

League of Women Voters ~~ Whitewater Area
Minutes of
Annual Meeting
May 20, 2017 9:30 am
Fairhaven Fellowship Hall

Call to Order Mary Beth welcomed those present at the meeting following the visiting and refreshment time. She gave a brief presentation concerning the purpose of League and the Annual Meeting.

Board Members Present: Mary Beth, Ellen Penwell, Jane Roberts, Ginny Laurent, Gerry Jennings, Thomas Drucker and Jean Shiras (Associate Member).

1. Other members present: Marion Burrows, Jean Leedham, Betty Refior, Betsy Brandt and Caitlin Jung
2. The agenda was adopted.

Ellen Penwell presented the treasurer's annual report and the proposed budget in Julia Ross' absence. The League was fortunate in receiving extra donations from members and nonmembers We received a grant through the State League for \$200. This grant will be put toward the purchase of a laptop computer to assist with voter registration, Ellen talked about the upcoming garage sale which is held every other year. This is a major fund raiser for our League. Ellen also thanked members for their in-kind donations. The question was asked about future speaker fees. Marion moved and Ginny seconded that the treasurer's report be approved.

Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2016 Annual Meeting. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved. Approved.

Introduction of 2016-17 Board Members - Mary Beth introduced each Board Member with generous thanks.

Appreciation to Kelly Davis for her service to the Board on the LWV website was expressed by Mary Beth.

Revised Nonpartisan Policy. These policies were discussed. Anne Hartwick was of great assistance with this. Ellen Penwell moved and Ginny seconded that this be accepted with one change: “Circulate petitions for ballot issues that are consistent with League positions” was amended to: “Circulate petitions for ballot issues”. These policies will be reviewed at the September meeting.

Presentation and Acceptance of Revised By-Laws by Gerry Jennings. Jean Leedham assisted with this revision. Many of the changes recommended addressed issues that have changed by practice through the years and updates were needed. Proposed changes will be attached to the minutes. A National Policy about membership has changed. Our League will need to update this part of our bylaws. Ellen and Mary Beth thanked Gerry and Jean for completing this task. Ellen offered to change the print version so that the changes are reflected. Gerry moved and Marion seconded that the bylaws be accepted as presented. Approved.

Presentation of Slate of 2017-2018 Officers (from Nominating Committee) and Election. Jane presented the Slate. The motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented. Appreciation to Mary Beth for agreeing to lead this group for at least another year, to Julia for her willingness to continue as treasurer, to Tom Drucker for continuing on the Board and to Anne Hartwick for lending us her expertise for a full term was expressed by Jane on behalf of the nominating committee. She also stated that it would be of benefit to our League to have another person on the Board.

The \$200 Grant received from the State League for a Laptop for Voter Registration was discussed again with more explanation. The League can no longer use Voter Registration Deputies. Care facilities can still be registered by the special deputies. Marion will continue to do this. The laptop computer will be necessary for voter registration to be done by the League as current law forbids Special Registration Deputies.

Mary Beth gave Anne Hartwick’s report on our media followers and the use of the League website and Facebook. Most of our fans are from Whitewater followed by Watertown and Fort Atkinson. The new app for smartphones was also mentioned as a useful tool for members.

Policy on Paying Honorariums. We sometimes ask if a fee is required, but we do not have a set policy. Ellen suggested a set amount for consistency. We have found that members and community members will donate their expertise for special programs. We also found that members and people from the community are willing to donate funds. For the film, “53206”, donations were made at the Holiday Dinner so that our League could address this important topic. The suggestion was made that \$50 plus mileage be given to speakers. There was some discussion about if and when this would be appropriate. The Board needs to discuss this further.

Review of 2016-17 Activities The film 53206 was well attended. Donations were made at the Holiday Dinner to enable us to show this. The League sponsored several programs on topics such as: the 2016 election, the electoral college, opioids, voter registration and democracy for all.

The Gear Up to Vote van and getting out the vote were also major efforts for the League.

Discussion and Adoption of 2017-2018 Program. Redistricting and gerrymandering continue to be topics of discussion. Marion suggested that private prisons are also a concern. Tom suggested the topic of the relationship between the state and labor unions. The juvenile justice system in Wisconsin is troublesome. Jean mentioned mental illness related to crimes would be a timely topic. Poverty is an issue and reaches into many areas.

The areas of interest have not been determined at the present time.

- A. National
- B. State
- C. Local

Other Activities:

A. July 4th Parade Emma Stutzman will assist with this project. The theme is, “Military Mardi Gras- Celebrating our Freedom”. We may possibly have some high school students also participating. We must have a League member to work with the students.

B. Garage & Bake Sale: July 29, 2017. Please sign up to help with this project. Thanks to Ellen for coordinating this. Thanks to Tom and Betsy for offering their garage and driveway. This is a major event for our local League!

C. Summer Social Event. A summer social event is something our League has done in the past. It would be a get acquainted time. It has been suggested that we have a coffee for potential members and new members with childcare provided if necessary.

2017 *Making Democracy Work* Award. Think about those who would be good nominees for this award. The award could be from outside of the city of Whitewater as our league is "Whitewater Area".

Adjournment Tom moved to adjourn seconded by Jean. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Submitted by: Jane Roberts,
Secretary

Attached to the filed copy of the minutes: Candidate Slate

Treasurers Projected End of Year Report

And Comparison Budget Draft

League of Women Voters-Whitewater

Nonpartisan Policy

Suggested Changes to Bylaws

Web Report-May 20, 2017