

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MINUTES
May 10, 2017

Members Present: Presidents Brook Soltvedt and Kathy Fullin, Barbara Mortensen, Dorothy Wheeler, Gail Bliss, Mary Anglim, Helen Horn, Sue Larson, Steve Ploeser, Ingrid Rothe.
Absent: Diane Martin Liebert, Sue Fulks, Mike Casey.

President Fullin called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Rothe moved and Bliss seconded a motion to approve the April 2017 minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Horn presented the Income & Expenses from July 1, 2016 through May 10, 2017. Fullin, Rothe, and Soltvedt asked for more information on Special Projects expenses (#5280). Horn will provide a breakdown to them.

Program: Wheeler reported that the September forum topic will be "Understanding Rural Dane County". Mark Hazelbaker, attorney for the Wisconsin Towns Association, and Oregon school board member, Barbara Feeney will be speakers. A third speaker is also being sought. The Program committee and Larson will meet on May 20th to plan the October forum on sustainability. Other forum topics for November, March, and April will also be discussed. Ideas for topics will be solicited at the Annual Meeting.

Bulletin: Casey was absent but sent in a written report. The summer *Bulletin* will be distributed mid-July. The deadline for articles is June 23rd. Casey is forming a committee to evaluate the cost and practicality of redesigning the *Bulletin* format as well as the potential for electronic distribution. Board members who have an interest in or thoughts on the effort should contact Mike in the next two weeks. Fullin noted that the committee should keep in mind that in evaluating electronic distribution, we don't have email addresses for fourteen of our members.

Fundraising/ILO: Larson reported that the May Member Challenge letter was sent out April 25th and to date \$2,245 in contributions has been received. The challenge grant is \$4,250 so an email reminder will be sent to members about this opportunity to double their contributions.

The Upper Mississippi River Region ILO annual meeting was held in La Crosse on May 6-7. Steve and Mary Ploeser attended the meeting. Larson will ask Mary to write a report for the summer *Bulletin*. Steve reported that the speakers were good and there was a positive tone about the prospects for improving water quality in the ILO region.

Membership: Anglim reported that no new members were added in April. We usually get about 20 new members per year but our total for 2016 exceeded 60. Anglim continues to look at ways to reach out to members with activities tied to member interests. Soltvedt said that the LWV of Milwaukee County has a program for new members that we might use.

Anglim convinced *MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity)* to include part of our action alert suggesting a joint meeting of the Dane County committees for

Public Protection and Judiciary and Health and Human Needs on its May 6th meeting agenda. The idea is to get these two committees to cooperate on diverting people from jail.

Voters' Service: Bliss reported that Paul Malischke put together some information for handouts. Soltvedt and others are working on a new bookmark. Molly McGrath is organizing training to assist voters needing an ID. A Doodle poll was sent to the Voter ID coalition. <https://beta.doodle.com/poll/k7desrn4tcc9ewb4#table>.

Vice-President's Report: Rothe reported that one ride was given to the DMV in April. Paul Lindquist has set up the new phone number for the cab rides hotline (608-285-2141). When someone calls, the system will send an email to the members of the Voter ID Coalition Steering Committee. Members of this committee are Ingrid Rothe, Marian Matthews, Paul Lindquist, Ruth Ann Berkowitz, Molly McGrath, and Lindsay Lemmer. Molly is the lead responder. People who can authorize free cab rides are Gail Bliss, Marian Matthews, Molly McGrath, and Paul Lindquist. Lindsay is working on designing bookmarks and other PR material. The Outreach Committee is identifying new organizations to connect with.

Several Action Teams have been established: *Local Education Policy* chaired by Carol Carstensen, *High School Voter Education* chaired by Susan Fulks, *Mental Health* chaired by Katie Mulligan, *Environment/Natural Resources*, and *Voting Rights*. The *Mental Health Team* has taken action on the issue of jail diversion and will continue to work on funding for mental health. Anglim and Fullin have also been very active in monitoring policy and procedure issues. A gathering was held for people interested in becoming involved in the Action Teams.

Forum room reservations for 2017-18 at Capitol Lakes are as follows: September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, March 7th, and April 11th. Room reservations have been made for the 2018-19 years for the first Wednesdays of the same months.

Publicity: Fulks provided a written report stating that there is no active publicity at this time.

Regarding the *High School Voter Education (HSVE)* committee, she reports that she has contacted a coordinator for *Inspire US*, a non-profit organization that trains high school students in six states to be leaders in peer-to-peer voter registration and civic involvement. In her conference call with the coordinator, Hannah Mixdorf, and Erin Grunz she learned that *Inspire US* is planning to add five new states, including Wisconsin to its efforts this year. Its infrastructure includes online registration, reminders of elections, and tracking of which students actually vote. Students go to the website, enter information, and then are redirected to the state online system. Hannah has talked with someone at the WI election commission and is following up. She has also talked with a consultant at DPI to see if recognition can be given to schools that register many students. It runs summer leadership academies for students and provides support during the year. There are some curriculum modules for teachers, but the primary goal is to work directly with students. The timeline for Wisconsin is to be up-and-running for the 2017-18 school year. Two technical people for Wisconsin will be hired at the national level, one of which is Hannah. *Inspire US* has 501(c)(3) status and has been in operation four years with funding from *Project High Hopes*, <http://projecthighhopes.org/>. Fulks recommends that LWVDC support the Wisconsin program by expanding outreach to teachers, parent organizations, and/or other community organizations. The *Wisconsin Council for Social Studies (WCSS)* has agreed to endorse *Inspire US* and will work with DPI to communicate with teachers and students. Collaboration with *WCSS* will be helpful in achieving our goals. On June 8th Hannah will meet

with Soltvedt, Erin Grunz, and possibly a member of the *HSVE* committee. The next meeting of the committee is June 22nd at 11:00 a.m. at Sequoya Library.

<https://sites.google.com/view/lwvdccommittee>.

Fullin mentioned that WORT gives non-profits the option of recording two-minute announcements to be played four times daily once a month.

Business Systems: Ploeser reported that he and Mary Ploeser played the ILO *Watershed* game at Spring Harbor School with seventh and eighth graders.

Webmaster: Soltvedt created an Action Alert section listing Action Alerts from LWVUS, LWVWI, and LWVDC. She posted:

- * Updates to the April forum page regarding recordings and additional resources
- * A news item about the Mass Incarceration program
- * Annual Meeting documents
- * A CRANES statement in favor of creating a *Dane County Healthy Farms, Healthy Lakes Task Force*
- * Google websites for use by action teams including Google groups and Google calendars at lwvdanecounty.org/action-team-spaces with a page ready to be linked to the main website

President's Report:

1. Fullin asked what we should present at the LWVWI Annual Meeting about our proudest accomplishment in the past year and one top priority for the coming year. We chose our voter service work with the Voter ID coalition and will cite the number of voters registered, number of rides and other assistance offered to register people, calling provisional voters, and in-person absentee voting assistance.
2. Our top priority will be re-energizing our action teams.
3. We may have a joint board meeting on June 8th at Horn's house at 12:00 for lunch and a discussion of policies and procedures. June 3rd is an alternative date if more board members can attend then.
4. Actions by the Executive Committee since the last meeting include action alerts on the City of Madison Police Workgroup and diversion from the Dane County jail.

Old Business: We discussed the Annual Meeting agenda. Fullin will ask Diane de Vos to be the timer.

A meeting will be held at Helen Horn's house on either June 3rd or June 8th at 12:00 p.m.

The next board meeting is June 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the office.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mortensen, Secretary