

League of Women Voters of Appleton

Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015 –Liberty Hall, Kimberly

Members present (26): Sara Companik , Debra Cronmiller, Beth English, Cindy Fallona, Renee Gralewicz, Gayle Hardt, Martha Hemwall, Karen Jansen, Barbara Kelly, William Kelly, Jacqueline Klimaszewski, Sarah Leet, Stephanie Malaney, Nadine Miller, Helen Nagler, Amy Oberg, Jan Quinlan, Jeanne Roberts, Penny Robinson, Joan Schneider, Richard Schoenbohm, Sue Siltan, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Cathy Thompson, and Deborah Werth.

The meeting was called to order by President Sara Companik at 6:48. There was a quorum sufficient for all action items.

Debra Cronmiller was introduced as **Parliamentarian**. She indicated that we would be following Roberts' Rules of Order.

Penny Robinson moved and Richard Schoenbohm seconded the **adoption of the agenda** as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The **minutes of the April 17, 2014** annual meeting were read by a committed and filed. Jan Quinlan moved and Martha Hemwall seconded the approval of the 2014 minutes. The motion passed unanimously. President Companik appointed Renee Gralewicz, Amy Oberg and Sue Siltan as Readers for the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.

In the **President's Report**, Sara Companik highlighted elements of the written report, pages 12 of the Annual Meeting packet. There were 11 new members. Last year was the 75th Annual celebration. Sara Companik thanked the committee and all those who assisted with the planning for that event. She also thanked Making Democracy Work committee. This year we also included a Pay Pal option for payments and reservations.

The 6th Annual Equality Day will be Wednesday, August 26th.

Retiring board members Deb Werth and Karen Jansen were also thanked for their service to the League.

Barbara Kelly presented the **Treasurer's Report** which was accepted. The \$200 for the video grant has been on hold due to the changing nature of the voting requirements at the state level. She also explained the **budget**. She had three years of actual data. The goal is to lower in-kind contributions so we have a clearer picture of actual costs. She noted that Line D2 (Transfer from savings) on page 10 should be \$2,900 rather than \$3,000.

Stephanie Malaney shared the **Membership Report** (pp. 13-15) which was accepted.

Stephanie also explained the proposed **changes in the by-laws** that are necessary in order to match state and national wording. Copies were available on the tables. Stephanie recommended that any other changes be a part of strategic planning. Question came from Karen Jansen

regarding the nature of our proposed strategic planning. Should strategic planning be done by national? A discussion centered on the need to use strategic planning to examine how we might operate more effectively and energize a broader base of our membership to successfully attain our mission. All options should be considered with a potential change in our by-laws to be a feasible action as a part of a bigger plan.

Sara Companik presented the re-adoption of **Local Positions** (copies were available on the tables). Karen Jansen moved and Irene Strohbeen seconded re-adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

Irene Strohbeen and Cathy Thompson reported on the **2014-2015 Study on Human Trafficking** (p. 16). The work of the committee of nine included interviews, good resources, an educational forum, information on incidents to prove trafficking happens here and information on what is being done to prevent human trafficking. The steering committee is planning for volunteer work groups in the areas of Prevention, Protection, Treatment and Prosecution. Study Group plans for continuing efforts to address this issue include more community forums, tracking the progress of the steering committee, helping them find volunteers for work groups and advocacy of legislation related to prosecution, although nothing is specific as yet.

Gayle Hardt presented the **Recommended Program** (p. 9) from the Lively Issues discussion on January 24, 2015 (pp. 5-6). The Recommended Action Item: Selection of Appleton Police Chief has been rescinded. The Non-Recommended Program: Efficacy of Alternative Courts did not receive a motion to move it forward. Discussion centered on the possibility of promoting a study of Best Practice in Truancy Programs next year.

The **Recommended Program for Study** presented was an Update of Local Position on Land Use Planning in Appleton (Local Position on: Government IX, Land Use Planning In Appleton A-C and F) and Update of Local Position on Housing (Local Position: Social Policy IV, Housing). In the discussion it was agreed that neighborhood revitalization would be part of the scope of the project, as well as available transportation. The position on Land Use Planning was written in 1976 and has not been updated since 2001. Moving forward on this now might tie in with possible local action on these issues. Jan Quinlan moved and Karen Jansen seconded the motion to approve the recommended program for study for 2015-16. It passed unanimously.

Sara Companik asked for volunteers to participate in the study. Karen Jansen, Jeanne Roberts, Shirley Strange, Jan Quinlan, Barb Kelly and Amy Oberg volunteered; Amy Oberg agreed to chair the study. It was also suggested to reach out to the new members to participate in the study.

Renee Gralewicz moved to adopt the Local Program for 2015-16 (Human Trafficking Local Position). This was seconded by Sarah Leet and approved unanimously.

Barb Kelly moved and Amy Oberg seconded the adoption of the by-laws as presented. This motion passed unanimously.

Sue Silton moved and Jan Quinlan seconded the adoption of the budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Nadine Miller, chair of the **Nominating Committee**, presented the slate of officers, directors and nominating committee for 2015-2016 (p.17):

Nominated for 2-year terms--

President – Stephanie Malaney
VP Program – Gayle Hardt
Secretary – Cindy Fallona
Director – Elizabeth Laux
Director – Cathy Thompson
Director – Sarah Leet

Nominating Committee (1 year term)--

Martha Hemwall
Shirley Strange
Marge Koepke
(+ 2 members appointed by the board)

Continuing Board Members (year 2 of 2-year Term)--

VP Voter Services – Jacqueline Klimaszewski
Treasurer- Barb Kelly
Director – Irene Strohbeen
Director – Penny Robinson

Sara Companik asked for nominations from the floor; hearing none, the Nominating Committee motion passed unanimously.

Sara expressed her thank you to the Board and Members and invited Stephanie to bring up other business. Stephanie presented a thank you gift to Sara. She also reiterated the need to proceed with strategic planning to improve the functioning of the organization. She also indicated that someone needs to step forward to do the newsletter in the upcoming year.

A number of items arose in **Advice to the Board**:

- Cathy Thompson suggested a study to look at best practices of working with juveniles/truancy; look at successful programs.
- Marti agreed with Cathy and thought we should look into how county money is being used in courts.
- Jan Quinlan felt we need to educate ourselves regarding alternative courts.
- Helen Nagler reminded us that truancy is a status offense as juveniles are under 18; they are not criminals. She also shared that the County Board passed a resolution on non-partisan redistricting and a separate resolution that local municipalities would go first in redistricting. The second resolution is supporting by County Clerks state-wide.
- Sarah Leet felt that more needs to be done on voter education in general and encouraged everyone to get involved in the Observer Corps. She suggested a general forum on what

various elements of local government do and how they function (county, council, etc.) as well as a forum on open-meeting laws.

- Cathy Thompson endorsed the Observer Corps and suggested that we encourage new members to get involved this way and attend in tandems with a partner.
- Penny Robinson reminded us that process and relationships are important along the way as we work toward our mission.
- Debra Cronmiller encouraged us to take the adopted Human Trafficking study/positon to the state for concurrence and to provide information.

Jacqui Klimaszewski asked for volunteers to help with voter registration assistance and voter ID information for the Juneteenth Celebration – Sunday, June 14 from Noon to 6:00. There will also be voter registration tables at each of the high schools in August during the high school registration time. Also, September 22 is National Voter Registration Day and a number of volunteers will be needed in various locations. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to be added to the Voter Registration list and would like training (or re-training).

Amy Oberg made a motion to adjourn and Nadine Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Klimaszewski