

League of Women Voters of Appleton, WI
Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2005
Appleton Public Library, Lower Level Meeting Room

Present: Beth English, Jan Quinlan, Nadine Miller, Shirley Strange, Barbara Hoffman, Shirley Adams, Miriam Douglas, Carolyn Mewhorter, Winnie Doxie, Susi Alger.

The meeting was called to order by President, Beth English at 6:20.

Susi Alger asked that a communications item be added to the agenda.

Minutes: Susi Alger (who took the September meeting minutes) explained that the minutes distributed by e-mail before the meeting were a draft. Susi handed out the corrected version. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara submitted the treasurer's report:

Opening Balance-September	14,031.56
Total Receipts	1,795.00
Total Disbursements	86.91
Total Cash Flow	1,708.09
Ending Balance	15,739.65

Some board members noted that they were unable to open Works to get the treasury report. Barb will bring hard copies to the meetings.

Twenty eight people have renewed their membership.

New Committee: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the makeup of a Finance Committee as proposed last month by Barbara Hoffman. Questions were raised and discussed regarding the goals, the priorities relating to raising money and future spending, as well as the person to chair this committee. It was stated that membership money should not have to keep us afloat. It was noted that if we were to ask money of the community, we would need to show contributors how the money is spent. Beth stated that the strategy should come from the board. The committee would bring forth ideas and/or implement them. It was stated that before recruiting members for this committee, a vision and direction must be worked out. Susi suggested that committee chairs bring ideas to the board for discussion. It was also noted that the committee may indeed be a "Big Picture Committee" rather than a 'finance committee' per se. Carolyn stated that the committee should understand the League as it is now, where we want to go, and the actions needed to get there. It was also stated that a committee chair should be well-versed in strategic planning and group dynamics as well as understanding the League. It was also suggested that the committee could have a facilitator as well as a chair. The facilitator would lighten the work of the chair. Shirley Adams suggested that we table the discussion at this time. Beth stated that the President's Training day, October 14th has a

topic which relates to this issue. Beth will ask Deb Cronmiller to attend and share information. We will also seek opinions from others who attend.

Membership: Carolyn stated that we need to address what we need to be doing to encourage new members. Jan expressed that one on one, one person inviting another, is the best way to increase membership. Carolyn is ready to set up a committee to promote membership.

Action: Jan sends local action alert to local members. Her challenge is in trying to keep a current membership list with correct email addresses. She filters state Board alerts because there can be confusion in determining whether or not they are actually formal calls for action. Jan will ask local league members to sign up for the national league whereby they will receive the national action alerts.

It was stated that we have a Bulletin email list, a membership email list, but we also need an action alert email list. The Bulletin email list is not full membership because all members do not choose to receive the Bulletin therefore this list would not be complete for Jan to use for action alerts.

Smoking ban - There was discussion that the League sponsor a forum for a debate on the smoking ban issue as it will likely come to a referendum in April and possibly as early as November. It was noted that the forum would give the League public exposure. We would want to have a prescribed format for such a debate. Shirley Adams will be in touch with the local cable station and the Post Crescent to generate interest.

Observer Corp/Voters Service

Shirley is lining up observers for the City Council, School Board and County Board Meetings. She is still seeking people. Observers receive a form to guide their observation. The observer completes the form as it applies.

The City Council Budget Meeting is October 27. The County Budget Meeting is Oct. 31. Beth will make a statement at each meeting representing the League's view.

Program:

The general meeting will be held Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 or 7pm at Lawrence.

The League website redesign will be the focus of discussion.

The December Brunch is on the 10th from 10:30am-1pm. The topic will be election reform. Nadine will look for a speaker.

Local Study-Education

The education study is underway. Susi Alger stated that the committee would appreciate knowing the history behind the positions to better understand the content. The committee, as well as updating current positions, will be working to make recommendations for future positions. Beth requested that the committee have a body of work for the lively issues meeting.

Public Relations

Winnie would like to redesign the website to be a modern operation. It was suggested that Beth thank Carmen for the work she has done. Winnie will search for a person who could fill the role of webmaster. Barb Hoffman suggested that we use one of the CD's (worth \$5,000) to update the website. Barb made a motion in this regard. The motion was tabled for further discussion at a later time.

Bulletin:

October 17 deadline for entries.

Include in bulletin:

Reminder about dues and General Meeting date.

Education Committee will submit information after the Thursday meeting.

Oberserver Corp will post date if there is to be a referendum.

River Study Oct. 27 at the Appleton Public Library sponsored by the Neenah-Menasha League. There will be several speakers including Bob Stark and Bill Bush.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 6pm, Appleton Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Strange