

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2016**

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

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. In the absence of Mortensen (Secretary) Bliss took the minutes.

Secretary's Report: Sullivan moved and Liebert seconded approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2015, meeting with the amendment in the program section to note that the Board had approved no meal at the Annual Meeting. They were unanimously approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Horn and Liebert asked which forms of the report are preferred. Liebert stated that she can produce either a year to year comparison or a current year to current budget report with the push of button. Soltvedt suggested that since the report is through the end of the previous month it would be best to get whichever report(s) in time to allow it to be reviewed over the weekend prior to the board meeting.

Question about line 5295 – recommendation to change the name of the line from “Stripe account discount” to “Stripe account fees.” (Stripe is our e-commerce payment company for online payments and donations.)

Liebert requested that board members with bills to be paid place them on Sinagra's chair instead of in the treasurer's in-box. Sinagra mails bills to Liebert. Items in the in-box may not be seen for some time.

Investment Report: Horn stated that based on the average value of the account in 3 of the last 5 years (after discarding the highest and lowest) we could withdraw 4.5% (\$9,180) from our investments. .We have not withdrawn anything from the Memorial Fund investment account since 2007.(Between 2007 and 2013 we covered operating deficits by using funds from the portion of the Barschall account invested in the Anchor Money Market fund.)In 2013, we used the Anchor Money Market account to address cash-flow issues, removing \$10,000 in August of 2013, and replacing the funds in 2014. Soltvedt stated that as a non-profit we should not be hoarding funds, in a year with 4 elections and all the voter ID issues, spending some of our investment account would make sense. Fullin noted that we will need to fund a move from our current office at some time in the next few years, which would be another potential draw on the funds.

Program Report: Sullivan reviewed the Lively Issues Luncheon, and the Money in Politics Consensus Report. Overall things went well, but concerns with the Lively Issues venue included the dining area not being open for socializing before the meal, limited elevator space and bathroom lines. If we use that site again we should have a “hostess”

who encourages socializing upstairs, and consider providing a bathroom and elevator map.

Sybil Better compiled responses of the 28 members who stayed to address the Money in Politics Consensus Report. Fulks moved and Liebert seconded acceptance of the report. Passed unanimously. Sullivan will submit the report to LWVUS. Gunderson asked for a written summary for the newsletter. Sullivan/Soltvedt will see that a summary is written. Soltvedt stated that the feedback forms regarding the consensus process will be discussed at a future meeting.

The February 3 special meeting to discuss the updating of the LWVWI Urban Policy Position needs a recorder. Cathy Berndt was suggested as a possibility. Sullivan talked to Anglim, they agreed that sign in will do, the name tag box would not be required for this meeting.

March 2 Redistricting Program. Horn and Caryl Terrell chair the program committee. David Canon is scheduled to speak, and a second speaker is being sought. The study materials will be needed by 2/8/16 to send out with the March newsletter. Fulks requested information for the publicity flyer.

April 6 Water Program. Larson chair. Liz Wessel also on the committee. They are seeking Ron Sealy as one speaker. He is the author of a new report, *Failure at the Faucet*, discussed in the 1/17/2016 *Wisconsin State Journal (WSJ)*. There was discussion of having someone from the County Board talk about the Spring 2015 water quality resolution. Since the election is 4/5/16, we could have a County Board member as a speaker 4/6/16.

Annual Meeting May 18. There will be no meal, but we will start at 6PM with light refreshments. Kathy Cramer, UW Political Science professor, is the speaker for the Annual Meeting.

The LWVWI plan for 2016 focuses on supporting local leagues in this busy election year. We concur with their top priority.

Sullivan asked the board to start considering topics for fall 2016. She referenced LWVUS items:

- *Voting and Elections*: [Restoring the Voting Rights Act \(VRA\)](#) continues to be a top priority
- *Money in Elections*: The League continues to push Congress to pass the [DISCLOSE Act](#).
- *Climate Change*: EPA has [finalized the Clean Power Plan](#), implementation of these regulations heads to the states.
- *Redistricting*: Late last year, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in [Evenwel v. Abbott](#), which has the potential to upset the criteria for drawing state and local legislative districts so that districts would be determined by the total number of voters instead of total population.

LWVUS Says 2016 promises to be a busy year. [State and local Leagues will continue to lead the way](#) to fight back against bad voter reforms...

Newsletter: Gunderson thanked everybody for their work on the February Bulletin. The deadline for the March Bulletin is 1/30/16. Assignments for articles were discussed, including:

- obituaries for:
 - Luella Wells, info provided by Nancy Piegel, – Horn will write,
 - Pam Rewey – Liebert will write.
 - Elizabeth (Bess) Ross – Sally Carpenter will write.
- There was a discussion of whether Know Your Candidates presentation schedule will be available and timely for this issue. – Soltvedt will follow up
- Liebert will provide information on unit meetings.
- Larson will write a reminder on the Valentine/Birthday fund raiser.
- Rothe will be asked to provide an article on the results of the Photo ID Coalition's activities

Membership: No report

Voter Service: Bliss was asked “are we finding people who need ID’s?” It is turning out that most lower income seniors have ID’s because they need WI ID’s for other services. More challenging are the recent migrants who have moved to WI to be closer to children. Gunderson reported that while registering voters at Job Service she found some younger people who do not have WI ID. They are still using out of state driver’s licenses. Fullin reported that Marion Mathews and Paul Malischke are working with ASM and UW Madison to improve their outreach and system. Soltvedt reports that the UW web page has improved.

Bliss reports that she is contacting liaisons to senior centers. Some are having issues with how to use the internet to report their experiences. Many are doing good publicity, not many new voter registrations. Bliss is contacting the outlying senior centers which have not been adopted to provide them with articles for newsletters, and encourage staff to reach out to their local clerk(s). Fullin will review the materials prior to e-mailing.

Fulks has sent articles on Voter ID and the spring elections to local newspapers and newsletters. The list of newsletters is from the City’s website, but rather out of date. If anybody had updates, they would be appreciated. Fulks will send the list to the board.

Liebert recommended using Newcomers and Who’s New to reach new people moving to Madison/Dane County.

Larson asked for a speaker’s bureau. At this point we are having trouble covering the requests that come in, without publicizing our availability for more engagements.

Publicity Report: Fulks sent out a press release on Mike Haas being given the Voter Service Award, & announcements on the Coalition’s Saturday registration event at many Dane County libraries.

Business Systems: Ploeser reports updates were made for the directory dates, and he is working with Sinagra on mailing label issues.

Fund Raising: Sue Larson has a 1/28/16 meeting with Diane Larson and Caryl Terrell on fundraising. The Valentine/ LWV birthday fund appeal mailing will include a separate form for members to place in their legal estate planning files. The form allows them to designate the name of organizations they wish to be recipients of memorial gifts at the time of death and lists the name, tax ID # and address of the League of Women Voters of Dane County, WI, Inc. Soltvedt will create an estate planning section on the website for folks who wish to access the information there..

Webmaster: Soltvedt is creating an annual tickler file to make updates more routine in years to come. While Brook tries to update Facebook at least weekly, it would be extremely helpful if other administrators posted on a regular basis. Sue Fulks will be posting on redistricting. Soltvedt noted that she has received a number of nice notes from candidates in the spring election thanking us for our continuing voter education efforts with *Candidates' Answers*. Sue Larson would like some for future fund raising appeals. Quotes need to be anonymized (e.g. a Co. Board candidate) so that we are not showing favoritism to individual candidates. Soltvedt will include information in the Presidents column of the March Bulletin to share the kind words with our membership.

President's Report: LWVDC will be acting as fiscal agent for Dane County funds to assist people who need to get to the DMV for ID. Fullin noted that this system will not be in place for the February 16th election. There is expected to be a small percentage for administrative costs; details are not finalized.

The City Clerk printed bookmarks for Madison libraries with voter information. LWVDC printed 3,000 of the county version using funding from the Evjue grant.

The national per member payment may be going up. Because our dues are already at \$75, the limit allowed for tax deductions, we could not increase our dues and still have them be fully tax deductible. No decisions were made about what to do.

The spring printing of *Candidates' Answers* was scheduled for March 17 in *Isthmus*, but they chose to print a different insert for that issue. Our choices became March 10 (great for absentee ballots, too early for everybody else) or March 24 – too late to be likely to make good use of the extras a week later. Consensus was March 24. *Isthmus* has agreed to provide a 1/12th page ad 3/17, referencing the website for those who need the information sooner, and saying that *Candidates' Answers* will be printed in the next issue.

The *Wisconsin State Journal* contacted us regarding a collaboration on candidate and election information. Fullin reports we responded that we are willing to consider working with them for the August and November elections, but it is too late for the spring election. Discussion included whether this would be in lieu of or in addition to our relationship with *Isthmus*. *Isthmus* is in new hands, and given their ignoring the

agreement we had for CA to be printed 3/17, the future is uncertain. *Isthmus* is free; *WSJ* is subscription based.

The state League's annual meeting will be Fri/Sat June 3-4 in Sturgeon Bay; national will be Thurs/Sun June 16-19 in D.C (national registration fee is \$395, room rate \$209/night).

Some of our members no longer use checks. They are asking us to take online payments for dues, donations, and registration for events. We have switched from Pay Pal to Stripe. Pay Pal had a policy requiring the recipient to cover the charges for using the service. Stripe does not have such a written policy. For example, the cost of the Lively Issues Luncheon was \$16. If paid by Stripe it would cost \$0.77 (\$0.30 +2.9%). Annual dues by Stripe would cost \$2.48. As with the issue of the potential increase in LWVUS PMP, adding charges about the \$75 would mean that not all of the membership dues would be deductible. Discussion included suggestions to ask for donations to cover Stripe fees for membership dues. Costs would have to be added to the calculation of costs for event registration, and no request for an additional payment would be required for actual donations, because the alternative to paying the fee may be no donation at all.

The date and time for the April meeting is 4/20/2016 at 1:00 pm.

Old Business: None

New Business: A budget committee needs to be appointed to create a 2016-17 budget to discuss at the March 16 meeting. Helen Horn, Mary Anglim and Ingrid Rothe will serve on the budget committee.

The Nominating Committee consists of 5 members, Claire McArdle, Cathy Berndt, Sybil Better, Karen Gunderson are members, Bliss moved and Martin seconded motion to appoint Helen Horn to the nominating committee.

Fullin & Soltvedt have agreed to serve another year as co-presidents
Mary Anglim has agreed to another term as Membership chair
There are vacancies in Bulletin and Program.

Meeting Adjourned 3:11 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bliss