

## Minutes

### Brown County League of Women Voters

September 11, 2017

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, JoAnne Himebaugh, Cathy Rountree, Shari Frank, Janet Kramer, Abbie Oliver, Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Jeanne Lager, Ruth Reichmann, Clint Studabaker, and Heather Nicholson.

Minutes of August 2017 approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer report – Treasurer Jeanne Lager reports total in Treasury is \$5,092.58. Took in \$75 plus three memberships at \$45. PMP to national paid at \$1248 – state still owing. Julie reports has updated roster with national. A few members still owing.

Correspondence: There will be Brown County School Tea at 4 pm on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> – four members attending. Julie has received letter from organization called Vote Smart comprised of old League members and several congressmen. They have established Onpoint – which allows any issue to be accessed by phones to find out how congress members voted. They wish to make a presentation. Julie will research organization and get back to members who felt if legit this would make good presentation for public and members. Lastly Indiana League is soliciting opinions from members as to how our voting experience went. Members have gotten emails.

#### Current Business:

Courthouse Project and Peaceful Valley: Pam reports there have been two meetings since our last meeting. Committee hopes to finish up this month. Committee seems to be leaning toward new building at LEC. They have made recommendation to the Commissioners to hire consulting firm DLZ to do complete feasibility study (none has been done in previous reports), there is money budgeted for this purpose. Peaceful Valley has sponsored presentation by Dr. Jim Glass on historical importance of Courthouse to Nashville. There was preview showing with Dr. Glass on 8/28. His public presentation will be on 2 pm Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Art Gallery during their Icons of Brown County exhibit. A follow up presentation will be held at library on November 8<sup>th</sup> with panel discussion on Heritage Tourism and Scenic By-way project. Need to be more inclusive in involving Art Alliance.

BC Fiscal and Development Study – Julie will review our position and to make sure our position answers the questions we posed. Boil down statement to be more succinct. Then League can use as advocacy tool.

501c (3) status – Question remains of whether to go on our own applying for not for profit status or go under umbrella of the state. We are not incorporated as local so that paperwork would also have to be filed if we went on our own. Consensus of group wait to see if we will be covered by states application.

League Regional Workshop – Pam attended and reports focus was on theme One League/One Voice. They outlined five strategies or goals: 1) Streamline and be flexible 2) Retaining and Expanding – encourage diversity 3) increasing External Perception thru stories and articles 4) Increase Outreach and Impact and 5) Evaluating what not working and trying new things. They encouraged fundraising and expanding presence on social media. Since last election League membership has increased 400%, Bloomington League has 45 new members. Also League is more involved in lawsuits than ever. One suit in state involves the request for voter rolls information to Presidential Commission on Voter fraud – state law prohibits giving all the information requested. Recent Secretary of States meeting in Indy in which all reported no known incidences of voter fraud.

Letter to reps re Environment Position – Following up on discussion last month’s meeting JoAnne presents letter she crafted to Scott Pruitt of EPA regarding proposed repeal of 2015 Waters of US rule. This elicits long discussion. Clint states that regulations exist in law and this 2015 redefinition of waters of US went too far and has caused all kinds of lawsuits – doing away with this EPA redefining will not soften the laws on the books; the problem lies with enforcing regulations that already exist. Group votes not to send letter at this time – wait to see how experts and courts weigh in on issue. Public comment period on this issue will end on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Members who feel strongly can weigh in on own.

Updates:

Results of Fair Survey questions were published in the Democrat. Overwhelmingly people were favorable to schools. Discussion on the State Board position of doing away with General Diplomas and continued problem of teaching to the testing standards.

Newsletter and website: No new information.

HCI – Hometown Initiative project – Will be meeting again this evening. JoAnne to report next meeting.

Committees:

Health: Cathy weighs in on septic ordinance – the Commissioners are having new proposed ordinance reviewed by their lawyers. Biggest opposition seems to be from realtors who are worried about the effect on home sales, people who worry about more regulations and those suspicious of Health Dept. Next health Dept. meeting will be Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Meeting finally adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Next Board meeting is October 09, 2017, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County