

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

2019-2020 BOARD MINUTES

January 8, 2020

Present: Paul Lindquist, Brook Soltvedt, Mary Anglim, Helen Horn, Marian Matthews, Mary Ellen Schmit, Joan Provencher, Maria Spinozzi, Mary Anglim, Aileen Nettleton, Marilyn Stephen, Christine Clements, Donna Van Bogaert

Absent: Sally Gleason

Meeting called to order at 1:37 PM.

Approval of the minutes Joan Provencher

Motion: Clements **Second:** Soltvedt Approved

Treasurer's report Helen Horn

Helen reviewed her portfolio reports. She noted that Flad Associates made a \$25,000 payment that will help us afford the new rent over the five-year lease at Hill St. Normal donations were slightly higher than average. End of year giving for some people seems to be increasing.

Two significant items after the end of December will appear on next month's financials. 1) We received the Ogg Fund final distribution on Jan. 6 of \$195,000+. It has been deposited into the bank savings (money market) account and the financial advisory committee, which meets Thursday, will consider investment options. 2) The end of December report for the Memorial Trust Fund has been done and the value of the investments increased by more than \$29,000 in the last quarter of 2019. The Ogg distribution will be invested but kept in a separate account.

Finance/Development

Work has begun on developing help with the accounting so that Brook Soltvedt can be replaced. Jean Jacobsen will be learning the basic Quickbooks bookkeeping functions and Susan Dietzel will be doing monthly reconciliation of accounts.

An extra Board Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2020 to review and approve the budget.

Fundraising Christine Clements

Chris reported that December was a banner month for fundraising, possibly indicating that end-of-year giving is still in practice despite changes in tax laws. In total, \$7843 was received.

Lapsed Members - \$310

Non-members - \$2230

50-Year Members - \$1500

New Members - \$425

Other members - \$2378

Bequest - \$1000 (Barbara Voltz)

Fundraising is preparing for the annual Valentine's Birthday Appeal. The appeal letter will likely be sent at the end of January or early February. Since the May Challenge will not be held this year, this will be the major appeal for the fiscal year.

Current designated funds do not quite cover the costs of Candidates' Answers. The Fundraising Committee is recommending a broad non-member appeal to assist with costs of this publication. The board endorsed this plan.

Program Mary Anglim

Update on Climate Crisis Series

Mary reported that the climate sub-committee will be holding its third forum of the year in McFarland at the public library on Sunday, February 16th, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The topic, The Promise of Ag Stewardship, will focus on the promise and practices associated with sustainable agriculture. The sub-committee is hoping to have all of the speakers be active farmers engaged in sustainable agriculture. George Crave, of Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, has agreed to be one of the speakers.

The board approved this general plan in December, but due to new information about speakers, a motion was made to approve the changes.

Motion: Anglim **Second:** Stephen Approved

Update on Making Democracy Work sub-committee

Marilyn Townsend and Mary Anglim met with David Olson to discuss the March forum. His presentation will be on a new case study called *Manufacturing Constituencies: Race and Redistricting in North Carolina*. This case concerns Shaw v. Reno, a gerrymandering case which came to the Supreme Court in 1993. The forum will be held at Capitol Lakes on March 4, possibly starting at 6:30 rather than 7 pm. We will present David with the Voter Service Award at this gathering. The case study will be made available to all interested people in advance with Harvard's permission.

Motion to approve this event: Anglim **Second** Clements Approved

Future events

The climate sub-committee is on track to hold the fourth climate forum on April 1st. Tentative topics include economic impacts of climate change, global successes, and climate action planning.

The Making Democracy Work sub-committee still hopes to hold a forum on Disinformation in late May or June.

Janine Edwards continues to work on a model presentation on Fair Maps, to be made available to groups around the state, starting with a pilot in Madison in late April.

We need to identify a short presentation for our Annual Meeting on May 13.

Bulletin Maria Spinozzi

Maria went through a very informative PowerPoint presentation on everything that goes into publishing the monthly bulletin.

DEI Committee Maria Spinozzi

LWVDC was offered 5 tickets to the Racial Equity and 2020 Wisconsin Forum & Afropolitan Gala held by Kujichagulia. It was short notice and over the holidays, but we were able to have 3 attendees: Maria Spinozzi, Angela Maloney and Linda Chhath.

A big focus on the forum was how to get the black community more involved and invested in government and voting. During the open discussions/questions there was a good discussion about terms politicians use when discussing the Black Community.

There was also a Kwanzaa ceremony celebrating the 7 guiding principles: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), Imani (Faith)

Membership Mary Ellen Schmit

New members in December = 20

Total membership as of 1/3/2020 = 493

Student = 53

Primary = 377

Additional Household = 36

Life = 27

An outgrowth of the DEI Committee meeting held at Sally Gleason's house on December 12th was to identify courses that LWVDC members may attend. Bonnie Chang will be using a LWVDC Membership scholarship to attend the African American History Course - Black History for a New Day <https://nehemiah.org/justified-anger/us-history-application/>

Also discussed for future inquiry is the YWCA Education and Training Workshops <https://www.ywcamadison.org/what-were-doing/yw-education-training/>

Our next Book Group selection is One Person No Vote, with Winter meeting locations being at least Fitchburg (Sally Gleason host, Feb. 10) and Downtown Madison. Survey participants indicated strong interest in books related to Democracy.

The first test of the pilot project to provide a more thorough welcome for new members will be tested in January at the Lively Issues forum. Sally Gleason is initiating pairing new members with welcome agents.

Action Marilyn Stephen

February 14 has been designated as LWVDC's Day of Action. We will also hold an open house from 4-7pm at the new office. The Open House will include cake, buttons for 100 years promoting the vote, and pledge cards to sign for member actions (see below about the Day of Action).

The theme of our Day of Action is "Women Power the Vote" and our goal is to mobilize LWVDC members to sign a "Power the Vote" Pledge in February promising to take at least one specific action to promote voter participation or League involvement. The day will be considered successful if 75% of the LWVDC members pledge in February to complete at least one specific activity between February 1 and April 7.

Pledge options include:

- Contact 5 friends to remind them to vote
- Take a friend to the polls or to vote early.
- Use social media to encourage others to vote
- Work at the polls (requires training)
- Wear LWV VOTE button
- Attend a “new” League event (Forum, Unit Meeting, DEI Café, Book group)
- Invite a friend to next Forum or to join LWVDC
- Send valentines to elected officials – thank them for their service
- Become familiar with the MyVote.wi.gov website

Publicity Donna Van Bogaert

Donna reported that she represented the Publicity Committee in the following activities that took place during December:

- Developed, sent out, and created a shared drive folder for collecting the new position descriptions for Board positions. These are due January 6 and will be used to assist the Nominating Committee with identifying candidates for open board positions.
- Participated in the follow up Strategic Planning meeting.
- Engaged in discussions with the President regarding special promotional activities for the February 14 Open House and March 28 Centennial Gala.
- Currently, researching possible media participation in the Open House and Gala as well as special media coverage opportunities such as media interviews and feature stories.

She also informed the board of a new feature from the *Isthmus* called “Word of Mouth.” She suggested the LWVDC might use the feature to get more and diverse visibility in the community.

Website Brook Soltvedt

Brook reported that the membership form on the site was switched to the half-year version. She has also added a function to take reservations for the Lively Issues luncheon online. The notice about the February climate meeting is posted. She has been updating all the live places that have the old address. Cindy will update the directory pages the next time she posts an update of the membership.

Vice President Brook Soltvedt

The deadline for *Candidates’ Answers* is quickly approaching. Brook is also working on the Vote411 system. The candidate filing deadline is Jan. 7. Kathy Fullin and Phillip Heckman are gathering the candidate information. Emails and letters should go out sometime between Saturday, Jan. 11 and Tuesday, Jan. 14.

President’s report Aileen Nettleton

Aileen thanked the many board members who made significant contributions (office move, bus pass student registration, etc.) over the last month.

Aileen also reported on the efforts of the State League, on the court case related to the removal of voter names from poll lists. We received a “thanks” from Matt Rothschild, Executive Director

of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, for the work of our local LWV on behalf of voters for work in registering voters and doing voter education.

Centennial Celebration Planning -The committee is chaired by Earnestine Moss and includes Aileen plus and committee members Cindy Lindquist, Brook Soltvedt, Mary Ellen Schmit, Jan Anderson, Melanie Ramey, and Kathy Krusiec.

The committee is finalizing the list of invitees, in addition to members. Board members are encouraged to add names and contact information to the Invitees list on the Centennial shared drive by January 22. Invitations will be mailed out to members two weeks before other invitees. Details for arrangements for our keynote speaker, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins for a book talk are being planned.

Kathy Krusiec will be coordinating volunteers to assist at the evening event, including decorations. If you know of members she can contact to assist, please let her know.

Aileen is working with a sub-committee to compile LWVDC History Highlights and contents of the Centennial Program Booklet.

Melanie Ramey, long-time LWVDC member and state board president, will moderate the event. She is also personally soliciting donations from area businesses. They will be recognized on a banner and in the program booklet. In addition, community organization partners of the LWVDC will be invited to make a donation and have their names listed.

Census flyers (City Complete Census) are being distributed at community events by the Voter Registration volunteers, reaching some of the “hard-to-count” populations.

Aileen gave a presentation about the Complete Census to the Issues Group of the “Who’s New in Madison” organization on Jan. 3.

Annual Meeting Planning

Capitol Lakes is reserved for 5-8:30, Wednesday, May 13, 2020. The agenda so far includes a social hour and food, a short program, and the business meeting.

Old Business

Update from Strat Plan—Christine gave an update from the Strat Plan Committee. The committee reviewed a list of objectives, and will now identify “clusters”. Once this is done, they will identify “homes” for each cluster (if available). The committee includes Georgiana Hernandez, Aileen Nettleton, Chris Clements, Mary Ellen Schmit, Marilyn Stephen and Donna Van Bogaert.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Provencher

Secretary