

LWV BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 2, 2014

The meeting was held at the DRI building conference room. Present: Deb Turner, President; Phyllis Franklin-Devine and Dorothy McGinnis, Co-Vice Presidents; Judy Dirks, Secretary, and Board Members: Teresa Bomhoff, Karla Brizzi, Christine Gerken, Jessie Hill, Kathy Kahoun, Max Knauer, Karen Person, and Lena Robison. Absent: Gary Kaufman, Treasurer.

I. Introductions and Opening Comments

- A. *There were no visitors. News was shared of the condition of member Linda Skeers hospitalized at the University of Iowa Hospital. League will send flowers.*
- B. *Approval of Minutes for the last board meeting, October 7, along with approval and comments on an addendum for the past Annual Meeting's minutes, to include the offered slate of officers' names as voted on at the meeting.*

II. President's Report

- A. *Review Human Trafficking Event – Board members who attended gave the event many compliments. There was a good turnout and the presenters did an excellent job. Cooperation with another organization, Chrysalis Foundation, and publicity on Public Radio were both factors which added to the success of the event. Karen Person, facilitator, spoke of further feedback from a group called Teens Against Trafficking. It is hoped they can attend future events.*
- B. *Sign up process – The need to use a consistent sign-up procedure at events was discussed with several suggestions for ways to then follow up with personal contacts plus efficient record keeping. Judy Dirks and Max Knauer will work on ideas presented.*

III. State Board Report – *The State Board met via Conference Call because of bad weather.*

- A. *Convention Report – The Board approved of items on a chart prepared by Teresa Bomhoff; this chart was also shared at tonight's meeting. Many arrangements are still in planning stages, but several items have been finalized. The convention will be Saturday, June 6, at the Des Moines University auditorium and cafeteria. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at a nearby Holiday Inn. The theme will be "How Far We've Come". Speakers have been contacted and are pending. Publicity is being arranged on TV and in print. Special points being worked on currently include arranging for League merchandise, printing of a program, arranging for a hospitality center for Friday evening arrivals, and organizing a silent auction as a fund raiser for further state projects.*
- B. *ILO Development – There has been interest in Inner League Organizations by various regional Leagues to focus on issues of common interest with neighboring states' Leagues. Currently there is work on such a group focusing on the issue of water quality; this group is made up of regional Leagues in states sharing common Mississippi River*

borders. The State Board has stressed the need to follow national policy in forming such organizations; each State Board must approve of their organization and missions to be fully sanctioned by the League of Women Voters.

- IV. Treasurer's Report** – *No report was given this evening.*
- V. Review Board Policies** – *Continue to respond regarding attendance for each board meeting.*
- VI. Job Positions** – ***Only two points from a fuller slate were addressed this evening : Voter plus Web Site/Facebook.***
- a. Voter** – *Jessie said the fall issue should be ready by the end of the week.*
- b. Web Site / Facebook** – *Jessie has the Facebook page ready to launch. She will offer a Board inservice session “Social Media 101” on Saturday, January 24. This session will be held at Deb’s office and start at 11:00. Dorothy and Jessie will work together monitoring both Web Site and Facebook issues, including new postings.*
- VII. Standing Committee** – ***Only one point from a fuller slate was discussed this evening: Nomination Committee.*** *Deb mentioned that soon work should begin on creating the names for consideration as officer candidates for the Annual Meeting. Three board members are needed to work on this committee next spring.*
- VIII. Membership – MLD** – *Phyllis reported on a meeting with Membership-Leadership-Development State and Regional Coaches Mary Ann Nelson (State) and Polly Horton (Regional). Metro board members who attended this meeting included Phyllis, Kathy , and Dorothy. Many practical suggestions for building and maintaining membership were offered, including the following:*
- *A good focus group is recent retirees because of their time availability and skills,*
 - *hold many informal meetings, such as lunches, for getting acquainted and discussion on various league topics,*
 - *make an effort to engage new members right away to give them a feeling of being a part of the organization- pairing with a mentor has often proven to be good for this,*
 - *promote the League in many ways, including traditional publicity but also by inviting civic leaders to events and having League attendance at events sponsored by other organizations.*
-
- IX. Board Schedule** – *Not discussed at this meeting*

- X. **Publicity** – Discussed in conjunction with other agenda points, such as monthly programs and the upcoming convention.
- XI. **Convention** – See previous comments on convention planning points in part III. State Board.
- XII. **Other Issues – Pay Pal Account** – The establishment of an account is still pending. Both the treasurer and vice president need to work on this to get an account operating.
- XIII. **Voter Registration Activities** – Lena, Christie, Karla, and Judy spoke of experiences this fall registering new voters, especially at Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens. Other members have responded to email calls for volunteers and the League will continue to participate in these events.
- XIV. **Yearly Program Schedule** – Discussion focused on recent past events and several upcoming events.
- **Nov.10- Human Trafficking Panel** – See earlier comments in section II.
 - **Dec. 6 – Holiday Luncheon** – Phyllis has received many reservations for the luncheon at Noah’s Ark Restaurant.. Kathy Kahoun announced that the speaker will now be Jason Noble, also a DSM Register reporter, rather than Jeffrey Kummer, politics editor. The topic will be the cost of the 2014 elections. Board members were reminded to bring cookies for a dessert buffet after the regular meal.
 - **Jan. 6 – Meeting on “A Civil Death” (Felon Disenfranchisement).** – Teresa Bomhoff has arranged for several speakers already, including: Wayne Ford of Urban Dreams, Rita Bettis of ACLU, and Bob Coty, retired re-entry specialist. This will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church, 42nd & Ingersoll. Teresa will look into grant funds to publicize this event on Public Radio.
 - **Feb, 10 & March 3 – Legislative Forums** – Karen is organizing these two similar events. She is considering changing the venues from those posted on the yearly event calendar due to high rental fees.
 - **Feb. 7 – Book Study** – Judy reported that the format will be changed for this year, with an open forum of titles members wish to discuss – related to League priority topics. It will be held at Johnston Library again. Judy will ask the reference staff there to publicize the event through their library sharing listserv and in-house publicity. A poster regarding the event will be displayed at the holiday luncheon along with starter lists of possible titles to consider.
 - **March 7 – International Women’s Day Potluck** – Karla and Lena are working on this event. It will be held at Johnston Library again. They are looking into entertainment for the program.
- NOTE:**
- **The board discussed collaborating with other organizations and co-sponsoring events whenever possible, but with established expectations for roles and responsibilities per each group.**

XIV . Old Business – *See ongoing comments on meetings and event planning above.*

XV. New Business – *A state study will be coming up soon on emergency services for communities.*

XVI. Goals for the Year – *Goal C was clarified, as “increase membership by 20%, which would mean 10 new members for the year. Goal F – Work on an Observer Core for visibility in the legislature is still of interest but no organizing has occurred yet.*

-