

League of Women Voters of Appleton, WI
Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2007
Appleton Public Library, Lower Level Meeting Room

Present: Shirley Adams, Beth English, Miriam Douglass, Winnie Doxsie, Barb Hoffman, Carolyn Mewhorter, Karon Sandberg, Jody Van Domelen, Debra Cronmiller – LVW-WI Board of Directors

Absent: Lynda Cutts, Nadine Miller, Sue Siltan, Shirley Strange,

Call to Order: Beth called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

Minutes: The minutes for January 9, 2007 were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: No report was submitted.

- Beth English announced that Theda Care, her employer, has donated \$100 to the Appleton LWV in recognition for her volunteer contributions to the community
- Barb Hoffman distributed a document from Fundraising-solutions.org. She feels this might be a fundraising opportunity and asked the Board to read the information and that we discuss this possible opportunity at the March meeting.

Questions and Answers regarding 501c3 / c4

Debra Cronmiller, LWV-WI Board of Directors, presented information on the proposed reorganization of the State LWV

The current dual system (Ed Fund - 501c3 and LWV - WI – 501c4) was established in 1988 in response to legislation at the time.

Now the Board is recommending returning to one 501c3 organization for the following reasons:

- Studies evaluating LWV-WI time spent lobbying indicate that we are well within the current IRS guidelines for 501c3 organizations. (The maximum resources allowed for lobbying is 20% and State LWV activities are about 3%.)
- LWV-WI is writing for grants to support the 501c3 activities, but all the staff is employed under the 501c4 umbrella and this causes confusion with potential granting organizations because it looks like we have no staff to carry out the proposed activities.
- The 501c4 organization is governed by the members
- The 501c3 organization is governed by the Board. Because of changes made at the last Convention the majority of funds and operating activities come out of the 501c3 (Ed Fund) and the members have no voice. The proposed reorganization will return voice to the members.
- This change will create many efficiencies: one Board, one Mission, one Organization, one Budget, one set of administration activities and less confusion about which League is “speaking”

There will be impacts on the local Leagues

- We will become a 501c3 organization – under the state umbrella – with new tax exempt number etc.

- Local member contributions and dues to the Appleton League will be tax deductible.
- More and or better record keeping will be required, LWV – WI will offer training.
- We will be able to keep future donations in stead of sending them to the National LWV Ed Fund Endowment. (This isn't something the National League is excited about.)
- We will need to amend our bylaws. Templates will be provided.

This year's convention will be very busy and possibly confusing. The Board has to plan for budgets in case the reorganization and new bylaws don't pass. So we will see:

- 3 budgets – one for 501c4, one for Ed fund 501c3, one for combined organization
- 3 sets of bylaws – as above.

The LWV – WI will have to come up with a new name for the combined 501c3.

The 501c4 organization will be kept in an inactive state. It will be in place in case IRS rules change or a more aggressive lobbying effort is needed in the future.

The December 2006 *Forward* has an article on this issue.

Study

Energy – The consensus meeting was held before the Board meeting. Shirley Adams will fill out the paperwork and send it in.

Mental Health – Carolyn reported on activities since our last meeting and reminded us about the speaker on February 15 at 11:30 at Cheyenne's..

Voter Service

- Harmony Café is seeking League support in developing candidate activities for the spring election. There has been a delay in the Voter Service Team getting back to them. Winnie Doxsie will make a contact and report to the Voter Service meeting on Feb. 20.
- There is a concern about the lack of interest in the primary.
- Harmony Café would like to present the *Inconvenient Truth* in May. They want our support:
 - Would members of the Energy Study Committee like to help lead the discussion after the movie?
 - Would we be willing to pay the \$150 rental fee?

MOTION - Carolyn Mewhorter

I move that the League apply for an Ed. Fund Grant to rent the *Inconvenient Truth* to be aired at the Harmony Café in May.

The motion was seconded and APPROVED

Program/Action

Sesquicentennial Planning

Karon Sandberg reported that it will cost \$150 to participate in the Appleton Sesquicentennial Celebration. This participation fee would get our name on all the promotional literature and give us some great visibility.

MOTION - Barb Hoffman

I move that the Appleton League of Women Voters pay the participation fee for the Sesquicentennial Celebration by taking \$100 from Finance and \$50 from membership.

The motion was seconded and APPROVED

Several Ideas were suggested for activities. A committee will be formed to work on this project.

Legislative Day

Several people have expressed interest in attending. There is \$100 in the budget that can be used to off set some of the expenses those attending incur.

Annual Meeting

Everyone is reminded to get your paragraphs to Nadine for the Annual Report. Information needed for the newsletter was discussed.

Membership / Visibility

The Wisconsin Health Care Reform Panels are having activities around the state. Look at our website for more information.

Karon spoke at the Noon Hour Philosophers. She got a nice thank you note. She reported that they didn't know we had positions on issues and wondered if we try to increase public awareness by providing the Post Crescent with our positions and indicate we'd be happy to comment when stories they were working on coincided with our positions. Karon was directed to give the LWV positions and phone number to the Post Crescent . We were reminded that the President is the one who should get calls and make statements.

Finance Drive

MOTION - Barb Hoffman

I move to postpone the finance drive until the State LWV reorganization is complete and we get our own 501c3 number (to give donors tax deductibility).

The motion was seconded and APPROVED

Bulletin Deadline: February 25.

Around the Board: Beth discussed the National League's change of the bylaws that removed "of citizens" from the wording. We don't have to address any bylaw changes until after proposed changes are approved this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Winnie Doxsie