

Minutes – LWV Appleton Board Meeting
Gardens of the Fox Cities
January 3, 2012

Present: Sara Companik, Barb Dorzweiler, Miriam Douglass, Marlys Fritzell, Carolyn Mewhorter, Jan Quinlan, Sue Silton, Shirley Strange, Irene Strohbeen, Leslie Taylor.

President Shirley Strange called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

The minutes of the 12-6-11 Board meeting were approved after correction to show Sue Silton's attendance.

President's Report – Shirley Strange thanked Leslie Taylor for her much appreciated talk at the Holiday Brunch. Shirley, Marlys Fritzell and Jan Quinlan will meet with Mayor Hanna to discuss how to improve openness and transparency of the process by which decisions are made by the Common Council. The League is concerned that the important decisions to eliminate the Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Director were made in the middle of the night and with little opportunity for public input.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Silton reported that the Budget Committee has revised the budget format to have more meaningful categories. The budget will be submitted for Board approval at its March meeting.

Fund Raising Committee – Jan Quinlan received new ideas at a fund raising conference at UW Oshkosh on December 20. Fund raising should be done at the beginning of our calendar year. Jan thanked Shirley and Sue for their help in designing a donation envelope.

Membership – Shirley reported for Stephanie Malaney that the two of them will meet to assess who needs to pay their dues for 2012 and to discuss record keeping and strategies to enlist new members.

Program – Sara Companik reported that 27 people attended the Holiday Brunch. Lively Issues will be held on January 21 at 10 a.m. Sara will consult with Barb Dorzweiler to learn from her two years of experience with these meetings. The February 29 Education Forum on "How to Run for Office" has been cancelled due to the many activities scheduled to explain the new Voter ID Law, register voters and hold candidates' forums. On March 14 at 11:30 a.m. the Food for Thought Luncheon will be held at Jonathan's Italian Bistro. Amy Oberg will speak on "The Future of Women". Karen Harkness and Julie Filapek will speak on "Neighborhoods as the Heart and Soul of Community Development and Civic Engagement" at the April 11 Food for Thought Luncheon. The Annual Meeting will be held at 5:30 on May 10 at Liberty Hall.

Communications – Barb Dorzweiler has posted LWV Appleton events through May on its website and on Facebook. Barb emphasized the need for coordination of dates for Board meetings, submission of newsletter articles to Vicki Olenski seven days later and publication of The Voter seven days after that.

Observer Corps – Marlys Fritzell reported that no observations of meetings are scheduled for January. Observer Corps members will attend meetings of the Appleton Common Council on February 1, the Appleton School Board on February 13 and the Outagamie County Board on February 14. The meeting time and contact person will be published in The Voter.

Natural Resources – Leslie Taylor was asked if she could provide information to the membership on the process of fracking to remove petroleum and natural gas from rock.

Voter Service – Irene Strohbeen convened a new Voter Registration Committee on December 21. It will focus on two areas in January: registration in high schools by supporting the schools' Special Registration Deputies and a Voter Education Forum. The latter is scheduled for January 25 and will cover the topics Voter Registration, Absentee Voting, Voter ID, and the Voting Process. Cindi Hesse, Appleton City Clerk, and Jane Booth, Appleton Elections Clerk, will serve as experts to answer questions. Prior to the February 21 primary election the League will host a Candidates' Forum for the Appleton Mayor's race. Voter information on our website is being updated with the help of Lori O'Bright, Outagamie County Clerk.

Local Study RTA – Consensus in support of a Regional Transit Authority was reached. State and Federal funding will continue even if an RTA is established.

Around the Board – Sara Companik suggested that a League member serving as a Community Contributor to the Post Crescent could use her/his article to articulate League positions on timely issues (but not in the name of the LWV).

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Douglass, Secretary