

**League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Network
Annual Meeting, June 18–19, 2010 in La Crosse, WI
with a teleconferenced site at
Reeve Memorial Union, UW–Oshkosh**

4:30 p.m. Friday, June 18, 2010

Plenary Session I (in La Crosse only)

Call to Order—President Melanie Ramey

Ramey called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Greetings and Introductions—Ramey

The president welcomed the members and guests to the LWVWEN Annual Meeting.

Introduction of the Parliamentarian—Ramey

Ramey introduced Parliamentarian Diane Beres (LWV Ripon Area)

Remarks from the Parliamentarian—Beres

Beres explained that her job is to advise the chair when the chair seeks advice or when someone requests the chair to seek advice. Parliamentary procedure protects the rights of the minority and assists the members in conducting the work of the organization in an orderly manner.

Adoption of the Agenda—Ramey

Louise Petering (LWV Milwaukee County) moved adoption of the agenda as presented. Ethel Himmel (LWV Janesville) seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Acceptance of the 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes—Ramey

Jennifer Balma (LWV Manitowoc) moved acceptance of the 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes. Petering seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Appointment of the Readers—Ramey

LWVWEN Executive Director Andrea Kaminski, Joyce Mc Collum (LWV Greater Green Bay) and Shirley Strange (LWV Appleton) volunteered to read and approve the 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Preliminary Report of the Registrar—Laurel Fleet (Administrative Assistant)

Laurel Fleet reported: number of eligible Leagues, 17; number of possible delegates, 87; total number of delegates present including presidents and state board members, 38; number of Leagues represented plus the state board, 14; number of League members who are not delegates present for the plenary, 4.

According to the LWVWEN Bylaws which require that at least one-third of the Leagues (6 of 17) be represented, a quorum was present.

Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules and Procedures—Ramey

Motion by Kathy Allen (LWV Ashland–Bayfield) to make the following editorial changes in the Rules and Procedures as recommended by the LWVWEN Board (pp. 9–12): Page 9 Number 6 – change *two minutes* to *one minute*, and Number 8 – Change *by email* to *electronically*; Page 10 Number 11 – Change *a specified time* to *one minute*; 12 b) – change *two minutes* to *one minute*; 12c) delete *afternoon* and change *immediately after the votes on each item* to *as soon as it is known*; Page 10 under VOTING PROCEDURES DURING PLENARY SESSIONS – delete *then there may be a vote where delegates count off person by person. If the outcome still remains unclear.*

Motion seconded by Ethel Himmel (LWV Janesville) and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Ellen Rosborough (LWV La Crosse)

Rosborough referred the members to the Balance Sheet of the Annual Meeting Packet p. 13. This was an error, as it is dated May 31, 2009. A revised balance sheet will be made available.

She reported the following income and expenditures for the period of July 2009 to May 2010: Income \$151,637; Expenses \$238,751; Net Income (\$87,114). She noted that over the past 6 fiscal years, there have been alternating deficits and surpluses. These are the result of timing of grants and expenses. In the past year the League has had increased legal fees as a result of the Supreme Court recusal rule petition and the group 501(c)(3) exemption application. Kaminski mentioned that the state League sought and received a \$10,000 contribution for the recusal rule petition. Professional services and pass-through grants were another expense that exceeded budget. These expenses were related to the census project, for which the League received grants in the previous fiscal year (2008–2009).

Report on the Organizational Consolidation adopted 2007—Debra Cronmiller (LWV Appleton)

Cronmiller reported that the IRS determination on LWVWI Organizational Consolidation was not yet in place. After a phone call between the lawyers and staff of the LWVUS and LWVWI, League requested that the application be moved from the Cincinnati IRS office to the IRS exempt organizations division in Washington, DC. This request has been granted. Until the IRS has ruled, the LWVWI will continue to function as a 501(c)(3) Education Network.

Cronmiller reminded the membership that all local Leagues, which are 501(c)(4)s, must file a Form 990N with the IRS. Local treasurers should contact Kaminski with questions or for additional information.

Presentation of the Proposed Budgets—LWVWI Education Network (for adoption) and Advocacy Network (for information only) –Rosborough

Rosborough noted that the LWVWEN Budget format uses the categories which must be reported on the IRS Form 990. She suggested that local League budgets conform to what they report to the IRS. She explained that local Leagues should conduct a financial review, but need not, in most cases, have a full audit of their books.

Rosborough then reviewed the Budget Committee Proposal for 2010–2011 as presented the Annual Meeting Packet pp. 14–18.

Earnestine Moss (LWV Dane County) moved to accept the 2010–2011 LWVWEN Budget for consideration and action. Petering seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Re-adoption of Current Positions—Ramey

Cronmiller moved re-adoption of the Current LWVWI Positions as outlined in the Annual Meeting packet p.19. Allen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Presentation of Recommended Program for 2010–2011—Linda Jorgenson (LWV Ashland–Bayfield)

Following a review of the program items adopted at the 2009–2010 LWVWEN Annual meeting, Jorgenson explained, the response of the Program Planning Committee’s follow-up could be found in the Annual Meeting Packet p. 20. Jorgenson then presented the Recommended Program 2010–2011 Annual Meeting Packet, p. 21. Clarification followed.

Himmel moved acceptance of the LWVWEN Recommended Program 2010–2011 for consideration and action. Pamela Rewey (LWV Dane Co) seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Presentation of Revision of VTAE position by LWV Ripon Area—Johnson

Jean Johnson (LWV Ripon) presented the Wisconsin Technical College System revisions as outlined in the Annual Meeting Packet p. 22.

Johnson moved to accept for consideration and action the Revision of VTAE Position. McCollum seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Report of the Nominating Committee—Himmel

Himmel presented the Proposed Board Slate 2010–2011 as printed in the Annual Meeting Packet pp. 28–30 for consideration and action. Petering seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Ramey thanked the Members of the Nominating Committee for their work.

Nominations from the Floor—Ramey

Ramey called for additional nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Announcements—Secretary Julie Arneth (LWV Green Bay)

A member of the LWV La Crosse Area announced that raffle tickets for the quilt will be available for purchase during the reception at Myrick Hixon EcoPark.

Recess—Ramey

Meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 19, 2010 2:00 p.m. –Session II
La Crosse WI, teleconferenced with Oshkosh**

Call to Order—Ramey

President Ramey called the meeting back to order at 2:30 p.m.

Registrar’s Report—Fleet

Laurel Fleet reported the following correction in the June 18 Registrar’s Report: total number of delegates present, 39 not 38; total number of Leagues represented, 15 not 14.

Fleet reported the following attendance which included the Oshkosh site: number of eligible Leagues, 17; number of possible delegates, 87; total of delegates present including presidents and state board members, 52; number of Leagues represented plus the state board, 16; number of League members who are not delegates present, 16; number of non-League members present, 0.

According to the LWVWEN bylaws which require that at least one-third of the Leagues (6 of 17) be represented, a quorum was present.

Budget Discussion and Action—Ramey

Ramey presented the Proposed 2010–2011 Budget as found in the Annual Meeting Packet pp. 14–18 for consideration and action. Rosborough announced that a Treasurer’s Report correction had been distributed for the delegates’ information. There was no discussion. Ramey called for a vote.

The 2010–2011 LWVWEN Budget as corrected was passed unanimously.

President’s Report—Ramey

Ramey reported that the past year was a busy year for the League. She noted especially the reaction of the state Supreme Court to the LWVWEN recusal petition. She emphasized the need to reinstitute the Observer Corps especially in the Supreme Court in order to regain visibility and let the public know what League believes in and what League is about.

LWVWEN continues to be involved with the Midwest Democracy Group in which Executive Director Andrea Kaminski represents the League. League’s work on redistricting is just beginning as is our training to observe elections in a nonpartisan manner.

Ramey quoted the LWVUS newly elected President Elisabeth MacNamara who stated that League has a reputation for “getting in the way.” She concluded

that LWVWEN “intends to get in the way” as well as to recruit new members including men.

Action on Recommended Program for 2010–2011—Ramey

Ramey brought the Recommended Program as outlined in the Annual Meeting Packet pp. 20–21 to the floor for consideration and action. Discussion followed.

Ramey called for a vote. The motion passed. An Oshkosh delegate called for a Point of Order stating that the *Nays* did not have time to vote. After discussion with the parliamentarian, Ramey declared the vote null, and also clarified that the vote was on the Recommended Program pp.20–21 and not the information–only outline that was projected on the screen.

The motion to accept the 2010–2011 Recommended Program as presented in the Meeting Packet was passed unanimously.

Action on Revision of VTAE Position—Ramey

The Revision of the VTAE Position in the Annual Meeting Packet p.22 was considered for adoption. Discussion ensued.

Motion to adopt the Revision of the VTAE Position passed unanimously.

Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee—Ramey

Ramey brought to the floor the slate of officers, directors and Nominating Committee as presented by the 2009–2010 Nominating Committee in the Annual Meeting Packet pp. 28–30 for consideration and action. She noted that no additional nominations to the slate of candidates had been made. In response to a question, Ramey noted that Laura Boettcher (LWV Janesville) is a new addition to the board.

Motion to accept the Proposed Board Slate 2010–2011 as presented by the Nominating Committee passed unanimously.

Ramey thanked Peggy Cox (LWV Winnebago Co) and Kathy Allen (LWV Ashland–Bayfield) for their service to the board during their terms of office.

Other Business—Ramey

Ramey called for Advice to the Board

- Have training workshops available, session where delegates actually have hands–on *how-to-do-it* time at the LWVWEN Annual Meetings.

- Provide ways to maintain active members in spite of the cost of the membership dues. How Leagues can keep membership excitement when the membership cost is rising.
- Establish a listserve for action items so the local Leagues can share what they are doing with advocacy.
- Publish ways to *streamline* local Leagues
- Ask delegates in Oshkosh to reflect on their experience.
- Have local Leagues check their bylaws to be certain that they state that the LWVWEN has *annual meetings* rather than biennial *conventions* and *councils*.
- Think outside of the box about the population that we serve. Focus on diversity.
- Hold a hands-on workshop for writing bylaws.
- Clarify what is decided at the annual meetings.
- Consider advocacy training for tracking legislation.
- Expand the annual meeting time to include a half a day for training.
- Consider workshops for Leagues from same-size towns/cities.
- Provide feedback from the Membership Recruitment Initiative training.
- Thank you to state board.

Announcements—Arneth

Andrea Kaminski announced that sign-up sheets for the sustainability listserv are being circulated. Sign up to receive news about the upcoming meeting in Wisconsin Rapids.

Himmel inquired about where the annual meeting would be held next year. Ramey welcomed invitations from Leagues to host the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Adjournment—Ramey

Meeting adjourned 3:15 p.m.

Julie Arneth
LWVWIEF Secretary

Minutes read and approved by Andrea Kaminski, Shirley Strange, and Joyce McCollum, June 2010.