

Linda League of Women Voters of Iowa

Board Meeting Minutes

10:10 a.m. Phone Conference, November 15, 2014

Present: President, Bonnie Pitz, Vice President, Deb Turner, Treasurer, Pat Harper; Directors: E.J. Gallagher, Sue Wilson, Dianne Bystrom, Mary Ann Nelson, Teresa Grant, Polly Horton—Administrative Assistant, Karen Person, Guest: Linda Murken, Ames Local League President

Minutes of the August 2, 2014 meeting were reviewed; approved on a motion by Polly Horton.

Treasurer report was submitted by Pat Harper. Pat talked about the ‘Aging summary’ from 10/31 & 11/4. Treasurers reminded to mail in PMP. Net income shared \$3,701. Pitz explained--Central Iowa Payroll, Newton reviewed the records for Fiscal year 2013-2014. “Bank reconciliations were completed for all accounts. Reconciliations were completed timely. Invoices and deposits were randomly reviews and all had proper documentation.” There was an additional bill for Directors and Officers from our insurance carrier. Cost was \$750. This was included in budget and was paid. Ready to Run check \$500 will be sent to Dianne Bystrom as approved in an earlier board meeting.

Issues Briefing Evaluation was very positive; DeNora presentation was positive and at no cost to league. It was followed up by an Op-ed in the Des Moines Register, October 10, 2014. Board discussed possibility of moving Issues Briefing to Marshalltown Community College because of catering issues with such a large group. The board was supportive of this change. Sue Wilson liked having two issues with greater in depth presentation.

Karen Person, Administrative Assistant gave an overview of how the new website is progressing. Karen will send a link to the new site to all board members. She also encouraged League members to send her pictures, information, tidbits etc that can be incorporated into the site.

Committee Reports:

Restoration of Felon Voting Rights: Linda Murken will be working with Rita Bettis of the Iowa ACLU, Tomas Lopez, Brennan Law Center, our lobbyist Craig Patterson. The ACLU lawsuit on this issue will go forward until there is a ruling from the courts. League can be supportive by having Letters to the Editors about personal stories of people impacted by the current system. At this time we do not predict legislative changes but want to see the courts make a ruling. ACLU has a very strong case. Fall Voter had important implications of Chido Court ruling—article by Gary Kaufman. Metro Des Moines has a meeting coming up on “Civil Death”---info will be sent to all Local League Presidents.

On Line Voter Registration: Bonnie will be meeting with the County Auditors and incoming Secretary of State – Paul Pate to make plans to get this moving forward. Rita Bettis and DeNora Getachow have helped in planning to get this implemented.

Voter ID—Myrna Loehrlien will continue to be our advocate on this issue.

Water Quality—Sue Wilson and Jerri Thornsberry will chair this work.

Early Childhood Education—we would like to have Nancy Porter chair this work—she is traveling currently and we have not been able to get her acceptance.

Human Trafficking—Karen Person will chair and Mary Rae Bragg would be welcome to help Karen.

Advocacy Chair—Judie Hoffman has agreed to be the Advocacy chair for another year.

MLD—Mary Ann has a conference call on Monday coming up. Linn County now has a MLD team and Polly and Mary Ann plan to work with the Des Moines League on membership/MLD issues.

VOTE411.org: The cost was \$500 to participate with National for State wide elections. There is a sliding scale for Local Leagues who wish to participate. Grinnell participated for their local elections and Congressional District One. Cost was \$200. Almost 5,000 Iowans participated in using VOTE411.org. Next year we can put up VOTE411.org banners at colleges, students often need that information. Linda asked about accuracy of polling site and possible more use of SOS website. Ames plans to use VOTE411.org for 2015 local elections. There were some problems with same day's registration by college students.

EMS Study—moving forward. Article in Winter Voter expected.

Giving Tuesday—email will be sent out to all League members. Bonnie will get this done with an emphasis on what Members get from National and State Leagues.

Silent Auction---As a way of raising funds for State League—we are going to ask Local Leagues to each donate a basket of items that are unique to their area. Jasper County League can donate a basket of Local Maytag cheeses—brick, Maytag blue and others. Another project is to give out special League pins to those who make a \$50 dollar donation.

Convention: June 6, 2015—Deb Turner gave an update—no confirmation of Elisabeth McNamara yet, held at Des Moines University, theme “How Far We Have Come!” Leagues with pictures can send them to Karen Person. Planning for meals, coffee etc.—will consider environmental impact. Possibility of Iron Jawed Angels movie—does have some historical inaccuracies, Will have Board dinner, Could have a hospitality room instead of a movie—support from board on this. Singer for National Anthem, Registration fee \$40? 5 members from Ames were not charged registration because they were volunteers for registration etc. Special Challenges for fun: 1) person who travels farthest 2) League with largest % per cent of members attending 3) most members under 40 recognized.

Be sure to recognize all MLD contributors. Each League pays for all of the delegates it is eligible for. DMU contract signed. Will invite Connie Ferguson from Michigan, Long time members go with local paying. Booklet design from convention bureau, looking into printers. Ruth Ann Gaines to do short play based on Edna Griffin. Silent Auction! Just one major speaker. Might make arrangements for Observers to attend who are not members—details to be worked out. Reporters come free. Final details worked out at January 10, 2015 Board meeting in Newton.

Next Board Meeting: January 10, 2015 in Newton, Newton Public Library, 100 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave West.

Iowa City March Board Meeting will be changed to March 28, 2015 (hopefully IC Public Library)

Meeting adjourned at 12:08

Acting Secretaries, Karen Person and Bonnie Pitz