

First Draft – August 8, 2014

Minutes – League of Women Voters Metro Des Moines Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Present: Deb Turner, President; Phyllis Franklin-Devine, Vice President; Dorothy McGinnis, Vice President; Judy Dirks, Secretary; Board: Teresa Bomhoff, Christie Gerken, Jessie Hill, Kathy Kahoun, Max Knauer. Members: JP Knauer **Absent:** Gary Kaufman, Treasurer; Board: Karla Brizzi, Lena Robison

Location: The meeting took place at a new location, the conference room of the Disability Rights of Iowa Offices, 400 E Court Ave. Board member, Christie Gerken, has arranged for our use of this facility for the year. A guest speaker, Jane Hudson, Director of Disability Rights of Iowa, welcomed the board to the facility and spoke about the functions of her department. Christie works for DRI in the area of voter registration and advocacy.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

Board Appointment: Deb Turner announced her wish to appoint Christie to the board. Karen moved to accept and Dorothy seconded. All approved.

STATE BOARD INFORMATION

State Board Report: The state board met August 2. Deb shared information from the meeting. A calendar of important state events was distributed (blue page in a packet from Deb.) A list of state priorities will be provided soon, but these are key topics: Online Voter Registration (with assistance from the Brennan Institute), Water Quality, Human Trafficking, and the early stages of work on Felon Rights- laying the groundwork for codifying guidelines is needed at this time.

Officer Training: This will be held August 23 in Marshalltown at the community college. A green information sheet was included in Deb's meeting packet. Eight people expressed interest in attending, including: Deb, Dorothy, Judy, Max and JP, Phyllis, Teresa, and Christie. Deb will encourage Gary to attend as well to share information about our League's Education Fund. Members will pay their own \$10 registration fee, and they will register independently by emailing Sue Wilson – wilsonsue@mchsi.com. (August 20 is the deadline for registration.)

Issues Briefing: This session will be held September 20 at the Marshalltown Library. This is a good session prepared by our lobbyists with their selected presenters. Dorothy will send out a notice regarding this to all members.

Mary Ann Nelson – MLD State Coach: Our state has a membership, leadership, and development coach with regional coaches as well. Polly Horton from Iowa City will be our regional coach. Her contact information includes PollySHorton @ aol.com 319-621-1685.

Board Office – Karen Person has been hired by the state board as an Administrative Assistant for LWVIA.

ON GOING LEAGUE BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report – Gary was not able to attend the meeting. He did email a suggestion for revised wording regarding dues for the next printing of our brochure.

Board Policies – Deb shared materials in a packet from the state board meeting. Included was a draft from the Blackhawk- Bremer Counties' LWV on nonpartisanship guidelines, especially for board officers.

Job Positions – Clarification of Duties – Duties for this year were discussed.

The two Vice Presidents (membership focus = Dorothy McGinnis, board activity focus = Phyllis Franklin-Devine). Jessie Hill will assume the role of **Editor of The Voter** with ongoing support from Karen Person. Dorothy McGinnis will continue to maintain the **Website** and Jessie Hill will assist here plus establish our **Facebook** page and offer an introduction to the Facebook's use to the board. Gary Kaufman will continue as **treasurer** and Judy Dirks will continue to act as **secretary and archivist**.

The Voter Education Chair- will be assumed by Christie Gerken. Lena Robison will continue to be involved with voter registration but more with another organization and occasionally with the League. At this point in the meeting, Lena's resignation from the board was presented and approved.

Archivist/ Record Keeper – Judy Dirks has been maintaining a notebook of materials for the past few years. She will meet with Deb and others in the future to determine what should be preserved beyond the current year. Interest was expressed in checking into how the long term archives are kept at Iowa City.

Membership Committee - This will consist of president, Deb; two vice-presidents, Dorothy and Phyllis; along with Karen and Judy. They will meet to make plans focusing on increasing membership in the chosen focus areas from the retreat and the community at large. The target for membership includes building and maintain a diverse membership, focusing at this time on younger professionals, educators, female legislators, and recent retirees.

Board Schedule – Members were reminded of the schedule established at the retreat. Board meetings will be held every other month, on the first Tuesday, when possible. At this time, meetings are scheduled for October 7, December 2, February 3, and April 7. The new meeting location will be at the DRI office 400 E Court Avenue. Dorothy will send out group email reminders in advance of these meetings.

Publicity – A need for a strategy to publicize events was discussed. Kathy Kahoun will research rates for various areas such as news in metro sections of the paper. A flyer on news postings on DART buses was discussed; Jessie Hill will look into this further. A target date would be October, prior to elections.

Convention Committee – The next meeting will be August 16 at 9:30 at the Drake Diner.

Pay Pal Account – Dorothy & Phyllis have started inquiries. Gary, as treasurer, must set it up.

November 15 LWVIA – This meeting will be in Des Moines – see the blue State Board calendar.

VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

Christie Gerken shared ideas from her position working for **PAVA**, Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access, which is part of the Disability Rights Iowa offices. She shared pamphlets with the board and told of her work researching many areas where unregistered voters could best be reached and given assistance in registering. Christie announced a webinar to be held on Wednesday, August 7, regarding voter registration. This will be presented by the group Nonprofit VOTE and will include speakers Maggie Duncan, the Elections Program Manager for LWVUS, and Jimmy A. Hernandez, Communications Director at Voto Latino. Follow up to the webinar includes the opportunity to request Voter Registration Kits including posters, guides for participants, etc.

The **Board** decided to focus our involvement in two areas: 1) To participate in registration events at three **DMACC areas on National Voter Registration Day, September 23**, or some time the week of the 23rd. Sherrie Taha will be contacted for advice on how this has been done other years. 2) The League will offer the opportunity to members to participate in voter registration at scheduled **Naturalization Ceremonies** held at the courthouse throughout the year. Lena Robison has established this practice over the past year and hopefully will continue to participate.

YEARLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The calendar for yearly events was worked on, adding established dates and topics to the previous calendar draft made during the retreat. At this point, the schedule includes:

September 9 Membership Meet & Greet – Jessie Hill and the Membership Committee will contact new members from the past two years and invite them to an informal get acquainted meeting. Dorothy McGinnis has offered to host this at her home.

September 23 National Voter Registration Day - Christie Gerken and others will arrange for registration events at three DMACC campuses in the metro area. (See above for more details.)

October 8 Membership Kickoff – The membership committee will arrange this. Speakers from the League of Conservation Voters are being considered for this event.

November 11 (possibly 10th or 13th) **Meeting on Human Trafficking with panel** – Karen Person is making arrangements for this. She may offer a follow-up book discussion over the book WALKING PREY by Holly Austin Smith later that month, as interest is expressed.

December 6 Holiday Luncheon with speaker on Money & Politics – Deb, Phyllis, and Dorothy will make arrangements for this event.

- January 6** Meeting on “A Civil Death” (Felon Disenfranchisement) – Teresa Bomhoff facilitating.
- February 7** Book Study – Judy Dirks will make arrangements for this. The format may be more of a sharing on several books related to voting rights and government issues. She will write articles over titles in upcoming Voters as suggestions. This will be held on a Saturday and during the day, if possible.
- February 25** Lobby Day at the Capitol
- March 7** International Women’s Day Potluck – Karla Brizzi will make arrangements
- April (TBA)** Meeting on environmental Issues – Jessie Hill and possibly people from the League of Conservation Voters
- May 2** Annual Meeting – DJ Newlin will be contacted regarding arrangements at Wesley Acres.
- June 6** LWVIA Convention in Des Moines

OTHER BUSINESS

Karen Person has applied for a grant from Iowa Women’s Foundation to cover a pre-convention program. She will find out if the grant has been approved in September.

Board members expressed interest in having a mini calendar printed up to share with members. Karen showed a sample of such a calendar and will work on it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

