LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MINUTES
July 19, 2017

Members Present: President Brook Soltvedt, Helen Horn, Ingrid Rothe, Mary Anglim, Sue Fulks, Cathy Berndt, Mike Casey, Paul Lindquist, Gail Bliss. Absent: Diane Liebert, Dorothy Wheeler.

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Secretary’s Report: Horn moved and Berndt seconded approval of the June 14, 2017 board minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: Horn stated that since the final 2016-17 report is not closed out, and we are only 3 weeks into 2017-18 a full report will be provided next month. We have a 2016-17 surplus of $7,953.67 which does not include the gains in the investment report. That shows $39,854 in net value increase.

We have $10,000+ that we can use from our investment accounts. This calculation was determined in February based on our standard formula applied to the 12/31/16 report

Program: Soltvedt reported for Wheeler. Due to Sue Larson’s schedule, we are moving the Sustainability program to November. An education topic organized by Janine Edwards is suggested for October. Speakers will be from the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) and the School Administrators Alliance (SAA). Carol Carstensen, chair of the Education Action Team, feels the program is appropriate as described.

Discussion about title - “Wisconsin’s Public Education Funding Crisis” was suggested. Horn considered “crisis” incendiary. “Paying for Public Education” or “The funding problem in public education” were considered. The consensus was that there was not a serious objection to using the word “Crisis” and the name could be determined by the committee.

November Local Sustainability - Sue Larson and Caryl Terrell have a list of speakers to choose from: Tony Hartmann, Fitchburg alder; Spencer Schumacher, Middleton citizen; and Lisa MacKinnon, Dane County Staff person. Possible follow-up panel in the spring.

January Lively Issues – Health care – Possible speakers: Jon Peacock (has spoken to us recently) from “Kids Forward” (previously known as Wi Council on Children and Families), or Bobby Peterson, Executive Director ABC for Health. Peterson has been a guest on “Here and Now” per Berndt. Soltvedt suggested Dr. Robert Kraig, head of Citizen Action of WI. In his rally persona he is indefatigable per Anglim. all possible

March – Ingrid Rothe will organize a program on Fair Voting Maps

April – The program will be 4/11/18 on Workers’ Rights – no additional information yet.

Soltvedt noted that while Wheeler organized the September program she will not be here for the forum. She would like a volunteer to assist September 6.
**Bulletin** – Soltvedt reported that Steve Ploeser used the database to pull out email vs print preferences from last year’s member interest sheets (default was print.) If we switch to digital with a print subscription we will need to deal with a subset of members requesting print. If a large number of members ask for mailed newsletters it will be a significant expense – Color printing and first class mail will increase the costs. The 2017 member interest form just asks about how you want your study materials, because we assumed we were going digital. In the summer newsletter (digital only) the President’s letter covers the issue and asks for feedback.

Casey stated that if we decide to continue as a print document that’s fine with him. July will be electronic only, September will be print. Perhaps we can poll folks. He would like to work around the possible practical problems of providing a few print copies. He suggests we see how Summer & September newsletters go and revisit the decision in 45 days or so. Fulks suggested discussing the issue at the September forum. Rothe stated that we can afford to mail the bulletin this year if we decide to delay switching to digital. Lindquist noted that Mailchimp can be used to determine how the electronic newsletter is received.

Moved by Rothe, Seconded by Fulks to suspend last month’s decision, to make Sept. the last print bulletin, and revisit at September Forum and September Board meeting. Approved.

Casey stated he has everything he needs for the Summer Bulletin, Soltvedt requested a schedule for submissions for upcoming bulletins.

**Fundraising** – Berndt reports that she is meeting with Sue Larson to discuss past fundraising activities and has e-mailed Sarah Yanke (a new member interested in fundraising, who works in development at a local non-profit) to invite her to participate in a fundraising meeting to be scheduled in August. Casey asked about the history of our fundraising efforts.

Discussion: The Valentines / LWV Birthday fundraiser is traditional. The May Member Challenge was started several years ago because we needed the money to balance the budget. Now we have members eager to provide challenge funds. Only $13.00 of the $75 dues stays in Dane County, the rest goes to LWVWI & LWVUS. The suggestion was made to tailor the amount of the May Member Challenge to the needs of the budget.

Rothe noted that Facebook suggested she could turn her birthday into a fundraising opportunity. She made LWVWI her recipient. It was noted that the processing fees taken out of such donations is significant. Community Shares does a Big Share fundraising appeal with a similar system. Others suggested that just directing donors to the LWVDC website would be a less expensive way for individuals to encourage friends to donate.

**Membership** Anglim reported that 350 member letters went out and about 100 forms are back. Somehow some of the letters got mismatched. Brook wrote an apology for errors, and the links in that email all got stripped out.

**Units** – Dorothy Wheeler wants to invite members living in 53703 and 53704 zip codes to the Northside unit. Diane Liebert wants to get discussion unit leaders together in August.

**Voter Service** – Lindquist notes that Tuesday September 26 is National Voter Registration Day. Voter ID coalition is also doing something to celebrate. The Madison City clerk will
probably want a speaker from LWVDC. The lightweight copier is now in the basement storage room and available to be checked out for use at registration drives.

Bliss noted that she presented information on obtaining ID’s to the staff of Operation Welcome Home July 18. OWH works with homeless individuals.

**Vice President** – Rothe reported on the actions of the Dane County Voter ID Coalition. They are planning a canvass around Ridgewood Way and Burr Oak Lane in the Town of Madison July 26 and possibly July 27. They will be printing a small number of cards with information on cab rides to the DMV. Ruth Ann Burkoltz is working on a project for National Voter Registration Day.

League Action Teams – Fulks’s High School Voter Education team is going well. Katie Mulligan is having some issues with organizing the mental health/jail team. Carol Carstensen’s education team hasn’t been placing emphasis on connecting to new members. Rothe is looking for ideas on how to engage new members. She tried to hold a meeting but there were too few people who came to a meeting to organize. We need to engage new members; they won’t stay if we don’t integrate them into the organization. Recommendations strongly suggest that people become involved when approached personally.

Rothe testified for LWVWI on the AB 206, a bill to keep the UW Medical School from training medical students to do abortions.

**Publicity** – Fulks stated that the September flyer is done and has been e-mailed out. Pass it on! We are no longer posting it in libraries.

**WMUU-LPFM Radio** has separated from its association with the First Unitarian Society of Madison. Kelly Warren and her partners have assumed full responsibility for programming and all financial obligations. She is suggesting that LWVDC Board consider sponsoring Radio PSAs and Promotions. Discussion: Warren would do a great job with production, but WORT provides publicity free & has a much bigger audience. There were questions about how the sponsorship fees worked. Anglim expressed some interest in 3-4 minute position statements, on LWV policy related to high profile issues. The decision was made not to pursue WMUU spots now, but to keep it in mind as an option for the future.

The High School Voter Education team is on hold until Inspire US & DPI take some action, hopefully later this summer. Meetings are scheduled August 24 @11 AM and September 21 @ 6 PM at Sequoya Library.

**Website** – Soltvedt’s written report is self-explanatory.

**President** – Soltvedt thanked board members for reading / reviewing bylaws, the board portfolio descriptions, and policy and procedures. She asked board members to note where updates might be needed.

Two board members are needed to volunteer to be on the nominating committee: Rothe and Fulks volunteered to serve with the non-board members Mary Ellen Schmit, Kathy Fullin and Chair Karen Gunderson.
An order of succession to serve as President was set up. After the Vice President, Diane Liebert, Gail Bliss, Helen Horn in that order.

The following people volunteered for the Finance/Development Committee – Diane Liebert (Treasurer), Helen Horn (for the investment committee), Cathy Berndt (Fund Raising) and Mike Casey.

Due to a schedule conflict with the Public Safety Review Committee we need to move our meeting time from 3 PM to 2:30 PM. Wednesday August 9 we will meet 2:30 – 4:30 PM. Anglim will take the August minutes.

**Actions of the Executive Committee**: Soltvedt reported their actions.
- They approved a pay increase for Elaine Sinagra, as was included in the budget.
- Rothe wrote comments for Soltvedt to present regarding the BadgerCare waiver request. The letter is attached to the agenda and on our website (under positions).
- Accepted Xerox offer to replace our copier, which they have declared to be a lemon.

Soltvedt handed out a bare bones calendar by month. She plans to put this at the end of each board packet. Please elaborate/edit. Discussion: The Bylaws say membership lapses 3 months after July 1, (end of Sept) other are saying end of Oct. The board concurs that members who have not paid their dues should not be in the November 2017 Member Directory. We have new members who say they want to help – have them call tardy members.

Motion to adjourn by Rothe, seconded by Casey at 4:44 PM

**The next meeting is August 9, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the office.**
**The September meeting is September 13, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the office.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bliss, Secretary