

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
December 11, 2013

Members Present: Presidents Ingrid Rothe and Kathy Fullin (by phone), Sybil Better, Kathy Johnson, Helen Horn, Steve Ploeser, Mary Conroy, Gail Bliss, Barbara Mortensen, Karen Gunderson

President Rothe called the meeting to order at 1:30.

Secretary' Report: Horn moved and Ploeser seconded the minutes be approved. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Conroy noted that \$1,000.00 was donated by a member and posted to account 4053. The income report doesn't include a \$3,000.00 grant by Alliant Energy that is pending.

President's Report:

- a. The date and time for the March Board Meeting is March 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
- b. St. Vincent de Paul picked up the table and chairs that we donated to them.
- c. Fundraising – the Evjue Foundation gave us \$2,500.00. Five hundred of it is to be used for *Candidates' Answers (CA)* and \$2,000.00 is to be used for Professor Matland's get-out-the-vote research. Alliant Energy gave us \$3,000.00 for CA. Mortensen suggested asking the UW political science department if it would be interested in doing a study to understand voting behavior. Bliss stated we have enough to do now. Fullin stated if Professor Matland doesn't want to continue we could approach the UW political science department.
- d. Two thousand copies of our letterhead were ordered in color. The price came in at \$30.00 less than 1,000 copies of color and 1,000 copies of black and white.
- e. LWV-US has an Internet project called Vote 411. The software allows candidates to put their answers online directly. LWV-WI wants us to consider using the software for CA and Rothe, Ploeser, Fullin, and Brook Soltvedt went to a training session conducted by LWV-US to learn about it. Fullin said we could do a test using Verona and export from Vote 411 to Word. She added that it is a good system for the long-term. Rothe says there is a cost to using it but the software is free in 2014. Andrea Kaminski of LWV-WI is committed to using Vote 411 and may try to get a grant for the future to implement it.
- f. Our technology needs revamping. Ploeser will help Elaine accomplish it. Mary Anglim will assume some of his membership duties off-board and will join the board in July, 2014.
- g. The membership directory has a page titled "*Contacting Elected Officials*" and contains addresses, websites, and some phone numbers for President, Congress, and state and local officials. It is not always accurate because some officials change offices during their tenure and it is difficult to compile. It could be shortened and just give details on how to get this information from websites or phone numbers for clerk's offices and other agencies that would have contact information for individual officials. We discussed making this change in 2015 and the consensus was to pare down this page.
- h. Kippert wanted us to discuss whether to nominate someone for the YWCA's Women of Distinction award. The board decided against advancing a nomination this year.
- i. The printer still causes problems. Should we get a different vendor? DaneNet can advise us for \$64.00/hour at our office. Horn said Tech Soup could also do this. DoIt (part of UW) can provide hardware and software. We definitely need a new printer. LWV-WI and Project Restore (Habitat for Humanity) have been satisfied with DaneNet. Fullin moved and Mortensen seconded that we authorize Rothe to use DaneNet's service.

Vice-president's Report: Better discussed the letter we received from Ronald McDonald House (RMH) on November 25th regarding its purchase of the Prest Building. Closing is planned for February, 2014. RMH plans to operate the building as a rental for 24 to 30 months while going through the approval process with the Village of Shorewood Hills. RMH would like tenants to stay on. Better will call RMH and ask for a copy of the proposed lease.

Bulletin: Gunderson discussed her plans for the "Know Your Board Member" section of the bulletin. Bliss will send hers in for the February bulletin. Gunderson will also include a list of contributors. Joanie Kanter talked to Brook Soltvedt about starting a Facebook page and they'll work together.

Fundraising Report: Rothe reviewed the fundraising report as of December 11th. She and Horn agreed that the total raised from all contributions is \$7,175.00.

Membership Report: Ploeser stated that we have 223 members (including 50-year members) for 2013-14 as of December 10th. He may contact non-renewals if the membership committee wants to (non-renewals have already been contacted three times).

Publicity Report: Johnson stated that Kiggins would contact Madison Urban Ministry and Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and other interested groups to invite their members to *Lively Issues*. Kiggins will also help publicize the Great Decisions group.

Voters' Service: Bliss volunteered to register voters at the library. Only one person asked for help in obtaining a voter ID. The volunteers at the Job Center didn't find any interest there. In the revamp of *CA* she will thank Alliant and Evjue for their donations. She will consult with Maribeth Witzel-Behl (Madison City Clerk) and Paul Malischke about the revised *CA*. She met with Isthmus about the *CA* redesign for the spring election. Someone suggested to her that we register voters at the Winter Farmers' Market but she has no plans to do it.

Program: Johnson attended a conference on *Rethinking Event Marketing* sponsored by the Center for Change. The Joyce Foundation (a sponsor) was left off the announcement for *Lively Issues* but it will be identified as a sponsor at the meeting and in the bulletin. Shahla Werner, executive director of the Sierra Club, will be the speaker at the February forum on water issues. The March forum will discuss redistricting. Clare McArdle and Margi Kindig are planning it. The April forum has not been decided. The May annual meeting has not yet been arranged. We will try for May 7th. Bliss will discuss this with Capital Lakes. (Note: On Thursday, December 12th Bliss sent an email stating that arrangements have been agreed to.)

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting is January 15, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mortensen, Secretary