

MINUTES
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of BERRIEN AND CASS COUNTIES
BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
800 Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks, Michigan

Members Present: Clapper, Ennis, Klawiter, Pierman, Ripley, Ristau, Stepanek, Zilke
Members Absent: Dutton, Lackner

The minutes of the February 12, 2106 meeting were approved as amended. [under Old business #1 the sentence should read - Zilke and Ennis will write a full description of the **president's** role, rather than all offices. New Business # 1 "Tabled" was misspelled.]
Klawiter moved and Pierman seconded.

Treasurer's Report

There were no transactions to report.

Ripley distributed copies of the budget. The board reviewed the allocation process and current status of the budget. It was generally agreed board members need to be more aware of allocations to their particular activities; a monthly budget update should be provided; and a process to amend the budget should be enacted when needed. Ripley will provide via email the reimbursement form to board members.

DThe treasurer's report was approved. Ennis moved; Pierman seconded.

Old Business

1. LWVMI regional workshops.

No local board members will attend the Vote411.org workshop to be held 4/16/16. However a discussion was held concerning the efficacy of the Vote 411.org Clapper distributed an "open candidate positions 2016 in Berrien county" summary which inspired a conversation around printing materials ourselves, advertising in local newspapers, sending postcards, and other methods to promote both the 411Vote.org website and the League. Pierman, Clapper and Lachner will present an activities plan.

Ennis and Zilke will attend the 4/30/16 meeting in Lansing.

2. LWVUS convention

Financial support for attendance at the convention in Washington DC will be decided at the April meeting.

3. SCOTUS program.

Klawiter reported the date, April 29, has been set for the confirmed speaker, John Rappaport, from the University of Chicago Law School. Pierman will develop plans for publicity. Ripley and Zilke will confirm the venue.

4. Back-up video

Phil DeVore will provide this service.

5. Scholarship/Fundraiser - Tabled
6. Strategic Planning - Tabled until information from the State League is received.
7. Luncheons
Several ideas were suggested: a speaker from the Michigan ecology center, John Austin (Clapper contact), a program led by the two county (Berrien and Cass) clerks about current voting issues. Because of its relevancy, the latter topic was selected for a May luncheon meeting. Clapper will contact Dutton.
8. Annual Meeting
The Beach House at Weko Beach in Bridgman is the preferred venue. Zilke will check availability and other details in order to set a June date. Ennis and Klawiter will research catering possibilities. The program will include the required annual membership meeting with no outside speaker.
9. Voter registration
See information under Old business #1. Other plans, previously discussed - see 2/15 minutes - will be finalized at the April meeting.

New Business

1. Education vs Advocacy
Zilke reminded board members the primary work of the local league is to educate; advocacy efforts should align with approved national league positions. This should be reflected in the newsletter.
2. Board Member Orientation
President Zilke will forward a power point to members, especially new members, to review.
3. Position Proposal
The Louisville, Kentucky league will present a position proposal about Fair Lobbying Practices to the National League for review.
4. Advocacy position
Clapper was asked to accept responsibility for keeping members apprised of approved League positions and advocacy issues. A clearer definition of a board position and formal action will be taken at the April meeting.
5. Newsletter

Newsletter assignments were confirmed. Writing is due to Zilke by March 29. The need to update the 'look' of the newsletter as well as a board member to oversee this effort was explored. The board will review other League newsletters for ideas.

Director reports

Communication - see New Business # 5.

Education - no report

Environment - no report

Membership - Ideas about the non-member fundraising drive were explored. The need to promote awareness of league activity and for financial support can be added to announcements and notices. Ripley will clarify the process for donating on-line. This topic will be addressed again at the April meeting.

Voter Services - see # 9 in Old Business

Advocacy - Clapper shared the LWVMI advocacy summary for 2015-16.

Other business;

Materials distributed

By-Laws; ABC's for a Streamlined League: Job description for League president; job description of other officer positions.

Hospitality for April 29, 2016 speaker. Dinner preceding event will be planned.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40. The next meeting will be April 12 at 1 p.m. Lakewood Estates