

**Minutes – LWV Appleton Board Meeting
Gardens of the Fox Cities
May 2, 2013**

Present: Sara Companik, Miriam Douglass, Barbara Kelly, Carolyn Mewhorter, Penny Robinson, Shirley Strange and Irene Strohbeen
President Shirley Strange called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The agenda was approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 4-4-2013 Board meeting was made by Irene Strohbeen and seconded by Penny Robinson. The minutes were approved as written.

President's Report – Shirley Strange continued the discussion of when advocacy can begin following a study, membership consensus and Board approval of the position statement proposed by the study committee. In response to Shirley's query, Andrea Kaminski, Executive Director of LWVWI Education Network, responded that several State Board members said "that as long as the positions do not conflict with any LWVUS and LWVWI positions, the State Board would have no concern." Because we recall that in the past our membership has approved a new position at the spring Annual Meeting, Shirley will seek further clarification at the LWVWI Annual meeting.

Our delegates to the LWVWI Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, June 7-8, are Shirley Strange, Sara Companik and Irene Strohbeen. The Appleton League can have four delegates. Shirley has offered the 4th slot to new members proposed for the Board next year.

No date has been set for our 4th annual Women's Equality Day celebration. Sara Companik will explore the possibility of having it at the History Museum.

The LWVWI is co-sponsoring (along with WISPIRG and other organizations) the "Money-Out Voters In" campaign which seeks signatures on a petition that asks state legislators to support a statewide advisory referendum calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that clarifies three issues: 1) that money is not speech; 2) that corporations are not entitled to the same rights as natural persons; and 3) that Congress and the states can limit election-related spending to ensure that all citizens, regardless of wealth, can express their views to one another and their government on a level playing field. The Appleton League will encourage people to sign the petition at LWV meetings and events.

Treasurer's Report – Barbara Kelly's report on finances as of April 29 was received and filed. She indicated that among the variety of reports that Quicken can produce, the most complete picture comes from the Income and Expenses report. It shows for each line item the Income amounts budgeted and received YTD and Expenses budgeted, spent YTD, In Kind donations toward expenses YTD and Total expenditures YTD. Another Quicken report shows member and nonmember contributions by name and amount. The next Board will decide if details of member contributions should be confidential or distributed to Board members and/or the Fundraising Committee.

Shirley Strange clarified that the Treasurer is only responsible for duties described in the bylaws (Article IV, Section 5) and is not a member of the Finance Drive or Fundraising Committee.

Membership Report – Stephanie Malaney was absent.

RTA – Carolyn Mewhorter called attention to an email from Nikki Voelzke, Community Relations Specialist of Valley Transit. Governor Walker’s 2014-2015 budget (Assembly Bill 40) proposes to move the cost for public transit out of the segregated transportation fund to the general fund in 2015. This will result in dramatically increased competition for scarce general fund dollars and will mean that funding for transit will be uncertain budget to budget. It also does not restore any of the 10% state funding cut to Wisconsin transit systems in the last biennial budget. The League supports her request for individuals to oppose this change by contacting members of the Joint Finance Committee and our Fox Cities state legislators.

Legislative Report – Penny Robinson reviewed the background and action taken at the last LWVWI Legislative Committee meeting on Redistricting, Election Law/Voting Rights, Health Care/Aging, Education, Predatory Lending/ Consumer Protection, Corrections/Juvenile Justice, Natural Resources, Regional Transit, Reproductive Rights and Campaign Finance. The state League is looking for one person from each local League to work on redistricting at the state level. Irene Strohbeen will ask Lois Bressette if she is interested.

Local Study – Miriam Douglass reported that the study committee is continuing to participate in the APL Planning Process activities. Barbara Kelly explained that the planning process approach used by the Library Director Colleen Rortvedt has been to seek information on what the community wants and how to service the community, rather than a building structure. This will be designed later based on what was revealed in the planning process. Miriam will ask Jan Quinlan, League member and Executive Director of Friends of the Appleton Library, to describe at the Annual Meeting the Community Conversations held to learn what the community wants.

For the May newsletter Miriam will write an article on the Pew Research report “Library Services in the Digital Age”.

Clearing House – Miriam Douglass reported on the League of Women Voters Education Fund Clearinghouse, which contains studies and research conducted by League members. The website clearinghouse.lwv.org allows download and printing of documents. League members may submit documents from other studies to this site. Barb Kelly pointed out that reports from past Appleton LWV studies are archived at www.foxvalleymemory.org/league.html.

Voter Service – Irene Strohbeen attended Lobby Day for Voting Rights on April 17 in Madison, along with Lois Bressette. She lobbied Representative Al Ott from the 3rd Assembly District; it was a tremendous learning experience. Irene also spoke at a press conference on behalf of LWV specifically addressing our opposition to Assembly Bill 54 which would standardize Early Voting hours to 7:00 am to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday only. Two new bills were also discussed at the conference: a bill introduced by Rep. Sandy Pasch to provide additional locations for Early Voting, and two bills proposed by Rep. Terese Berceau to provide SRDs by county rather than by municipality, plus a proposed bill by that would make it permissible for voters to register on line, already allowable in 12 states, passed in 4 states pending

implementation, and proposed in 14 other states. Wisconsin Eye captured the press conference on video; the link is here: <http://www.wiseye.org/videoplayer/vp.html?sid=9913>
A \$200 grant has been accepted from the Joyce Foundation in order to complete the voter videos in Spanish and Hmong languages. Shirley Strange and Jacqui Klimeszewski are leading the effort to produce these instructional voting videos.

Observer Corps – No report.

Program Report – The deadline for reports from Board members for the Annual Meeting Packet is May 8. The program will be a Voter Service video and a report on the local study committee's progress in gathering relevant information for updating our positions on the APL.
Anniversary Committee Report – Organizational plans will be presented at the Annual Meeting where attendees can join subcommittees engaged in planning and implementation of the various anniversary celebrations.

Archives – Shirley will be contacting Board members for documents. She will prepare a CD over the summer.

Communication Committee – The deadline for newsletter articles is May 9 for publication on May 16.

Around the Board – All members thanked Shirley for her 4 years of leadership and her dedication which brought the Appleton League to another level. Penny Robinson reported that ESTER is offering 2-day training on the Basics of Leadership on May 3 and 4. Sara Companik called attention to the film being shown today at the library "Broken on all Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the U.S.". Members of ESTHER will lead a discussion after the film.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Douglass, Secretary