



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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**League of Women Voters of Minnesota**  
**Board Minutes**  
**Saturday, May 31, 2003**

**Members Present:** Helen Palmer, Stacy Doepner-Hove, Miriam Simmons, Mary Steen, Ellen Biales, Connie Hondl, Carol Frisch, Scott Marshall, Marcia Oliver, Juanita Peterson, Judy Stuthman, Chia Vang, Ady Wickstrom, Karen Gochberg, Gwen Myers, Hilary Ziols, Sally Sawyer

**Members Absent:** Melissa Palank, Vivian Jenkins Nelson

**1. Appointments:** Doepner-Hove made a motion to approve the appointments of Karen Gochberg, LWV White Bear/North Oaks/Mahtomedi Area; Gwen Myers, LWV Minneapolis; Vivian Jenkins Nelson, MN Member at Large; Hilary Ziols, LWV Northfield; to the LWVMN Board. The motion received a second from Ady Wickstrom and was unanimously approved.

**2. June Board Retreat:** Palmer indicated that the board retreat will be held on Thursday, June 26, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Women's Building. Simmons agreed to serve as secretary for the meeting as Biales has a commitment to the Women's Candidate Development Coalition.

**3. LWVUS Convention:** Palmer indicated that Natalie Testa from LWVUS had participated in the LWVMN Convention. LWVUS is interested in holding the national convention in the Midwest in 2006, and they are considering Minneapolis as the potential site. Palmer indicated that LWVMN and the LWV Minneapolis would be responsible for supplying 150 volunteers and assisting staff from LWVUS with plans for the convention. LWVUS would like a letter from LWVMN indicating support for the convention coming to Minneapolis so that the location can be presented to the LWVUS Board for a decision in August 2003. Sawyer suggested that a Frisch or Palmer draft a letter of support that could be circulated to LWV Minneapolis, CMAL, and other interested leagues. The board agreed with this proposal.

**4. Resolution on the Patriot Act:** Gochberg requested that copies of the resolution on the Patriot Act that was approved during the LWVMN Convention be distributed to the board members. Wickstrom indicated that she would post the resolution on the LWVMN web-site. Wickstrom also reminded board members that there is a board list serve for use by board members. It will be necessary for new board members to sign-up to use the list serve. New members may sign up by going to the member resources page, clicking on e-mail lists, and following the directions. Wickstrom also indicated that the password system to enter the site will be changing so board members should watch for further details.

**5. Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Board Meeting  
Minnesota Women's Building  
Thursday, June 26, 2003

Present: Doepner-Hove, Frisch., Gochberg, Hondl, Marshall, Palank, Palmer,  
Oliver, Peterson, Sawyer, Simmons, Stuthman, Wickstrom, Ziols  
Not present: Biales, Myers, Nelsen, Steen, Vang

Orientation called to order 5:35, Barbara Stuhler re: Women's Suffrage Memorial  
Council Report (Helen and Stacy went to Council)

Strategic Plan

We need an update of who has done what and how that fits in the  
plan; need an update on the web. Sally commented she uses it  
constantly to see how projects fit in and that we are following this  
plan. Sally did a report last year and a summary has been done for  
the budget review, so a lot of this work is done. We need to get this  
out to the local leagues. Juanita, Scott, Stacy will be on  
subcommittee.

Current and Proposed Projects

Reviewed list of all these. Lots going on!

Review of Committees

Even more going on.

Review of Policies

Nonpartisan; public statements should be vetted before they go  
out. Speak with one voice.

Calendar for 2003-2004

Board Meeting Schedule: Aug. 13, Sept. 20, Oct. 8, Nov. 15, Jan.  
10, Feb. 11, March 15

Office Organization

Power of 3 Campaign

**LWVMN MEETING Called to order at 7:45 p.m.**

1. Housekeeping –business cards, vouchers, hours, calendar,  
Presidents' Mailing, Action  
Clarify for Juanita COSTS vs. EXPENSES for VOLUNTEER  
HOURS
2. Minutes of the 3/22/2003 LWVMN Board Meeting  
MOTION to table minutes till next Board Meeting (Gochberg).  
PASSED.
3. Minutes of 05/31/03  
MOTION: to table minutes till next Board Meeting (Wickstrom).  
PASSED.
4. Treasurer's Report: (Hondl) MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's  
Report for period ending April 30, 2003 and file it for audit.  
MOTION PASSED.

5. Revision of Agenda: Gochberg asks to consider acceptance of MN Policies – move to 5a.
6. Hondl: MOTION: that LWV MPLS pay 100% of its PMP to LWVMNEF. Seconded. MOTION PASSED.
7. Simmons: MOTION to approve LWVMN payment of outstanding LWV St. Peter PMP of \$178 to LWVUS. Seconded. MOTION PASSED.
8. Gochberg: MOTION: to approve LWVMN Policies as presented (as in Board packet). Seconded. Friendly amendment to table this till August Board Meeting. MOTION PASSED.
9. Convention Wrap-up -- \$7K in expenses and \$16K in receipts, so we did not lose money. A good time was had by all.
10. LWVUS is considering Mpls as their Convention site in 2006; decision to be made in August; letter of intent has gone out from LWV- MN, - Mpls, -St. Paul, and CMAL. More when more is known.
11. Nothing further on IRV study at this time.
12. Direction to Board from LWVMN Convention Delegates re: various items; civil liberties resolution was presented to LWVUS at Council.
13. Faribault project – fits with much of our strategic plan and diversity goals.
14. TPT town forum – funding is in progress and time tentatively set for Spring 2004.
15. VOTER – need dates for Member Workshops and any other dates; early Sept. is a very good time for its publication.  
This would be a good time for informational article about the MN Women's Consortium.
16. Home Town Diplomat Program: The State Dept. is offering a speaker to a gathering of us between July 28 and August 14. (Alice Watson). League members only.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m

**LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 13, 2003**  
**Minnesota Association of Counties**  
**125 Charles, St. Paul**

**Members Present:**

Gwen Myers, Carol Frisch, Mary Steen, Marsha Oliver, Ellen Biales, Helen Palmer, Hilary Ziols, Miriam Simmons, Melissa Palank, Connie Hondl, Stacy Doepner-Hove, Scott Marshall, Ady Wickstrom, Judy Stuthman, Vivian Jenkins Nelsen

**Staff Present:** Sally Sawyer, Heidi Losinski

Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She requested that the board members introduce themselves.

Sawyer requested that board members submit any volunteer hours, reimbursement requests, and articles for the president's mailing. Simmons asked how volunteer hours should be reported, either monthly or at the end of the year. Hondl indicated that hours could be submitted either way.

There were no revisions to the agenda.

**1. Minutes of March 22, 2003: Biales: Motion:** to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2003 LWVMN Board Meeting as printed (as corrected).

The motion received a second by Wickstrom and passed unanimously.

**2. Minutes of May 31, 2003: Biales: Motion:** to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2003 LWVMN Board meeting as printed (as corrected).

Several corrections were suggested for the minutes. These corrections included:

- Correction of Vivian Jenkins Nelsen's name which was incorrectly spelled;
- For consistency, Ady Wickstrom's first name should be removed from paragraph 1. Appointments;
- The minutes should include a start time;
- The minutes should include the name of the secretary as submitting writer;
- Removal of an extra "a" in paragraph 3. LWVUS Convention before the name Frisch.

The original motion was amended to approve the minutes with the above corrections. The motion received a second from Wickstrom and passed unanimously.

**3. Minutes of June 26, 2003: Biales: Motion:** to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2003, LWVMN Board Meeting as printed (as corrected). (Enclosed, white)

Several corrections were requested. These included:

- The date of the last board meeting scheduled should be March 13, not March 15;
- The sentence that begins with "clarify" under Housekeeping should be deleted;
- The name, Alyce Tidball, was incorrectly spelled in item 16. Home Town Diplomat Program.

The original motion was amended to approve the minutes with the above corrections. The motion received a second from Wickstrom and passed unanimously.

**4. Minutes of LWVMN Convention, May 30 & May 31, 2003:** Biales: Motion: to approve the Minutes of the LWVMN Convention of May 30 & May 31, 2003 as printed. Two corrections were requested. These included:

- On page 8, bullet 6, the word "clarify" should include a "c."
- On page 11, under C. Non recommended, the "s" following "question" should be deleted.

The original motion was amended to approve the minutes with the above corrections. The motion received a second by Wickstrom and passed unanimously.

**5. Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending 6/30/03:** Hondl: Motion: to accept the Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending 6/30/03 and file it for audit. The motion received a second by Doepner-Hove.

Hondl requested that the board review several line items including accounts payable and receivable, income overall, per member payments (pmp) due, individual contributions, volunteer hours and non-cash contributions, honoraria, and workshop expenses and revenue.

Hondl also pointed out the line 4500 for services provided. She indicated that this is the line that reflects the administrative costs charged by LWVMN to LWVMN Education Fund.

Sawyer indicated that the money coming in from the Power of 3 Campaign is masking some of the deficit that might otherwise be present due to reductions in funding from foundations and corporations.

The motion to approve the treasurer's report and file it for audit passed unanimously.

**6. Forgiveness of Outstanding Invoices:** Hondl: Motion: to forgive outstanding invoices of \$15,550.00 for services provided to the LWVMNEF.

Hondl explained that LWVMN provides staff and other administrative services to the LWVMN Education Fund to support its activities and projects. LWVMN bills the LWVMNEF for those services, including an administrative reimbursement fee. The list attached to the agenda included unpaid invoices from 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 that are unlikely to be paid and are mostly the administrative reimbursement fees for development and administration.

The motion received a second by Doepner-Hove and passed unanimously.

**7. LWVMN Corporate resolution for signing checks:** Hondl: Motion: RESOLVED, that the funds of this corporation be deposited in its name with the US Bank, and that the same be subject to withdrawal by checks, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, promissory notes and other orders for the payment of money made, signed, drawn, accepted, or endorsed in the corporate name and signed by one signer required including those drawn to be the individual order of any such officer and/or other person signing the same, without further inquiry or



regard to the authority of said officer of the use of said checks, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances, promissory notes or the proceeds thereof.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President or Treasurer, or bookkeeper or Executive Director are authorized to sign all necessary documents for that purpose.

The following are the signers for the corporation:

Helen Palmer, President  
Constance Hondl, Treasurer  
Sally Sawyer, Executive Director  
Tania Dolphy, MN Bookkeeper

The motion received a second by Frisch and passed unanimously.

**8. Approval of Connie Hondl in dual role:** Doepner-Hove: Motion: to approve Connie Hondl serving in dual role as Power of 3/part-time bookkeeper and Treasurer for LWVMN and LWVMNEF.

Doepner-Hove indicated that Hondl provides invaluable service in both her role as a staff person and as the LWVMN/EF Treasurer. She explained why this situation is unusual. It is related to the small number of hours that Hondl is able to work. Sawyer indicated that there are several people involved in the book-keeping for the organization, so there are a number of checks and balances. Because this is a departure from stated policy, the board was asked to explicitly approve this exception.

The motion received a second by Simmons and passed unanimously.

Several board members expressed an interest in having a tutorial on the finances. It was agreed that the board would request Hondl to provide a separate time for a tutorial in the near future.

**9. FutureTrek Review and Timeline:** Doepner-Hove: Motion: to approve a Board review of FutureTrek with final revision for Board approval at November meeting and distribution to the LWVMN membership in the January VOTER.

Doepner-Hove reported that the ad hoc FutureTrek committee feels that five years out from FutureTrek's writing, it is time to look at what has been accomplished, what has changed and what needs to happen next. To that end the committee has assigned parts of FutureTrek to each of the appropriate board members for review and revision. These reviews will be due back to the committee by October 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee will then compile the review, draft a formal revision for approval by the board at the November board meeting. This revision will then become part of FutureTrek and will be distributed to LWVMN members via the VOTER and our website in January of 2004. Doepner-Hove distributed a table that assigned board members to review different pieces of Future Trek.

Steen asked what would be included in The Voter. Doepner-Hove indicated that the article would be approximately ½ page in length. It would be a description of what the board has done and why.

Doepner-Hove indicated that she would e-mail the table to all of the board members so that they could amend it. She also indicated that the leadership training section still needs to be assigned to a board member.

The motion received a second by Myers and passed unanimously.

**10. Nominating Committee Appointments:** Frisch: Motion: to appoint Miriam Simmons and Judy Stuthman to the LWVMN Nominating Committee.

Frisch reported that the Nominating Committee is composed of three non-Board members elected by convention delegates and two LWVMN Board Members, appointed by the board. The elected members are Karen Langsjoen, LWV St. Cloud Area, Chair; Paulette Hastings, LWV Edina; Nancy Witta, LWV Minneapolis.

The motion received a second by Myers and passed unanimously.

**11. LWVMN Council Date for 2004:** Simmons: Motion: to approve the date of LWVMN Council next spring as Saturday, April 17, 2004.

Simmons reported that the Member Resources Committee needs to establish a date for next spring's council meeting, so that it will be possible for the committee to reserve a location. Wickstrom suggested that it might be a nice thing to try to find locations south of the Twin Cities, since past council's have been held to the north. Doepner-Hove suggested that Simmons send background about what type of space would be needed, so that other board members may be able to suggest potential locations.

The motion receives a second by Doepner-Hove and passed unanimously.

**12. Robbinsdale:** Simmons: Motion: to recommend to LWVUS that LWV Robbinsdale be disbanded

Simmons reported that the Robbinsdale LWV has had nine members for some time, they have been inactive, and voted to disband (rather than join the Crystal/New Hope/E. Plymouth League) in June, 2003. She indicated that the member resource committee did attempt to work with them on a possible merger, but there was little interest among the remaining members to continue.

The motion received a second by Doepner-Hove and passed unanimously.

**13. Membership Drive/contest:** Simmons: Motion: to approve a \$400 expenditure for a membership drive/contest that will begin in January 2004.

Simmons indicated that the contest would encourage local Leagues to expand their memberships. The funds for the contest could come from general funds (\$1,000 is budgeted for a campaign) or be drawn from Hope Washburn funds. Simmons indicated that the prize money would be awarded to the local League with the greatest percentage gain in members and the League with the greatest number at the LWVMN Convention in 2005. Prizes of \$200 to the winners of these two categories would be announced at LWVMN Convention in 2005.

Marshall asked what role the State League has in providing membership assistance to Local Leagues. Simmons indicated that the State League will



provide other information and tools to go along with the incentive of money. Doepner-Hove indicated that it would be good to provide local Leagues with a lot of support in addition to financial reward. Palank indicated that LOTT will also be encouraging connections between local leagues and new LOTT members.

The motion received a second by Palank and passed unanimously.

**14. LWVMN Policies:** Steen: Motion: to adopt the LWVMN Policies as printed (with the exception of the proposed publication policy for the website).

Steen requested that board members review the LWVMN policies that were enclosed with the board agenda. She reminded board members that the board had reviewed the policies at the last board meeting and tabled them for consideration at the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was suggested by Doepner-Hove that the draft publication policy for the website proposed by the communications committee needed to be reviewed by the voter service committee.

The motion received a second by Myers and passed unanimously.

**15. Digital Recording Electronic (DRE) voting:** Myers reported that the LWVUS position on DRE voting has been called into question by experts who believe that a paper trail is essential to safeguard our voting system. Included with the agenda was a packet of letters which outlined the issues raised by league members and other technical experts. Myers called attention to the letters that have been generated on the topic and suggested that the board consider a statement to the National League on the topic.

A motion was made by Doepner-Hove that LWVMN submit a formal request to LWVUS to withdraw its statement on DRE voting and if LWVUS takes action on this issue that LWVUS do this only after a League study, as is the tradition for our grassroots organization. This motion received a second by Wickstrom.

Frisch raised a concern about linking the position and suggesting a study. Sawyer indicated that the LWVMN could not suggest a study without formal action through a convention.

After significant discussion about the issue of DRE and LWVUS procedure, the motion was withdrawn.

A second motion was made by Doepner-Hove that LWVMN submit a formal request to LWVUS to withdraw its statement that individual paper ballots are not required to authenticate elections. This motion received many seconds and passed unanimously.

**16. Fiduciary Responsibilities:** Palmer requested that all board members refer to the booklet entitled *Fiduciary Duties of Directors of Charitable Organizations*. This booklet, prepared by the Attorney General's Office, is a guide for board members. It was distributed to all board members.

Wickstrom asked about whether or not board members are covered by any liability insurance for actions of the organization. After some discussion of the

merits of additional liability insurance, the board members requested that staff investigate what liabilities are included with the LWVMN general liability policy.

**17. Communications Survey:** Copies of the results of a communications survey were distributed to all board members. The survey was conducted and answers compiled by Peterson and the communication committee. Simmons requested that board members review the survey responses and comment to Peterson before the next board meeting.

Wickstrom also requested that board members take a look at the web site and give her feedback about what should be on the web-site. She requested that people use the list-serve for communications between committees.

**18. Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) Forum and Study updates:** Oliver reported that a group beyond LWVMN is working on the development of a forum on IRV. They plan to hold the forum in February at the Humphrey Center. At this point the forum seems to be slanting toward pro-IRV. She is concerned about what role the LWVMN should take in these discussions. Board members expressed agreement that both sides should be presented at the forum or LWVMN should not sponsor the forum.

Oliver also reported that the study on IRV will have its second meeting soon. At this time, the study committee is reviewing the scope of the study and hopes to develop a time-line.

**19. MAPA, the FACE Campaign and the League's role:** Myers reported on the status of the campaign to pass a Fair and Clean Elections bill similar to public financing systems in Arizona and Maine. LWVMN has held a leadership role for several years with this effort. Kay Erickson co-chaired the campaign for two years and Nancy Witta has co-chaired for the past two years. The group has begun meeting again to prepare for the next legislative session. Myers indicated that the FACE campaign may want LWVMN to co-sponsor some forums on FACE around the state.

Wickstrom indicated that it would be good to include some information about FACE on the LWVMN web-site.

**20. Portfolio Updates:** Simmons requested that board members review their portfolio descriptions on the LWVMN website, make revisions, and submit them to Sawyer as soon as possible. Sawyer indicated that she would like to have revisions out to local Leagues before Labor Day.

**21. VOTER Schedule:** Steen indicated that the *Voter* should be more than an announcement bulletin. She suggested that writers should try to find an interesting way to present the information to readers—not just list committee members or dates. She encouraged submissions to catch the reader's eye. "A good non-fiction piece should surprise and inform (and delight)." She also indicated that she is trying to include information about local Leagues as well as state League action. Steen listed a number of items that have been suggested for the next issue of the *Voter*. She indicated that submissions must be received by August 20. Steen stated that November, February, and March are the next tentative dates for the *Voter*.

**22. Fall Regional Workshops:** Simmons reported that regional workshops will be held in October; dates and local League hosts to be announced (White Bear/North Oaks/Mahtomedi is set for October 11<sup>th</sup>). She indicated that topics for the workshops

may include Action, IRV, Immigration Study, and Voter Service. Simmons indicated that the member services committee will let board members know when the dates and locations of the other workshops are set.

**22. Holiday Open House:** Simmons reported that a Holiday Open House has been set for November 17, 2003, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. She requested that board members reserve the date on their calendars.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The motion received many seconds and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ellen Biales, Secretary

**LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 8, 2003**  
**5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**  
**Minnesota Women's Building**  
**550 Rice Street, St. Paul**

**Members Present:** Palmer, Oliver, Frisch, Stuthman, Steen, Myers, Marshall, Doepner-Hove, Jenkins-Nelsen, Vang, Wickstrom, Gochberg, Hondl, Simmons, Peterson, Ziols, Palank, Biales,

**Staff Present:** Sawyer, Losinski

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Palmer.

**1. Revision of the Agenda:**

Frisch requested that the board add a brief discussion of the TPT project to the agenda. The board agreed to add this topic to the end of the agenda.

Doepner-Hove requested a few moments to remind the board members about completing their assigned tasks on the FutureTrek project. The board agreed to add some time to the end of the agenda to discuss this topic.

**2. Minutes of the August 13, 2003, LWVMN Board Meeting:** Biales:

Motion: to approve the Minutes of the August 13, 2003, LWVMN Board Meeting as printed. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. Treasurer's Report:**

Hondl reviewed the report with the board. She reported that we are ahead financially by comparison to last year. She indicated that this was in large part a result of the success of the Power of 3 Campaign. She also reviewed several other line items.

Hondl indicated that LWVMN is almost half way through its fiscal year. She indicated that the League is good at not spending money that we don't have. One of the ways the organization has saved money this year is by not hiring additional staff that had been anticipated in the budget for the year.

The report was approved as submitted.

**4. Direction to the Board:** Peterson: Motion: to adopt as Direction to the Board the following goals compiled from the PR/Marketing survey completed by board members in July, 2003.

Peterson reviewed the process of devising the goals for PR and Marketing. She indicated that this recommendation to the board is to serve as a reminder of the good things the organization does and needs to continue to do. She reported that the communications committee wants to encourage partnerships and opportunities. They also want to encourage communication among board members.

The motion received a second. The board members discussed the motion.

Wickstrom made one correction to the written goals. Under Item #7 she indicated that MPA is an e-mail list not a website.

Palmer reminded the board that Sawyer and Palmer need to review any publications or partnerships before they are publicized. Palmer also recognized Wickstrom for being recognized in the National Voter for the MN website.

The motion passed unanimously.

**5. LWVMN Publications Policy #8:** Steen: Motion: to adopt the following language for LWVMN Policy #8. Publications:

**Name of writers and contributors to a publication should be included. All publications including pricing, distribution, and number printed are reviewed by the President and Executive Director.**

**All LWVMN program publications will be reviewed for content and style by (an) expert(s) in the subject and (a) selected Board member(s).**

**The Voter Guide will be posted on the LWVMN web site each season. Other LWV publications will be posted as well, unless the communications committee, which includes the Executive Director and President, determines that they should be excluded, or that only part of the publication (table of contents, for example) should be posted. The committee will also recommend whether a publication should be on the public side of the web site or the Members Only side. Such decisions will consider the audience, visibility, mission, and potential revenues of the LWV.**

Background: The Board adopted the updated LWVMN policies at their August meeting with the exception of Policy #8 regarding publications on our web site. The Communications Committee discussed this and recommends this language be adopted to replace the existing. (The first two paragraphs are held over from the current policy.)

The motion received a second.

The motion was made to amend the policy language by deleting the two words "each season." The amendment received a second and passed unanimously.

A suggestion was made that the "members only" heading on the website be changed to "member resources."

**6. Approval of Debates criteria:** Doepner-Hove:

Motion: to approve Candidate Selection Criteria in the 2004 General Election Debates for MN Statewide Judicial Office.

Motion: to approve Candidate Selection Criteria in the 2004 Preprimary Debates for United States House of Representatives.



Motion: to approve Candidate Selection Criteria in the 2004 General Election Debates for United States House of Representatives.

Background: LWVMN sets criteria for candidate inclusion in debates well in advance of the election season, before candidates have announced (if possible) and before they have been nominated or have filed for office. This practice establishes the League's credibility as a nonpartisan sponsor of debates.

Doepner-Hove suggested one change— in each document that refers to House Candidates, "state-wide" should be stated as "district-wide." She also requested that board "editors" review for any language and punctuation corrections.

The motion to approve the criteria for debates for Judicial Office received a second. A question was asked about whether it makes sense to include polling data in the criteria for judges. Doepner-Hove indicated that polling is rare, but possible.

A question was asked about why the criteria are printed on LWVMN letterhead as opposed to LWVMN ED Fund letterhead. Doepner-Hove indicated that LWVMN makes policy for the organization.

The motion for criteria for debates for judicial office passed unanimously.

The motion for criteria for pre-primary US House debates received a second. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion for criteria for general election US House debates received a second. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Request for funds from FACE:** Myers: Motion: to approve a \$100 contribution from LWVMN to the FACE campaign.

Background: LWVMN has supported the Fair and Clean Elections campaign for several years; Kay Erickson served as co-chair until 2001; Nancy Witta, LWVMN's off-board Action co-chair, is currently FACE co-chair. Gwen Myers has also represented LWVMN to the FACE Steering Committee. The funds will be used to pay for a flier to be distributed in key districts.

The motion received a second. Myers described the contents of the flier and showed an example to the board. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Update on DRE issue:**

Palmer encouraged the board to review the information that had been included in the board information. Enclosed was Kay Maxwell's response to LWVMN's letter following the August 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Also enclosed were pieces from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights that may have been very persuasive to LWVUS and a letter to LWVUS from a Jeffrey Hatcher outlining his concerns about the basis of the National League's position on DREs.

Palmer reported that to date, the LWVMN letter has been sent to state League Presidents via email with a cover letter, urging state Leagues to consider proposing the topic for study. This information will also be shared with local League presidents and the lwvmn-share listserve. LWVMN has previously stated support for the LWVUS position on DREs in written comment to Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer and a letter expressing second thoughts is being considered. She indicated that LWVUS seems committed to their position that a paper trail is not necessary.

Palmer indicated that a few state Leagues have responded to the LWVMN letter. However, there is some concern that local Leagues may not have received an initial electronic copy of the letter. A hard copy of the letter was sent and LWVMN has begun to receive responses.

Doepner-Hove suggested that LWVMN get further responses from other state Leagues, and then decide if the LWVMN should take some additional action.

Jenkins-Nelson indicated that communities of color remain very concerned about this issue and how it leads people to feel increasingly disenfranchised.

Wickstrom indicated that there is a web-site that is collecting signatures from League members urging LWVUS to change their position. A question was raised as to whether it is appropriate to promote this website to LWVMN members. Wickstrom suggested that information be sent through the Member Resources list, so that the discussion stays within the League, as opposed to going public.

A motion was made to review this matter and take action at the next board meeting based on input from other state Leagues. The motion received a second. The motion passed.

Myers indicated that it would be perfectly acceptable for individuals to write letters to their elected representatives expressing their opinion on this matter.

#### **9. LOTT:**

Palank reported that invitations to the October 21 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow Rosalie Wahl Fundraiser are going out on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. She requested that the board members plan to attend this wonderful event.

Palmer congratulated Palank whose company GMAC gave \$500 to LOTT in recognition of her work with the program.

Palank also indicated that the LOTT steering committee has set the LOTT Seminar dates are set for January 15, 16, 17.

Palank thanked Wickstrom for setting up the LOTT section on the League website.

**10. Regional Meetings:**

Simmons gave a brief overview of the regional meetings which will be held throughout the month of October. Several topics will be covered including the IRV study. Simmons encouraged board members to attend.

**11. LWVMN Council:**

Simmons reported that the date for Council has been set for April 17, 2004. A site search is underway. Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington is under consideration. However, cost and convenience will be key to determining the final location. Simmons requested input from the board on other potential locations.

**12. Update on Election Systems Study:**

Oliver encouraged the board members to review the revised timeline for the study that had been included with the board information. The study committee hopes to share this timeline with local Leagues at the Regional Workshops.

Oliver also reported that the committee work is proceeding well and according to the submitted timeline.

**13. November 17 Holiday Open House:**

Simmons reported that the LWVMN would hold a Holiday Open House on November 17 from 2 to 7 pm. There will be tables for committees to set out information and "talk to folks and rope them in!" Attendees will be asked to bring membership and program ideas to write on paper hung in the room for this purpose. Simmons requested that other good ideas be sent to her. She also asked that board members plan to be in attendance for some part of the day..

**14. "The People Speak: America Debates its Role in the World" Event:**

Palmer reported that this program was hastily planned as a collaboration with the Minnesota Women's Consortium, LWVMN, the AAUW, the BPW, MN Women's Political Caucus, NOW, the YWCA Mpls and the Women's International League For Peace & Freedom. The program will be held from 5 to 7:30 pm at the MWB on Thursday, October 16.

**15. VOTER:**

Steen indicated that the committee is working on the next issue of *The Voter* that would be in member hands about mid-November. Deadline for articles is October 22.

The board agreed that updates on the DRE issue would be welcome, including information on websites and other resources where members can review information.

Steen requested suggestions for other articles for the Voter. She also requested interesting and well-written articles.

**16. Faribault Local League:**

Ziols reported that she has been sitting on a steering committee that resulted from a workshop that was held in Faribault. The group has discussed a number of issues, including affordable housing. Several League members are going to approach some of

the members of the steering committee to determine if there would be interest in forming a Faribault League. Ziols believes that there may be some interest in developing a Local League.

**17. SPAM:**

Wickstrom provided information about the difference between the LWVMN "open" e-mail lists and board e-mail lists. She discussed the difficulty of trying to deter "spammers" from utilizing these lists. Wickstrom continues to work on programming to screen for viruses.

**18. TPT Program:**

Frisch indicated that the Town Hall Forum with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) is still alive. The League has a collaborative partnership with many organizations to produce this show. The New American series will be on March 29, 30, and 31. The Walker Museum is one of the collaborating partners as they are working on more community outreach. There may be a preview of the series at the Walker followed by small group discussion to talk about how to use the series to promote community action. Frisch indicated that more information will be available as the series develops.

**19. FutureTrek:**

Doepner-Hove reminded the board to send comments to her after reviewing the FutureTrek document.

**20. Holiday Party:**

Palmer invited board members to participate in a holiday party on the evening of December 6. More information will follow.

**21. Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ellen Biales, Secretary



**LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, November 15, 2003**  
**Minnesota Women's Building**  
**550 Rice Street, St. Paul**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Melissa Palank, Juanita Peterson, Connie Hondl, Marsha Oliver, Hillary Ziols, Ady Wickstrom, Gwen Myers, Stacy Doepner-Hove, Scott Marshall, Chia Vang, Judy Stuthman, Karen Gochberg, Miriam Simmons, Ellen Biales, Helen Palmer

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sally Sawyer

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

**1. Housekeeping:**

Sawyer indicated that she would circulate a folder to collect volunteer hours and contributions for the President's mailing.

**2. Minutes of the October 8, 2003 Board Meeting:** Biales: Motion: to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2003 LWVMN Board Meeting, as enclosed (corrected).

The motion received a second and passed as corrected.

**3. Treasurer's Report:**

Hondl reviewed the financial statements for the board. She indicated that the League is now half-way through the year. She asked the board to consider several line items. The board discussed the financial relationship between the Education Fund and the State League. The State League owes the education fund money for rent and for staff time.

The board accepted the treasurer's report which will be filed for review.

**4. Revision of the Agenda**

Myers presented a letter from the League of Women Voters of Indiana requesting the board's support for the Great Lakes Restoration Bill.

A motion was made to support the Great Lakes Restoration Bill. The motion received a second and passed. The Action Committee will follow-up with the LWV Indiana.

**5. DRE: LWVUS Position, next steps:** Myers, Doepner-Hove:

Myers reviewed the most recent message from the LWVUS board that continues to maintain their position in support of DRE voting machines without a paper trail. She indicated that a review of the National League web-site provides limited information on the possible consequences of DRE without a paper trail..

Palmer reported that to date LWVMN has received few responses from other state Leagues regarding the DRE issue. However, the letter LWVMN sent did not ask for a specific response.

Concern was expressed about which "experts" LWVUS is relying upon to support their decision on DRE. The board members continued to believe that the issue needs additional response from LWVMN.



The board discussed actions that could be taken to continue the discussion. Participating in the LWVUS program planning process was seen as a pro-active way to address the issue. Doepner-Hove reminded that board members that there would need to be a group that would be willing to follow the program process at the national level and to solicit the support of other state Leagues.

A motion was made that the board take appropriate steps to approach other state Leagues to solicit support for making the consideration of DRE voting a LWVUS program item. The motion received a second and passed.

The members discussed the necessity of having a dedicated committee work on the topic and strategy for contacting other state Leagues. Simmons, Doepner-Hove, Wickstrom, Ziols, and Palmer agreed to form a committee. Other members suggested that Steen may have an interest in serving on the committee.

**6. Leaders of Today and Tomorrow:**

Palank thanked those members of the board who attended the Rosalie Wahl fundraiser. She indicated that the committee has begun planning the January workshop. Students from across the state are beginning to send applications.

Palank indicated that the committee has contacted Colleen Rowley, of the FBI, to serve as a keynote speaker. LWVMN board members and local League presidents may be invited to be a part of the event. The seminar will take place Jan. 15-17.

**7. Minnesota Women's Consortium: Gochberg:**

Gochberg gave an overview of the Minnesota Women's Consortium. The Consortium plays the role of connecting women's organizations from across the state. She presented an example of their newsletter and other information available from the consortium.

Gochberg reported that the Consortium will be holding its annual Celebration and Fundraiser on January 28 at the Bandana Square Conference Center. It will include a buffet dinner and artists marketplace. Gochberg also offered tickets for a raffle to support the work of the Consortium.

**8. FutureTrek: Doepner-Hove:**

Doepner-Hove indicated that she has received almost all of the reports from board members who are reviewing the *FutureTrek* document. She will reconstruct the chart with the suggested revisions. The *FutureTrek* Committee plans to meet again before Thanksgiving.

**9. Voter Service: Doepner-Hove:**

Doepner-Hove indicated that the candidate forum guidelines will be discussed at the next Voter Service Committee meeting. She also reported that the committee is awaiting a response from the Target Foundation on a large grant for voter service projects.

**10. Member Resources:** Simmons:

Simmons thanked the board members who participated in the Fall workshops. She indicated that members from 26 local Leagues participated.

Simmons reported that a location has yet to be determined for Council, but will be determined by the end of November. Council will be held on April 17.

Simmons reminded board members about the LWVMN open house on Monday, November 17. Simmons encouraged board members to attend.

**11. Action Committee:** Myers:

Myers indicated that the Action Committee has lost a few members this year. She reported that the committee needs additional members in order to be able to lobby effectively. She expressed concern that vital areas of the League program are not being covered at the moment.

A suggestion was made that the Action Committee consider an appeal to students to become Action Committee members. A suggestion was also made that new members get a thorough review on League positions.

**12. Study Committee:** Oliver:

Oliver reported that the Study Committee has developed a draft of the introductory section of the study on voting methods. They have decided to add a fourth method of voting for examination. The committee has been following their timeline and great progress is being made. The committee will meet again on Dec. 13.

**13. Communications Committee:** Peterson:

Peterson indicated that she is continuing to collect alumni/ae publications for "profiles in volunteerism." She indicated that this on-going project could generate some great publicity for the League.

**14. Juneteenth Committee:** Sawyer

Sawyer reported that the League has been meeting with a coalition to plan Juneteenth events. The League plans to focus on voter registration in addition to other activities that would begin during February (black history month) and culminate in the Juneteenth celebration in June.

**15. Citizen Information:** Marshall

Marshall indicated that the committee has discussed whether to continue holding the "Citizens in Action" workshop. The committee has also discussed creating a forum on the new social studies standards—but interest to date has been tepid. A suggestion was made that another forum topic could be DRE voting. The committee plans to discuss various options.

**16. Immigration Study Committee:** Stuthman:

Stuthman reported that the committee had made a presentation to a TESOL group and is beginning to speak to some church groups. She indicated that a meeting has not been set for the continuation of the study.

Stuthman reported that she attended a forum that discussed the under-employment of African immigrants in the medical profession. The Legislature will consider a bill authored by Linda Berglin that will allow African immigrants to avoid having to take a test for foreign students of medical schools.

Stuthman extended an invitation to board members to attend a naturalization ceremony on November 19 at Bethel College to distribute voter registration cards to new citizens.

**17. Faribault League: Ziols:**

Ziols indicated that she hopes to make progress on the creation of a local League in Faribault. She has been continuing to sit on the steering committee that was formed as a result of anti-racism workshops in Faribault. She indicated that the group may try to take the TPT forum into the public schools in Faribault.

**18. TPT Forum: Vang:**

Vang indicated that she has viewed the tape of the TPT forum, but she is not sure how the tape will be used. Funding continues to be tight and the timeline has been extended as a result. The committee continues to develop partnerships with organizations such as Neighborhood House to work on the project. The project remains a "work in progress."

Ziols reported that "Harmony Works" has developed modules to train individuals about anti-bias work. She hopes to attend an upcoming training sessions.

**19. Technology Update: Wickstrom:**

Wickstrom asked that board members be selective about which lists they use to send out e-mail messages because the League has been running into difficulty with anti-spam filters. She requested that board members use the LWVMN-share list as much as possible and to avoid sending to multiple lists at the same time. Some lists are designed only for committee information and exchange and others, who are not members, should not be encouraged to sign on as a blanket communication tool. Board members suggested that it would be helpful to know who is on these various lists.

Wickstrom also asked that the board to stop using the word "listserve." She instead encouraged board members to use the term "e-mail list." She hopes that this will help to eliminate some confusion.

Peterson indicated that the Communications Committee will discuss the web site at its next meeting.

**20. Minnesota Women's Foundation: Vang:**

Vang indicated that the Minnesota Women's Foundation has put together a committee to discuss policy issues and would like the League to make some presentations on advocacy.

**21. Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Biales, Secretary

**LWVMN Board Meeting  
Saturday, January 10, 2004  
Minnesota Women's Building  
550 Rice Street, St. Paul**

**Members Present:** Ady Wickstrom, Marsha Oliver, Gwen Myers, Melissa Palank, Karen Gochberg, Juanita Peterson, Connie Hondl, Scott Marshall, Stacy Doepner-Hove, Mary Steen, Carol Frisch, Miriam Simmons, Ellen Biales, Helen Palmer.

**Staff Present:** Sally Sawyer, Heidi Losinski

Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**1. Housekeeping**

Sawyer requested that board members place expense vouchers, volunteer hours, articles for the President's Mailing/Board Memo, and dates unavailable in the file folder that she provided.

**2. President's Report:**

Palmer requested that the board reschedule the February and March meeting dates. The board agreed to reschedule the February meeting to February 25, 5:30 –8:30 p.m. The board agreed to reschedule the March meeting to Sat. March 20, 9 am to Noon.

Palmer reported on an opportunity to purchase a new book by Brenda Ueland. The book, about the life of Clara Ueland, will be available to the LWVMN for \$15. The book could be purchased to use for fundraising. Steen suggested that promotion of the book would make for a good *Voter* article. Palank suggested that it would be great to have copies available at the council meeting.

Palmer reported on activities of the LWVUS. She indicated that she thought LWVMN should congratulate the LWVUS on defending the McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation before the U.S. Supreme Court. She also reported that a Democratic Presidential candidates debate will be sponsored by the National League and will take place in California on February 22, 2004. In addition, an Election Administration Commission has finally been appointed and the National Walk for Choice will be held April 25 in Washington DC. LWVUS is a sponsor of the Walk.

**3. Minutes of the November 15, 2003, LWVMN Board Meeting:** Biales: Motion: to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2003, LWVMN Board Meeting as printed (or as corrected). Enclosed, white.

The motion received a second. One addition and one correction were suggested.

Gochberg requested that item number 7, on the Minnesota Women's Consortium, include that the Consortium's annual celebration will honor women who work for justice in addition to including a buffet dinner and artists marketplace.



Sawyer made a correction to item 3, Treasurer's Report. LWVMN does not owe the Education Fund for staff time. The Education fund owes the State League for staff time and office cash.

The motion passed unanimously with the corrections noted.

**4. Treasurer's Report:**

Hondl reported on the LWVMN Finances. She requested that the board review line 1100 accounts receivable – LWVMNEF. She indicated that this line is about \$15,000 less due to bills that LWVMN has forgiven. The remaining bills for LWVMNEF are largely the administrative reimbursements.

Hondl also requested that the board review line 2020, Accounts Payable. She indicated that LWVMN owes LWVMNEF approximately one year's rent. When LWVMN's cash flow is better, it will be possible to pay this bill.

Hondl indicated that LWVMN has now completed about two-thirds of its fiscal year. She stated that LWVMN is under budget for operating costs because the organization has not hired all of the staff or given the pay increases that were indicated in the projected budget. She reported that Ady Wickstrom has been hired as the new web master and technology consultant.

**5. Revision of the Agenda:** Items may be added or removed by any board member.

Myers requested that the board consider a financial contribution to the Senior and Workers Coalition.

Frisch requested that the board consider a financial contribution to the Juneteenth celebration.

**6. Resignations:** Frisch: Motion: to accept the resignation of Ady Wickstrom from the LWVMN Board. The motion received a second.

Frisch reported that Ady Wickstrom is resigning from her position on the LWVMN Board to assume a paid staff position as webmaster and technology consultant. The motion passed unanimously.

Frisch: Motion: to accept the resignation of Chia Vang, with deep regret. Vang has indicated that she needs to reduce the number of activities in which she is involved. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

**7. FutureTrek:** Doepner-Hove: Motion: to approve the revised Action Timeline for FutureTrek. The motion received a second.

Doepner-Hove requested that the board review the Action Timeline for FutureTrek. She indicated that the draft that the board received prior to the meeting will be updated to include a few additional suggestions from board members. The document has been updated to conform with the reality of programs that LWVMN is actually doing. It is hoped that the document will be



widely disseminated so Local Leagues know that LWVMN is continuing to assess our programs.

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. **Resolution re VVPAT:** Simmons: Motion: to propose the following resolution at the LWVUS Convention:

***Whereas there is strong disagreement among League members on the position LWVUS has taken on whether a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail should be a requirement with Direct Recording Electronic Voting,***

***Be it resolved that LWVUS change its position***

***From: The LWVUS does support an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems, including, but not limited to, DREs. The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve those goals. An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs, and slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be needed to replace machines that don't work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other than an individual ballot paper confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems.***

***To: The LWVUS supports an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems.***

The motion received a second.

Simmons provided some background information about the resolution. This draft resolution was sent to local League Presidents in Minnesota for their consideration. It was also sent to a small group of League members (of which Ady Wickstrom is a member) throughout the country who are actively working to change the LWVUS position. She asked that the board consider how to proceed next.

The board discussed the resolution. Wickstrom indicated that there has been a great deal of discussion across the country regarding the resolution. Some state Leagues do not feel that the wording is strong enough. However, she feels that this resolution gets at the heart of the issue, rather than attacking the work of the National Board.

Palmer indicated that the work that has been undertaken on the resolution has been phenomenal. She feels that the way LWVMN has acted has been very respectful and yet continues to be proactive. Palmer has talked with a number of National League Board members and has been trying to understand their perspectives on the issue.

Palmer has been working to try to understand the proper protocol for bringing forward a resolution at National Convention. The LWWUS Board has suggested that a resolution could be considered in several ways. The LWWUS Board has indicated that they may need to consider this further and better define a process for bringing resolutions forward. Sawyer concurred that there could be several ways to try and get this discussed at the National Convention and believes that we should consider pursuing all of them.

A question was raised about whether or not Local League members have received word about this issue and are discussing it. Several members reported that they are hearing from Local League members who have questions and are beginning to raise the issue with their members.

Palmer presented a study on voting equipment and procedures that has been published by the LWW of Washington. Wickstrom will include a link to the study on the LWWMN site.

The motion to present the resolution at the National Convention passed unanimously.

Palmer requested that the committee that was formed at the November meeting to follow this issue continue to strategize about how best to disseminate this position.

9. **LWWUS Program Planning:**

Simmons requested that the board review the program-planning packet from LWWUS and the LWWUS Bylaws pertaining to Convention and Program Planning. She suggested that the board consider supporting the following two items:

**a. DRE Voting System:** Simmons: Motion: that LWWMN recommend a study on Direct Recording Electronic Voting to determine whether a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is necessary to guarantee a citizen's right to vote. The motion received a second.

Palmer indicated that passage of this topic would serve as a place-holder at the National Convention to ensure that the topic gets discussed.

The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Abolition of the Death Penalty Concurrence:** Myers: Motion: to support concurrence with the LWW of Illinois position on the abolition of the Death Penalty. The motion received a second.

Myers asked the board to review the position statement of the LWWIL Position on Abolition of the Death Penalty. She indicated that LWWMN can submit this under "other program recommendations" to LWWUS.

Myers gave a brief overview of the position. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Emergency Program Item on Abolition of the Death Penalty:** Myers: Motion: to propose to the delegates to the LWVMN Council an emergency concurrence of the delegates to the LWVMN Council with the LWVIL position on the Abolition of the Death Penalty. The motion received a second.

Myers explained that according to LWVMN bylaws, "The Council is authorized to change the Program only in the event of an emergency, provided that notice of proposed modification of the Program shall have been sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least two months in advance of the meeting of the Council." She indicated that this proposed concurrence would give LWVMN a position on the death penalty and would also strengthen support for the proposed concurrence for the LWVUS Convention in June.

The motion passed unanimously.

Sawyer indicated that the board will need to follow through with several steps to ensure that our positions get recorded.

11. **Approval of Lobbyists for LWVMN:** Myers: Motion: to approve the following as lobbyists for LWVMN during the 2004 session: Helen Palmer, President; Gwen Myers, Nancy Witta, Judy Duffy, Government; Allene Moesler, Environment; Kay Kessel, Education; Mary Lou Hill, Health Care/Long Term Care; Lynne Westphal, Mary Lewis Grow, Firearms/Handgun Violence Prevention; Pauline Nixon, Mental Health; Lorraine Fischer, Metro issues; Pat DeFrancis, Children and Families; Kris Madson, Housing; Sally Sawyer, Mackenzie Sullivan.

Sawyer explained that while Helen Palmer and Sally Sawyer are the registered lobbyists for LWVMN, the LWVMN Board formally approves members of the Action Committee who will be lobbying for the organization. Sawyer is the registered lobbyist for the organization.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

12. **No Child Left Behind:** Myers: Motion: that LWVMN co-sponsor with LWV Minneapolis a forum on the No Child Left Behind legislation. The motion received a second.

Myers explained that Kay Kessel, LWVMN's lobbyist on Education, and the LWV Minneapolis are planning a forum for February 28 and have asked LWVMN to co-sponsor. LWVMN responsibilities would be to help with planning and to assist with publicity.

Myers discussed the forum planning to date. Some concern was raised about needing to provide a balanced program at the forum.

An amendment was proposed and accepted to the effect that LWVMN would only sponsor the forum if it allowed for a balanced presentation. Sawyer and Palmer are authorized to determine LWVMN sponsorship.

The motion passed unanimously.

Peterson requested that members try to keep her up to date when working with others to plan events so that she can coordinate the publicity.

A motion was made that LWVMN provide up to \$100 for custodial fees in the event that the organization co-sponsors the program. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

13. **Juneteenth Celebration:** Frisch: Motion: That LWVMN approve co-sponsoring the Juneteenth Freedom to Vote Project. The motion received a second.

Frisch provided background information about the project. She indicated that LWVMN has been participating informally in this project to date.

The board members discussed how important it is for us to support this project as it meets many of our goals.

The motion passed unanimously.

14. **Seniors and Workers Coalition:** Motion: Myers: that LWVMN contribute \$50 to the Seniors and Workers Coalition. The motion received a second.

Myers reported that LWVMN has been meeting regularly with the Seniors and Workers Coalition.

The motion passed.

15. **Voting Study:** Oliver presented a draft of the consensus questions for the voting study and asked for feedback from the board members. She discussed some of the topics that have come forward in the committee's discussion. The board members offered input on the questions to date.

16. **LWVMN Council location and proposed Agenda:** Simmons: reviewed the proposed agenda for Council. The event will be held on April 17 at the Embassy Suites in Bloomington. She asked for feedback from the members.

17. **VOTER:** Steen asked for feedback on the next issue of the *Voter*.

The board discussed the possibility of sending the *Voter* to membership during the first week of March. Steen indicated that this date would make articles due by February 15.

18. **Leaders of Today and Tomorrow:**

Palank indicated that the LOTT seminar will be held January 15 through 17 at the Holiday Inn at McKnight Road and I-94. She noted that 47 students from across the state and from Wisconsin and North Dakota are participating. She outlined the program for this year. She asked that board members let her know if they would like to participate in any part of the program, particularly the dinner with F.B.I Special Agent Colleen Rowley.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by Ellen Biales, Secretary



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Board Meeting  
Minnesota Women's Building  
Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Attending: Doepner-Hove, Frisch, Hondl, Marshall, Myers, Oliver, Palank, Palmer, Peterson, Simmons, Steen, Stuthman, Sawyer, Wickstrom  
Not present: Biales, Jenkins-Nelsen

**Minutes**

1. **Housekeeping/** Expense vouchers handed in; all need to be in by the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 2004. There will be a Presidents' Mailing sometime in March; please inform Sally of items for the mailing.
2. **President's Report/Palmer**  
Thanks to Sally for handling all in Helen's absence. Lots going on and lots of requests coming in for LWVMN to do various things. Effort to revive MN Compact; looking for money to pay the project director. This will get LWV's name out.
3. **Minutes:** Motion: (Simmons) to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2004 LWVMN Board Meeting. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Hondl will present the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2004. Connie encouraged us to file all expense reports and volunteer hours as they are needed for accounting for the fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2004.
5. **Reports:** Hondl: LWVMN tax returns for 2002 were signed and filed; LWVMN's Charitable Organization Report, including financial statements and tax return, was filed with the Minnesota Attorney General following approval of the LWVMN Board via email. Let it be noted in the minutes that Melissa Palank abstained. The report and tax return will be circulated at the Board Meeting.
6. **Revision of the Agenda:** no revisions.
7. **LWVUS Program-Planning:** Motion: (Frisch) -- to approve recommendations to LWVUS as determined by board discussion and decision. We need to fill out the LWVUS program planning form. We were asked last time to review the program positions (as found on the LWVUS website and in *Impact on Issues*). A summary of LWVUS positions is in *Program for Action, 2003-2005*, included in the Presidents' Mailing and sent to you with this mailing. At the January 10, 2004 meeting we decided to submit a study of DRE voting as a recommended study, and a concurrence with the LWVIL position supporting the abolition of the death penalty. Specific wording for the proposed DRE study was emailed on February 24 along with more background information, including the letter from the LWVUS Board reiterating its opposition to a VVPAT. The Board reviewed each program item (to retain/ drop, and/or using at local or state level) and Carol Frisch compiled results.
8. **March for Choice:** Myers: Motion: that LWVMN join the Minnesota March for Choice Coalition. Seconded and passed unanimously.



**Background:** LWWUS is a member of the national coalition. Enclosed is background information. Note requirements for sponsors and requests for volunteers and contribution. Motion (Myers): to find out (via NARAL) how much it costs to sponsor a student and donate that much money. Not seconded. Mary Steen commented that individual members should be/could be encouraged to donate/support the march. No financial support from LWVMN at this time.

**9. Universal Health Care Coalition:** Myers: Motion: that LWVMN join the Universal Health Care Coalition in Minnesota. Seconded.

**Background:** see enclosed background materials provided by Mary Lou Hill. This was discussed at the LWVMN Action Committee Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The LWWUS position supports a universal, single-payer system. We will double-check with LWWUS before the board meeting to make sure the purposes of the coalition are consistent with LWWUS positions. Also included is a critique of the recommendations of the Minnesota Citizens Forum on Health Care Costs. Sally Sawyer commented another task force was appointed by Gov. Pawlenty and chaired by former Sen. Durenberger that made minor changes to existing laws. No monetary request. We likely do not agree with every detail of the bills they are currently working on. However,

Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Delegates to LWWUS Convention:** Simmons: Motion: to approve (Helen Palmer, Juanita Peterson, and Ady Wickstrom) as LWVMN delegates to the LWWUS Convention in Washington DC, June 11-15. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Background:** LWVMN has budgeted for expenses for three to four people. Each state League is entitled to three voting delegates and a visitor. The president has always been a delegate. There are many unfilled delegate slots among all of the local Leagues in Minnesota. Note that delegates go "informed but not instructed." Stacy Doepner-Hove commented on the importance of sending as many delegates as possible, particularly in view of the 2006 LWWUS Convention in Minneapolis.

**11. Disbanding of LWV Brooklyn Center:** Simmons: Motion: to recommend disbanding of the LWV Brooklyn Center to the LWWUS Board with deep regret. Seconded. And passed unanimously with regret.

**Background:** This League has had the same membership and leadership for many years and has declined to three members. They used to come to CMAL meetings and occasionally to LWVMN events, but recently have not been participating. The remaining members have been polled and two of three have said they should be disbanded.

## **Discussion**

**12. Voting Systems Study:** Oliver: Motion to revise the timeline for the Study. Seconded. Passed Unanimously.

**Background:** the Board and local Leagues have received a revised timeline for the study. (Letter was sent to local League Presidents in the February 17 mailing.) Following comments from internal and external readers, it became apparent that much work remains to be done. The committee is meeting Sunday, February 22 to review all of the comments and outline a work plan. Resources for local Leagues

who had planned upcoming meetings were included in the memo and information has been posted to our website. More information will be available at the board meeting.

**13. Immigration Study update:** Stuthman: will report on some interesting developments.

Judy commented on immigrant underemployment in nursing and H.F. 2277, which deals with testing requirements for nurses. This legislation removes a requirement for a test that would permit nurses to be licensed at less expense.

ACORN is a partisan organization helping to register new citizens; however, their technique left something to be desired as it was somewhat disruptive of the swearing-in process. Judy Stuthman's concern is that LWV could be sanctioned for someone else's actions; however, the judge told ACORN that only LWV can register the new citizens.

**14. Update on the New Minnesotans:** Frisch: plans are well underway for "The New Minnesotans," to be produced by tpt (Channel 2) on Thursday April 1 or Friday, April 2 at tpt's studio and aired Sunday, April 4 at 8 pm on Channel 17. This program will follow the airing of The New Americans, a seven-hour documentary to be aired on March 29, 30 and 31. The kick-off for The Minnesota Community Campaign was a screening of a portion of The New Americans at the Walker Art Center on Thursday, February 5. Judy Stuthman, Carol Frisch, Helen Palmer and Sally Sawyer were present and Joan Regal from the Immigration Study Committee represented LWVMN extremely well as part of a panel discussion following the screening. Partners include Neighborhood House, tpt, Intermedia Arts, Harmony Works, the Walker Art Center, the Center for Rural Policy and Development, Active Voice and LWVMN. This has been a demanding partnership but is paying dividends.

Also, on March 5, at Intermedia Arts, there is a showing of "Leaving Home, Finding Home", about immigrant civic participation. We are welcome to attend.

**15. LWVMN Council:** Simmons: will briefly review plans for April 17<sup>th</sup>. See the agenda enclosed in the Presidents' Mailing. Presenters are to be contacted. The Agenda is very full.

**16. LWVMN Convention:** Simmons updated the board on possible sites for the 2005 Convention: proposals have been received from Rochester and from WBL/NO/Mahtomedi.

**17. Iron-Jawed Angels:** Simmons will report. There were several problems, the most concerning of which was a lack of communication among HBO, LWVUS, and LWVMN. The event could have gone much smoother and events like these should be a lot of fun and give us good visibility.

**18. International Women's Day:** Simmons is looking for volunteers. This event will be held on Saturday, March 6 from 9 am to 4 pm at the University of Minnesota Law School. A few volunteers are needed to staff a table and tell people about LWV.

**19. Governor's request for \$20 million in bonding for Homeless:** Myers and the Action Committee are asking for guidance from the LWVMN Board. At the last meeting of the committee, there was lively debate about whether LWVMN should support this initiative. The controversy is that bricks and mortar are only part of the

solution and that funding is needed for support services—employment, case management, health care, etc. Kris Madsen, our housing lobbyist, is concerned that this initiative doesn't address the cuts made to human services and could be a meaningless gesture. Pauline Nixon, our mental health lobbyist, points out that many homeless individuals are persons with mental illness. She has conferred with both Barbara Flanigan, who has worked on the League's housing and mental health studies and is expert in both issues, and Rep. Mindy Greiling, who has worked on mental health issues in the legislature and is also a longtime LWV member and former state board member. They take the view that LWVMN could support this initiative but stipulate that support services and the funding for them are absolutely crucial.

Discussion: we need to support this, but also point out that this will not fund support services. The Coalition for the Homeless favors support.

**20. Constitutional Amendment for FACE:** Myers: once again, your advice. LWVMN co-chairs the Fair and Clean Elections (FACE) campaign, a coalition of 60 organizations. Since the chances for progress in the current legislature are slim to none, a proposal has been floated to put FACE on the ballot as a constitutional amendment. LWVMN action co-chairs and executive director are inclined to oppose this strategy. We have opposed constitutional amendments for matters best handled by the Legislature and would be reluctant to change that position when it suited LWV interests. The lobbyist for this issue, Beth Fraser of MAPA (Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action) was to meet with Matt Entenza, the House Minority leader, to discuss strategies. Because Nancy Witta, representing the League, is the FACE co-chair, LWVMN opposition or support will be critical and would constitute a "veto" should we oppose it.

The discussion generally was that we should not support this strategy.

**21. No Child Left Behind:** Myers: see the flyer enclosed with this agenda packet. The forum, co-sponsored by LWVMN and LWVMpls, will be held Saturday, February 28, at the Minneapolis Park Board Administrative Building in Minneapolis.

**22. Leaders of Today and Tomorrow:** Palank: the Leaders of Today and Tomorrow seminar (January 15 to 17) -- this was the 11<sup>th</sup>; 45 students attended (MN, SD, WI); of 20 scholarships, 16 applied on-line (thanks, Ady!); still getting input via the web site. About 70 people attended opening night dinner, with many LWV members. Made good connections with the students. Colleen Rowley was given a league membership and looks forward to doing more with us when she retires. Connected with new group: Every Woman Votes. Melissa will bring more information and contacts from them.

**23. Voter Service for 2004:** Doepner-Hove: LWVMN has a very ambitious election year agenda, including debates in each of 8 Congressional districts. We are still looking for money to pay for all this. All TV stations are much more interested in us this election season; WCCO may be interested in hotline again. KSTP has agreed to do Road to Election Day and would like to televise debates. KARE wants links to our website; does not want to do hotline again; could be interested in televising debates. UPN/FOX interested in debates, also hotline. MPR has not responded to us and typically will not get involved with us.

Will have forum training at Council; Moderators training in August. Linda Loomis will run hotline again. Want to put together information packet that would include party information, state officials, voter guides, voter registration information, judicial guide, etc.

MN Compact – will try to hold conferences on this and educate on this. Voter Guide is fully funded by Target Corp. again; Edie Kargas is working on this design also.

Stacy asked for advice re: wording over empty-chair debates, and we discussed our recommendations over this problem, which local leagues often face in candidate forums.

**24. C4 Appeal for LWVMN:** Frisch: reported on plans for our C4 appeal letter for LWVMN, a 501(c) (4) organization (contributions are not tax-deductible). This appeal will raise funds to support our legislative agenda. Legacy Circle Luncheon is set for May 18.

**25. Voter Service Outreach Requests for the 2004 Election Season:**  
Simmons and Doepner-Hove: see memo to LWVMN Board and Staff enclosed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Simmons  
February 25, 2004