

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
2019-20 BOARD MINUTES**

November 11, 2019

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

Absent: Christine Clements, Marilyn Stephen

1. Meeting called to order at 1:30 by Aileen Nettleton. Aileen asked for a volunteer for our focus area for December.

2. **Approval of the Minutes—Joan Provencher** Motion to table due to feedback about the format as the new secretary gets up to speed. **Motion:** Horn, **Seconded:** Van Bogaert, all approved. Provencher to revise the minutes and send out by email. Motion to approve October minutes will occur at the December board meeting.

3. Treasurers Report—Helen Horn

Condensed income and expenses report was reviewed. Helen stated we are on track for both income and expenses.

Finance/development—Committee met and formed objectives. The top three include: 1) preparation of the Budget, 2) determining and implementing a solution for our accounting needs and reducing the workload of our current volunteer, 3) analyzing our financial reserves in light of the Ogg distribution.

Committee chairs need to submit projected expenses. The expenses are to be submitted on spreadsheet provided by Brook Soltvedt. Information will go out after board retreat. Jean Jacobsen is providing expertise on budgeting.

4. Vice President—Brook Soltvedt

Agreement regarding the LWVDC office move will be signed later today. The new office is located at 720 Hill St, Suite 200. Moving day will be December 16, 2019. Flad Development is the new owner of our current building and will be assisting LWVDC with the move. They will be doing minor remodeling of the office space and will fix the outdoor access sidewalk before we move. Flad will also subsidize LWVDC ½ of the difference between our current rent and our new rent. Board members are invited to give Cindy Lindquist input on which materials need to be moved. Flad will pay for the moving company, but League staff/board will be doing most of the packing. Flad will also pay for the cost of reprinting stationery, and other written materials.

We have 2 parking spots at the new building that are reserved for people picking up materials and those with disabilities. Parking up to 3 hours is available in the Whole Foods lot, directly adjacent to the building.

5. Website—Brook Soltvedt

Brook gave the board an overview of the website including how images get resized, depending on the device used (tablet, phone, laptop) and she educated us about the “hamburger icon”—clicking on it brings up a menu.

The calendar has been redesigned, and there is a climate corner area on the website with blog posts.

The website still contains Action alerts and a question was raised about whether we should continue them. No decision was made and thoughts on this and other feedback should be submitted to Brook.

There is a new member who may be interested in helping Brook. The website does include analytics.

6. Publicity—Donna Van Bogaert

Donna presented her Mentorship proposal. The proposal recommends identifying 10-15 mentees and mentors. January/February focus groups will be used to determine the feasibility of the proposal. Based on the focus group feedback, the program will be refined in March. The pilot is expected to begin in April with program evaluation in June. Donna requested approval to proceed at this level. **Motion** Horn **Second** Soltvedt. All approved.

7. Fundraising—Chris Clements

Chris was not present but the board reviewed her report which included:

Funds raised for the month of October total \$4715, including:

\$4,000 UW Internship
\$20 Student membership gift
\$50 Candidates Answers
\$645 Gen Donations
\$4,715 Total

Total funds raised for FY19-20 are \$17,824.50.

8. Program—Mary Anglim

A meeting has been scheduled for Nov 2 to discuss the purpose of unit meetings. The committee has invited Pat Kippert (Unit Coordinator) to attend but she is not available. She will attend the next committee meeting in December.

Janine Edwards is working on a workshop type presentation on fair maps (in cooperation with State League). Potential date is late April. The workshop will be for community members (churches, and other organizations) as a way of reaching out and helping them plan for voter registration drives for the 2020 election. This is not a traditional forum.

December forum plan was—criminal justice reform—unlock the vote (for census counting based on home address vs prison address for incarcerated voters). However, the presenters on this topic are not available in December. Since we normally skip a December forum, that is the plan for this year.

Making Democracy Work will be the topic for our March forum.

Discussion was held regarding the Lively Issues Forum on January 18, 2020. Dee Sweet (Native American poet—Wisconsin Conservation Voices) has agreed to travel from Green Bay to present. There is a room at Madison College South available on that date, but it is not available until 12:30 or 1pm. Information on the event needs to go out first week of December. Mary Anglim will get more details from Madison College on exactly when the room is available.

Motion by Schmit to approve the plan for January 18 if everything lines up time wise. **Second** Gleason. All approved.

9. Bulletin—Maria Spinnozi

Mary Anglim will write an article about the Lively Issues forum. The publication date is December 13, due date for articles is December 1st.

10. Membership—Mary Ellen Schmit

There were 10 new members in October. 28 non-member guests attended the November forum. Lapsed memberships are at 90. Total membership 459 as of end of October.

11. Action—Marilyn Stephen

Marilyn was not present but the board reviewed her report which included:

Instead of scheduling another observer corps training, I have been contacting people who have expressed an interest in observing governmental meetings by email. We currently have just two people from the observer corps who are attending meetings routinely. Several others started participating, but have not been able to carry through for various reasons.

Please share any suggestions for recruiting volunteers that you might have.

12. Voter service—Paul Lindquist and Marian Mathews

- Voter registration training will be starting again. The next session will be December 9.
- There is no information yet on when the revised registration form will be available, hopefully by the beginning of 2020.
- Paul, Marian and our intern Angela did voter registration at the UW Diversity Forum on November 6. Although there was a large number of attendees, we registered only 11 people.
- Paul and Marian recruited a new cadre of registration coordinators who will serve as lead volunteers at our registration events.

13. President's Report—Aileen Nettleton

Centennial planning—group met November 12. Mock-up of an invitation was shown by Aileen. Will go out in January to members. Goal is 300 attendees at a proposed cost of \$75/ticket (\$45 for students). There will also be an option for donations. Will also send invites to other community organizations.

The cost of the event is projected to be \$23,000, projected income \$26,300, leaving a balance of \$3,111. Nettleton asked for a motion to approve the budget. A **motion by** Matthews, **seconded by** Lindquist that the price be reduced to \$65 (students \$35), and that the LWVDC subsidize any shortfall this may create. All approved. It was further noted that dinner will be \$15,000 with 300 attendees and that income will be dependent on the actual number who attend. The fixed costs (music, bartender, staff cost, etc) is expected to be approximately 1/3 of \$23,000 expenses, or about \$7,666

Program booklet is being worked on. Ernestine Moss is working on sponsors.

New business—there will be information about the Ogg fund in the bulletin.

Helen Horn and and Mary Ellen Schmit were tasked with coming up with a plan for subsidizing travel to the National Convention in June 2020.

Motion to adjourn at 3:50pm: Moved Soltvedt, seconded Schmit. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Provencher

Secretary