

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
November 11, 2015**

Members Present: Presidents Brook Soltvedt and Kathy Fullin (by phone), Gail Bliss, Edith Sullivan, Mary Anglim, Diane Martin Liebert, Susan Fulks, Karen Gunderson, Helen Horn, Sue Larson, Barbara Mortensen

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Bliss moved and Sullivan seconded to approve the October minutes. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Liebert noted that although October 31st net income showed a negative balance of -\$485.83 the balance as of today stands at \$828. The checking account has a balance of about \$15,000 and \$1,200 is required as a minimum balance. *Candidates' Answers* (#4080) has \$690 as of today and includes member and non-member contributions. Horn noted that IRS form 990 has been filed and accepted by the IRS. She noted that the IRS has changed our name in its records to League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Dane County Inc.; however, our corporate name remains the League of Women Voters of Dane County, WI, Inc.

Webmaster: Soltvedt explained the difference between "like" and "friend" on Facebook. "Like" is for people to use for following an organization and "friend" is what people use to connect with another person. On the SRD Central part of our website there is now a page for those who adopt senior centers as voting liaisons. There will be more details in the Voter Service Report. Soltvedt and Fulks noticed that the personal account associated with our Facebook page (Dane Voter) suddenly had more than 30 friend requests. This likely results from some change to how Facebook operates. We want to keep the "Likes" to our LWVDC page, but not accept the "Friend" requests to Dane Voter.

Program: Sullivan discussed unit responses to LWV-US for consensus questions on the use of a constitutional convention. We decided to agree with an answer to the question if three of four units agree and the fourth unit had no consensus; however, if only two units agree there will be no consensus. On the Urban Policy survey from November units, the Executive Committee will review the responses before they are sent to LWV-WI. For the Urban Policy consensus in February we will not have a forum. Instead we will have a general membership meeting and not have the units meet separately. Before setting up the February meeting we will have to see what information LWV-WI sends out. Fulks suggested we inform people in advance about the questions to be asked for the Money in Politics consensus so people can read the study materials and Internet links with the questions in mind. For the March forum on redistricting Horn is setting up a meeting for people who have expressed an interest in working on the topic. Sullivan cannot move forward on the April forum speaker until she has confirmation from Kathy Cramer about whether she can speak at the annual meeting or the April forum. Once Sullivan has Cramer's commitment, she can move forward on planning for the remaining event. Soltvedt moved and Sullivan seconded tabling the discussion about a location for the annual meeting to December. Unanimously approved.

Membership: Anglim and Sara Markham have called about half of the 35 people identified as lapsed members. The response has been good and she has concluded that phone calls work better than letters and email in encouraging people to renew.

Publicity: Fulks will prepare a flyer to inform the general public about the Lively Issues meeting.

Voters' Service: Bliss reported that from October 1st through November 7th 28 voters were registered at the Farmer's Market on the Square. Information about registration was given to 68 people and Voter ID information to 24 people. At St. Vincent de Paul, 19 were registered, 37 given registration information and 31 people received Voter ID information. Melissa L Sanchez Cruz has completed a Spanish translation of the Voter ID flyer. Fulks said member Margaret Stine, who has translated documents to Spanish for government agencies, is willing to translate documents to Spanish for us. We are working to find other Spanish-speakers to proofread the material. She will provide the translated copy to LWV-WI so that it can be more widely disseminated. The *Adopt a Senior Center* program has provided special registration deputies to 11 senior centers and two senior housing units. Bliss is looking at free meal sites to adopt as well. The *Dane County Area Agency on Aging* supplied Bliss with the senior center locations. If we can identify other sites we should let her know.

Bulletin: Gunderson reviewed the articles she is planning for the February and March BULLETINS. Articles for February are due December 23rd. Her term as BULLETIN editor ends in June, and since she is on the Nominating Committee she would welcome any suggestions for the editor position.

Business Systems: Soltvedt said the new copier has arrived and has lots of new features. If we want to use the copier we must first enter a code, which will be posted next to the copier, since our sub-lessees are also using the copier and we need to identify who is paying for copies. *Physicians for Social Responsibility* has agreed to pay \$15 per month more to help cover the increased charge for faster DSL. Our share of the extra cost is \$5 per month.

Fundraising: Larson reported that 56 letters have been sent to non-members who either responded to previous appeals for *Candidates' Answers* or to Clare McArdle's and Fran Bicknell's list of potential donors. So far we have received 17 responses for a total of \$1,015. Larson drafted a fundraising brochure and passed it around for comments. She hopes to include it in the next mailing. She will contact the *Hoover Foundation* to see if it might be willing to provide a grant.

Vice-Presidents Report: No report.

President's Report:

- a. The date and time for the February meeting is February 17th at 1:00 p.m.
- b. The board selected Mike Haas, director of the Elections Division of the *Government Accountability Board* for the Voters' Service Award.

- c. Gunderson suggested that since each mailing of the BULLETIN/study materials costs about \$300 we look into ways to publicize the cost and fund it through donations. We could also look at taking the money from the Memorial Fund as tax law discourages non-profits from “hoarding” money. Soltvedt suggested that we prepare our members for the eventual transition to mostly electronic communications for the majority of our members. A very small number of our members do not use email. For some of our members the BULLETIN is their main connection to LWV-DC. For the next three years we’ll continue to mail the BULLETIN. The presidents could also discuss the cost in their message.
- d. We should consider making a contribution to the Capitol Lakes Staff Appreciation Fund to recognize the employees involved in setting up the room for our forums. Mortensen moved to send a check for \$100.00 and Fulks seconded. Anglim amended the motion to \$150.00 and Fulks seconded. Nine voted yes, one no, and one abstained. A letter will be sent with the donation thanking the employees for their help.
- e. Fullin reminded us of the policy for speaking for LWVDC in our Board Policies and Procedures. The executive committee or president should approve any communication on behalf of LWVDC.

Old Business: None

New Business: Larson suggested that a future forum topic could focus on clean, safe drinking water. Speakers could include Ron Seely or *Midwest Environmental Advocates*.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting is December 9, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

The January meeting is January 20, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mortensen, Secretary