comm. members anytime)
- February - Budget committee meets and prepares a budget
- March - Budget considered at March board meeting; board approval after
modifications
- April - Annual meeting board packet – proposed budget mailed to
membership

If changes are required before the annual meeting, they are approved by the board and will be presented as an amendment at the annual meeting. Members can also propose amendments at the annual meeting.

Program – Anglim reported a successful program Nov 7. She plans to attend as many unit meetings as possible this month to take part in the discussions. Some people expressed interest in looking at how votes are counted for other offices.

The rooms are booked at Capitol Lakes for the Lively Issues forum January 12, 2019, from 11:30 – 2:30pm. A speaker still needs to be engaged, with the topic of implementation of Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the LWV. The board would like Anglim to see if Sagashus Levingston would be available to speak. Moved by Soltvedt, seconded by Clements that an honorarium of \$200 be offered to Sagashus Levingston, and that this action not be considered a precedent to providing honoraria for other speakers. Approved Unanimously.

Bulletin – Spinozzi spoke briefly about the materials received to date. Articles were due November 13. Online publication is scheduled for November 26. Meg Gordon interviewed Mary Anglim. Spinozzi is looking for other interviewees. Depending upon who is chosen, maybe the recipient of the voter services award. Gail Bliss also volunteered to be interviewed.

Fundraising – Clements noted that the previous chair, Cathy Berndt, had suggested an end of year appeal for tax reasons. Discussion included how to structure the appeal. The decision is to include a short article in the Bulletin, and Soltvedt will mention end of year giving in a weekly email. With the change in the tax code, charitable giving is less likely to provide a tax deduction.

Soltvedt noted that LWVDC is not signed up for “Giving Tuesday” next week, but LWVWI is. LWVDC will promote the LWVWI fundraiser in our weekly email and on social media.

Clements and Nettleton met with Georgiana Hernandez, a new member with a background in nonprofit management. She was CEO of a Latinx non-profit in California. She is being asked to help with a planning meeting.

Membership - After lapsing the non-renewals, we have crossed the 400 member level. Some of the lapsed members are rejoining. Gleason called each of the non-renewals and left a voicemail saying she would send an email. The email asked for feedback about why the member had chosen not to renew. Members for one or two years were asked why they initially joined, and how we failed to meet their expectations.

Schmit reported that the info social went well. They will be talking to two new members who are interested in doing volunteer coordination. Several people signed up to receive additional information on Diversity Outreach, Policy Research and Voter Outreach.

Two new units have been formed. One for students and young professionals (11/18/18), and another at the Fitchburg Library (11/14/18).

There was a Diversity Equity and Inclusion meeting at Bayview. Lots of Hmong individuals attended. Ingrid Rothe presented information on voter engagement. There was discussion about

getting interpreters for the polls. Some elders complained that the young people hired to interpret have hard-to-understand accents.

Voter Outreach – Lindquist reported that the on campus new tech worked pretty well. During IPAV the bottleneck was the printing of stickers for the envelopes, not registration.

Fulks provided a written report on HSVE, and the article in the Capital Times about HSVE at West High School.

Anglim reported that the Wisconsin Early Childhood Education group was doing “I pledge to vote cards”. They see encouraging voting as a way of building their non-professional (parent) membership.

Vice President – Soltvedt presented information about The Madison Institute (TMI). TMI sublet a small part of the Marshall Court office. Given the new landlord’s dislike of sublets, LWVDC did not want to address their continued subletting at the new site. We allowed TMI to store some of their materials informally in our storeroom. TMI has asked to return to sharing our space, including use of our address for their mail, use of the conference room for one meeting/month, storage and file sorting space. After discussion the consensus was not to allow the use of our address. TMI can use a post office box. If they want to use our space for a meeting, an LWVDC member would need to be in charge of the keys (\$50 deposit). Rather than a sublet TMI could make a donation. We can still work with TMI to cross-publicize events of interest as appropriate.

The Website report included links to traffic around the election and a list of LWVDC in the news.

President’s report

Nettleton asked for a motion commending the Voter Service Committee for their work. Moved by Clements, seconded by Schmit to commend the efforts of members of the voter services committee, regarding voter registration and IPAV work at UW and around the community.

The new button maker has arrived. Ruth Ann Berkholtz of the Voter ID Coalition and others have been making buttons.

Nettleton celebrated the new members who attended the 10/27/18 coffee. Two also attended the state Issues Briefing at Holy Wisdom 11/10/18.

Nettleton requested board participation in a strategic planning meeting prior to the start of 2018-19 budget deliberations. After much discussion a half day program on December 4 will be planned. Everyone is asked to consider goals for the near future. Ingrid Rothe will also be invited.

Two new members, Jean Jacobson and Kathy Krusiec, have offered to take on volunteer coordination. They will be meeting with Nettleton, Soltvedt, and the membership co-chairs. They will also be working with Cindy Lindquist on using the database. Roles and responsibilities are under discussion.

Logistics for the Lively Issues luncheon were discussed. The capacity of the dining room was questioned as well as the timeline for mailing invitations and placing the food order.

Nettleton talked about reactivation of an Observer Corps and mentoring members interested in becoming active.

Old Business – Pay it Forward, the partnership with Forward Theater, needs a liaison. The theater company wants to recognize and support LWV in 2019 during the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. The volunteer would report to the Centennial Planning Committee.

New Business – The spring primary has a crowded field for Madison mayor. Should we consider publishing Candidates Answers in Isthmus for the February 2019 primary?

Meeting adjourned 4:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bliss

Secretary