



Minutes 8/13/2018

Brown County League of Women Voters

In Attendance

Cathy Rountree, Bill Todd, Nonie Daniels, Shari Frank, Jeanne Lager, Pam Raider, Heather Nicholson, Mary Perez, Janet Kramer, Laurie Teal, JoAnne Himebaugh, Susanne Gaudin, Robyn Bowman, Gregg Bowes

July Minutes

- Approved with no corrections

Treasurers report

- Bank balance \$4,399.78 with National dues to be paid in the amount of \$1,264 and State dues to be paid in September.

Correspondence

- **Email protocols:** Request was received to use bcc instead of cc on emails. Consensus was to continue copying all in cc: for transparency and convenience, but add a comment “Please respond to sender only not Reply All”.
- **Voting Security:** Bill Todd and Nonie Daniels spoke of concerns about voting machine accuracy, lack of paper trail and machine security. Nonie attested that in the last general election she pushed one candidate’s box and the other was marked.

Shari indicated that the bigger picture concern is general voting security and suggested developing a committee to address voting security to determine what can be done for 2018 and 2020 elections. There is not a way to determine the cause of the error Nonie Daniels experienced. LWVUS wrote a white paper on voting security, recommending eliminating electronic only systems that provide no capability to verify votes or to conduct a recount. New voting OCR machines are recommended that provide paper back-up that provides the capability to conduct recounts when necessary. Greg Bowes indicated Monroe County has changed to this system and explained it involves voters filling in an OCR form that is scanned for electronic tally, then the form is inserted into a secure “box” for safekeeping if a recount is required. Susanne Gaudin pointed out that paper ballots also may have errors as they did in the past. Discussion agreed with this concern but also indicated that having a paper back-up allows a re-count, while the current paperless system does not. Bill Todd and Susanne Gaudin indicated there are many safeguards currently in place in Brown County, including: machines are stored under lock and key (basement at Law Enforcement Center), GBS (Government Business System – election machine/software providers) is tested by VSTOP at Purdue University; Kyle Conrad (Indiana GBS rep) runs tapes randomly for different districts to ensure software shows 0’s before voting begins. In discussion of tracking errors, Susanne indicated that errors such as Nonie experienced are documented and reported to the software companies; although Bill Todd indicated the BC Clerk reported Nonie’s error was not documented. Susanne reports that this type error was however reported to the software company GBS where they report extensive testing could not replicate the problem. It was dubbed “fat finger” syndrome, where someone either touched a square unintentionally or a finger straddled two boxes causing an error. Susanne reported that even if an incorrect box was

selected initially, no vote is submitted until the voter reviews their ballot for accuracy, then clicks submit.

Bill Todd suggested that LWV be involved in the public testing of voting machines. Susanne Gaudin and Robyn Bowman report that the public is always invited and also encouraged LWV to be poll workers.

Motion: Pam Raider made motion; Members of the League will be involved in the public test of the voting machines. Heather 2nd, motion approved.

Motion: Pam Raider made motion; Create a study committee to look at voting Security options for 2018 and 2020. Heather 2nd, motion approved.

Robyn raised a concern about the need for LWV participation as a group when it's already open to the public.

Voting Security Committee Chair; JoAnne Himebaugh, Co-Chair: Bill Todd: Members: Pam Raider, Tim Clark, Shari Frank

Current Business

- **Regional Vincennes LWV Workshop** attended by Pam Raider and Shari Frank. Emphasis was on top LWV goals: seeking diversity in membership and protecting voter rights (including voting security and more).
- **Candidate Forums:** Local candidate forums are scheduled for 10/2, 3, 4 at 6:30pm in the Salmon Room, with School Board moved to Wednesday the 3rd to avoid conflict with school board meeting the 4th. Candidate letters sent last week, pending replies. Saturday 9/29 Salmon room is reserved pending response from U.S. Congressional and State Representatives to attend forum. Robyn indicates she is trying to get a response but doesn't think any LWV forums will be attended by State and National reps. Discussed moderator position for the forums. Several concerns had been raised about having an individual who hold a partisan office be moderator. To avoid appearance of partisanship, moderator will be shared by Pam Raider and Shari Frank. Directors and members will be asked to help facilitate, e.g. bringing audience question cards, sorting, etc.
- **4-H Fair Recap** three voter registrations taken to Clerks office. Lessons learned: check registrations for errors before people leave; next year, have an activity again to engage people, e.g. the informal poll last year.
- **BCCF Volunteer Fair:** Saturday August 18th 10am – 2pm. JoAnne has questions written on 3"x5" cards taken from U.S. Citizenship test. She will wrap boxes red white and blue in which to pull questions from. Pam will bring "League" items.
- **Board transition:** Cathy Roundtree made motion for Pam Raider to step in as Vice President and JoAnne Himebaugh to step in as Secretary until annual meeting in 2019 Laurie Teal 2nd, motion approved.
- **National Voter Registration Day:** September 25th Shari will contact Laura Hammack about doing registration at the High School again. JoAnne will reserve space at the Nashville Farmers Market for registration booth October 7th.
- **Courthouse Community Conversation:** Susanne Gaudin encouraged we wait to hear from Commissioners at least until after the midterm elections as Diana Biddle indicated to Susanne that it is not a priority at this time.

- **Membership Handbook Update:** A committee took on the task of updating the member handbook, last revised in 1974. The committee had reviewed a non-partisanship policy from the West Lafayette League and rejected it as too restrictive. Instead, the non-partisanship policy from the 1974 handbook was proposed with almost no revision, in the current draft. The board will review/revise the non-partisanship policy (and entire handbook) until consensus is achieved. The non-partisanship policy once established would be reviewed annually.

Concerns were discussed that the non-partisan policy is too restrictive as written. For example: Heather Nicholson said she witnessed board members wearing partisan shirts and accouterments marching in the Spring Blossom Parade. Though she disagrees with the messaging, she respects their right to “free speech” even as board members. Susanne Gaudin warned against losing board members if non-partisan policy is too restrictive. Discussion included differentiating between LWV board members on community boards that require balanced representation of members from different political parties, but not engaged in political activity (such as the Health Department Board and the PTABOA), versus position on boards that represent a political party.

General consensus at this meeting indicated there should be different levels of compliance to the non-partisan requirements depending on position in LWV: 1) Strictest: Applies to President; Vice President and Voter Services; 2) Less restrictive: Applies to other officers and board members; 3) No restrictions: Applies to LWV members and family of board members. 4) Rules that apply to all: Never speak on behalf of the league and do not wear league identification/paraphernalia to partisan events.

Robyn Bowman would like to see item #3, (page 16) removed from non-partisan policy. Shari will submit suggested revisions and questions on non-partisanship to board members to be discussed at next meeting to continue working toward consensus.

Committees

- **Health:** Cathy Rountree reports that the Board of Health is now able to take insurance payments for immunizations and credited Health Department nurses for work to develop this option for the community; Septic ordinance meeting 8/28 1:30 or 2:30pm Salmon Room please check website for correct time.
- **Fiscal Committee:** Succinct summary of LWVBC position into a checklist provides a useful tool. Tim will recruit members and develop ideas to ensure fiscal positions are being implemented with guidance from the board. Minor revisions made to fiscal committee overview Tim provided, e.g. change from external stakeholders to external resources to clarify LWVBC is not partnering.

Observer Report

- Susanne Gaudin reported on August 1st Commissioners meeting: Sherry Mitchell Brucker, President of Friends of Lake Monroe was looking for a show of support from the Commissioners on the 400+ acres of watershed in which 56% runs through Brown County. Susanne will type up and send out notes and contact information for Board members who wish to participate and support LWVBC's Watershed Position. (Read article in 8/15/2018 Brown County Democrat)
- Heather Nichols encourage board members to attend “Electronic Signs meeting” 8/28 6pm
- JoAnne Himebaugh reports next HCI (Hometown Collaborative Initiative) meeting 8/13 6pm Community Foundation.

Annual Meeting

Think of potential speakers on topics of interest to LWV and potential new members.

Next meeting September 10 at 10am