LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY

2018-19 BOARD MINUTES

January 9, 2019

**Present:** Aileen Nettleton, Paul Lindquist, Gail Bliss, Helen Horn, Kim Langley, Mary Ellen Schmit, Christine Clements, Brook Soltvedt, Sue Fulks, and Maria Spinozzi. By Phone: Mary Anglim.

**Absent:** Sally Gleason

Meeting Called to order at 2:00.

**Treasurer:** Langley walked the board through the status of our finances. We have almost $400,000. If we get to $500,000 the IRS requires an annual audit of the books. Langley recommends we put funding for an audit in the 2019-20 budget.

There was significant discussion of what sort of audit and at what time (pre-audit in spring 2019) to give us time to make corrections, or an audit after the end of the year. There was a consensus to close old years of Quickbooks through June 30, 2018. That automatically closes all previous years. There is no reason to spend money given that the 990’s already covered those years.

Because Langley has a new job at Numbers 4 Nonprofits, the organization is offering LWVDC a discount, but the details were not available. Also because of the new job, she is not available for afternoon meetings. She will continue to do what she can as treasurer, but urges the nominating committee to seek another person to work on our finances, and a new treasurer for 2019-20. There was discussion about revisions to the duties of the treasurer, assistant, staff or contracting out accounting. No decision was reached.

Langley noted that income on the report we have is low because Stripe (online payments) haven’t been entered in two months. Expenditures are basically up to date. We are underspent compared to budget. The value of our investments have been bouncing around with the stock market.

Moved by Soltvedt, seconded by Clements that we hire an outside group to do an audit this spring, after the books are up-to-date. This will be paid for out of the 2018-19 budget. The Finance Committee will determine who will do this audit. Motion passed.

Clements moved minutes be approved as revised. Seconded by Soltvedt, motion passed.

Langley leaves.
Budget – Horn reviewed the Investment Report and sought feedback about preferred report format. Clements asked for detail on fundraising income that should be available from Access.
Horn requested program-related costs for the 2019-20 budget by January 24, 2019, from Membership, Voter Services, and Program. Nettleton provided items from the December Strategic Planning meeting. The Board will review and approve the budget at the March meeting.
Program – Anglim presented the options for the March 6 program in writing.
  1) Local women in elected office talking about how they got into politics.
  2) Explanation of the court system.
  3) Crisis in Day Care.
  4) Rank choice voting
After discussion Anglim was encouraged to see who would be available March 6th from either the County Board or addressing issues in Day Care.
The April program is already set, Gretchen Sabel from the Upper Mississippi Inter League Organization (ILO).
The date for the May Annual meeting will be chosen by Anglim, based on availability of the space and avoiding conflict with other meetings. Clements and a non-board member will assist with meeting planning.
The Saturday February 2 program summit does not yet have a site. There was a discussion of priorities at the National, State and local levels. There was general agreement that Anglim and Georgiana Hernandez will pull together a format. If an appropriate site requires a rental payment, the board concurs in principle with the rental.
Anglim hangs up
Bulletin: Spinozza reminds members that articles are due Monday.
Fundraising: Clements requested feedback on how to ask non-member donors if they wish to join. The consensus was to offer information about membership, but not to use a hard sell. The only fundraising done in December 2018 was a note encouraging people to consider LWVDC when looking at their year-end giving. We received $8,765. Clements wants to compare fundraising activities over various periods. Soltvedt recommended using the numbers in Access. Office administrator Cindy Lindquist can provide the information.
Membership: The half-year membership flyer is now available. There was a discussion of language relating to scholarships vs grants vs low-income memberships. Language matters, and the concern is how to make the program welcoming to individuals who need it. Various methodologies have been used in the past, including an application
process and a requirement to pay at least some amount. We also considered providing new scholarship members with a mentor to facilitate involvement. Schmit is asking other leagues how they handle the issue. Working with Cindy Lindquist they found six reduced-price memberships in the last three years. Horn thinks there were more, and will check before the February meeting. Schmit will propose a motion next month.

Schmit noted that volunteers are planning a speed dating style info social for a Sunday night in late February or early March.

Voter service – Gearing up for the spring elections. Nothing is planned for the campus right now – most students already have their registration and there is no vote coordinator on campus.

Vice President and Website: No need to elaborate on the written report.

High School Voter Education: Fulks reported that the 1/8/19 training went well. With only 3 weeks for registration between the primary and the general election, there isn’t a lot of time to carry out registration drives. The committee will not be using a pledge this spring, but will revisit that issue prior to 2020.

President: Nettleton led a discussion on the parameters of the engagement matrix survey. The consensus was to send it to the entire membership. There was discussion about the coordination of the Mailchimp interest list as compared to the new and more detailed additional information. Cindy Lindquist is assisting in addressing this. Clements requested a report based on the survey to help determine next steps.

LWVWI has asked if we have “adopted” DEI. We are working with the Urban League and other partners as part of the Dane County Voter ID coalition. We met with folks from Centro Hispano last month. Schmit is involved in the Community Alliances with LWVWI.

Meeting adjourned 4:07 pm

Respectfully submitted
Gail Bliss
Secretary