

League of Women Voter of Brown County

2016 Annual Meeting

May 23, 2015

Members and guests arrived around 5:30 to mingle a bit before the meeting held at Hotel Nashville Hotel. Once seated there was a brief introduction of our guests. Marina Allen, this year's Dorothy Stewart Scholarship recipient, was in attendance and thanked us for her grant, she plans to go to law school and get a degree in criminal justice.

After dinner, our key note speaker, Dave Redding, President of both the County Council and Redevelopment Commission, spoke of county challenges with infrastructure and current successes toward partnering to develop an integrative comprehensive plan for county. He encouraged members to get involved in their government and complimented the League on all the ways we have been engaged in the community. All agreed there were still problems with leadership issues and not enough "arms and legs" to carry out initiatives.

The annual business meeting began. Quorum was established and rules of meeting were read. Julie Winn, President read the long list of highlights of our past year. Minutes from 2015 Annual meeting were accepted as posted in the program. Treasurer's report was presented, Janet moves report be accepted; Shari seconds – Treasurer's Report accepted. Proposed budget contains shortfall between membership dues collected and expenses budgeted for the year. Suggestions to make up difference were year-end appeals for contributions and local membership fee to include newsletter only. The board is to discuss. Julie reminds us that donations to Ed Fund and Dorothy Stewart grant are tax deductible. Shari moves to accept proposed budget, JoAnn seconds – Proposed budget is approved.

Officers Slate Presented – call for other nominations. Cathy moves to accept slate, Marge seconds – Officers for the next year are voted in:

President Julie Winn (term expires 2017)

Vice President and Secretary Pam Raider (term expires 2017)

Jeanne Lager replaces Marge Cook as Treasurer (term expires 2018).

Directors (elected): Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Cathy Rountree and Shari Frank return (terms expires 2018). Jan Swigert, Judy East and Janet Kramer continue (term expires 2017).

Appointed directors: Mary Perez, Ruth Reichmann, and Marge Cook (term expires 2018). Joanne Himebaugh serves again until 2017.

Portfolios:

Newsletter: Judy East

Website: Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman

Voter service: Shari Frank, Janet Kramer and Mary Perez

Membership: Pam Raider

Partnership B.C.: Janet Kramer and Shari Frank

Vision 2020 Initiatives and follow up: Ruth Reichmann and Julie Winn

Fiscal Study: Julie Winn and Jan Swigert

Health: Judy East and Cathy Rountree

Youth Leadership: Claire Dannelley and Tanner Bowman

Brief report on the State Education Study with emphasis on testing was heard – serving on that committee were Jan, Judy and Shari.

The National and State programs for 2015-2016 were read.

Presentation of the twelve-fold Local program for the year is read and discussed.

The membership approved the following local programs

1. Continue to study the fiscal and developmental viability of Brown County, with particular focus on the accountability, transparency and coordination of elected governmental bodies in financial and development decision making. Reach consensus on questions and concurrence on position.
2. Build on the work already done by the League to advance the Brown County Wellness and Heritage initiative.
3. Follow up to ensure County defines and implements a plan to correct identified deficiencies in space, security, ADA and other problems for our Historic Courthouse.
4. Support the Vision 2020 project and Leading Brown County by supporting the BC Partnership, sponsoring community conversations to implement Vision 2020 and partner with other groups as needed, and desirable to further this project.
5. Undertake such projects in line with our positions as recommended by our membership or requested by partners and agreed to by our membership, to include community conversations and other forums aimed at engaging, informing and attracting input from the public.
6. Revisit and update our position on emergency services.
7. Revisit and update the LWVBC Bylaws as needed.
8. Sponsor candidates' forums in advance of the 2016 general election.
9. Support the "Dorothy Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund."
10. Attend and participate in the B.C. Partnership.
11. Voter Services: Sponsor annual Meet Your Legislators – Third House Meeting.
12. Increase membership and visibility in the League and observers for County meetings, including through creation of a Membership Handbook and by further enhancing our Website.

Discussion on the 2016 program included the following:

- 1) Fiscal Study needs to have membership meeting dedicated to top questions associated with fiscal data.
- 2) Courthouse issues to be brought up as questions at candidates meetings. June board meeting should discuss how to proceed and when to host conversation.
- 3) Start involving new groups post elections on our issues.

- 4) Set short term list of goals and then longer list.
- 5) To Emergency Services position we should add water delivery and emergency preparedness – board to discuss this and reaching out to the churches.
- 6) Air shed and air quality as important as watershed
- 7) Explore taping conversations as directive to board.

Marge moves Local program be approved Jan seconds – Local program is approved.

Revisit and vote on Local Positions:

Health no change.

Planning position has added language: The League recommends that Brown County's zoning ordinances be thoroughly reviewed, updated and made consistent with the county's Comprehensive Plan. Ruth moves to accept new language, Shari seconds – addition is passed.

Position on Lake Monroe Watershed includes expanded definition of Brown County's watersheds and adds long list of past studies done on our watersheds. Susanne makes motion to accept amended watershed position – Shari seconds – position accepted.

Fire and Emergency Services accepted as is now.

Directives to Board

- 1) How endorse/encourage good candidates
- 2) Leadership training for public service – get leaguers to run for office
- 3) Newspaper – questionnaire published as take away
- 4) Encourage unofficial gatherings as way to encourage members to run.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM

Respectfully submitted

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County