LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MINUTES
January 10, 2018

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

President Soltvedt called the meeting to order at 2:39 PM.

Secretary’s Report: Moved by Liebert seconded by Rothe to approve the December 13, 2017 minutes with changes recommended through the online review process.

Treasurer’s Report: Horn reports due to favorable investment growth, LWVDC can withdraw up to $11,000 from our investments annually. Liebert reports income and expenditures are on track. We discussed possible changes in bookkeeping practices, and revised use of the LWVDC credit card.

Program: Rothe relayed Wheeler’s report. Due to a schedule conflict, the March forum will be related to Labor Rights in Wis, and April will relate to fair voting maps. Discussion of the specific focus of the Labor program. Conclusions included: We don’t want just another gripe session about Act 10. Has there been research about impacts? Check with the Center for Wis Strategy or the Institute for Research on Poverty. Rothe will create the study materials with factual information including union membership levels, and “Right to Work” impacts. We considered leaving issues related to SB-643 which would eliminate local laws on fair employment protections (if it passes) until next year. Three speakers are too many, two is better. Wheeler recommended a speaker from Madison Teachers Inc., but the board felt that MTI is an anomaly, and it would be more representative of current conditions to hear from Wis Education Association Council or the South Central Federation of Labor. The Executive Committee will approve the final plan due to the accelerated timeline.

Janine Edwards is organizing another program on school funding as a follow up to the October forum, Crisis in Wisconsin's K-12 Education Funding. Julie Underwood, former dean of the UW School of Education will speak about vouchers. LWVDC will cosponsor. The board had earlier agreed that our league will sponsor additional presentations without the study materials required for our monthly forums.

The Lively Issues Luncheon 1/20/18 will be videoed by Sue Larson. Kelly Warren of WMUU will audio tape.

Bulletin: Casey confirmed dates for submissions for the March bulletin. Now that publication is online, it allows for more material. Articles are expected on voter outreach (Lindquist), High School Voter Education (Fulks), and interviews with new members (?). Soltvedt noted that she was concerned about the bulletin only getting 24 hits on the website. Then she realized that by putting a direct link to the bulletin in emails, individuals clicking on the link were not counted.

Fund Raising: Berndt revised the letter to non-members seeking funds for Candidates’ Answers. She is now drafting the Valentine’s Day appeal to members.
Membership: Anglim reports 303 members, including 6 new people in January. Reasons people give for joining include our activism on the West Madison DMV move and voter service activities.

Voter Service: Lindquist reports 54% of the 113 ASM shifts have been filled. Marion Matthews has been getting articles in the Epic newsletter prior to the Jan 22 registration drive there. Horn notes that 15 people attended the St Vincent de Paul training this AM. New member Beth Alleman is holding a registration drive at the UW School of Nursing. Discussion of how to allocate the LWVDC printer. The first person to sign it out gets it, unless that person agrees that another project is higher priority.

Motion by Fulks, seconded by Casey that Voter Services Chair (Lindquist) be authorized to purchase printer ink as needed without further board action. Approved.

SignUp Genius is free with one administrator, and ads, or can remove ads and have up to 5 administrators for $99/year. Moved by Casey, seconded by Fulks to purchase a subscription to SignUp Genius. Approved. Lindquist, Betty Cohen, Bliss as possible administrators.

Vice President: Rothe reports Lindsay Lemmer is back to do publicity for the Voter ID Coalition. LWVDC as financial agent for the coalition will be getting more county funding for the purchase of voter education ads. LWVDC receives 5% to administer the purchase order.

LWVWI expects a one-day of-floor period in January. Expect a lot of actions without a lot of notice. Discussion of when and why to do action alerts.

Jaala Spiro, a new member, is interested in increasing our social media presence. She has volunteered to help with Twitter and Instagram. She will have experienced LWVDC members suggest posting subjects and vet her posts to be sure to follow LWV non-partisan guidelines. Beth Alleman, another new member and the ASM Vote coordinator has also suggested a document explaining what the Wisconsin Supreme Court does and why court elections are important.

Publicity: Fulks reports that the Lively Issues publicity is out, March meeting publicity will require information about the revised program.

High School Voter Education: Fulks reports Inspire US has hired Jessica Bigirindavyi of Minneapolis as the new Inspire Wisconsin Regional Manager. Although our letter to high school principals did not generate responses, Inspire reports that we did pave the way. There was further information about Inspire’s process.

Website: Soltvedt has posted news stories, updated the voter service page including placing all UW related materials together, and provided information about the February program encouraging members to attend a local government meeting.

President’s Report: Soltvedt notes that the LWVUS website had been redesigned. There is no longer a search box. League management information is accessed at the bottom of the site. Soltvedt and Liebert met with Numbers for Nonprofits (N4N). They charge $125/hour, about $250/month, plus $40/month subscription to Quickbooks. Instead of choosing N4N we need to create an ad hoc committee to look at procedures and consider other options.
Soltvedt sent a letter to USDOT supporting the City of Madison complaint regarding the Madison DMV move.

LWVWI is seeking someone to write an analysis on statewide referenda eliminating the state treasurer’s position. Berndt volunteered to draft something.

Know Your Candidates will be filmed January 26. Cheryl Daniels will be stepping down this spring after coordinating for many years. The coordinator writes questions, finds interviewers and coordinates with the TV station and the candidates. Thain is looking for more moderators. Andrea Kaminski has expressed interest in being trained. We need to recruit more. Wisconsin Women’s Network (WWN) has a training institute. The next program is February 9 and 10. They are seeking additional participants. The board discussed offering financial support to send a LWVDC member to the program. Instead, Rothe moved and Liebert seconded that LWVDC offer up to $250 to the WWN for their scholarship fund.

Soltvedt wrote a column for Capital City Hues however the January 8 edition is not out yet. Upcoming work will include the budget committee and nominating committee getting ready for the annual meeting. Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator Michael Haas is under attack by Republicans in the state legislature. Bliss attended the Election Commission meeting January 9, 2018. Haas reported that he has been nominated as Secretary of the National Association of State Election Directors. He is currently the Midwest representative on NASED. Soltvedt has written a letter to the editor supporting Haas.

Motion to adjourn by Rothe, seconded by Liebert at 4:35 PM

The next meeting is February 14, 2018 at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Bliss, Secretary