

FINAL, APPROVED

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
December 9, 2015**

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

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Bliss moved and Sullivan seconded a motion to approve the November minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Liebert reported we are close to budget on our Income and Expenses from July 1st through December 6th. Fullin asked why we're over budget on #5210, General Supplies. This is due to the allocation for the copier that was replaced, which will be moved to #5200, Equipment Maintenance.

Bulletin: Gunderson discussed the Nominating Committee's progress in finding a BULLETIN editor to start July 1, 2016. We discussed the need for the editor to use Word in producing the BULLETIN. The consensus was that a different format could be used as long as it could be shared among all board members for review. She asked if it's necessary for an editor to be on the board. The consensus is that we prefer to have the editor on the board. There was discussion about continuing to have the BULLETIN produced 6-7 times a year. The consensus is that we would like to continue with 6-7 times a year but we'll revisit it if necessary. Gunderson reviewed the articles planned for the February BULLETIN. Articles are due December 23rd and the draft will be sent to the board on January 8th. Comments are due January 12th and the final draft will be sent to the office on January 18th.

Program: Sullivan reported that our response to the Constitutional Amendment Consensus was filed November 12th. Preparation for the March 2, 2016 forum on redistricting is well underway with Helen Horn and Caryl Terrell chairing the committee. The Urban Policy survey was filed November 28th. Early in January LWV-WI will send the proposed revised position to local leagues for comments. We discussed the planned special meeting to be arranged in place of unit meetings. We decided to have it February 3, 2016 at Capitol Lakes if it is available. Sullivan will contact June Weisberger Blanchard to arrange for a Capitol Lakes room since the meeting will not be open to the public; therefore only residents can reserve rooms. Sullivan will facilitate the meeting and ask Sybil Better if she can take notes. We discussed *Lively Issues* arrangements. It will take place at Capitol Lakes and lunch will be served. Kelly Warren will record the meeting and Anglim will handle the sign-in. The facilitator for the Money in Politics consensus will be Soltvedt and Sybil Better will be asked to record. We discussed the annual meeting and decided that May 11th is the preferred date but if Capitol Lakes is not available then May 18th would be all right. We decided that the April forum topic would be water. Some suggested speakers are Ron Seely, who has written on the topic, George Meyer, former head of the Department of Natural Resources, and Kimberlee Wright, executive director of Midwest

FINAL, APPROVED

Environmental Advocates. Larson agreed to be on the committee. Caryl Terrell is another possible committee member.

Voters' Service: Bliss said the *Adopt a Senior Center* program is going well and provided the board with an excel spreadsheet listing the sites and volunteers. LWV-WI is planning to hire a full-time Voter Services Coordinator. Anglim said the Voter ID coalition (which we belong to) has a member, (Molly McGrath) from Vote Riders, who is willing to handle phone calls re: Voter ID. Soltvedt and Bliss will arrange for someone to proofread the Voter ID information translation.

Membership: Anglim and her committee continue to contact lapsed members to ask them to renew. Two members who made substantial contributions to the 2015 May Challenge were allowed to count those contributions as dues payments. On November 17th Anglim, Soltvedt, Larson, and Sara Markham participated in a conference call with Anita Loch, the membership and leadership development (MLD) coach for LWV-WI. Topics discussed were Voter ID, methods of engaging UW students in voter efforts, possible fee structures, offering a reduced rate for new members and the importance of personal contacts in attracting business support. Fullin reminded us that the IRS code says that \$75 is the maximum amount of dues that are tax-deductible and we should keep that in mind in discussing fee structures. The next conference call on January 12th will discuss diversity.

Publicity: Fulks reported that *Lively Issues* details and the publicity flyer have been posted on our website. She has created a list of Madison neighborhood newsletters and Webmaster contacts and has sent them the letter from the Dane County Voter Photo ID Coalition with a request to post it on their web page, Facebook, or in their newsletter. She also sent a press release to Dane County community newspapers and requested them to publicize this information.

Business Systems: No report.

Webmaster: Soltvedt reported that in addition to posting *Lively Issues* details on our website she also posted to Facebook. She also posted articles about recycling, a report on the EPIC registration day, a notice about the Dane County redistricting hearing, using AmazonSmile for online shopping, and a Voter ID article including links to our Voter ID flyer. She updated our position on Government Responsibilities and Procedures along with a statement to the Dane County Redistricting Subcommittee and linked our podcasts to iTunes. She created a Senior Housing Liaison page and an item calling for the Dane County District Attorney to appeal the John Doe case to the US Supreme Court. In January she will prepare the online forms for *Candidates' Answers* and change the online dues form to the half-year membership rate. She reported that on December 7th our web page had a jump to 67 hits that could be related to Fulks sending out her publicity notices.

Fundraising: Larson reported that the fundraising brochure has been completed for the December mailing. Several issues related to dues and fundraising were raised in the conference call with Anita Loch, the MLD coach. Loch stated that some leagues are working to keep their dues low and our \$75 dues is a barrier to some people so we need to publicize our scholarships and half-year memberships. Perhaps 50-year members who no longer pay dues could sponsor a

FINAL, APPROVED

lower-income person who would like to join. We discussed ways to connect with these people. The California league doesn't have a dues structure. Leaders explain what their budget need is and ask for contributions in any amount.

Larson is compiling a list of businesses to approach for funding next year and would appreciate any suggestions and/or help in personally contacting those businesses. \$1,765 has come in as of December 7th for *CA* and more checks have come in but not yet deposited.

Vice-President's Report: None

President's Report:

- a. The date and time for the March meeting is March 16th at 1:00 p.m.
- b. Fundraising ideas – a committee should be formed to consider ideas for sponsorships for some of our projects. Soltvedt, Anglim, Larson, and Fullin agreed to be on the committee. We need to remember when considering the possibilities that it shouldn't be too complicated for the treasurer to keep track of. Businesses might be listed in *CA* for donations over a certain amount and possibly individuals too.
- c. Advocacy Matters - Liebert read a statement before the Dane County Board Redistricting Committee at a hearing that Clare McArdle also attended. Soltvedt and Fullin sent a letter to the Dane County District Attorney requesting that he ask the WI Supreme Court to make him a party to the John Doe case in order to appeal the decision canceling the John Doe investigation to the US Supreme Court.
- d. There will be four *CA*'s online in 2016, for the two primary and two general elections. Two *CA*'s for the general elections will be printed in Isthmus also. The first printed edition will be in the March 17th Isthmus. LWV-WI will use the 411 format but we need to decide if we will also use it. The cost is \$600.

Old Business: None

New Business: Bliss will take the minutes in January.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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

The February meeting is February 17, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mortensen, Secretary