

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA Board Meeting
10:12 a.m., July 30, 2016
Wikiup Learning Center, Toddville, Iowa

Present: President Mary Rae Bragg; vice-president Polly Horton; treasurer Linda Meloy; past-president Bonnie Pitz; directors Bev VerSteegh, Mary Ann Nelson and Sue Wilson; guest Doris Kelley, League of Black Hawk/Bremer Counties League.

Minutes of the April 23, 2016 board meeting approved on motion by Horton. Minutes of June 11 council amended to name Polly Horton as vice-president for 2016-18 and Linda Meloy as treasurer for 2016-18.

With \$1,281.25 in per-member-payments that were to be drawn from the National Education Funds being delayed, the board unanimously approved a motion by Meloy, second by Grant, to cash in a certificate of deposit held at West Bank to cover outstanding expenses.

Pitz's opinion piece about the need to reform Iowa's law regarding restoration of felons' voting rights, in light of the state Supreme Court's recent decision upholding the statute, is ready for distribution. Bragg will send it to various daily newspapers across the state, asking them to consider publishing it.

The board agreed to a request from the Criminal & Juvenile Justice Committee to dedicate a portion of the League web site to help publicize their legislative priorities, meeting dates, etc. Bragg said she would like to see other committees formed that would concentrate on particular areas of concern and actively lobby in those areas as the Criminal & Juvenile Justice Committee now does.

The board was pleased to accept nomination of the League of Women Voters of Iowa to be recipient of the ACLU of Iowa's highest honor, the Edward S. Allen Award, in recognition of the League's continuing effort to expand voting rights. The League will be honored at the ACLU's annual Bill of Rights Brunch, set this year for Nov. 12 in Des Moines.

Discussing lobbyist Amy Campbell's suggestion of issues to consider as League priorities for the 2017 Iowa legislative session, the board expressed support for improved water quality and expansion of felon voting rights as two to include. Bragg, Grant and Kelley volunteered to form a three-person panel to determine League membership interest in those and any other issues deemed important. The October Issues Briefing arrangements are pending, because of a conflict with a First Congressional District candidate forum being organized by three local Leagues. A final decision is to be made at the board's August 20 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Grant at 2:30 p.m.