

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA Board Meeting  
10:20 a.m., March 19, 2016  
Tremont Inn on Main, Marshalltown, Iowa

Present: Co Presidents Bonnie Pitz and Deb Turner; vice president Polly Horton; secretary Mary Rae Bragg; treasurer Pat Harper; directors Terese Grant, Linda Murken, Diane Bystrom; Gerri Perreault. Absent: Mary Ann Nelson, Tina Pace and Sue Wilson.

Minutes of the Jan. 9, 2016 board meeting were amended to delete reference to felon voting rights, which was mistakenly included in the report on mandatory sentencing. The amended minutes were approved on a motion by Murken.

Turner said discussion is continuing regarding the contract she is drawing up with storyteller Maureen Korte for performances Korte is to give with the League's assistance on the topic of people living under political oppression. Once the contract is ready, Turner said she will send board members a copy for final approval. The board voted to give Turner authority to negotiate on its behalf on a motion by Horton.

Treasurer's report shows as of end of March there was a \$2,421.47 positive balance, with \$3,066.46 still due in per member payments from Johnson County, Metro Des Moines and Sioux City locals. Harper noted the current budget includes \$8,503 from reserves available for use if necessary. Report was accepted on motion by Murken, second by Grant.

Discussing the National convention June 16-19 in Washington, D.C., it was agreed that \$1,500 be allocated for Pitz's attendance and a limited amount of funds be made available to assist locals whose members need help in covering the \$390 per person registration fee. Pitz will contact local presidents about how to apply for the funding.

Discussing fundraising options, the board asked Bystrom to develop her suggestion that League hold a state-wide luncheon utilizing corporate sponsorships.

The board's next meeting date was changed to Saturday, April 23 in Grinnell, with Harper sending a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to board members prior to the meeting. Harper said there is currently no budget item covering the cost of providing a Vote 411 web site for the 2016 elections. To find ways of covering those costs, she will contact National to get written confirmation of how much money remains of the amount national owes the Iowa League from a past PMP overpayment.

Murken reported on Vote 411 pricing and participation options, with the board agreeing to pay \$500 to National that will allow Iowa to provide information on the primary and general election candidates for U.S. Senate. Locals in the state's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> congressional districts have already committed to paying a fee to cover their congressional races, in addition to their Iowa State House and Senate races, and local races which can include county, city and school board races. Metro Des Moines, the only local in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, has not yet announced its

decision on participating. Murken and Grant will provide statewide coordination for those locals wanting to provide Vote 411 information on their area candidates. It was decided to include an afternoon Vote 411 informational session during the 2016 Council on June 11 at Marshalltown Community College. Bystrom volunteered to ask her contacts at Iowa's regent universities for question Vote 411 should ask of congressional candidates.

Pitz read a report from Lauris Olson on the status of the study of Tax Increment Financing in Iowa, authorized by attendees at the 2015 state convention for consideration at the 2017 convention.

Cost for attending the June 11 council will be \$15 per person, including lunch. Bragg volunteered to contact Maggie Tinsman about speaking at council about her work with Breaking Traffik, the effort to stop sexual exploitation.

Looking ahead to 2020, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States and founding of the League of Women Voters, Bystrom recommended that LWVIA begin work soon in conjunction with 50-50 in 2020, the National 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Society in Charles City, and the Catt Center at Iowa State University to plan activities commemorating the anniversaries.

Murken reported appeals are expected asking for judicial review of the Iowa Utility Board's approving plans for building the Bakken oil pipeline through 18 Iowa counties.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Rae Bragg, secretary

(Eight board members participated in a March 30 conference call led by Pitz to discuss an invitation to LWVIA to join in a request to the Iowa Insurance Division to investigate the impact of a proposed merger of Aetna and Humana. The merger would combine two of the nation's five largest insurers and creates concerns about reducing competition. Members present on the call were Pitz, Harper, Bragg, Murken, Wilson, Grant, Horton and Nelson. Pitz forwarded their questions to Michael DeLong of the David Bolto Law offices, who initiated the request. Pitz subsequently forwarded his response by email to the board and after polling the board by phone gave DeLong permission to add LWVIA to those organizations joining in the comment. The board's approval was nine in favor, with Pace and Bystrom not available to be contacted. A copy of the 12-page comment requesting IID hold a hearing on the proposed merger's impact, which was filed April 8, was sent by email to all board members on April 12.)