LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MINUTES
August 9, 2017

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

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

Secretary’s Report: Horn moved and Fulks seconded approval of the July 19, 2017 board minutes. Several spelling errors were corrected. A reference to links stripped out in some membership renewal letters was clarified. The July 19 minutes were approved with these corrections.

Treasurer’s Report: Horn observed that the 2016-17 figures are not yet complete. She hopes to get final figures and to file our 990 report soon. Our dues and donations income in July are comparable to last year. She expects to pay our PPAs next month. Our balance sheet for 2015-16 was about $292,000; this year she expects it to be $350,000+ mostly thanks to the increases in the stock market.

In a later discussion, Soltvedt requested that the Treasurer’s Report show month-end figures by the next Board meeting.

Program: Wheeler reported that at the meeting last Saturday the Program Committee finished its plan for September. We have some study materials but need more. Brook has written the speakers to request them. Janine Edwards will manage the October forum; two speakers are set, one more is invited. Sue Fulks and Carol Carstensen will meet on August 21st to work on study materials.

Sue Larson is working on the November forum, Getting to Sustainability.

For the January Luncheon, we have several good suggestions on a speaker on health care. Ingrid will work with the committee.

Topics for future months are Fair Mapping (March), Workers’ Rights (April). Soltvedt has invited members who expressed interest to help with programs.

Possible book discussions after the forums: in the September Bulletin we will gauge members’ interest in book discussions related to the topic. For September, Kathy Cramer’s Politics of Resentment; for October, David Berliner and Gene Glass, 50 Myths and Lies that Threaten American Education.

For the September Forum, we will need members to bring food to supplement the pizza. Also we must urge experienced members to be careful to welcome new members. It might be useful to ask new members to help at the name tag table. Soltvedt will be busy—other board members need to help with these tasks.

Bulletin: Several members thanked Soltvedt for the excellent design of the Summer Bulletin in electronic format. Mike is planning to make special arrangements to get the Summer Bulletin in paper format to the 16 members who do not have email. The September Bulletin will be mailed in hard copy, 6 pages, black & white.

Horn suggests sending an email reminder when we send the electronic Bulletin in October and later. Soltvedt is planning to do so; we will waffle a bit on whether the September issue is the last print version; we can check to see whether people have opened the electronic version.
Fulks and Casey suggest two monthly features: Volunteer Opportunities and a New Member Highlight. Mary Ellen Schmit would be a good first choice for the latter. Diane is planning a gathering for unit leaders.

Fund-raising: Berndt met with Sue Larson. She is planning on doing a non-member appeal (letter to previous non-member donors, and asking members to mail to friends who might be willing to donate.) This need not be done in September since the next Candidates’ Answers won’t be done until spring. We are doing well this year compared to 2015-2016. Helen will prepare a year-to-date comparison.

Membership: Anglim reported on renewals so far (approximately 44% by July 31). The rate of renewal among new members is low, though it’s hard to know whether that is cause for alarm. Board asked for a report on the retention rate of new members over the last three years. It also suggested calling new members about the forum. Several Board members volunteered to make calls.

Voters’ Service: Voters’ Services has been very active as described in Lindquist’s report. He has heard from MOSES about their interest in working on voter engagement. Paul Malischke has updated the UW about their website and the Tips for UW Students who will study abroad this year.

Publicity: Publicity for the September Forum has gone out.

Vice President’s Report: Rothe is out of town.

Mental Health Action Team; Soltvedt distributed a report from Katie Mulligan requesting approval to work with other organizations in the Mental Health field to coordinate advocacy for spending on mental health. She may want to testify on behalf of the League at budget hearings in the fall. She should be invited to our next meeting for discussion of how the League would be involved.

The High School Voter Education Team is hoping to work with Inspire US to work through a program on student education and encouragement to register and vote in local high schools. Their permission is necessary before we can use their website and activities. DPI involvement seems to be on hold, perhaps due to the Evers candidacy. Fulks hopes to get volunteers to commit to a school. Each school could set its own goals. She has meetings scheduled with the Team in August and September.

Website: Soltvedt provided a list of items added or changed on the site.

President’s Report:

Soltvedt provided copies of recent League communications.

The office has obtained a new copier, replacing the “lemon” that caused significant problems, and a large new whiteboard, which can serve as a screen for computer projection.

Kelly Warren, who tapes our forums, requests that a LWV member who lives at Capitol Lakes be named to the WMUU Board. The member would participate in publicity and fund-raising efforts.

Soltvedt provided a calendar of Bulletin and Forum deadlines for August-October.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m.