

LWVIA Meeting Minutes 3.14.20 draft

League of Women Voters of Iowa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave
March 14, 2020

Present: Terese Grant, Doris Kelley, Linda Meloy, Gaylen Wobeter, Nancy Halvorson, Mary Ann Nelson, Nancy Porter, Polly Horton

Absent: Bev Ver Steegh, Raven Hollenhorst, Sue Wilson, and Mary Rae Bragg

Call to order: 10:15 am.

Approval of minutes of January 11, 2020 conference call meeting

Discussion identified correction to be made. L. Meloy moved for approval of the 1/11/2020 minutes as amended, N. Halvorson seconded, and motion passed on unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Meloy presented the Balance Sheet and Budget spreadsheet.

Total in checking account \$10,693.00, which includes \$4,000 of dedicated LWVUS grant monies.

All per member payments received from local Leagues

President's Report

25 League members attended the March 11, 2020 Capitol Day in Des Moines.

Lobbyist Amy Campbell has sent survey to evaluate the 2/19/20 Virtual Capitol Day.

50 people attended the documentary film "Uncivil War – U.S. Elections Under Siege" on the topic of gerrymandering. The panel discussion post viewing was excellent.

Metro Des Moines League has been asked to partner with Girl Scouts.

Communications Coordinator, Melissa Gesling, starts April 1, 2020.

Fairfield and Bloomfield, Iowa groups who wish to form Leagues in their communities have contacted Mary Stewart, LWV Ottumwa president. T. Grant noted that By-Laws would be necessary and LWVIA could offer Leadership training specific to this new leagues interest.

LWVUS has advised the cancellation on March 2020 events of more than 35 people.

OLD BUSINESS

19th ACC Update

D. Kelley stated that \$231,518.00 has been raised. \$50,000.00 more will be needed for the Suffrage Wagon. There are 108 events scheduled from January through June 2020. Proclamations have been read in 16 counties and 8 cities.

The Way Up 2020 Conference

D. Kelley met with Doreen Hayek, co-chair of an organization that is Developing Women Leaders To Enhance Iowa Higher Education. They are interested in having the 19th Amendment Centennial Committee represented at their November 5-6, 2020 The Way Up 2020 Annual conference. They have decided to integrate the 19th Amendment celebration in these ways: include a reference to it in their Theme for the conference, include a reference to it on their website for the conference, and make a mention to the 19th Amendment during their welcome to the conference. They would like us to host (and staff) a vendor table with displays/ posters to read. The cost is \$15.00 per day = \$30.00 total.

Juvenile and Justice Committee Update

B. Pitz stated that the Committee is pushing for a clean amendment to the Constitution.

MLD Update

M.A. Nelson shared that Deb Turner is scheduled to be on the March 16, 2020 conference call. The topic will be diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

See Yourself Here

The Committee has set March 31, 2020 as the registration deadline. There are 6 registrants at this time.

PPFM and 2020 Census update

T. Grant has submitted the monthly update to LWVUS. Local Leagues have held educational forums, added Census 2020 information to their Voter Registration activities, and partnered with other agencies (Certified Count Committees, social service agencies, etc.)

Fund-raising update

Doris Kelley was added to the Committee. The members are Bonnie Pltz, Nancy Halvorson and Doris Kelley.

ILO update

N. Porter reported on her attendance at the Mississippi Regional Network meeting in St. Louis. The current focus is to add on calendar activities concerning the Mississippi River. Activities are scheduled but not finalized.

Porter signed up for the Engagement Committee and will be working to promote the Mississippi River and inform citizens of the need for caring for the Mississippi River. Regular monthly conference calls are held with the Engagement Committee. She did show us a map fold (of US map) that visually demonstrates the watershed.

Centennial Book update

L. Meloy reported that the hoped for book release will be August 26, 2020, the 100th anniversary of when the 19th Amendment was signed in Washington, D.D.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 LWV Convention June 25-28

Issues – Concurrence on Voter Representation / Electoral Systems

L. Meloy moved that T. Grant and P. Horton represent the LWVIA at the LWV 2020 Convention. B. Pitz seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

ERA Grant and VRAA Grant

G. Wobeter moved that LWVIA support the ERA Grant with partners but decline the VRA Grant. L. Meloy seconded and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Request to partner with The Civics Center

The Civics Center invited LWVIA to join their coalition of nonpartisan organizations working together to promote high school voter registration and to prepare all eligible high school students to vote in 2020. Discussion determined that local Leagues and the Secretary of State's office already are active promoting high school voter registration, so we will decline the invitation.

Update of webpage "Voting in Iowa"

G. Wobeter volunteered to recruit someone from LWVJC to update the section of the LWVIA web page on Voting in Iowa.

Nominating Committee report

B. Pitz reported for B. Ver Steegh that 3 of the 4 Directors whose 2018-2020 terms will end in June are continuing for the 2020-2022 term: L. Meloy, N. Halvorson, and N. Porter. G. Wobeter will go off the Board

2020 Council – June 6 in Cedar Falls, Black Hawk-Bremer hosts

The play The Suffragist opens at UNI weekend June 5,6,7. The Board of Directors will plan on meeting June 5 afternoon in Cedar Falls, attending the play that evening, and the Council on Saturday June 6.

Topics suggested for Council sessions were Reporting on our Grants (PPFM) (ERA), LWV Convention, Instagram and Twitter instruction by Melissa Gesling.

Board Retreat

We agreed to hold a Board Retreat in Cedar Falls on Friday, June 5. Doris Kelley volunteered to find an appropriate location to hold meetings and stay overnight.

What do people think about the LWVIA?

T. Grant recommended that we develop a marketing plan that will evolve into a new Board structure. Focus will be on issues, special projects, and fund raising.

D. Kelley suggested a SWOT analysis: **strength**, **weaknesses**, **opportunities**, **threats**. The membership is aging out.

Meeting adjourned 1:53 pm

Polly Horton, Secretary

Next Board meeting: Saturday, April 25, 2020 in Cedar Rapids