

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence–Douglas Co
Sat, 21 Apr 2012, Smith Center at Brandon Woods, Lawrence KS 66047

Note: Participants' first and last names are given the first time they are mentioned in these minutes. Thereafter, they are referred to only by their first names.

Call to order. After the luncheon and presentation by speaker Camille Nohe (“What’s up with the LWV US privatization study?”), President Kay Hale called the business meeting to order, at about 1 pm.

Order of business. Caleb Morse read the order of business as printed in the Annual Meeting program. Caleb (Hilda Enoch) moved adoption of the order of business, with “Report of 2009 Minutes Committee” corrected to “Report of 2011 Minutes Committee”; carried.

Quorum present. Caleb reported 44 members in good standing (including new members Sally Hayden and Ginny Weston and returning member Jinny Ashlock) and one guest (Linda O’Donnell) were present.

Meeting guidelines adopted. David Burress read the proposed meeting guidelines. David (Margaret Arnold) moved to adopt the guidelines; carried.

Annual Meeting minutes. Kay reported that the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting have been read and approved by the Committee to Read the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting, and are on file in the Secretary’s minutes book. Since there was no objection, Kay referred the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting to the Committee to Read the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, comprised of Jeanne Mann and Arline Seely-Bensch, for approval.

President’s report. Kay reported on activities of the LWV L–DC during the past year in the areas of Action and Public Education, Land Use, League Study, Voter Service, Observer Corps, Special Honors/Events, Organizational Development, Membership Recruitment and Leadership Development (MLD), Events Sponsored by LWV US and LWV K in which we participated, and Community Collaborations. Included among our accomplishments were: convening meetings and forums regarding the planned closure of the Lawrence SRS Office; convening meetings and offering testimony on the redistricting process; convening a forum on the governor’s tax plan; carrying out a local study of the LWV US study topic “Federal Role in Education”; submitting 32 letters on planning issues to the Planning Commission and/or City Commission; selecting Scott Criqui as recipient of the 2012 Helen Fluker Open and Accessible Government Award; and growing by a total of six members. Kay singled out for praise Carol Jacobsen, who co-chaired the LWVK study “Kansas Taxes: Who Pays?”, Melinda Henderson for her work as the Voter Service Chair, Elinor Tourtelot and Peggy Baker for their work on our Observer Corps, the

flexible members of the Board of Directors, and especially Bonnie Dunham, Marjorie Cole and Gary Hale for all their help.

Review of 2011–2012 financial statements. Treasurer Marjorie presented the review of financial statements as submitted by auditor Diane Oakes, who was not present. Diane had found the accounts to be in good order and commended the Treasurer “for her outstanding work in documenting and tracking League accounts.” As of March 31, 2012, balances in LWV L-DC accounts were as follows:

Checking Account (fungible, includes bulk mail account and Dues Scholarship Fund [next]) = \$2481.65.
Dues Scholarship Fund (a subset of the Checking Account) = \$255; 7 dues scholarships were awarded for the 2011–2012 year.

Money Market Fund (fungible) = \$4397.69

Stucky Account (restricted) = \$7114.55

Judiciary = \$1088.58

LWV Education Fund (partially fungible: may be used for one quarterly PMP) = \$375.48

Carrie Lindsey (Gary Hale) moved to accept the auditor’s report; carried. Hilda thanked Marjorie for her fine work.

Treasurer’s report. Marjorie presented the 2012–2013 proposed budget on behalf of the Budget Committee (Marjorie, Kay, and Carrie), with the following four items highlighted in the budget narrative:

1. Proposal to increase dues after April 23, 2012, from \$50 to \$55 per individual and \$75 to \$85 per household. The proposed increase would mean that, after PMP payments to LWV US and LWV K, LWV L-DC would retain \$7 annually per full membership for local operations. At present, we are able to retain only \$2 of each full membership, so essentially all of our operations are funded by contributions.
2. Proposal to allocate \$2300 to hire an assistant. The Board of Directors has recommended funding this position to help with voter education for about three months during what is anticipated to be an exceptionally busy year for voter education.
3. Planned budget deficit. This year, we faced an unplanned deficit of \$172.66. Even with reduced expenses (see below), the Board expects a planned deficit of \$948.50 during the coming year.
4. Reduced expenses. In order to keep the planned deficit at a minimum, the Board has recommended reducing print publication of the *Voter* by 50% in the coming year, and sending only one delegate to National Convention.

Lee Ketzler asked how the Board planned to reduce the printing costs associated with the *Voter*. Carrie suggested increasing the subscription rate for electronic copies. Bill Arnold asked what the assistant would do. Carrie responded that the assistant would help to carry out some of the daily work of the organization: maintaining the website, help with voter registration events, produce voter guides, and all in a timely manner. Hilda remarked that it’s shocking that so much of the dues payment goes to LWV US and LWV K; \$50 is already high and makes it hard to

attract new members. Marjorie (Hilda) moved to approve the budget. However, it quickly became clear that we needed to decide the dues issue before adopting the budget. David (Sharon Brown) moved to request unanimous consent to revise the order to deal with the dues issue first; carried. Hilda (Gary) moved to increase the dues as proposed in the published budget. Lee Ann asked for clarification on the status of student dues levels; there will be no change to these. Kay called the question; motion carried.

Marjorie (Carrie) moved to adopt the budget as published. Jinny Ashlock asked about whether separate approval was required for “program”, by which she meant hiring an assistant. Carrie clarified that the assistant is not to help with program, but with the educational effort of the League. David clarified that the \$2300 allocated for the assistant is part of the budget as moved. So, if anyone wanted to discuss the issue, the time to do it would be *before* voting on the motion. Further, David noted, you can also just complain! Marci Francisco cautioned that, although it’s important to increase our visibility during this election year, we may not benefit from increased membership (due to high PMP) and we probably won’t be able to keep it up next year. David noted that it’s a little risky, but not too risky, since a good part of the budget comes from member contributions, so new members may well generate new contributions, as well. Melinda asked about how much we’ve sought contributions from sources outside League. Kay noted that we’ve received some money, but always from the same few sources. Bonnie noted that she was initially opposed to the idea of hiring an assistant, but, every time we have run an advertisement in the *Voter*, no one has volunteered. Kay added that we seem to have had difficulty encouraging people to take leadership roles in the organization. Lynn Bodle added that this is an exceedingly important election year! Kay called the question; motion carried.

Nominating Committee report and election of officers. Sharon presented the slate of candidates on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Sharon, Marjorie, Melinda, Carol Nalbandian, and Mary Lou Wright).

Officers

President: Carrie Lindsey (second year of a two-year term, the first year served as President-Elect)

President-Elect: David Burruss (first year of a two-year term, the second to be served as President)

Vice President: Milton Scott (second year of a two-year term)

Secretary: Caleb Morse (second year of a two-year term)

Treasurer: Marjorie Cole (first year of two-year term)

Directors (two-year term)

Margaret Arnold

Sally Hayden

Cille King

Marlene Merrill

[continuing on in the second year of their two-year terms are: Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Melinda Henderson, and Ruth Lichtwardt]

Nominating Committee for 2012–2013

Sharon Brown, Chair (non-Board member)

Kay Hale (non-Board member)

Mary Lou Wright (non-Board member)

Plus 2 members of the Board of Directors, to be appointed

Kay solicited nominations from the floor, but there were none. Sharon (Hilda) moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees; carried.

Changing of the guard. Kay surrendered the gavel to new president Carrie. Carrie presented Kay and outgoing Board member Bob Duver with gifts. There was a round of applause for both, and Kay informally swore in the new Board. Carrie took over the meeting.

Adoption of 2012–2013 Program. James Dunn presented the proposed review II. Social Policy: Housing for Low-Income Groups (approved in 1975); Carrie presented the proposed review of our position IV. Local Government (approved in 1979), with an eye towards expanding the position to include county government, school districts, and task forces. Caleb asked whether it was possible to carry out two concurrent studies. Carrie opined that yes, and furthermore both are reviews and may not result in full studies. Melinda noted that the primary school district in the county is USD 497, but there are also others. Kay added that any position we adopt should apply to the entire county. Hilda thought that we need to concentrate on Lawrence and USD 497. Marci suggested removing “County” from before “School Board” in the statement of question. Marci (Margaret) moved to change the wording of the question to “Should school boards and task forces be included in this statement?”; carried. Forrest Swall noted that several members of the Older Women’s League present were involved with a movement to enact Death with Dignity legislation in Kansas, and asked if this would be an appropriate topic of study by LWV L-DC. Marci thought it would be a good subject for study, but at the state level, and suggested it be put forward for adoption as part of LWV K program in 2013. To this, David noted that, technically, our bylaws do not allow introduction of subjects of study from the floor at Annual Meeting (although he was quick to add that anything can be done, if it’s done by unanimous decision). Marci (Sally) moved to accept the proposed programs; carried.

Directions to the Board of Directors for 2012–2013:

Address Forrest’s question about taking up a study of Death with Dignity legislation at the state level.

[None other.]

Announcements.

There were several announcements, including solicitations for questions for candidates in upcoming elections and help with voter registration efforts, and notification of upcoming meetings.

Adjournment. Hilda (Bob Duver) moved to adjourn; carried. Meeting ended at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, 11 May 2012, by Caleb Morse; revised 29 May 2012, 14 August 2012.

Read and approved with modification on 29 May 2012 by the Committee to Read the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, Jeanne Mann and Arline Seely-Bensch, members.