

Minutes – LWV Appleton Board Meeting
Gardens of the Fox Cities
February 7, 2013

Present: Sara Companik, Miriam Douglass, Penny Robinson, Shirley Strange and Irene Strohbeen

President Shirley Strange called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12-6-2012 Board meeting were approved as written.

President's Report – Shirley Strange said that nonmembers have little or no knowledge about the State and National Leagues. She asked that we think of specific examples to use to describe the LWV. She will contact State and National for ideas.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara Kelly was absent. Her report on finances as of February 3 was received and filed.

Membership Report – Stephanie Melaney was absent due to a full time job. Earlier she distributed the current membership list as of February 4.

RTA – Carolyn Mewhorter was absent.

Legislative Report – Penny Robinson attended the LWVWI Legislative Committee meeting on January 23 which focused on Health Care ((extension of the Senior Care waiver, expansion of Family Care and expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act), Natural Resources (opposition to the AB 1/SB 1 mining bill), Regional Transportation (support for additional funds for public transit), Lake Michigan LWV (annual meeting October 16-17 in Sheboygan), Dept of Corrections (support for diversion of part of the money usually spent on incarceration to prevention and treatment programs), Election Law/Voting Rights (push for positive reforms in addition to opposing a voter ID law and elimination of Election Day Registration), Children and Families (Medicaid expansion, returning 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system and DNA collection at all arrests), Tax Policy (need for a LWV publication describing various taxes and fees, terms related to government revenue and LWV positions), Redistricting (proposed revision to LWVWI position) and Campaign Finance (US constitutional amendment to nullify Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court).

Local Study – Miriam Douglass reminded the Board that on February 26 there will be a meeting to inform the general membership about the local study on the Appleton Public Library. Colleen Rortvedt, the APL Director, will provide a tour of the library and give a presentation on 21st Century libraries. In the February issue of the newsletter Colleen will describe the results of Community Conversations she and Jan Quinlan, Executive Director of the Friends of Appleton Public Library, have had with representatives of many diverse groups in Appleton.

Voter Service – Irene Strohbeen reported on the successful January 15 Media Event for Election-Day Registration in Appleton co-sponsored by LWV and Citizen Action-WI. Research on voter

turnout showed that EDR increases voter turn-out by about 10 %. There was much media coverage of the event and over 40 people in attendance. Irene said that Candidate Forums will be held before the April 2 election for City Council (6 candidates for 3 seats) and School Board (4 candidates for 2 seats).

Observer Corps –No meetings were observed in January

Program Report – Sara Conpanik reminded the Board of upcoming meetings – a Lunch and Learn on March 5 featuring a talk on COTS and Riverview Gardens and the Annual Meeting on May 16. For the March newsletter she needs the nomination slate, the minutes of Lively Issues which includes next year’s program, and the 2013-14 budget. Reports from Directors for inclusion in the Annual Meeting packet are needed later.

Case Statement – At the fundraising workshop on January 31 Jan Quinlan led the Board toward development of a case statement to describe the League to a potential donor. Shirley Strange presented her draft which was organized to briefly cover history, nonpartisan nature, three levels of operation, study/advocacy and local influence. She encouraged each Board member to draft a statement.

Communication Committee – The deadline for newsletter articles is February 14 for publication on February 21.

Around the Board – Irene Strohbeen announced that at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Atlas Mill Carolyn Castore will speak about the Center for Progressive Leadership. She also reminded the Board of the February 20 Midday Alliance speaker on women’s health care. Penny Robinson asked whether Valley Transit has asked our League for support.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Board Meeting – TBD. Shirley Strange will poll the Board to schedule late afternoon or evening meetings for March and April to accommodate members who are working.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Douglass, Secretary