LWV Appleton-Fox Cities Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 23, 2024 — The Hillside at Plamann Park

Presiding: President Linda Bjella
Parliamentarian: Nadine Miller Updated to Beth English
Recording Secretary: Karin Alvarez

Welcome: Linda Bjella
Land Acknowledgment: Cindy Carter

1. Call to order 6:45 pm. Quorum Present
A. Introduction and remarks from parliamentarian
B. Adoption of the agenda Moved by Dottie LeClaire, Seconded by Cindy Carter, All in Favor, none opposed, no abstentions
C. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting minutes, Moved by Renee Gralewicz, seconded by Marti Hemwell. Cindy Carter asked to change language from 'no opposed' to 'none opposed'. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.
D. Appointment of readers of 2024 Annual Meeting minute: Three readers appointed: Miriam Douglass, Cindy Carter, Denise Fenton

2. Action items

A. Bylaw changes presentation and adoption Discussed LWVUS changes to dues structure which is the reason for these bylaws amendments. Currently many donations are made using the "join" button on our website with an addition to dues payments. Starting January 2025 only 20% of those donations would come to our local league, the rest will go to LWVUS and LWVWI. At that time members will need to click "Donate" to ensure the local league retains 100% of the donation. Dues will be structured differently also, using a sliding scale with no options for a household discount or open door.
Motion to Accept Bylaw changes by Cindy Carter, deconded by Denise Fenton. All in Favor, None Opposed, No Abstentions.

B. Budget presentation and adoption Diane Putzer presented an overview of the Budget Committee's proposal. Our budget year is July 1 2024-June 30 2025 and next year's budget is very similar to last year. We currently have $20,000 in reserve. Half of the $5000 donation received from The Mark Scheffler Fund for a Sustainable Society was put into a CD that matures in the next fiscal year. Since there is no national convention in 2025, those expenses are not in next year's budget (will need to be put back in next year). Line 68 has been increased to reflect Club Express increases and Coalesce expenses. Our liability insurance budgeted at $1500 provides comprehensive coverage for Board members and volunteers. No increase in rent for office space. In January 2025 the new LWVUS dues structure starts with all dues collected by LWVUS and distributed using a percentage formula to state and local leagues. Motion to accept budget by Barb Kelly, second by Cheryl Reissman, All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

C. Adoption: Consensus: Preamble Renee Gralewicz presented an explanation of why we propose adding a Preamble to our Local Support Positions. Motion to accept preamble was made by Ronna Swift. Second by Denise Fenton and Cindy Carter. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

D. Adoption: Consensus Positions Review Jan Quinlan presented an overview of the recommendations for changes in our Local Support Positions following this year's study. The study committee was charged with identifying existing positions that don't reflect the new DEI policy and/or do not apply to the greater Fox Cities region. The committee also identified those sections that will likely need a new study in the near future. A task force will be appointed next year to continue the work of rewriting, cross-referencing and archiving this document. These recommendations are the results of the March 18 Consensus Meeting and subsequent Board approval. Motion to adopt by Cindy Carter, second by Kathy Voigt. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

E. Adoption: Proposed New Study Renee presented. The number one issue at Lively Issues was a new public safety study. Combines juvenile justice, law enforcement, fire department. If there are parts of this study that interest you, please indicate interest/ expertise. Motion to adopt proposed new study, Moved by Dottie LeClaire, second by Cindy Carter.

Ronna Swift asked if there will be subcommittees. Linda Bjella stated that the Public Safety study committee will determine the scope of study using some of the suggestions from Lively Issues. All in favor, none opposed., no abstentions.

F. Nominating Committee report and election of new board members and officers.
Sara Companik presented the slate of officers from this years Nominating Committee:

- VP of Voter Service: Jacqui Klimaszewski for a two-year term (2024-2026)
- Program Director Jan Smith for a two-year term (2024-2026)
- Treasurer Miriam Douglass for a two-year terms (2024-2026)
- Director of Communication and Technology Kathy Voigt for a one-year term (2024-2025)
- 2024-2025 Budget Committee: Sue Silton and Sue Kinde (will join Treasurer and President)
- 2024-2025 Nominating: Stephanie Malaney, Ligia Rivera, and Cindy Carter (will join two Board appointees.)

Unanimously approved. (No record of who moved and seconded)

G. Recognition of retiring Board Members April Savage presented Renee Gralewicz and Diane Putzer with a gift on behalf of the Board.

3. Reports Board members made displays which they during social hour on each of these topics: Action /Advocacy; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Events; Membership; Communications; Voters Service

4. Advice to the board Marti Hemwell advised that there should be good communication about the planned changes to the new LWVUS dues structure. Jeanne Roberts noted the importance of our organization staying nonpartisan and encouraged us to be cognizant of appearances.

5. Announcements: Upcoming events and Voters Service volunteer opportunities Jacqui Klimaszewski discussed voter registration activities at the DMV, Juneteenth, Appleton Farmers Market, and Celebrate Diversity Picnic. (Winnebago League is tabling for Pride Fest in Neenah). Penny Bernard Schafer discussed the next steps to continue to work for a nonpartisan Fair Maps process. She announced an upcoming meeting on July 11 at the Neenah Public Library jointly sponsored by our League, the Winnebago County and Wisconsin Leagues which will educate voters in the new Wisconsin Senate District 18.

6.Adjournment. Adjournment was moved by Cindy Carter, seconded by Barb Kelly. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.