

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA

Board Meeting Minutes

10:20 a.m., January 10, 2015

Newton Public Library, 100 North 3rd Ave. West, Newton, Iowa

Present: President Bonnie Pitz; vice-president Deb Turner; secretary Mary Rae Bragg; treasurer Pat Harper; directors Therese Grant and (via telephone) E.J. Gallagher, Mary Ann Nelson and Sue Wilson; Dubuque League president Tam Prenosil.

Minutes of the Nov. 15, 2014 meeting reviewed and approved on a motion by Turner.

Treasurer's report shows total assets of \$34,788.44. Profit and loss statement for July through December 2014 shows total income of \$15,608.89, including \$730 from Giving Tuesday, which Pitz said will increase to \$800 with one donation yet to be tallied. Harper will contact the four local leagues that have yet to make their Per Member Payments.

Pitz reported she, Linda Murken and Carolyn Klaus attended a December 30 hearing in Des Moines about online voter registration at which the new Iowa secretary of state, Paul Pate, expressed support for the initiative. Enactment of a law allowing online registration appears promising if it can avoid having riders attached which make it unacceptable, she said. The Brennan Center for Justice is helping with advocacy. The matter of restoring felons' voting rights is on hold, pending outcome of a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The winter issue of The Voter will contain an article about the League's view of voter ID issues written by past state president Myrna Loehrlien.

Wilson reported on the status of efforts to create the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization to study water quality in the river's watershed. The ILO formation has been approved by state league boards in four of the five affected states, including Iowa, which now needs approval by two-thirds of its chapters by April 1.

Nancy Porter of the Johnson County League has agreed to chair the state board's Early Childhood Education Committee, Pitz said. Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal has given his support. Reporting for the Health Care and Violence Against Women Committee, Turner said efforts to ban shackling of pregnant female prisoners is not seeing any movement in the Iowa Legislature after it was sidelined last session by an amendment that made it unacceptable to supporters.

Board members agreed to an evaluation of performance by the League's lobbyists, to determine if we are making best use of our resources. Bragg volunteered to investigate our options, Harper will draw up a list of questions for our lobbyists and Pitz will set up a schedule of meetings with them.

As chairperson of Membership and Leadership Development, Nelson reported she continues to work with local leagues to move their efforts forward, one local at a time. Person's redesign of the state LWV Website should be complete within two weeks, Pitz said. Administrative Assistant Karen Person will be available to help local leagues update their sites.

A report by Linda Meloy on a League study of Iowa's fire and emergency medical services will be published in the winter Voter, with local presidents getting hard copy to study, Pitz said. Bragg will draw

up a position statement for publication in the spring Voter, with a goal of submitting it to delegates for a vote at the state convention June 6 in Des Moines.

Turner gave an update on convention preparations and suggested locals send their plus-50-year members free of charge. The event fundraiser will be a silent auction of gift baskets crated by local leagues, promoting their community's products and merchandise. Harper will head a three-person committee to prepare a budget for submission at convention.

(Seven board members responding to an email request sent by Pitz following the Jan. 10 meeting voted unanimously in favor of convention attendance fees of \$50 per delegate, \$50 per observer and \$40 per observer under age 40. The fees will be included in the First Call to Convention to be issued to members March 8.)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Rae Bragg, secretary