LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MINUTES
December 13, 2017

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

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Secretary’s Report: After changing that the HSVE committee “will be meeting” to “met” 11/2, Fulks moved and Lindquist seconded approval of the November 8, 2017 board minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: Horn reported on investments. The Old National Money Market account is making 0.04%. After a discussion whether we should invest more in stock market we decided not to increase our portfolio as stocks hit record highs, and to ladder CD’s without worrying too much about liquidity.

Liebert reports we have increased petty cash to $100, and a small credit in Visa. Soltvedt reports that Numbers for Non-profits (N4N) would be willing to provide advice on procedures, and give us an estimate. They do the books for over 60 non-profits including LWVWI. Moved by Bliss, seconded by Horn that the Executive Committee can decide if costs are acceptable, and if so N4N could start 1/1/2018.

Program: No report. Soltvedt notes that Lively Issues set up. Fullin has everything ready on-line for the February non-meeting. For March Rothe has Bill Whitford, chief plaintiff in the fair voting maps case is lined up to speak. Soltvedt asked about inviting folks to Lively Issues who might ask good questions, such as David Wahlberg, of the Wisconsin State Journal. Fulks asked if we would just send press release, or did we want a more personal invitation. Also suggested to ask Katie Mulligan about others to consider inviting. Consensus invite David Wahlberg, and if appropriate another health policy person suggested by Mulligan.

Bulletin: Casey was not at the meeting. His e-mail account was hacked and his e-mail is of uncertain status. Soltvedt has received several stories for the January newsletter.

Fund Raising: Bernt reports that we have received a donation of $3,000 from Jean Espenshade for Candidates Answers. She also asked about donation of appreciated stock. Horn will investigate. She believes the system was set up for such donations several years ago. It may be possible to use another organization, such as LWVWI, to handle the stock. We are doing well enough that we should be considering what more we want to do.

Membership: Anglim reports that not much happening this time of year. We have 279 members with email, as well as several without email who don’t want to be mailed the Bulletin, so total membership is somewhere just under 300.+1 late renewal. Several without e-mail also don’t want mailed Bulletin, so under 300. She has also provided articles about the jail and police procedure for the Bulletin. The article may need to be updated due to tomorrow’s announcement regarding the Police Procedure RFP.
**Voter Service:** Lindquist reports the questions have been developed for the spring Candidates’ Answers. The UW Vote Everywhere ambassador quit. No word when someone else may be hired. UW will distribute 20,000 bus passes in January. The bookmarks informing students of their options have been designed and will be printed in-house. Further planning will happen at the Voter Service meeting Friday. Paul Malischke usually coordinates with ASM, but he will be out of town. The Wisconsin State Journal article about creating neighborhood hubs at local schools was discussed. These monthly programs would be a good place to encourage voter registration. Partnering with neighborhood teams may be possible. Marian Mathews has scheduled another voter registration drive at Epic in January.

**Vice President:** Rothe reported that the ACLU (Molly McGrath) and Dane County Voter ID Coalition are working together to expand the use of the hotline number. We are getting calls from people outside Dane County who want to help. Rothe is talking with LWVWI about how other local leagues can use it. With the upcoming elections Rothe encouraged everybody to look for opportunities to address voter registration and voter ID issues.

**Publicity:** Fulks sent an “Are you Ready to Vote?” article to community newspapers and the Nextdoor app. She will e-mail it to the board for further distribution. The Nextdoor app has limited reach, so individuals in different parts of the county are needed to post for broader distribution. Lively Issues Luncheon publicity has started.

**High School Voter Education:** Fulks incorporated editing suggestions received and mailed our letter to local principals seeking partners for school voter registration. So far no response. Hannah Mixdorf of Inspire US reports they have hired a regional coordinator for Wisconsin. They are good at sharing information with us. The suggestion is to let Inspire US take the lead on high school voter registration and be ready to assist if asked. There is a meeting January 4, 2018. Frieda Harris – of NSAT (Northside Action Team) -- is considering working with Shabazz and East High Schools, so committee members will be coordinating with her.

**President’s Report:** Soltvedt listed items added to the website. The Sun Prairie Community TV station has decided that only “members” can use their equipment. A membership costs $100/year and allows use of the Sun Prairie Media Center facilities and equipment, as well as professional assistance from staff, and the ability to reserve studio/editing workstations. Horn moved and Anglim seconded a motion to join to join KSUN at $100/year. Approved.

Closure of the DMV site at the Hill Farms building was discussed. The Madison Alders contacted have stated that the cab rides for ID’s are more cost effective than improved bus service to the new site on Excelsior Drive. Publicity for the cab rides is a problem. The City Attorney is looking at whether there might be grounds for a civil rights complaint. LWVDC has been in contact with One Wisconsin Institute and Judge Peterson expressing our concern about the move. Nick Davies, a citizen concerned about the issue, filed a Freedom of Information request. He shared the results with us. The RFP seeking the new location gave a weight of 3% to access by bus.

LWVDC needs to look at becoming more diverse. Soltvedt has subscribed to “Capital City Hues” (Hues). The Voter ID Coalition wrote a column for Hues providing information and seeking more partners. Sustain Dane has a sustainability conference that has morphed into helping agencies be more inclusive. We should investigate. Our nominating committee needs
direction on possible changes to assignments. We may want to look at communications more broadly. A chair of a committee for technology, bulletin, Facebook, Twitter, publicity, etc. Do we want to increase hours for a staff person? A real issue is that the communications person or people need to be involved in the work of the League to know what to be promoting. We need a longer discussion of this. Lindquist notes that LWV is not a transparent organization, we need to do more to activate new members. New member coffees and Action Teams are a start. Our database is now searchable by joined date, so we can seek relatively new members.

Other Business: By February 1 we need to start on 2018-19 budget. Motion to adjourn by Liebert, seconded by Anglim at 4:05 PM

The next meeting is January 10, 2018 at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Bliss, Secretary