



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF METROPOLITAN DES MOINES

**Minutes of 2015 Annual meeting
June 27, 2015
Fire Creek Grill
800 S. 50th Street
West Des Moines, Iowa**

18 people attended the 2015 Annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Des Moines.

- Attendees visited together as people arrived to the event.
- Food orders were placed.
- Each attendee introduced themselves and gave their background as well as status within the organization.
- President Elizabeth McNamara's remarks about the Iowa State Convention were read to the group – they were very complimentary.
- President Deb Turner thanked everyone who helped make the State Convention a success.
- A sheet of questions were given to all attendees to provide feedback and input on the following questions:
 - What are your personal expectations for the League in the coming year?
 - What types of topics – events – programs would you suggest that we focus on next year?
 - What ongoing activities would you like to participate in?
 - What means of communications work best for you? – mailings emails, phone calls, newsletter, Facebook, and website.
- Meals were enjoyed.

The Annual meeting was called to order by President Deb Turner at approximately Noon. Attendees were welcomed.

Kathy Kahoun made the motion to adopt the rules of the annual meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Max Knauer was appointed Parliamentarian for the annual meeting by President Turner. Max accepted the appointment.

Joan Racki and Margaret Weiner were appointed auditors of the 2015 annual meeting minutes by President Turner. Both accepted the appointment.

The Treasurer's report was given by Gary Kaufman, Treasurer.

- Karla Brizzi made the motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and approved.
- LWVMDM used \$950 in educational funds this last year to market and pay event expenses.
- Gary will contact the LWV National Office again to request an accounting of Ed funds.
- While exact income is not yet finalized, the activities at the State Convention yielded \$500+ from the silent auction, \$430+ from GDM donated items, and \$700+ from LWV merchandise.

The Local Program was discussed along with an explanation from long-time member Marilyn Staples. The local program is a series of LWV positions on local government issues. Marilyn Staples made the motion to approve the local plan. The motion was seconded and approved.

National Voter Registration Day was discussed by Christie Gerken, the PAVA coordinator of Disability Rights Iowa. National Voter Registration Day is September 22, but activities occur throughout the week Sept. 21-25. Christie is looking for volunteers to help register voters. She is offering resources, toolkits, and training to assist volunteers. Christie’s contact information is cgerken@drilowa.org – 402-740-0198

Climate change was the subject of speaker Sean McAllister’s presentation. Sean works for the Iowa League of Conservation Voters.

- Quote: “Climate change is happening – it’s not the end of the world – but people will be hurt and some will die”.
- Quote: “Capitalism got us into this and will probably save it”.
- Reducing reliance on coal is essential – it causes health issues and environmental degradation.
- 30% of Iowa’s electricity comes from wind
- Many other environmentally friendly sources of energy include solar, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, wave, anaerobic digesters, and energy efficiency projects.

Phyllis Franklin-Devine acknowledged two League members for their contributions to the community.

- Jean Basinger – for her work with inmates and on issues of domestic violence
- Kathy Kahoun – for her recent award for 30 years of service with Neighborhood Finance

President Deb Turner gave the President’s report. Deb has been President of LWVMDM for 5 years and was initially recruited by Karen Person. Some pieces of her presentation:

- It was a privilege to be President.
- She’s met many wonderful people.
- The League has worked on many worthwhile causes vital to our community and democracy.
- LWVMDM has been goal oriented, which differentiates it from many other local leagues.
 - Develop Educational Programming that Supports the positions of the League
 - Plan All educational meetings in Collaboration with other organizations
 - Increase membership by 20% - an increase of 10
 - Increase awareness/visibility - *DM Register, radio*
 - Increase visibility in the legislature – attendance at committee hearings
 - Observer Core
 - Coordinate at least one event with another League – Ames, Newton, Omaha
 - Define a program of voter education
 - Legislative forums
- When we talk about increasing membership – it means to “engage” people, not just recruit them.

Phyllis Franklin-Devine presented Dr. Turner with a plaque of appreciation for her years of service as our President, along with a bouquet of yellow roses. Dr. Turner received a standing ovation.

A report of the Nominating Committee was given with a listing of candidates for the Board. Marilyn Staples made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded and approved. The Officers and Board for the 2015-2016 are:

| | Position | Name | Length of term | Term Expires |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | President | Kathy Kahoun | One year | 2016 |
| | National Delegate | Kathy Kahoun | | |
| 2 | Co-Vice President | Phyllis Franklin-Devine | Two years | 2016 |
| 3 | Co-Vice President | Dorothy McGinnis | One year | 2016 |
| 4 | Recording Secretary | Teresa Bomhoff | Two years | 2017 |
| 5 | Corresponding Secretary | Judy Dirks | Two years | 2017 |
| 6 | Treasurer | Gary Kaufman | Two years | 2016 |

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------|
| 7 | Elected Director | Jessie Hill | Two years | 2016 |
| 8 | Elected Director | Natalie Koerber | Two years | 2017 |
| <i>Six Appointed Directors</i> | | | | |
| 1 | Appointed Director | Karla Brizzi | | |
| 2 | Appointed Director | Karen Person | | |
| 3 | Appointed Director | <i>To be determined</i> | | |
| 4 | Appointed Director | <i>To be determined</i> | | |
| 5 | Appointed Director | <i>To be determined</i> | | |
| 6 | Appointed Director | <i>To be determined</i> | | |

The Board Retreat will be on Saturday, July 25 – at the 3100 Grand Community room – 9 AM till 3 PM. Some of the items to be discussed:

- delegates to the State Council
- appoint the rest of the directors
- use compilation of feedback sheets in design of coming Metro league activities

Members are encouraged to send emails to Kathy Kahoun Kah6781@msn.com for topics to be discussed at the retreat.

The LWV merchandise that was available at the State Convention will be advertised on the Metro league website so others around the state can purchase the items.

Noreen O’Shea made the motion to adjourn the annual meeting. It was seconded and approved. 1:30 P.M.

Teresa Bomhoff
Recording Secretary for LWV Metro Des Moines