

League of Women Voters of Brown County
Minutes of September 12, 2016 board meeting

Present: Ruth Reichmann, Janet Kramer, Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Pam Raider, Shari Frank, Cathy Rountree, Jan Swigert, Joanne Himebaugh, Judy East.

1. Pam conducted the meeting in Julie Winn's absence.
2. Minutes from the August meeting were approved as corrected.
3. Treasurer Jeanne Lager was absent but had sent in a report showing a balance of \$4,907.95. Pam had also received a check for \$1,056.51 from the state League as reimbursement to our education fund for publication expenses. Jeanne's report shows that previous treasurer Marge Cook had rolled our savings account into our checking account; we should look into why that was done.

Current Business

4. Shari is working on pinning down candidates for the forums in October. She heard from one school board candidate that there is a regional school board meeting in Seymour the same night as that forum, so Shari will see if most of those candidates would prefer to switch to Oct. 13. We will also begin at 6:15 to allow more time for school board candidates. Of 22 total candidates invited, only 4 have returned completed questionnaires for publication by the Democrat. The deadline is Sept. 14 (two more days). It is still unclear whether Trey Hollingsworth will attend, as his policy is not to attend forums where Libertarian candidates appear, as his Libertarian opponent has agreed to do.
5. As part of our interest in emergency services and watershed issues, Joanne reported on an air shed study. The American Thoracic Society studied U.S. cities for levels of air pollution and listed the 25 worst ones. The top 7 are cities in California; Madison, IN, was #11 and Louisville is #10.
Ruth predicted that our watersheds will become a problem. Tanner Bowman is testing local water for e-coli as a project for his Eagle Scout ranking, and will share his findings when completed. Discussion of the Bean Blossom sewer issue and the scope of the Brown County Sewer Board. Cathy suggested we hold a community conversation on this issue after the election. League attendance at sewer board meetings would be helpful. They are held on first Tuesdays, and the next one is Oct. 4.
6. Julie Winn has sent out draft questions for the B.C. fiscal study. Board members should read these and send feedback to Julie. Then the full membership should meet to discuss them after the election.
7. The Fire Territory will not be brought up by the Commissioners before October. The League supports a county-wide fire district.

8. We should invite the chair of the county's Area Planning Commission, Christine Ritzmann, to the next meeting of the board.

9. Ruth reported that the scenic byways committee has named the project "Hoosier Hills Scenic Byway." It will extend from well north of Morgantown south into Bloomington and the Hoosier National Forest and will encompass about 200 miles including several side roads besides SR135 and SR46. Ruth says many groups are interested in supporting this.

10. Judy said she is waiting to hear more about a proposed Volksmarch on April 23 from the Bloomington Flying Fish club.

New Business

11. The state education study report is due on Feb. 17. We should consider holding a membership-wide meeting and discussion in November.

Committees

12. The Partnership is now meeting quarterly. No League board member attended the last meeting. Shari will try to get involved to help Janet. Meetings are third Tuesdays at 3:30, quarterly.

13. Cathy reported Brown countians for Quality Health Care continues its efforts to improve health locally and will meet with school officials in October.

14. The Centennial Torch is supposed to come through Brown County; no date or details, but it is thought that Jenise Bohbrink and We the People students will carry it part of the way.

15. Adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy East