

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**January 15, 2014**

**Members Present:** Co-Presidents Ingrid Rothe and Kathy Fullin (by phone), Sybil Better, Gail Bliss, Mary Conroy, Karen Gunderson, Helen Horn, Lois Kiggens, Pat Kippert and Kathy Johnson

Rothe called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Horn and a second by Gunderson, the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting were approved with the following amendment: Delete reference to Tech Soup being affiliated with UW in President's Report, item i.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial statements were reviewed. The rising stock market has had a very positive impact on LWVDC finances. Also, \$2000 was received from the Ogg fund.

**Presidents' Report**

- a. The April meeting will be held April 16 at 1:00 pm.
- b. The Vote 411 software is being tested with the Verona races. Brook Solvedt is handling the test and also serving on a Vote 411 work group with other Wisconsin Leagues. With this software, candidates enter their responses electronically, and Verona candidates seem to be responding more quickly than usual. Because this is a test, the LWVDC will not be publicizing the availability of information on the Verona races on Vote 411. An outstanding issue with use of the system is identifying a GIS (geographic information system) for each race. The group also discussed what to do if a candidate entered an unacceptable response (intentionally or through hacking) although no one could recall this occurring.
- c. No progress was reported on identifying an intern.
- d. A new Brother printer was purchased and subsequently installed. The unused cartridge for the old printer was returned for a refund. Tech Soup has identified software (e.g. Quick Books) which nonprofits can obtain at reduced cost. The LWVDC's nonprofit status is currently being verified so that we can take advantage of these discounts.
- e. The LWVDC has no written policy on purchasing green vs. regular; however, we intend to make green purchases.
- f. The co-presidents reported that January 2014 has been and will be a particularly busy time for our office staff (e.g., mailing the Directory and Lively Issues reservation form, updating national membership listing, sending out the CA mailing to candidates, mailing the February Bulletin and study materials, processing luncheon reservations, etc.). Part of the heavy workload is a function of the lateness of the Lively Issues luncheon. Fullin asked whether there should be a February 2015 forum if the Lively Issues luncheon is held in late January 2015. There was support for maintaining a schedule of three forums in the fall and three in the spring. However, the group will revisit this issue (as well as the date of the Lively Issues luncheon) when the 2014-15 calendar is being planned.
- g. The automatic thermostat keeps the office very cool on weekends. Those using the office on weekends should manually adjust the thermostat when arriving and departing.

**Vice President's Report:** The closing on the Prest Building will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Ronald McDonald House has a pro bono lawyer working on the lease and it is not yet available.

**Bulletin:** The schedule for the March Bulletin was reviewed. Kiggins volunteered to prepare a summary of the presentation at the Lively Issues luncheon. Bliss will write a piece about the new voting machines.

**Fundraising:** The draft letter seeking donations to the Valentine/93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday campaign was reviewed and some revisions were suggested. Anonymous donors have offered to provide funds for the Challenge Grant fundraiser in May.

**Membership:** Our office staff is completing work on the national membership listing. Volunteers will be needed to proofread.

**Publicity:** The fliers for the Lively Issues luncheon were reviewed. Kiggins will create the fliers for the February forum, but others will need to print and distribute them. Rothe volunteered to take copies to the downtown library.

#### **Voters' Service**

- a. Isthmus is now working on the layout for a revised version of the CA boiler plate. Pat Levin is working on a revised graphic for the Spring edition.
- b. Bliss has been helping 1-2 people weekly who have encountered difficulties in obtaining government IDs. Generally, these people need an ID for purposes other than voting.
- c. Because Madison has no primary in February, voter registration in Madison can continue into March.
- d. The LWVDC has received a \$2000 grant to further study ways to encourage voter participation. The plan is to use these funds to determine which is most effective: (a) a letter from a government official or from a respected nonprofit organization, and (b) a letter encouraging voting or stressing the secrecy of the ballot. Letters will be sent to new registrants who have not yet voted in an election.
- e. Karen FASTER is coordinating ACA and Voter Service outreach at St Vincent.

#### **Program**

- a. Redistricting is the topic of the March program. The Board was supportive of an April program dealing with homeless children in the schools.
- b. The Lively Issues luncheon is January 25<sup>th</sup>. Ingrid and Pat will be at the registration table.
- c. The annual meeting will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Capital Lakes. Coffee and dessert will be available. A nominating committee will need to be convened; the three non-Board members have already been selected. A budget committee will convene in February to begin work on next year's budget.

**New Business:** Common Cause asked the LWVDC to co-sponsor a forum entitled "What Ever Happened to Good Government in Wisconsin? And How Can We Fix It?" on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Andrea Kaminski will be one of the panelists. The board agreed to co-sponsor this event even though it conflicts with two unit meetings. These units will receive prior notification of the forum so that they can decide whether to reschedule.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.