LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY
2018-19 BOARD MINUTES
February 13, 2019

Present: Aileen Nettleton, Paul Lindquist, Gail Bliss, Mary Ellen Schmit, Brook Soltvedt, Mary Anglim, Sally Gleason, Helen Horn.

Absent: Kim Langley, Maria Spinozzi, Christine Clements, Sue Fulks

Meeting called to order at 2:00.

Secretary: Clements moved and Anglim seconded approval of the minutes as revised. Carried

Treasurer: Langley tendered her resignation due to time constraints. Based on the resolution from earlier this fiscal year to consider hiring bookkeeping services, the Nominating committee is asked to seek to fill the treasurer position ASAP. Anglim moved and Gleason seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Aileen Nettleton, president, to replace Kim Langley as signer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance: Horn reported that requests exceed projected income by more than $20,000. Last year we put $15,000 from reserves into the budget, but it looks like we may not need that. Centennial expenses could be treated as one-time expenses and we might be able to buy some of the things requested for next year with surplus from this year. The budget will be presented at the March meeting.

Membership: Schmit reported on plans for Info-socials at Liliana’s in Fitchburg March 3 and later in the month at the Sun Prairie Library, possibly at the Sow’s Ear in Verona or another location

Program: The General Membership meeting 2/23 will discuss the 2019-20 program. Anglim and Georgiana Hernandez are meeting. The goal is a coherent annual program not a grab bag of topics for monthly forums. We want to look at a broad range of activities, such as book groups or field trips related to the programmatic focus. DEI should be part of all phases of the program.

Anglim and two or three others will be on a drafting committee to take ideas from the meeting and create a coherent program.

Cindy Lindquist has volunteered to help with snacks. Schmit will have a second person with her at the nametag table which will be inside the Grand Hall. There will be 5 round tables set up for small group discussion.

March 6 Forum – Child Care - Peggy Haack wants to bring somebody local with her. We need study materials. Anglim will talk to Fulks.

April 3 Forum – was supposed to be Upper Mississippi ILO, but there has been difficulty connecting with a speaker. Consider switching to a different water topic. Newsletter – (Maria sent no report) deadline Friday morning.

Fundraising: Nettleton reports that the Valentine’s Day letter has an excellent list of what we have done in the past year. The response so far has been very good.

Membership: Discussed when half-year memberships should start. Moved by Schmit, seconded by Horn that half year memberships run from February 1 thru April 30. Starting May 1 go back to full year payment and apply it to the next year’s dues. Change Policy & Procedure document to match.

Gleason led a discussion on Low income membership. Most people who used this option did not renew. There was discussion about the wording of an informational statement about
LWVDC paying State ($30) and national ($32) membership dues. Horn moved, Schmit seconded a proposal for a two year pilot for a “Flex Fee Membership”. Flex Fee members would be connected with a buddy, and pay what they could afford, with a $10 minimum. Statistics would be reviewed to see if this program actually promotes DEI. Approved. This is separate from the student membership for $20 ($10 for half year) which LWVUS will review in 2020.

Schmit had coffee with Teresa Holmes, an attendee at the Lively Issues program, to discuss DEI. She provided a definition “Diversity means the door is open, inclusion means you are invited to the dance.”

There are four info socials scheduled in various parts of the county for March: Fitchburg, Sun Prairie, Verona and State Street.

**Voter Service:** The banner is up over Campus Drive until February 16. It will go up on Park St before April Election. There have been six calls in the past month to voter ID helpline. Lindquist noted that he has been asked to go to Mazomanie and Mineral Point to conduct training for voter registration.

**Vice President:** CA is proofed and ready to go after the primary.

City Channel has requested LWV take over scheduling Know Your Candidates, however that isn’t going to work well for our volunteers. We concur with their policy that slots are allocated based on a first come first scheduled basis for the day set aside for KYC. Louise Robbins is working on questions for alders.

See the report in the Bulletin about our recommendations to Sun Prairie for more polling places. See the report in the board agenda about the NAACP Community Conversation program. It was also recorded for later listening (viewing) by Today not Tomorrow.

The Madison Institute has accepted our proposal that they can make incidental use of our space when LWVDC and PSR do not need it, and a dual member will be responsible for their set of keys. This includes some materials stored here for their history project and use of the copy machine with reimbursement. They will make at least one donation per year. They concur with the desire to cosponsor appropriate events.

**Website:** The website was down for about 18 hours. A work around for Candidates’ Answers was posted on Facebook and Twitter.

**President:** The executive committee dealt with several issues.
- Supporting the LWVWI recommendations for more polling places in Sun Prairie,
- KYC policy on scheduling and using clips from KYC in advertising (not allowed) however candidates are encouraged to link to the whole interview.
- Approving the PSR sublet for a period of 2 years,
- Approved an office closure policy; the time can be made up.

Action items for the board from the presidents’ call:
- Need an item for the parade of Leagues at the June state meeting. Working with LWVWI election observers and the Sun Prairie clerk to increase the number of polling places.
- The Joyce foundation has grants of $250. Options include paying for audio/video taping of our forums, or room and food for DEI programs.
- Encourage registration for June 8 LWVWI annual meeting. It is unclear how many delegates we will have in 2019.

The State tool kit for the centennial celebration is not yet online. National has some material available.
Forward Theater wants to partner with us in publicizing the centennial, including a June 23 walk – around the state capitol. 6/10/1919 was WI ratification.

The membership survey planning was slowed down by bad weather, we may just merge it with a more comprehensive membership form.

Nettleton also reported on volunteer work at the High School Civics games, training for an observer corps, and a possible book group in April.

Annual reports are due by March 25, this is a legal document and should be a high level summary.

The nominating committee has filled all of the positions for the board for 2019-20.

Meeting adjourned 3:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Gail Bliss
Secretary