LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
BOARD MINUTES
March 14, 2018

Present: Brook Soltvedt, Paul Lindquist, Helen Horn, Susan Fulks, Ingrid Rothe, Gail Bliss, Mike Casey, Dorothy Wheeler, Kim Langley, Mary Anglim arrived at 3 PM
Absent: Cathy Berndt.

The meeting was called to order at 2:37pm.

Casey moved and Rothe seconded a motion to approve the February 2018 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Budget and Treasurer’s Report: Horn presented the 2018-19 budget. Changes relate to moving (higher rent), additional funds for Candidates’ Answers, due to both fall and spring elections, as well as larger type. Increased spending on personnel from $16,000 to $20,000. To balance the budget “Income transfer from reserves” is listed as $15,140. We discussed wording, as we are not using principal from our investments. Langley will look at options for presentation of the budget (such as pie charts) at the annual meeting, and revised wording. The Budget Committee (Langley, Soltvedt, Casey and Horn) will also look at updating how the operating budget is shown. The current system is based on Quick Books, and can be revised and simplified. Motion to approve the budget as presented by Rothe, seconded by Casey. Motion carried.

Program Report: Wheeler thanked Rothe for taking over for the March program when she was ill. She asked for feedback on the forum. Consensus that two speakers was better than three, but in all speakers seem to go long. For the April program, Rothe is organizing. Bill Whitford Lead Plaintiff in the Wisconsin partisan gerrymandering case heard by the US Supreme Court will be the only speaker.

Wheeler provided a list of possible topics for next year. She would like to poll attendees at the Annual Meeting about their interest in program topics. Only 12 were returned last year, but they did provide information about interests.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 5:30 PM May 23, 2018 at Capitol Lakes. The first hour will be socializing and eating. Bliss volunteered to seek a high school student involved in organizing on the gun violence issue to provide a report. Food for the meeting will include potluck desserts and snacks. No decision was made about pizza, sandwiches or something else for the main course. A Carrie Chapman Catt award winner was chosen. Soltvedt will ask Fullin to write a bio. Anglim and Sinagra will determine the new 50 year members.

On June 6, Julie Underwood will speak at Capitol Lakes about school vouchers. This is not part of our regular LWVDC program.

Soltvedt requested individuals who expressed interest in programming in the summer of 2017 be contacted and a programming meeting be held soon.
Bulletin Report: Articles for the April Bulletin are due by March 21. Soltvedt will provide information on the new office. Fulks will provide a new member bio, of Joan Probencher (HS Voter registration team), Beth Alleneman (UW Nursing student and ASM Vote coordinator) or Joy Cardin (moderator of recent candidate forum in Monona). Bliss will write up a report on the March 14 student walk out and protest against gun violence.

Fundraising Report: Berndt sent a report stating that she is working on the May Member Challenge letter.

Voter Service Report: IPAV starts Monday 3/19/18 at Madison Public Libraries, UW and clerk’s offices. There are lots of shifts available to assist. The level of volunteer training/competence is variable. On Monday 3/19 a task force will consider alternatives for improving training, especially in drawing comparisons among issues for different groups of voters.

Candidates’ Answers is on the website, and will be out in the March 15 Isthmus.

Membership Report: There were three new member coffees in the last month. A total of 85 people who have joined since January 2017 were invited; about 20 came. Anglim thanked Soltvedt and Karen Gunderson for their assistance. Anglim will analyze the feedback. One new member spoke with Soltvedt about website and writing. He is not ready to accept the Bulletin editor position, but wants to help. Discussion of creating a small group to ensure new member engagement.

Vice President Report: The Madison City Clerk is working on an automated system for August Absentee Ballots for student wards. The plan is to offer absentee ballot forms to voters April 3. The clerk will want LWVDC help to publicize the need for absentee ballots for folks who will be out of town in August.

The Voter ID Coalition is doing several events with Urban League.

A partisan group planning to do voter outreach in South Madison called the office to ask permission to refer voters to the League for information. After recognizing that the caller had some misunderstandings about voting procedures, Soltvedt agreed that the League would review their voting information handout for accuracy.

Rothe expressed concern about how Special Voting Deputies were interacting with voters at Capitol Lakes. Board members suggested discussing this with the Clerk, (which Rothe has done before), and requesting that LWVWI Election Observers be sent to observe at a few locations in August.

Publicity Report: Press releases for Candidates’ Answers were sent out. Publicity for the April program is ready for distribution. The high school voter registration project held registration drives at East, Deforest and Verona. Other groups held drives in Sun Prairie and Lake Mills. There will be a meeting May 31 to discuss plans for the fall. The goal is to train students and an adult advisor from each school next September.

President’s Report: The website has been updated with Candidates’ Answers, Action Alerts and information about the upcoming forums.

The lease on the new office has been signed. The building has tight security, and we will need to pay for lock replacement if a key is lost. After hours a code will be needed in addition to the
Physicians for Social Responsibility is still trying to decide which space they want to rent. They would like to share moving expenses.

There was a discussion about when to move. We may move a few things early, but we will operate at the old location thru April 14, Sinagra’s last day. There are two mass mailings that need to go out. Study materials will go out by e-mail with a notice that the board decided not to mail April study materials, due to the move. We will print 100 sets to take to Capitol Lakes the night of the program.

The office will be closed for moving April 16-20, and staffed by volunteers until new staff can be hired.

Soltvedt has been packing up things, but requests help and feedback on some items. Extra generic supplies, such as extra file cabinets, will be donated to Saint Vincent de Paul. Historic material will go to the State Historical Society. Other items are being shredded.

The Nominating Committee does not have a 2018 President or Bulletin editor yet. Depending on the skills of the new person, we hope that the job of Bulletin editor would be more about writing and less about formatting.

According to the State League President’s call we should be budgeting based on what we want to do, not on what we have been able to afford in the past. The 2018-19 budget includes the potential for additional staff funding. We need to update the job description based on changes in the last 5 years, changes we want to implement and changes due to a different space. Langley suggested hiring a temp to answer phones during the interim. Soltvedt and Bliss volunteered to staff the office short term. We agreed we need someone who can do basic web posting and bulletin layout, and will cover training if necessary. We are concerned about a tight labor market.

Anglim would like to streamline the membership procedure. Lindquist and Soltvedt are working to move more data to MailChimp since Access and MailChimp do not interface well. MailChimp would allow searching of member interest forms, and individuals could update their own interests from the website. Lindquist has volunteered to provide training. There was discussion of the changes LWVUS has in mind for revising how membership dues are collected. Some board members were concerned about implementation.

Volunteers for the Personnel Committee include Casey, Langley, Soltvedt, and Bliss. Soltvedt will ask Kathy Fullin and Jaala Spiro.

State and National Conventions – announcements about times dates and transportation. Some frustration about lack of programming details.

We have a reservation for a third hotel room in Chicago. We need to find a person who wants to use it or release it.

Motion to adjourn by Langley, seconded by Horn. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bliss, Secretary

The next meeting is April 11, 2018 at 2:30 PM.