

LWV METRO DES MOINES - RETREAT MINUTES JUNE 9, 2013

Present: Deborah Turner, Teresa Bomhoff, Judy Dirks, Phyllis Franklin-Devine, Carol Hibbs, Jessie Hill, Gary Kaufman, Max Knauer, Karen Person, Lena Robison, and Sherrie Taha – board – also Judith Halbur and Laurie Jones – members.

Meeting was from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. at Carol Hibbs' home.

I. Introductions

- A. Agenda** - The agenda and plan for the day was shared by Deb; Karen distributed new folders with board information and dates for the upcoming year.
- B. State Board Report** – Deb reported on several points from the Friday, May 31, State Board meeting held the day before State Convention. Key issues included:
 - 1. Use of electronic meetings by leagues
 - 2. Avenues for applying for State Educational Funds for possible local league activities
 - 3. Discussion over partisanship - outcome being a member should not sit on state board if running for office

II. LWVIA calendar

- A. Board Members** - Selected dates for state issues on white sheet given by Deb, mentioned:
 - 1. Aug 24. New Officer Training in Iowa City
 - 2. Sept. 21 Issues Briefing in Marshalltown
 - 3. Feb. 18 Capitol Day
 - 4. June 7 LWVIA Council- site not yet determined.
 - 5. Note: State Council and Convention meet in alternate years: council will be 2014 – convention will be 2015
- B. Local Leagues – LWVDM calendar** – tentative dates set by board – available on page 1 of blue packet from Karen.
 - 1. **Local League Educational Meetings Open to Public TENTATIVE**
 - *Sept 9/10: Membership Kickoff - speaker – Immig. reform (Lena & Sherrie)
 - * Oct 8: Immigration Reform Impact on Iowa (Lena, Sherrie, Jessie, Linda S?)
 - * Nov 12: Health Exchange & Integrated Health Homes (Teresa & Sherrie)
 - * Dec 7: Holiday Luncheon – speaker Voter Suppression (Phyllis, Judy, Jessie)
 - * Jan 14: Genetically Modified Organisms-Ag Study Com (Karen, Carol, Sherrie, Judith H)
 - * Feb 12: Book Study Meeting - with DMPL (Judy, Laura W)
 - * March 8: International Women's Day Program – with Oxfam (Karen)
 - April 26: Annual Mtg – speaker Amy Campbell Leg. Session (Carol & Dorothy)
 - 2. **Board Meetings** - will be held at the community room at Sherrie Taha's home, 3662 Ingersoll, DM, at 6:30. All Wednesday with the exception of August. Aug. 6 (Tuesday) – Wed. Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Jan. 8, March 12, May 14

III. Convention Comments – Deb and other board members who attended had several positive remarks and observations regarding the June 1 State Convention held at Ames, including:

- A.** A thank you was sent to the Ames League c/o Linda Murken, Pres. - her response was shared.
- B.** The opening welcome given by Ames Councilmember (also a League member) was a good inclusion.
- C.** A consideration to include such a person in the 2015 convention was suggested, perhaps lobbyist Amy Campbell.

- IV. Treasurer's Report** – Gary shared the report printed April 3 and provided some updates.
- A. Current status includes: \$5,552.24 General Fund and \$5,025.90 Educational Fund. Explanations were given on how each fund can be used.
 - B. \$270.00 was recently spent on State Convention costs.
- V. Review membership list** –
- A. A roster last updated in April is included in the blue board folder.
 - B. Discussion on how to count family members – each person is a separate member for membership counting, although group rates apply to families.
 - C. The recent death of an active member, Denise King, was mentioned and some recent memberships will dictate the need for an update on our exact membership count.
 - D. Accurate accounts reflect the number of delegates who can attend the National Convention – 1 per 50 at this point. We are close to going beyond 50.
- VI. Review board policies** –
- A. **Nonpartisanship & Conflict of interest policies**
 - 1. Deb shared the fact that each local league should have its own written policies regarding these two points and we currently do not.
 - 2. Copies of both the National Policy and the State Policy and Guidelines were read by board members.
 - 3. Board members completed a questionnaire regarding similarities and differences in both sets of policies and also noted areas of interest to stress in the drafting of a local set of policies. Key points of interest included possible limitations to campaign contributions or activities by board officers.
 - 4. Deb offered to draft a sample local policy statement to reflect input offered by members at this meeting's discussion. This will be shared at the August mtg.
 - B. **Reference League Basics**- Members were encouraged to study the League Basics provided in the blue board folder.
- VII. Review board bylaws** – Deb called for a committee to review our current bylaws for consideration of any updates, revisions being needed. Gary Kaufman and Sherrie Taha volunteered to do this.
- VIII. Review board member duties - page 5 basics**
- IX. Job Positions/Descriptions** – Discussion of current office holders and job descriptions was held.
- A. **Vice President – membership – Molly Shanks**
 - B. **Secretary - Corresponding/ Recording – Judy Dirks (Dorothy McGinnis & Carol Hibbs)** (Dorothy post office box, website, mass mailings – Carol group email notices)
 - C. **Treasurer- Gary Kaufman**
 - D. **Program Director**- Suggestion to change this to **Events Director** – No one person at this time - previously have had 1 or 2 members take charge of various events through the year.
 - E. **Voter Editor – Karen Person & Jessie Hill**
 - F. **Board Members**
 - 1. Each **role** was briefly discussed with input from members as to their expectations, areas of expertise, etc. what role they are willing to play.
 - 2. Deb has suggested that each board member should have a specific role.
 - G. **Other positions**
 - 1. **Advocacy**- Discussion of our need for such a person to act as a liaison with the state- Teresa has agreed to do so – at least within some topic areas.
 - 2. **Web Site/Facebook**- Dorothy with help offered from Judith H.
 - 3. **Nomination Committee**- sets up slate of officers to vote for at next annual meeting – Deb will appoint 2 board members to work on this.
 - 4. **Voter Education Chair**- Sherrie and Lena - will consider National Voter Registration Day for possible activities this year.
 - 5. **Publicity/Media Chair** – needs improvement, additions, Jessie Hill has offered to work on this – it reflects much of what she does in her job.

H. Potential Programs or positions

1. **Archivist/Record Keeper** – Judy Dirks will start keeping files of *Voters*, minutes, and proposed Event Summary forms for future use.

X. Open Discussion – Goals for the Year – It was agreed to follow similar goals as were set for last year, including:

- A. Develop Educational Programming that Supports the positions of the League**
- B. Plan All educational meetings in Collaboration with other organizations**
- C. Increase membership by 10%.**
- D. Increase awareness/visibility**
- E. Participate in the LWVUS studies** (One this year is the Agriculture Policy) Teresa shared good background on other meetings already being planned by area groups in this field.
- F. Increase visibility in the legislature – attendance at committee hearings,**
 1. **Observer Corps** – Deb provided materials regarding Observer Corps make up, activities, organization. It was suggested that this might be an area to implement with the board meetings of Broadlawns Hospital administration – reflecting at interest stated at the annual meeting and as a plausible first step.
- G. Coordinate at least one event with another League** – This was a strong point last year.
- H. Define a program of voter education**
 1. **Legislative Forums** - Karen provided information on legislative forums in both Ames and Blackhawk-Bremer Counties – **See XII below in outline.**

XI. Membership Recruitment – A brief discussion over pro’s and con’s of targeting one specific group or being more diverse took place. We will continue to encourage all interested people to attend and join, with continued emphasis on a few of the groups as listed in part B.

- A. Traditional**
- B. Targeted – diverse membership**
 1. Younger professionals, Educators, Female legislators
 2. It was suggested to try to contact local legislators before each event, if possible.

XII. Programs Discussion – See, also, the Events Calendar on Page 1.

- A. National Program - voting rights, campaign finance reform and clean air,**
(Topics need to be aligned with national areas of interest)
- B. Study – revision of agriculture policy.**
 1. April 4, 2014, will be deadline for consensus reports.
 2. Members wishing to develop program: Karen, Carol, Sherrie, Judith H
Sherrie knows of other upcoming events related to this, one including speaker Frances Moore Lappe’, author of last year’s book study book *EcoMind*.
- C. Board Member:**
- D. State program - EMS studies**
 1. **State Convention passed a vote to study EMS in early planning stage**
 2. **Mental Health, Environmental Issues – water,**
 3. **Predatory lending, Women’s Health, ACA – health care exchange, Guns,**
- E. Our Program (See page 1 and calendar in blue board folder- also) TENTATIVE**
- F. September – membership meeting 9-9/10 (immigration reform – Lena/Sherrie)**
Also in September 9-21 State Issues Briefing- Marshalltown – 9-25 National Voter Registration Day
- G. October 8 – Immigration Reform Impact on IA (Lena, Sherrie, Jessie, Linda S?)**
- H. November 12 – Health Education & Integrated Health Homes (Teresa & Sherrie)-**
- I. December 7 – holiday luncheon Voter Suppression – Drake professor Rachel Caufield suggested as a possible speaker (Phyllis, Judy, Jessie)**
- J. January 14 Public meeting GMO/Ag Study (Karen, Carol, Sherrie, Judith H -**

K. February – book review – co-sponsored with DMPLibrary? (contact member Laura W/ in charge of book discussion programs) Judy & Laura - title to be determined- Possibilities: *America's Climate Century* by Rob Hogg (?), *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilderson – urban migration, *More Than a Walk on the Beach: Confessions of an Unlikely Diplomat* by Mary Kramer

L. International Women's Day March 14 or 8 - with OxFam (Karen)

M. April 26 – Annual Meeting –(Carol & Dorothy) luncheon/ Amy Campbell, League Lobbyist, as possible speaker

XIII. Legislative Forums - Candidate Forum – (Karen, Lena, Teresa)

Karen shared information about the format used by Ames and Blackhawk-Bremer Co.

Polk County's large size creates logistics problems

Consider consulting Amy Campbell for initial suggestions

A. When- Target Dates (also in Blue Board Folder Calendar)

1. Sat., Jan. 4

2. Sat., Feb. 1

3. Sat., March 1

B. With whom co-sponsor – not determined

XIV. Board schedule

A. Every other month – all Wednesdays, with the exception of August (Tuesday)

B. August 6, October 9, November 6, January 8, March 12, May 14

**C. Meeting site- 3662 Ingersoll Ave, DM – Sherrie Taha's bldg. community room
Sherrie #771-0181**

D. Meeting notifications- possible group emails – not discussed

FURTHER DATES OF IMPORTANCE:

**Deb- Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony – 10:00 a.m. August 24, Hotel Savory
Deb out of country – Sept. 16-Oct. 24 / March 16-21.**

XV. Publicity (Jessie Hill ? – in past Cindy C.)

A. Newspaper

B. Radio

XVI. VOTER – Jessie Hill will help Karen Person with it this year

XVII. Fundraising- No discussion at this point

XVIII. League email site- LWVDMetro@hotmail.com - (Dorothy? Jessie?)

XIX. Other Decision Making – See Goals – Part X-F- in minutes' outline above

A. Observers Corps – which meetings , reports

XX. Yard Signs – LWV Vote – Vote Tuesday – free?-

Will check into cost by August meeting – not to endorse candidates, but to publicize election day

XXI. Convention – 2015 – League Metro Des Moines to host

A. Committee- Lena, Max, Deb at this time – will contact Marcia T. from Ames for guidelines

B. Date- First Saturday in June - 2015

C. Site: Drake or DMU Auditorium or Historical Building – all possibilities

D. Des Moines Visitors and Convention Bureau- good source for advice, materials, collaboration

E. Suggestion for Entertainment – Ruth Ann Gaines and associate (Maureen Kourt ?) dialogue-presentation

XXII. Non face-to-face meetings- Deb will provide guidelines to follow for electronic meetings

A. Voting

B. Minutes

C. Who calls

D. Who resides

E.

XXIII. Event planning – For continuity, try to follow guidelines provided on green forms in the future
A. **League forms** – will get a supply printed – use to plan and to summarize events – turn in for archives use

XXIV. Other issues

A. **Website – appropriate materials, minutes** –Provide minutes to Dorothy in the future to post

B. **Use of membership list-** restricted to League use only

Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 p.m. 3662 Ingersoll

Submitted by Judy Dirks, Secretary, Draft June 17, 2013