

League of Women Voters of Iowa
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2019
Grinnell House, 1101 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa

Present: Terese Grant, Polly Horton, Linda Meloy, Sue Wilson, Gaylen Wobeter, Bonnie Pitz, Nancy Porter, Bev Ver Steegh, Karen Person

Absent: Nancy Halvorson, Mary Ann Nelson, Doris Kelley, Mary Rae Bragg, Raven Hollenhorst

Meeting called to order: 2:36 pm by Terese Grant

Minutes of the May 18, 2019, meeting approved. G. Wobeter moved, N. Porter seconded, unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer L Meloy presented the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2019. The amounts were as follows: checking account \$828.53, total Education Funds (History Book Project, Johnson County, LWVIA, Muscatine County, Dubuque League) \$ 17,353.13, and Heartland Investments \$14,550.

Meloy stated that all bills are paid, the audit is done, and PMP (per member payments from local Leagues) will start coming in September. A \$1500 donation to the Book Project was received from the LWVJC-EF (League of Women Voters Johnson County Ed Fund).

L. Meloy led discussion concerning the Accountant's recent delay in paying bills and additional responsibilities with the 19th Amendment Ed Fund. P. Horton moved the we put in writing the contingencies prompt payment of bills and responsibilities with the 19th Amendment Ed Fund (taxes) and increase Accountant's annual salary \$100 to \$1000/ year. B. Ver Steegh seconded the motion and it passed on unanimous vote.

The Board praised L. Meloy on the job she's done as Treasurer.

President's Report

President Terese Grant shared that she had phone conversations with local League Presidents in June. Leagues all do the same things but differ in how they do it.

T. Grant met with lobbyist Amy Campbell and set date and agenda for Issues Briefing. It will be Saturday, October 19, 2019, (10:00 am to 3:00 pm) at the Marshalltown Community College. The morning session will be panel of two woman Legislators (one Republican and one Democrat). The afternoon session topic will be DEI/ Implicit Bias.

T. Grant shared there are 56 registered for the Local Leagues Rock workshop tomorrow, representing all local Leagues except Sioux City.

LWV of Jasper County has had a decline in membership. A wine and cheese social is planned for Tuesday, August 13, 2019 to address the "Next Step". It is hoped the League can maintain candidate forums, Legislative forums, and an Annual Meeting.

LWV of Metro Des Moines has a new president, Teresa Bomhoff , who will present at the Local Leagues Rock meeting.

Review of Convention 2019

The minutes of Convention 2019 were read and approved by Sue Johansen (Muscatine) and Paula Vaughan (Johnson County).

L. Meloy handed out the listing of the Silent Auction items and amount they contributed to the total \$2,710.00.

MLD Update

M.A. Nelson sent a handout explaining the format and schedule for the Grow Me (formerly MLD) calls. These are to be given to each local League at workshop tomorrow, and invite Ames, Black Hawk/Bremer, Dubuque, Jasper and Sioux City leagues to sign up as host for a call date.

19th ACC Update

D. Kelley and B. Pitz gave two presentations to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Convention featuring the Hard Won/ Not Done video, events and organization.

Carrie Chapman Catt Center in Ames is sponsoring the February 14, 2020 celebration. Elaine Weiss, author of The Women's Hour, is the keynote speaker.

For the People Act Campaign

P. Horton shared the summary of 400 postcards sent to Senator Grassley, two visits to Grassley offices in state, newspaper editorials and opinion pieces, and receipt of money from LWVUS to do this. The campaign has not resulted in bringing HR1 to Senate Committee. It has increased the LWVIA interaction with LWVUS.

LWVUS Council 2019

B. Pitz reported LWVUS promoted positive communication to "use your power". She attended a wide range of meetings, including sessions on Twitter and Fund-Raising. All presentations will be available online and Pitz will share with us. (See her Review of Council June 2019 document at end of Minutes.)

Liaison for Local Leagues and Visitations

L. Meloy raised the question of Directors having Portfolios.

See Yourself Here Committee

L. Meloy, N. Halvorson, and B. Pitz will be the committee in charge of See Yourself Here 2020.

DEI Policy Statement

G. Wobeter made motion to adopt the LWVUS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. S. Wilson seconded the motion. A lengthy discussion was held concerning the second paragraph listing characteristics illustrating diversity. The main idea of “no one turned away” and the concern that any list leaves someone out or is subjective and difficult to measure were presented. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 1 nay.

Members at Large

LWVIA received a request from Nancy Lund in Nora Springs, Iowa to join LWVIA. T. Grant directed the Johnson County directors to research what other State Leagues charge and list as criteria for Member At Large (MAL) membership.

LWVIA Facebook Page

Karen Person asked for additional administrators for Facebook page. B. Ver Steegh and T. Grant volunteered.

Website Donation/ VOTER/ Iowa Environmental Council

K. Person requested the addition of a donate button to LWVIA website. L. Meloy will investigate PayPal for the website.

K. Person stated the VOTER would only be sent in digital form. Hard copy of the VOTER will no longer be sent to the few members now receiving that form. Local League Presidents will be informed so they can take steps to share the Voter with members who can't access digital form.

K. Person asked LWVIA to renew membership in the Iowa Environmental Council. P. Horton moved that LWVIA renew membership in the Iowa Environmental Council, B. Pitz seconded, and the motion passed on unanimous vote.

LWVUS People Powered Fair Maps Opt-In

L. Meloy introduced the new grant initiative from National to address gerrymandering. State leagues can write grant with a plan to apply for funding. Iowa's focus could be to monitor actions to change our model plan for redistricting and educate public on our current model plan. LWVIA needs to opt-in by August 27, 2019. G. Wobeter moved and L. Meloy seconded, that LWVIA opt in the People Powered Fair Maps. Motion passed on unanimous vote.

ILO Delegates

S. Wilson is our LWVIA delegate to Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR ILO). Mary Ellen Miller and Nancy Porter have agreed to be the alternate ILO delegates. B. Ver Steegh moved, and L. Meloy seconded the motion to approve Miller and Porter as Alternate Delegates. The motion passed on unanimous vote.

L. Meloy made the motion to approve the UMRR-ILO letter to Iowa Senators Grassley and Ernst asking them to support the **Local Water Protections Act**. G. Wobeter seconded, and motion passed on unanimous vote.

LWVIA Focus for 2019-20

The updated Priorities for 2020 were discussed. The addition of “gun safety” or “sensible gun laws” and childcare regulation statements to the list was recommended.

Education of the public on the importance of the 2020 Census will be a focus of LWVIA 2019-2020 agenda.

2019-20 Calendar

LWVIA will meet Saturday, September 14, 2019 in Iowa City/ Coralville and Saturday, November 9, 2019 in Grinnell, Iowa. The proposal to meet the 2nd Saturday in January, March, and May 2020, Capitol Day and 2020 Council will be addressed at the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned 5:50 pm

Polly Horton, Secretary

Review of Council June 2019 LWVUS in Leesburg, Virginia
Presented at Local Leagues Rock, Grinnell, Iowa —August 10, 2019

- 1) Show the August 2019 Iowa Voter and point out the article “Who and What is Threatening America.” This article is a strong statement about the current State of Democracy in the US.
- 2) I was impressed with the professional presentations and the fact almost all the material was made available on the website LWVUS, “Managing Your League.”
- 3) useful for the State Board training.
- 4) *She is Me* a digital twitter, Instagram, etc. campaign to engage young people.
- 5) *For the People Act*---showed state involvement, and Iowa participated with visits to the Grassley office, postcards, letters, newspaper post. Overall 120,000 letters were sent to Congress.
- 6) More aggressive lobbying is taking place with Congress by LWVUS.
- 7) *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* webinars are being made available to members.

- 8) Contacts between our State President, Terese Grant, seem more frequent.
- 9) There is an Update of Vote411.org and it is available later this August.
- 10) A Direct Marketing Schedule is available with comprehensive marketing materials and presentations available on the LWVUS website.
- 11) We are encouraged to call out racism, we have the power to make change.
- 12) A webinar for the 2020 census is available for members.
- 13) LWVUS has 19 active lawsuits—some are on redistricting, 6 wins so far.
- 14) Use storytelling when speaking for League and use emotion, it works to engage the audience.
- 15) Remember our VOICE matters.

Bonnie Pitz, LWVIA BOARD