

Annual Meeting May 21, 2016

Whitewater Area-League of Women Voters

Fairhaven Fellowship Fall

10 AM

Board Members in attendance: Ellen Penwell, Emma Lou Sederholm, Julia Ross, Virginia Laurent, Thomas Drucker, Gerry Jennings and Jane Roberts. Other members present: Anne Hartwick, Jean Leedham, Betty Refior, Jim Stewart, Marion Burrows, Lynn Binnie and Audrey Gatz. Board members provided refreshments.

In the absence of President Mary Beth Byrne, Vice President Ellen Penwell, called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Marion Burrows and seconded by Virginia Laurent.

The minutes from the May 2015 annual meeting were approved.

Ellen thanked each of the current board members. Having Anita Loch involved at the National Level is special for our League. Ellen talked about the absence of Winona. Her presence is greatly missed. Stacey Lunsford was especially thanked with a gift for her great work on the website. Kelly Davis has taken over this technical duty. The expertise needed for this is recognized. Tom Drucker thanked Ellen for being the Voter Services Chair.

A brief review of the past year was done by Ellen. A highlight was the video contest for students. This was a very successful project created and launched by Ellen. Greg Stewart, high school government teacher, was a very important participant in this endeavor. Kiwanis Club partnered with the League and gave the prize money for the students producing the winning videos providing information about the Voter ID law.

Our other programs and events: August 2015-Garage sale fundraiser (\$511.91 was realized from the sale). September 2015 -State of the City address by Cameron Clapper. Our League was very pleased to have Andrea Kaminski from the State League at this meeting. The video contest was launched at Whitewater High School. October 2015- Megan McCord Wolfe from the GAB spoke about the Wisconsin Voter ID Law. The UWW PEACE group co-sponsored this meeting. Megan spent some time at Whitewater High School that day. November 2015- Dr. Dick Haven presented an informative talk "The Framing of Elections in Past Presidential Elections". The video contest winners were announced. December 2015- The Holiday Dinner was held at the Whitewater Country Club. Marion Burrows was the recipient of the Making Democracy Work Award. The winning Voter ID videos were shown. Some students and parents were in attendance. January 2016- A membership only consensus meeting was held with the topics relating to the environment and urban policy. February 2016-Deb Weberpal of the Whitewater Senior Center and a representative from Wis DMV spoke on services available for seniors and the Voter Photo ID law. March 2016-the candidate forum for Common Council Candidates was held. Voter registration was held at the Whitewater Public Library. Ellen attended the Wisconsin Council on the Social Studies Conference with Greg Stewart to share success of the League's Video Contest. Matt Rothschild of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign was the presenter for a meeting sponsored by the League and Rock River United to Amend. The topic was: "The Assault on Democracy and Getting Money Out of Politics". April 2016-Professor Elena Levy-Navarro presented, "The Future of Tenure". A fund raising letter was mailed to various businesses in April.

Julia Ross presented the treasurer's report which is a draft. Julia thanked the members for their generosity. The fund raising letter has resulted in only one donation. League has income from the voting reporting. There is a payment pending for that. Our speaker's fees were minimal this year. The projected budget was presented. Ellen stated that we do need to print new membership brochures. That will be an added expense. Jean moved to accept the budget and Gerry seconded the motion. Budget was approved.

New Business: Ellen asked Julia to present the information about membership dues. Presently our dues do not cover the State and National dues so are subsidized. Julia presented five proposals. The board members favored scenario 5. That would increase dues for individuals and households and would come closer to covering the cost of members. The \$55.00 dues have been in place for several years. At the State and National level, the household members are treated as 1.5 members for purposes of dues. Marion moved that we adopt scenario 5. Audrey Gatz seconded the motion. Ellen gave reasons for adopting scenario 5. The current information can be in the new brochures. This passed by a voice vote. Julia was thanked for all of the extra work in preparing and presenting this.

Ellen presented the nominated Candidate Slate for 2016-2017. There were no nominations from the floor. Gerry moved and it was seconded by Julia to accept the slate, and it was approved.

Discussion and Adoption of 2016-2017 Program:

For local issues Jim Stewart suggested that getting people to run for local office is a concern. Marion brought up the issue of an absence of sidewalks in the city as a safety issue. Jean brought up the problems with voter ID at the local level. Ellen mentioned the State League's project of educating the public concerning voter ID. This is a project

that will be done in coordination with local Leagues. Mary Beth Byrne has submitted some possible local events that might be good. Ellen talked about the problems with registrations that are not completed properly. The online voting registration will not be in place before the November election.

The July 4th parade theme is Defending our Freedom Over the Decades. Julia and Ellen presented some ideas for the 4th of July parade and asked others to be thinking about this.

Making Democracy Work Award: Marion suggested Alan Lockett would be a good candidate. James Hartwick was also mentioned as a worthy candidate.

Gerry Jennings asked about having a summer social event which had been done in previous years. Anne suggested a local restaurant might be a good place to get together.

Audrey moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Marion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Submitted by: Jane Roberts, Secretary