

LWV – Appleton
Minutes, September 12, 2005 Board Meeting

Present: Beth English, Nadine Miller, Shirley Adams, Barbara Hoffman, Jan Quinlan, Carolyn Mewhorter, Susi Alger

Absent: Shirley Strange, Miriam Douglass, Winnie Doxsie

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm at the home of Beth English.

Beth suggested that we set a regular meeting date, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. When it was determined that no one had conflicts with this date, the next meeting was set for October 11th at the Appleton Library. Beth said that the room can be reserved on the apl.org web site, and that so far the League has not been charged for the room.

Treasurer Barbara Hoffman requested that an agenda item be added to discuss the formation of a Finance Committee and then gave her report (a copy is attached).

The Treasurer's report shows that we have a total of \$14,031.56 in three separate categories: checking and savings (\$1,724.98), 2 CDs (\$10,236.43) and the Education Fund (\$2,070.15). Barbara pointed out that money has been paid from the Education Fund for state and national dues. We will also be paying our liability insurance from this fund because it is required to hold our public information meetings. Barbara will be applying for permission to pay the \$1,000 allocated for the Archive Project from the Education Fund, as well. Barbara passed around a spreadsheet showing the 27 donations totaling \$1,665 received from the recent fundraising drive (no copy was available for the Minutes). We briefly discussed the SBC telephone bill (monthly runs around \$20) which included 13 calls picked up by TeleSec, although Beth says she only received about 2. With the per call charge of only 13 cents, the amount in dispute is quite small. Barbara remarked that this is just one case of the many in-kind contributions made to the League.

Barbara then asked for Board approval to form a Finance Committee to meet several times a year to establish procedures to follow to ensure that the organization has a secure financial basis. Barbara envisions that this committee would move toward a fall fundraising drive for new members and a spring drive of former members and other supporters. The committee would also serve as the Budget Committee and consider other fundraising activities and issues, such as the publication of contributors. The committee would identify new potential donors and investigate national members assigned to our League. Barbara stated that she expects that this new committee would identify areas where we may need to exceed current budget line items, especially in the areas of visibility and promotion. Beth expressed concerns that we may be overtaxing our members by asking them to do too much. Barbara did not mention whom she expected to serve on the committee except that they would be off-Board members with vision. Beth English and others expressed concerns that this committee appeared to be assuming responsibilities assigned to other Board members, but was assured by Barbara that the

committee's activities and discussions would call upon relevant Board members, as appropriate.

Jan Quinlan moved that the Board approve Barbara's request for permission to create a Finance Committee as outlined. Carolyn Mewhorter seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jan Quinlan reported that she had not yet received an email distribution list from Miriam, but that the action alerts she's been receiving have improved in quality and there were two this week worthy of distribution. She hopes to receive the list soon.

Jan also reported that Budget Hearing statements would be needed this fall, and that Observer Corps should be gearing up to gather the information needed. A discussion of Observer Corps followed and it was suggested that Shirley consider asking for a longer commitment for observations than the one or two meetings that has been done the last few years, and that two people be partnered. Observers not only gather the information needed for the Budget Hearing statements, but also serve to notify our representatives that someone is indeed listening and our members with information on who is doing their job and who is not. Shirley will report back next meeting on Observer Corps.

Nadine passed around the 2005 – 2006 Program Calendar, a work in progress. A copy is attached to these Minutes. Coming up in the next month are:

Oct 10th –Membership Kick-off Meeting to observe a School Board Meeting

Oct 14th - President's training

Oct 15th - Wisconsin Education Fund Issues Briefing

Both Susi Alger and Shirley Adams expressed interest in attending the Oct 15th Briefing, and it was decided that the Briefing would be announced in both the Bulletin and in the next Alert to go out. Nadine and Carolyn said that they will be planning for the Oct. 10th meeting, and they asked Susi to have information available about the local study at the gathering to follow at Cheyenne's. There was some discussion about the Annual Meeting, and both Marks and Michiel's have been suggested. Jan Quinlan had a strong preference for Marks, and others agreed they did a very nice job last year. There was some discussion about the two proposed dates: May 4 or May 11. Some prefer May 4th because May is a busy month while others like May 11th better because there's a lot to be completed before the meeting. No decision was made. Beth noted a correction to the calendar – the April 11th spring election is not Observer Corp but Election Night Reporting.

There was discussion about the tentatively planned November public information meeting related to the local study on Education positions, but Susi Alger said it's too early to plan that with any detail as the committee hasn't been formed yet. Susi passed around a list she'd compiled of 7 members she planned to ask to join the local study committee and Board members added another 5 names. Susi will contact all these folks in the next several days. When Susi inquired if our local positions are available on the web site, the discussion veered off to a discussion of the status of our web site, needed updates, D-Net, and the possibility of holding a meeting to inform members/potential

members about the site, it's resources and perhaps conducting an evaluation. The idea of combining the Education meeting with the web site meeting was considered and rejected. A separate web site meeting will be planned sometime later this year or next. Beth will contact Carmen Schipper about her participation. A consensus meeting for the local study should tentatively be scheduled sometime in February or early March.

Barbara Hoffman reminded folks that Marilyn Boldt is a state resource.

Shirley Adams on Voter Services. She informed us that DNet is down and there is no information on the site to let people know when it might be working, but hopefully it will be up once candidate filing dates have passed. There are aldermanic elections this spring, and Shirley would like League to be active in arranging forums in each contested district. There was also mention that Appleton might be an attractive location for a gubernatorial forum in the next election.

Carolyn Mewhorter reported that she will be sending thank you notes to all renewing members. New memberships are being processed successfully, passing from Barbara to Carolyn, who then passes the information along to Miriam for inclusion in the newsletter and email distribution lists. Barbara pointed out that there was an error in reporting our correct membership numbers to the state last year, which may have resulted in our winning an award for increased membership.

The meeting was hastily adjourned at 8 pm as several members were late.

Respectfully submitted,

Susi Alger
Substituting for Shirley Strange