**League of Women Voters of Wilmette**

**Board Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

**Wilmette Public Library**

Call to order 9:33 AM.

*Present*: Allyson Haut (co-president), Kate Gjaja (co-president), Rebecca Boyd, Lisa Braganca, Katherine Byrnes, Peg Cartier, Rhona DiCamillo,, Susan Gallagher, Trudy Gibbs, Nancy Hoying, Trish Nealon, Stefanie Rupp, Anne Sullivan, Gail Thomason, Michele Thorne, Anne Treadway, Lali Watt

*Absent:* Julie Arment, Eleanor Lipinski, Meg McDonnell, Susan Morrison, Leslie Parsons, Tracy Peacock, Susan Fortier

*League Members*: Therese Steinken

**I. Administrative**

The August 15, 2017 and September 12, 2017 Board meeting minutes were approved.

The Board also approved the following resolution by email ballot:

2017- 23 Resolved, that the Board increase the amount LWVW is going to spend on the LWVIL State of the State advertisement from $85 (already approved) to $100 in order to jointly place a quarter-page ad with LWV Glenview Glencoe and LWV Winnetka- Northfield-Kenilworth and that Allyson and Gail coordinate with our sister LWVs and have authority to approve the joint copy

Allyson Haut expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm and energy of our League members.

**II. Advocacy Mini Workshop**

Last Thursday Gail Thomason and Lali Watt presented an advocacy workshop for members covering internet sources of information, Illinois witness slips and FOIA. . Members should google “ILGA Dashboard,” register yourself and then easily file and track electronic witness slips. Illinois is unusual in providing this ease of comment. The League website will include directions on how to register.

Gail also suggested that we have a pool of people in the League who know how to file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Lali, Gail and maybe Lisa B. or Michele will take a one hour training and report back to Board. FOIA requests are public.

**III. Advocacy Update**

Lali Watt reported that Kate Gjaja, Allyson Haut and she will meet with the Chamber of Commerce.  Before the Village Finance Committee meets, there should be a discussion of common ground.  Both groups might wish to discuss how they view their role, what level of regulation would be reasonable, and any help that could be offered to make compliance easier. The Board affirmed that no one, not our community businesses nor government officials are our adversaries. We respect each other’s views and may sometimes disagree. It was suggested that a summary of the meeting be written to memorialize the progress made.

There was some discussion of LWV policy and public comments made by League Board members and when people can speak on behalf of the League. Only the Co-Presidents speak for the League. The Co-Presidents and Voter Services leaders cannot endorse candidates in any way. Individual Board members can express their opinions but should state that they speak as a private citizen and not on behalf of any organization with which they are affiliated. Further, Board members should clarify, as needed, that they do not represent the League in so speaking. Eyewitness/Observer Corp Members may not comment at meetings when they are in an observer role. We live in a day and age where people misunderstand and misstate and we should do our best to clarify.

**IV. Presidents’ Report**

Allyson said that the State of the State luncheon was awesome. The Honorable Senator DIck Durbin and Investigative reporter Renee Ferguson spoke. Seventeen Wilmette League members attended. The room was sold out.  The proceeds benefit the LWVIL Education Fund.

Kate thanked the directors-at-large for sitting down with Allyson and herself to discuss their roles on the Board and for the League.

Lisa Braganca reported that there are four Observer Corp. teams set up for the Village of Wilmette (including the Finance Committee), New Trier Township, and the District 203 and 39 School Boards. We need one more person to observe at the District 203 School Board meetings.

**V. Membership**

Katherine Byrnes said that the League is holding a recruitment event on November 15. Please provide her with names of prospective members to invite.

Our League currently has 116 members. Board members have been asked to contact those who have not yet renewed.

We will continue to ask members to indicate their program interest areas. In addition, we are considering ways in which we can connect current members to new members including outreach by Directors-at-Large.

**VI. LWVIL Update**

Lali Watt reported that LWVIL is still looking for two members-at-large. It would be great to have people from downstate Illinois involved.

**VII. Voter Services**

The League received fantastic press from its efforts on National Voter Registration Day, including a front cover picture and full article in the local paper and a highlight article on Board member Eleanor Lipinski. Trish Nealon reported that we had 22 volunteers at nine different sites, registered 53 new voters and assisted many others in changing addresses or verifying registrations. Anne Treadway emphasized that the League received wonderful visibility and an estimated 340 community members visited our tables. Trish and Anne were commended for their organization and terrific results.

**VIII. Program/Events**

Nancy Hoying said that the State of the Village event is scheduled for November 1 at 6 pm. She encouraged Board members to spread the word, as there are still seats available. It is great to have wide representation for our community and for people to come together in such a friendly setting. The Wilmette Beacon is planning to attend. There are efforts to videotape the event as well, perhaps on the community channel. She asked for any Board members who can volunteer to help with set-up and clean-up.

Nancy said that the League holiday party is Tuesday, December 5 at 7 pm at Share. She encouraged Board members to invite friends. Share generously offered the space for free since we are a nonprofit. We are considering an offer by Share to have items in the store for sale and 10% of any profits would be donated to the LWV-W Ed Fund. Nancy will explore this possibility with Peg.

Nancy gave thanks to Susan Gallagher who is meeting with action foci leaders to facilitate scheduling events.

Kate mentioned that on Sunday, November 5, 7-8:30 pm we have an event on Illinois school funding reform at the Wilmette Public Library, co-sponsored by the Library. Lali suggested maybe streaming the meeting via Facebook live if possible.

**IX. Treasurer’s Report**

Peg Cartier distributed a Treasurer’s Report prior to the meeting.

**X. Action Focus Updates**

ERA: Michele Thorne reported that the ERA Program is being fleshed out, thanks to contributions from Susan Gallagher, Eleanor Lipinski and Allyson Haut. The big event coming up is a showing of the film Equal Means Equal on Thursday, November 30, 7-9 PM at the Library. The cost of the film is $300 and the Library generously agreed to pay $150; the remainder would be split between the Wilmette league and the Glenview-Glencoe league - and more leagues if we can get them on board. Michele asked for approval to pay up to $75 for the film permission rights.

After discussion, the following resolution was approved:

2017- 24 Resolved, that in order to purchase screening rights for the film Equal Means Equal, the League allocate up to $75 from the education fund or the general operating budget, as the Treasurer deems prudent.

Gail Thomason suggested having a collection at the event in case viewers want to contribute to the League’s educational activities.

Allyson mentioned that everyone should have received information on an action item from LWVIL regarding a vote on ERA ratification in the Illinois senate expected for October 24. Allyson called the LWVIL to reach out to the state issue specialist. Our League will also draft an action blurb and urge members to send that around.

Electoral College: Karen Glennemeier reported on efforts to encourage LWVs across the U.S. to take part in an effort to eliminate the electoral college. She reported that there are over 800 leagues across the country and she received contact information for about half of them. The LWVUS supports a constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college so that the person who wins the popular vote wins the presidency. Karen prepared a presentation and video that the group plans to send to leagues across the country in order to further this effort. She invited Board members to watch this first draft and provide feedback. There was a motion that the meeting be adjourned so that members could leave as needed as the presentation and discussion would extend beyond the usual end time.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM.

**Next Board Meeting: November 17, 2017, 12:30-2:30 PM at the Wilmette Public Library**

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Thorne.*