

**Annual Meeting  
Thursday, May 19, 2022**

Presiding: Linda Bjella and Marti Hemwall

Recorder: Julie Evers

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order: Linda and Marti called the meeting to order at 6:52 pm. They thanked Renee Gralewicz for planning the meeting.

Introduction of Parliamentarian: Nadine Miller

Remarks from the Parliamentarian

Agenda adoption - add Communications and technology. Dottie LeClair made a motion to adopt the agenda. Vered Meltzer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

Meeting Minutes - 2021 Annual Meeting minutes, appointment of readers for 2022 minutes  
Cindy Carter moved to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. Vered Meltzer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. Denise Fenton, Cindy Carter and Becca Linekin volunteered to be readers for the 2022 minutes.

- II. Presidents' Report and Updates - Linda and Marti

Special recognition - celebrating new website Marti recognized Dave Strange and Barb Kelly for their work on Club Express and the rollout of the new website. Coalesce marketing will be our new web master. All members are encouraged to visit the website and update their profile. Upload your photo if you're comfortable with that. We're getting a lot of good publicity with the new site.

New name and new office Linda noted that about 40% of our members are NOT from Appleton, so our name did not reflect our membership. The name change was approved by the State and National Leagues in December. We are now transitioning our written materials. Our new office is in Appleton Coworking on N. Morrison St.

New swag Marti introduced our new swag for sale.

Membership - a growing organization We're one of the largest and most active leagues in the state. Cindy has done a great job with new membership.

Financial Report on fiscal year ending 6/30/2022 We spent \$5900 less than income in the last fiscal year. We are working at becoming more systematic in asking for donations. There were some additional expenses last year for the implementation of Club Express.

Program - WE Day 2021; follow-up on Lively Issues We held two Spring programs, two Fall programs and a candidate forum. Our programs were virtual rather than in person, but we hope to have hybrid programs next year.

Action - Who speaks for the League policy We expanded observer corps and developed a policy statement on who speaks for the league. Public statements must be approved by the president and two other board members. Jan Quinlan also oversees the legislative town halls.

Voter Services - election season We organized a votercade, had voter registration tables at the Juneteenth event and are working on programs with local high schools to encourage newly eligible voters to register and vote. We worked with Starbucks to get written materials out to their customers to encourage them to vote. We did 14 candidate interviews for the primary election that were posted to our website. Jacqui is looking for help with Vote 411 in areas other than Appleton, ideally someone who is familiar with issues of their area.

Communications and Technology Kathy has put us in contact with a lot of press and communications.

DEI - how to make this priority part of what we do every day Linda DEI is as central to LWV as nonpartisanship. We want to be conscious of DEI in everything we do.

Vision for our League Our main emphasis will be to empower voters and defend democracy. DEI and nonpartisanship are central to everything we do.

### III. Action Items

DEI Study -approval of second year of current study - Renee (MOVED TO APPROVE FIRST) Renee Gralewicz made a motion to approve the second year of the study. Cindy Carter seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion passed.

LWV Wisconsin will be starting a state-wide education study which will require a local committee.

Bylaw changes presentation and adoption -Jan, Linda, and Marti (TREASURER, TERMS, # OF BOARD MEETINGS, APPT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE BY NOM COMM; ) See meeting packet

1. President and Treasurer to sign contracts
2. Change maximum consecutive terms in office from 2 to three terms Discussion – this pertains only to consecutive terms.
3. Change minimum board meetings from 9 per year to quarterly
4. Elect 3 people to the budget committee rather than being appointed by the president and to provide a financial review.

Discussion: Should secretary sign contracts because they are the ones in charge of retaining records? Would it be appropriate to add language regarding records retention by the secretary?

Cindy Carter made a motion to approve the changes. Vered Meltzer seconded the motion.

Direction to the board was made to make above modifications.

Dottie LeClair noted there should be a proposal in next year's annual meeting to change language to President OR Co-President.

All were in favor, no opposed. Motion passed.

Budget presentation and adoption –See Meeting packet for budget details.

Barb Kelly made a motion to accept the budget, Cindy Carter seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All in were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Nomination Committee presentation of slate and election - Linda (NEXT YEAR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL ALSO NEED TO APPOINT AT-LARGE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND NOMINATE 3 FOR FOLLOWING YEAR) See meeting packet for nominations.

There were no nominations from the floor. Dottie LeClair made a motion to approve all nominations. Vered Meltzer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

IV. Advice to the board - Bylaws, archive, records retention need attention.

V. Announcements – The online store will be live by end of June. The State Annual will be held in Appleton on June 10 – 11. Save the date for July 13 5:00 pm summer picnic. Women's Equality Day August 26 (Marti - still discussing stay tuned, collaborative, may change format)

Adjournment Cindy Carter made a motion to adjourn. Jan Quinlan seconded the motion. Marti and Linda adjourned the meeting at 8:09pm.

### **Presidents' Annual Report - 2023**

As we reflect on our two years as co-presidents, we fully understood that we were standing on the shoulders of many strong women. Women willing to work to create positive changes in our community. League members have been instrumental in accomplishing the smoking ban, advocating for recycling legislation, mediating differences between housing organizations to better serve our community, and pushing for educational reforms, to name just a few.

Leading such an incredible group is such a privilege. Our advocacy, our outreach to voters, our respect as an information source speaks volumes about all our members. The difference we make in our world is possible only because of each of us.

Making a difference is also possible because of the strength of the League's organization. The League emerged from the pandemic as strong as ever; its members are committed and energized, and the organization is on strong financial footing. Our local League easily meets the five basic characteristics of a strong effective nonprofit - a clear mission, a well organized board, strong leaders, motivated volunteers, and solid finances. This organizational strength is what has helped the League to achieve so much. (*Research on this topic abounds - for example: Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness: a Literature Review Monica Heuer, 1999; Nonprofit Life Cycles, Susan Kenny Stevens, 2002*)

A healthy organization is always learning how to be better. When we assumed the presidency in 2021, League members were already discussing what steps were needed to be more