League of Women Voters of Iowa

Board of Directors’ Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 18, 2021

**Present:** Terese Grant, Nancy Halvorson, Mary Rae Bragg, Doris Kelley, Sue Wilson, Bonnie Pitz, Nancy Porter, Holly Oppelt, Polly Horton, Amy DeGroot

**Absent:** Jean McMenimen, Linda Meloy

**Call to Order**: 9:14 a.m.

**Approval of minutes** of July 17, 2021, meeting: Secretary pro-tem Nancy Halvorson will complete the draft and send it out.

**Treasurer’s report**:

Treasurer Meloy was unable to attend the meeting, so provided

1. a memo containing pertinent aspects of the LWVIA finances, per her usual report,
2. the Assets portion of the Balance Sheet with added amounts to make it as current as possible
3. the usual Budget Comparison Sheet with penciled in adjustments made for early September expenditures for insurance, accountant, communications director, and People for Fair Maps campaign (LWVUS monies).

The checking account balance is $4,733.56 with all current invoices paid and will increase as PMP payments continue to come in.  The Heartland Investment Account is at $28,529.10 as of 08/31/21, i.e. still increasing quarterly. All Education Fund accounts are stable from the previous report except for a small addition to the Dubuque League's account, so noted on the Balance Sheet.  The LWVIA Ed. Fund has sufficient funds to handle nearly all the expenses for a website re-design which is in the bid stage at present.

**President’s report:** Terese Grant received the resignations of two Board of Directors: Raven Hollenhorst (Davenport) and Mary Stewart (Ottumwa). Grant contacted Jean Dell with offer to help the Ottumwa League and recruit someone to attend the monthly President’s call on the firstWednesday of month.

* Focus on changes in voting laws that will affect November elections
* Help ERGA Task Force petition and Coalition building
* Met with Senator Rozenboom regarding Bottle Bill
* Presentation about the Redistricting Process in Iowa
* Participated in panel on changes in Election Laws hosted by Black Hawk-Bremer LWV
* Local League Presidents virtual meeting the first Wednesday of every month
* Will participate in the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission public hearings

**COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

19th ACC- Doris Kelley

* Closing event is Monday, 10.4.21 @ 7 p.m.
* ISU Benton Auditorium in Scheman Building
* Hosted by Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics
* Keynote speaker will be Dr. Marjorie Spruill
* Discussion titled “Divided We Stand”
* Event is free and open to public

Project Completion: Prior to closing event, 28 members of 19th ACC committee will meet to wrap up final details of the 4-year project, including:

* Overview of financials
* Final placement of the 2 replica suffrage wagons
* Preserving teacher access to the 19th Amendment curriculum
* Preserving other website content
* Closing the website

Partners

* 50-50 in 2020
* AAUW
* Business Professional Women of Iowa
* Iowa State’s Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics
* Iowa Department of Human Rights
* Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
* Iowa State Education Association
* Iowa Women’s Foundation
* Iowa Women Lead Change
* Iowa NOW
* National Nineteenth Amendment Society
* NEXUS Executive Women’s Alliance
* University of Iowa, Iowa State University, University of Northern Iowa

Despite the COVID-19 setback, 19 of the 26 planned 19th ACC activities were completed. The 19th ACC committee was financially accountable to our partners and philanthropic contributors. The activities helped educate most of Iowa’s 3 million citizens, including grade school children, about the 19th Amendment that while it was a Hard Won battle, we’re Not Done.

Criminal Juvenile and Justice Committee (CJJC)- Bonnie Pitz

* Educating themselves on high cost of incarceration
* Designing a LWVIA State Study with Jean Odell and Al Hayes

MLD (Membership, Leadership Development)- Nancy Porter

* Survey to determine meeting dates/times
* Local League Membership Chairs should participate

ERA – Doris Kelley

* $5,000.00 from LWVUS to remove the deadline
* Partners
* LTE and Op-Eds in Iowa newspapers
* Pro-ERA video on website
* Presentations to local service groups
* Senators Grassley and Ernst haven’t responded to date for roundtable discussion

Environmental Committees – Sue Wilson, Nancy Porter

* LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO (LWV UMRR ILO) governing Board needs a person to be alternate representative (Nancy P. now Co-Vice Chair)
* Next governing Board Meeting (virtual) is 10:00 a.m. – Noon on Monday, October 4.
* Write up description of qualifications for Alternate and share with local Leagues
* Program
  + October 4, 2021: “PFAS in our Water and Us” (virtual) 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
  + December 6, 2021: “How Federal Farm Policy Ended Up Polluting our Waters and Creating the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico” by guest speaker Adam Guebert (virtual) 1:00 p.m.

SWOT Committee Reports

Fundraising – Nancy Halvorson, Bonnie Pitz, Jean McMenimen

* Concern with booking a site and inviting people to a 2021 event due to Covid
* Letter was not successful securing $
* Event in 2022 aligned with Defending Democracy Award

Membership – disband

Promotion – Mary Rae Bragg, Linda Meloy

* Brochure to share with local Leagues
* RFP to 3 companies on promotional video
* Show LWV as pertinent, up-to-date, inclusive
* Target audience is ages 25-45
* Informative on serious issues

\*policy to get Board approval prior to sending RFPs and posting video

Social Media – Melissa Gesling

Task Force Updates

Redistricting – Terese Grant, Linda Meloy, Mary Rae Bragg

ERGA (Elections Regulations/ Government Accountablity) – Polly Horton, Doris Kelley, Shannon Patrick, Terese Grant

* Petition designed and distributed
* Coalition of partners invited
* Media Plan

Justice – Bonnie Pitz,

Environment (Bottle Bill/ Water Quality) - Nancy Halvorson, Nancy Porter, Sue Wilson

Health (Mental Health/ Women’s Health) – Nancy Halvorson

Workforce (Broadband and Childcare) – Jean McMenimen, Mary Rae Bragg, Doris Kelley

**OLD BUSINESS**

Defending Democracy Award Presentation – Nancy Halvorson

* October 14, 2021, virtual
* List to Nancy H of whom to invite
* Mary Chapman (LWV Metro Des Moines) will present award
* Doris Kelley will speak as former Legislator
* Teresa B will ask Karen Person to be in person

Legislative Priorities for 2022

* Issues Briefing November 6,2021, virtual
* Change the priority wording “Promote equal access to voting and ensure all votes are counted”
* No 4th bullet point under Criminal justice
* Add to Medicaid bullet point: “Ensure Medicaid services are comprehensive, accessible, and reimbursed at an adequate level.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

See Yourself Here in 2022

* M.R. Bragg presented history
* Successful but work intense to plan and carry out
* Physical presence in Capitol with Legislators “de-mystification” of job
* Other similar programs: Ready to Run (Catt Center), Step Up (AAUW) and Collegiate Chapters of 50/50 in Iowa
* Table decision on 2022 until D. Kelley has information from the other 3 programming bodies

November Elections GOTV Public Service Announcements

* Mary Rae Bragg moved to move forward on PSA on changes in Election Laws for November 2021 elections. Holly Oppelt seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board of Directors Membership (loss of two recently)

Terese Grant received the resignations of two Board of Directors: Raven Hollenhorst (Davenport) and Mary Stewart (Ottumwa). Grant contacted Jean Odell with offer to help the Ottumwa League and recruit someone to attend the monthly (1st Wednesday of month) President’s call.

* Examine the make-up of our Board
* Representation from every local League
* Recruit younger, more diverse candidates with professional expertise.

Mary Rae Bragg moved to adjourn. Sue Wilson seconded. Motion passed on unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Polly Horton

Saved as LWVIA BOD Meeting 9.18.21 draft.4