

League of Women Voters Appleton
2013 Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2013
Liberty Hall, Kimberly
Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Present: Members Penny Bernard-Schaber, Lois Bressette, Sara Companik, Miriam Douglass, Sue Eich, Beth English, Marlys Fritzell, Gayle Hardt, Marcia Hittle, Karen Jansen, Barbara Kelly, Stephanie Malaney, Helen Nagler, Amy Oberg, Janice Quinlan, Cheryl Reissmann, Penny Robinson, Colleen Rortvedt, Richard Schoenbohm, Sue Siltan, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Kim Wetzler; Nonmember Jeff Crumbaugh.

President Shirley Strange called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

Parliamentarian Marlys Fritzell briefly reviewed procedures of Robert's Rules for running the meeting. According to Bylaws Article VIII. Section 2. C. a recommended program is to be adopted by a majority vote; adoption of a non-recommended requires a two-thirds vote.

Sara Companik added the non-recommended item "Vouchers" to the agenda. Irene Strohbeen moved adoption of the agenda. Stephanie Malaney seconded and the motion carried.

The minutes of the May 10, 2012 Annual Meeting were read by a committee, approved and filed. The President appointed a committee of Marlys Fritzell, Marcia Hittle and Sue Siltan to review and approve the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Barbara Kelly presented the Treasurer's Report which was accepted.

In her President's Report Shirley Strange described a creative, productive year for the Appleton LWV due to Board leadership and membership support. She highlighted a very successful Women's Equality Day, marvelous programming by Sara Companik, herculean voter service efforts by Irene Strohbeen, a new Board position of Legislative Director filled by Penny Robinson who also attended State Legislative Committee meetings, and the local study to update our library positions led by Miriam Douglass. Shirley also thanked Communications Director Barbara Dorzweiler who was website manager, newsletter publisher, Facebook content creator and in charge of publicity.

The Membership Report by Stephanie Malaney showed 56 current members as of January 31, 2013. National dues for the next FY were paid by that date and were based on that number of members, as is customary. Any new member dues paid after January 31 do not go to the National League, but remain in our local League. The names of new members are immediately entered in the National data base so they are recognized by the local, state and national organizations as active members and entitled to all benefits of that membership. To prorate dues for members who join during the FY the following policy was adopted by the Board: "Members of the Appleton LWV who join during February 1 – June 30 pay for a full-year membership for the current membership year. Members who join during the period July 1 – December 31 pay \$35 for the current membership year. Members who join during January pay dues for the next membership year February 1 – January 31". Efforts next year will focus on retention of existing members, increasing membership and providing new members information on programming, policies, position statements and other materials beneficial to a

new member. Barbara Kelly reviewed the budget contained in the meeting packet. Item 5 of Event Expenses was corrected to read "Anniversary". This is an ambitious budget created by a committee made up of Sara Companik, Barbara Dorzweiler, Miriam Douglass, Barbara Kelly, Shirley Strange and Irene Strohbeen.

Vice President Sara Companik presented the 2013-14 local program. The local study to update our library positions has a strong committee with Miriam Douglass (Chair), Barbara Dorzweiler, Barbara Kelly, Carolyn Mewhorter, Jan Quinlan, Colleen Rortvedt, Sue Silton and Shirley Strange. Miriam said that several recent studies have shown that libraries will not only survive in the digital age, but thrive. The LWV study has been enhanced by its coincidence with the planning for a future library being carried out by the staff and Board of Directors of the APL and the Friends of APL. Jan Quinlan, Executive Director of the Friends of the APL, talked about the twenty Community Conversations that she and Colleen Rortvedt, APL Director, have had with many diverse groups to learn what people think of Appleton, their hopes for Appleton's future and how the APL can help realize their hopes.

A motion to consider the non-recommended item "Vouchers" was made by Helen Nagler and seconded by Richard Schoenbohm. The motion carried. During the discussion Helen Nagler said that a lot of out-of-state money is being spent to promote vouchers. Assemblywoman Penny Bernard-Schaber reported that there is a big push in the state legislature to legalize the funding of vouchers in more school districts and for children in families with incomes well above the poverty line. The public has very little understanding of what vouchers are and how they would affect public school funding. Sara Companik pointed to a LWVWI position that "no tax dollars should be given to private schools". Irene Strohbeen said that a new study is not necessary because of the State position and Marcia Hittle suggested that the Appleton LWV adopt "Vouchers" as an action item, not a study item. A motion to provide information to Appleton LWV members and the public on public-funded school vouchers and to advocate in support of the LWVWI position was made by Helen Nagler and seconded by Cheryl Reissmann. The motion carried.

Jan Quinlan moved the re-adoption of local program positions. Stephanie Malaney seconded and the motion carried.

Sue Silton moved adoption of the budget. Sue Eich seconded and the motion carried.

Sue Eich reported on progress made on the 75th Appleton LWV Anniversary celebration. The committee has as members Sara Companik, Sue Eich, Marcia Hittle, Shirley Strange (Chair) and Irene Strohbeen. The celebration will coincide with the 2014 LWVWI Annual Meeting if it is held in Appleton, as is hoped. A Democracy Award will be given to a person nominated and chosen by the Appleton League members. Sue asked members to participate in the five planning subcommittees – Coordination with the State League convention planners, Power Point Presentation, Public Relations, Friday Night Social and Fundraising.

Jan Quinlan presented the Nominating Committee Report. The slate of officers and directors for 2013-2015 is:

President: Sara Companik

2nd Vice President: Kim Wetzel

Secretary: Lois Bressette

Directors (2 years): Karen Jansen, Jacqui Klimeszewski, Gayle Hardt

Director (1 year): Miriam Douglass

2014 Nominating Committee: Shirley Strange (Chair), Nadine Miller, Jan Quinlan

There were no nominations from the floor. Unanimous acceptance of the Nominating Committee's slate was moved by Sue Eich and seconded by Helen Nagler. The motion carried.

Sara Companik led a celebration of Shirley Strange' 4 years as President. Sara led the group in singing a song.

"Hail to our chief, our dear Shirley, we applaud you, You've been so faithful and loyal to the cause, All of the issues you've faced with grace and vigor. Today, we honor our Leader, Shirley Strange. Yours was the aim to make this grand LEAGUE grander. This you achieved, that's our strong, firm belief. THANKS to the one we selected as commander, Hail to our President. TOAST to our Chief."

Sara presented a scrapbook containing thank you notes to Shirley, including one from LWVWI President Melanie

G. Ramey. Sue Silton presented flowers in a vase inscribed "Shirley Strange, Appleton League of Women Voters,

President 2009-2013". Irene Strohbeen gave Shirley a blue and gold Congressional Club Friendship pin.

Shirley thanked the assembled members for the gifts and "for four years of a glorious run" as President.

Directions to the Board:

Helen Nagler emphasized the importance of the Appleton League's presence at Outagamie County Board meetings, especially to address the good and bad parts of the budget.

Jan Quinlan congratulated the Board on a successful year.

Irene Strohbeen will be Action VP next year and is eager to do more advocacy and lobbying in support of League positions.

Gayle Hardt stressed that it is important to know the restrictions associated with being a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization when lobbying.

Kim Wetzel is looking forward to being on the Board.

Cheryl Reissmann has just joined and is eager to learn more about League.

Lois Bressette is looking forward to being on the Board.

Colleen Rortvedt appreciates the efforts of the Library Study Committee.

Penny Bernard-Schaber encouraged League to get more young people involved.

Karen Jansen will be on the Board focusing on environmental issues and welcomes suggestions.

Penny Robinson is excited to anticipate more advocacy of League positions.

Shirley Strange will be available to take on any work.

Marlys Fritzell commended the outgoing Board and hopes that local positions will be included in future advocacy activities.

Richard Schoenbohm shouted out commendation of Irene Strohbeen for her Voter Service efforts.

Barbara Kelly has learned a lot as Treasurer this year and looks forward to continuing in that position.

Sue Eich congratulated the outgoing Board for a successful year.

Beth English thanked Sara Companik for taking on the Presidency.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Douglass, Secretary

