



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2005
6:10 p.m.
MWB Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Palmer, Hondl, Myers, Ziols, Regal, Oliver, Stuthman, Peterson, Doepner-Hove, Steen, Simmons, Frisch, Palank, Biales,

Staff Present: Sawyer, Wickstrom

Others Present: Karen Langsjoen, Nominations Committee Chair; Liz Nordling, Budget Committee Chair.

Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Housekeeping:

Sawyer requested that the board members turn in volunteer hours and voucher expenses as the end of the fiscal year is March 31st. She indicated that the Presidents' Mailing is scheduled to be in the mail the week of March 21st and that the mailing will include proposed slate of officers & directors, proposed program, proposed budgets and the bylaws committee report. She requested that the board members let her know of any other items to include in the mailing.

Sawyer requested that requests for use of staff time be made through her. With all of the activities underway, this is necessary to make sure that staff are not being overwhelmed.

President's Report:

Palmer reviewed the process of reconsidering the vote on Per Member Payments (PMP). She indicated that the board would discuss this further later in the meeting.

Palmer reported that Scott Marshall has asked to resign from the board due to other commitments. The board will consider his resignation later in the meeting.

Palmer reported that the diversity committee had met for a 3rd time and 18-20 people have been participating. She indicated that the discussion has been very fruitful. More information will be forthcoming.

Palmer indicated that she is very excited about the convention. She is in discussion with LWVUS to see what other activities Kay Maxwell may want to undertake while in town.

Palmer called attention to the recent correspondence from LWVUS allowing local leagues to use the language that LWVMN advocated at National Convention on SARA voting systems. LWVUS has also sent a letter to the Bush Administration in opposition to their plan to privatize Social Security.

Palmer contacted that lobbyist for LWVUS to discuss a letter that indicated that there is no constitutional right to vote. LWVUS is interested in pursuing this further.

Palmer reported that Valerie Pace will be providing additional, donated IBM equipment to LWVMN. The previously donated equipment has been put to good use.

Palmer indicated that there have been some discussions about co-sponsoring informational forums on the separation between church and state with the College of St. Catherine. At this point, St. Catherine's has decided to do the series without LWVMN.

Minutes: Biales: Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2/29/05 LWVMN Board Meeting.

The motion received a second.

Hondl indicated that there should be a correction on page 2: the amount attributed to volunteer hours should read \$73,000.

A second correction should be made to the bottom of page 1, Shirley Eberle's last name should be spelled "Eberly."

The motion as amended was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Hondl: the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 28, 2005 will be filed for audit.

Hondl distributed a corrected version of the Treasurer's Report.

She reviewed line items with the board. One in-kind contribution was several video tapes of "A conversation with the League." Hondl reported that \$9,730 has been brought in through the 501(c)(4) appeal letter. Hondl indicated that LWVMN is currently at 92% of the year and the organization is on target with our operating expenses.

Development Report: Frisch:

Frisch reported that the Annual Appeal for LWVMN has brought in over \$9,000. This amount reflects two solicitations in this fiscal year; the second mailing was moved up from May to accommodate the Power of 3 Campaign schedule and to have the mailing coincide with the Legislative Session. Sawyer indicated that as of today, \$9,730 has been contributed.

Revision of the Agenda: all

Steen requested a brief report on *The Voter*.

Stuthman requested a brief report on Immigration projects.

The board agreed to add these items to the agenda.

Resignation: Stuthman: Motion: to accept the resignation of Scott Marshall from the LWVMN Board with deep regret.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously. The board discussed how much they had enjoyed Marshall's participation.

Presentation of Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors: Stuthman for Langsjoen: Motion: to accept the report of the Nominating Committee re: the Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2005-2007.

Langsjoen presented background information on the proposed slate. She indicated that the slate will be presented to delegates to the LWVMN Convention in May. Six officers, eight directors, the Chair of the Nominating Committee and two off-board Nominating Committee members and the Budget Chair are to be elected. Up to eight more directors may be appointed by the President with the approval of the board. The Proposed Slate will be mailed to local League Presidents the week of March 21st and will be published in the next issue of the VOTER. Immediately following the convention session, the board will meet to approve the appointed directors.

Langsjoen made one correction to the proposed slate that had been sent to the board members in advance. The slate should reflect that Palank is from LWV Bloomington, not LWV Edina.

Langsjoen reported that the committee was able to fill most of the positions for the board. They worked on filling portfolios—so that all board members understood their positions well. They were careful to select individuals who have an understanding that the LWVMN board is a working board and LWVMN is a broad-based organization.

Langsjoen indicated that several members of the current board have agreed to return. There are also a number of new members. The committee was concerned that they were not able to fill the positions with more diversity—including age, race, and members from Greater Minnesota. Part of the difficulty in attracting members from greater Minnesota is the drive into Saint Paul for the meeting.

The motion received a second.

A question was raised about why the League appoints 1st, 2nd, and 3rd vice presidents. Langsjoen indicated that these are the individuals who could take on the presidency in case of emergency. The committee set criteria for selecting these individuals.

Langsjoen indicated that no chair for the nominating committee has been named. There has also been no chair named for the budget committee. The nominating committee is continuing to work on filling these positions.

Steen commended the committee for their hard work.

Doepner-Hove indicated a concern about not receiving an update from the committee throughout the course of the year. Langsjoen described the process and the perspective of the nominating committee. From the perspective of the committee they felt that they had requested feedback from the board members on the forms that had been sent previously. Simmons suggested that there should be some discussion about process because the manual does indicate that this work should be undertaken in separation from the board, so that the board does not perpetuate itself. The board agreed that the nomination process should be examined.

The motion passed unanimously.

Palmer again thanked the committee for their work.

Presentation of Program Report and Recommended Program:

Doepner-Hove: Motion: to recommend retention of the program of the LWVMN 2003-2005 as attached and to include the new alternative voting systems position.

The motion received a second. Doepner-Hove indicated that she included all suggestions that had been made (that were legible). She asked the board to consider all of the suggestions and provide feedback on what should be included. The board discussed what should come forward.

Doepner-Hove suggested that the board describe the whole process at the convention and discuss the dilemma of how different Leagues are viewing program update and communicating their information. Peterson suggested holding a caucus at convention and also making it a topic of discussion at the fall workshops. Steen indicated that it might be worthwhile to have a subcommittee that examines program in greater detail.

It was agreed that Doepner-Hove will discuss at the convention the process this year and speak to how the board will proceed forward.

The motion passed unanimously.

Doepner-Hove: Consideration of a study recommendation:

Doepner-Hove discussed the process for selecting a study. She reviewed the study suggestions from Local Leagues. The board discussed the possibilities.

A motion was made that the board recess briefly to allow time for board members to discuss potential recommendations for study topics. The board agreed to take a brief recess.

The board reconvened.

Doepner-Hove: Motion: to recommend a study entitled "Minnesota Government Agencies: Do Their Actions Match Their Charters" as the new LWVMN Study for 2005-2007.

The motion received a second. The board discussed the possibilities for this study. The motion passed on a 7-6 vote.

A motion was made to include a specific question about whether or not the agencies are providing adequate protection/enforcement for Minnesota citizens. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Presentation of Proposed Budgets for LWVMN/EF for 2005-06 & 2006-07:

Frisch for Nordling: Motion: to approve the proposed LWVMN Budgets for 2005 & 2006 and for 2006-2007.

Liz Nordling asked if the board members had any questions about the proposed budgets that had been distributed in advance. She briefly spoke about the work of the committee.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously. The board thanked the budget committee for their hard work.

Per Member Payment Ad Hoc Committee: Peterson: Motion: to create an ad hoc sub-committee to discuss and consider the pros, cons, and impact a raise in Per Member Payment (PMP) would have on local Leagues and LWVMN and request that the committee report back with a recommendation to a subsequent board meeting.

Peterson gave some background information to the board. She reminded the board members that the motion to increase the PMP by up to \$5 for the ensuing biennium was brought up for reconsideration and on reconsideration the motion was defeated. This reconsideration raised a number of questions for the board. It was thought that some additional analysis and discussion with the Local Leagues would be prudent before taking any action to increase PMP. Therefore, an ad hoc committee was proposed.

The motion received a second and passed with one vote in dissent.

Bylaw Amendments: Myers: Motion: to approve the recommended changes to the LWVMN Bylaws as presented to the board.

The motion received a second. Doepner-Hove spoke to the changes and why they were suggested.

Peterson suggested one change: the "c" in Nominating Committee under article VIII should be capitalized.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

Convention 2005 in Rochester: Simmons:

Simmons requested that the board members make their hotel reservation before April 21. She also requested that board members register for the convention. She indicated that Wickstrom will have the registration available on the web site within the next week.

Simmons also requested some volunteer assistance from board members. Several members offered to assist.

Report on trip to DC re: Clear Skies Bill: Frisch and Ziols:

Ziols indicated that their trip to lobby on the Clear Skies Bill had been paid for by the National Environmental Trust. They lobbied Minnesota Senators on the Clear Skies Legislation. The environmental coalitions that are working on this issue, were very grateful to have League support. Frisch reported that they had received lots of good information and are continuing to receive updated information on the pending legislation and rule making.

Action Committee: Myers:

Myers gave a brief update on John Marty's opposition to the FACE bill. Unless there is some movement on the bill, the funders of the FACE coalition may begin to withdraw financial support. Marty does not want any party involvement in campaign financing. However, the AFL-CIO is insistent that parties remain involved in campaign financing.

Myers also gave a brief update on the machinations with the Off Highway Vehicles bill.

The Voter: Steen

Steen indicated that the Voter will be going out a little bit later than originally anticipated, so ideas for articles and information must be received soon.

Steen also reported that Amy Gage interviewed Kay Maxwell for the next issue. The article should be very interesting and informative.

Immigration: Stuthman:

Stuthman reported on a meeting that was organized following the bills that will allow in-state tuition for undocumented citizens.

She also requested assistance at the next citizenship ceremony at Luther College. The next ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 23.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

**LWVMN Board Meeting
Saturday, February 19, 2005
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul**

Members Present: Palmer, Jenkins-Nelsen, Palank, Ziols, Hondl, Peterson, Doeppner-hove, Myers, Steen, Simmons, Biales, Stuthman

Staff Present: Sawyer, Losinski, Wickstrom,

Others Present: Jane Gilley, LWV Duluth, Liz Nordling, LWV White Bear Lake

Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

1. Housekeeping: Sawyer:

Sawyer requested that the board members turn in volunteer hours, expense forms and articles for the Presidents' Mailing, to be mailed week of February 14.

Sawyer indicated that the MN Women's Campaign Fund will be holding a luncheon on May 10 featuring Donna Brazille. The League has purchased a table and is still looking for a few people to fill seats. Tickets are \$100.

2. President's Report: Palmer

Palmer reported that she put together a "think" session to talk about the future of the League. Another has been planned for March 22, 9 – 10:30 at Café Amore on Grand Avenue (Grand and Milton). All board members and others are invited to attend.

Palmer also called the board's attention to the handout from LWV Illinois about membership. This remains a critical need for the League. LWVMN has 2175 members. In 1979 we had 4,000. Palmer reminded the board that it is our job to turn this trend around.

Palmer indicated that she had participated in a large celebration for the Northfield League. It was a wonderful celebration and a great look back at history.

Palmer asked the board to review the agenda from LWVUS. There are many interesting projects that they plan to take on in the next year.

Palmer reminded the board that every state League has a liaison from LWVUS. Shirley Eberle, Rochester NY and LWVUS will be coming to meet with Local League members on March 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the League Office. Palmer indicated that it would be nice to have board members and other League members present.

3. Minutes of January 8, 2005, LWVMN Board Meeting: Biales: Motion: to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2005, LWVMN Board Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2005: Hondl: to file the January 31, 2005, Treasurer's for audit.

Hondl indicated that the Power of 3 Campaign has been important for improving cash flow. She indicated that LWVMN is now at 83% of the budget year. Hondl compared the financial statements for several items to last year's at this time.

Hondl reported that the donated volunteer time equaled \$98,000 dollars. This is typically under reported—but it is possible to see the impact. Hondl requested that board members make sure that they turn in their volunteer hours.

Board members asked questions about several line items related to budget vs. actual expenses. Sawyer explained that budgets are a best approximation of where the organization will be and actual expenses will vary for certain line items.

5. Audit Report: Hondl:

Hondl reported that the LWVMN tax returns and report to the Charitable Organizations Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office were filed on February 7, 2005. LWVMN's financial statements were compiled rather than audited. A compilation is a less rigorous process; an audit is required by the state of Minnesota if revenues exceed \$350,000. The LWVMN Board approved a resolution regarding the filing of the financial statements via email on February 7. The statements were available at the board meeting for review. Auditors have offered to meet with the board to review statements and to answer questions.

Hondl passed the audit report around the table. She reviewed the breakdown of activities as reported in the 990. These figures are very positive with over 80% of LWVMN expenditures going for program.

6. Revision of the Agenda: all

Doepner-Hove requested a report from the Nominating Committee

The board agreed to add this item to the end of the agenda.

7. Alternative Voting Systems Consensus Report and proposed statement: Steen for Gilley: Motion: to approve the consensus report of the LWVMN Alternative Voting Systems Study.

Myers for Gilley: Motion: to approve the proposed position statement on Alternative Voting Systems as presented (or amended).

Gilley reported that the report was presented to the study committee on February 12. The committee has also drafted a proposed position statement to be presented to the board for adoption.

Gilley reported on the results of the consensus report. 75% of the Local Leagues participated. She reviewed the responses that were received on the questions. She indicated that the written comments provide a wealth of information in addition to the quantitative information. Some of the written answers qualified the quantitative information.

The board members asked a number of questions about the study.

Gilley discussed the positions that were developed as a result of the report. She indicated that some of the positions were very clear from the quantitative information provided. However, the committee decided to give the board some leeway to determine the appropriateness of pursuing various courses of action on legislation—depending on what the specific legislation calls for.

The board discussed the various position statements. After discussion, it was decided that the committee will change the order of sentences in position 1 to better reflect the quantitative results. After continued discussion, it was decided that position 1 and 3 should be combined

A motion was made to approve the consensus report with commendation to the committee. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the position statements as presented. The motion received a second. A motion was made to amend the original motion to change the order of the sentences in the first position and to delete "in addition." The motion to amend passed unanimously.

A motion was made to change the order of positions 2 and 3. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the proposed position statement as amended. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

8. LWVUS Council plans and delegates: Simmons: Motion: to approve sending Helen Palmer and Juanita Peterson as LWVMN delegates to the LWVUS Council in Washington D. C. June 11-13.

Palmer reminded the board that the President has customarily represented LWVMN at Council; Peterson was selected as a delegate as she will work on promoting attendance at LWWUS Convention 2006 in Minneapolis.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

9. LWVMN/EF Budget Discussion: Liz Nordling, LWVMN/EF Budget Chair

Liz Nordling presented information on the proposed budget. The budgets for LWVMN and LWVMN/EF are intricately related as LWVMN received a large portion of its budget from LWVMN/EF.

The board asked a number of questions about the proposed budget. Doepner-Hove asked why the board did not consider raising Per Member Payments (PMP).

Peterson made a motion to raise the dues for members-at-large to \$60 for an individual and \$85 for household. The motion received a second. There was some concern expressed about how new members and members with limited incomes can afford to pay for these memberships. It was suggested that the motion would be amended to include a category for introductory membership and students at \$25. This amendment was accepted. The amended motion received a second and passed unanimously.

The board members then took up a discussion of PMP payments. Doepner-Hove indicated that increased PMP could allow for another part-time staff person for LWVMN and that this is important. However, Hondl and Myers indicated that increasing the PMP could be devastating to some Local Leagues. Simmons and Palank spoke to allowing the convention to discuss the topic.

A motion was made to recommend to the budget committee that the PMP be raised by up to \$5. The motion received a second. The motion passed with several members in dissent.

10. LWVMN Convention plans update: Simmons

Simmons provided an update on the latest plans for the LWVMN Convention to be held in Rochester, May 12-14.

Simmons distributed new forms for the Convention. Information packets will go to each League and will identify how many delegates they can send. Simmons indicated that the most important goal is to have people participating.

Simmons indicated that board members will not be charged to participate in Convention activities. However, room reservations will be reimbursed and should be made early. Board members also must register for the conference in advance. The board members will be responsible for paying for the extra activities.

Simmons reviewed the proposed convention agenda. The board commended the committee for their work.

11. Action Committee Report: Myers

Myers reported on issues being followed by LWVMN lobbyists at the legislature.

Myers encouraged the board members to review the Capitol Letter. It appears that legislators are reading it in addition to LWVMN membership since the committee has gotten some feedback on a few topics. Myers indicated that members don't need to join the committee long-term but can participate as different activities come to the forefront.

A motion was made to pay \$50 in dues to Seniors and Workers for Quality. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

12. Voting Rights Coalition: Doepner-Hove and Myers

Myers reported that she and Doepner-Hove have been representing LWVMN in the Voting Rights Coalition, which is following election law legislation and regulations. See enclosed voting rights agenda for details.

Doepner-Hove distributed the legislative agenda and membership list of the Voting Rights Coalition. She indicated that the committee is working on having the initiatives written in bill form and having the bill introduced in the House and Senate.

13. Diversity Task Force: Jenkins Nelsen

Jenkins Nelsen reported on the progress of the Diversity Task Force to date and on meeting with Karen Starr of the Bremer Foundation. She reported that members of the Task Force visited the Bremer Foundation about getting funding for a series of dialogues with women of color and others who typically don't interact with the League. The dialogues would take place over the course of a year culminating with a large summit. The Bremer Foundation encouraged the League to submit a proposal.

14. International Women's Day: Simmons

Simmons indicated that she is recruiting volunteers to staff a table (shared with LOTT) for International Women's Day at Coffman Union, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus, to be held on Saturday, March 12 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Sponsored by Minnesota Human Rights Advocates, this event presents an outstanding opportunity for visibility and networking.

15. LOTT: Palank

Palank reported on the successful LOTT conference. Marie Wilson was the keynote speaker for the fundraiser and was a phenomenal speaker. The LOTT steering committee will need to evaluate the efficacy of doing the fundraiser and conference at the same time.

Palank also reported that the LOTT program is looking at setting up a mentorship program for the new members who were recruited during the conference. The idea is to have local League members actively work with the young LOTT participants.

16. The New Minnesotans: Stuthman

Stuthman reported that she has been working with Carol Frisch on an edited version of the LWVMNEF/tpt program aired last April on Channel 17. This program is being shortened and will be accompanied by a discussion toolbox. Funding has been received for this undertaking through collaboration with the Minnesota Community Campaign.

Stuthman reported that Intermedia Arts will be reducing the video tape to 25 minutes which will be available for use at various locations.

Stuthman also indicated that the League has been invited back to the citizenship ceremony at Bethel College to help register voters. She indicated that she is still looking for volunteers to help register these new voters.

17. VOTER: Steen

Steen indicated that she has a tentative deadline for articles for the next issue of the VOTER for March 15. She requested articles for the Voter. She indicated that she is considering a profile of Kay Maxwell. The board agreed that this would be a good idea.

18. Nominating Committee: Simmons

The nominating committee gave a brief report. They have been meeting and will give a full report at the March meeting.

19. Recognition Award: Palmer

Palmer indicated that the board sometimes provides a special recognition to individuals who have provided outstanding service to the LWVMN. She indicated that there was an individual that several members of the board were hoping to acknowledge this year. A motion was made to give a special recognition award at

Convention and provide resources to purchase a small award gift. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

20. Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, January 8, 2005
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Members Present: Palmer, Frisch, Oliver, Ziols, Myers, Hondl, Peterson, Marshall, Doepner-Hove, Gochberg, Molenaar, Steen, Simmons, Biales, Stuthman

Staff Present: Sawyer, Losinski, Wickstrom

Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Housekeeping: Sawyer:

Sawyer requested that board members turn in vacation dates, vouchers, volunteer hours, and articles for the Presidents' Mailing.

2. President's Report: Palmer

Ady Wickstrom reported that Millie Johnson passed away. She was a long time League member and member of the Voter Services Committee. At 7:30 p.m., Feb 23, at the St. Louis Park Community Center, the St. Louis Park League will be holding a celebration of her life and the city will be naming it Millie Johnson Day. Palmer recognized Ady and the Local League for being a family for Millie in her final days.

Palmer reported that LWVMN may have a visit from Kay Maxwell of the National League. The member resources committee has suggested that she attend the LWVMN Convention.

Palmer indicated that is incredibly important that the board continue to recruit members. LWVMN needs folks to be working on committees. Palmer indicated that she thinks it would be important that we form a committee to prepare for convention around the topic of DRE.

Palmer sent around an article written by John Conyers and received a strong response about whether the article was too partisan to go out on the SHARE list. On the issue of Voter Fraud, John Conyers has asked that the judiciary committee to investigate voter fraud during the last election. The communications committee is planning to discuss how best to use these lists.

A committee is forming to update the "You are the Government" brochure. A public forum on Church/State relationships is also in the works.

Palmer reminded the board that the LWV is turning 85 this year. Palmer asked if the board wants to do some sort of celebration. She asked board members to contemplate this.

3. Minutes: Biales: Motion: to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2004 LWVMN Board Meeting as enclosed (and corrected). Scott Marshall served as acting Secretary on behalf of Ellen Biales for the 11/17/04 meeting.

The motion received a second. The motion was amended to have the minutes indicate that Item 9. Diversity Task Force—should be listed as a Summit for Women including women of color.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report: Hondl

Hondl presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending 11/30/04. She indicated that the organization is now at 66% of the budget year.

5. Compilation of Financial Statements/990 & Charitable Organization Report filing status report: Sawyer and Hondl

Hondl reported that the compilation of the 990 for LWVMN is complete. The bookkeepers are continuing to deal with the full audit for the Education Fund. There have been some changes to the procedures that must be followed. The auditors can no longer do some of the things they did in the past. That means Hondl has had to do more reporting than before which has proved to be very time consuming. There is a deadline of February 15 that we must meet.

Sawyer reported that the auditors had a site visit to begin the audit. They made some suggestions that staff are already carrying out. If the board requests, the auditors are willing to come to a future board meeting to explain the audit and answer questions. The board members thought this would be helpful.

6. Revision of the Agenda: items may be added or removed at this time.

Wickstrom asked for the addition of a discussion on DRE. The board agreed to add this item to the agenda.

7. Legislative Preview: Myers

Myers indicated that the most recent *Voter* gave a good overview of the issues that are likely to appear during the session this year. The State budget will be the number one issue this year. A preview of the legislature does not present a very hopeful outlook for League positions. The Action Committee has a meeting on January 14 with Joel Krammer and on January 22, with Education Commissioner Alice Seagren.

Wickstrom indicated that she had received an e-mail from the League of Minnesota Cities indicating that Diebold has been approaching the Minnesota Legislature to get state language changed that would not require a paper trail. This is very concerning because this language is the only thing preventing the

state from going to DRE. The action committee plans to follow this closely.

8. Summary of Evaluation Reports: Peterson

Peterson reviewed the results of the evaluation worksheet that was sent to all board members. Membership and financial stability remain key issues. The nonpartisan nature of the League remains a key value and one that needs to be maintained through all of our work.

Peterson compared our results with some that have been collected by LWWUS. Nationwide people are joining the League because they share these values. Few people are joining the League by being asked directly. We need to do a better job of doing this direct outreach.

9. LWVMN Convention: Simmons

Simmons gave an overview of the 2005 LWVMN Convention to be held May 13 & 14 in Rochester. She reviewed a couple of highpoints from the convention program. She reminded the board that our participation is expected, so she encouraged board members to put this event on our calendars. She indicated that the committee will need some board participation to assist with things such as registration. The theme is "Healthy Leagues, Healthy Communities."

10. LWVMN Bylaws Discussion: Doepner-Hove and Myers

Doepner-Hove and Myers reviewed the LWVMN Bylaws for possible revision at the LWVMN Convention. A form for local League proposed bylaw amendments was included in the November Presidents' Mailing. The board discussed several possible amendments including:

- (1) **The fiscal question** - Why is it that our fiscal year starts April 1st? Since most corporations (both non and for profit) begin July 1st, and since it means we run for a month or two without an approved budget (since convention isn't until May), is there a reason we don't know about that we start in April? (Sawyer has given some perspective on this issue which should be discussed.)
- (2) Question about whether **state units should be given special reps** at convention and council - we continue to wonder if it would encourage them to become a local unit if they had more formal recognition as entities. Laurie Boche has pointed out that state units are composed of members-at-large and the LWVMN Board represents members-at-large at Council while a delegate slot is given to every 25 MALs for Convention according to our current bylaws.
- (3) **Further provision for emergency program adoption** at Convention and Council.

(4) The second sentence in **Article X, Sect 4** is a bit awkward - making it two sentences would help. "The election shall be by ballot. When there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be in order to move that the secretary cast the ballot for every candidate."

(5) **Article III, Section 5** Gwen would like to put some semi-colons between the parts of this sentence:

"The Convention shall consider and authorize for action a Program; shall elect officers and directors, the Budget Chairperson, Nominating committee Chairperson and two Nominating Committee members; shall adopt budgets for the ensuing two fiscal years; and shall transact such other business as may be properly presented." It's confusing w/ just commas - too many of them.

Doepner-Hove reported that the committee sent these questions out to several people. After discussion with those people, the committee has decided not to pursue questions 2 and 3. The committee will most likely put forward the suggestions in 4 and 5.

Doepner-Hove indicated that the question about changing the dates of our fiscal year is something that warrants further discussion. However, the committee has decided that the timing of this may not be appropriate at this time with the Power of 3 Campaign and building construction. This discussion will likely continue with our auditors and others who are focused on long term planning.

11. Proposed Program for 2005-2007: Doepner-Hove:

Doepner-Hove reminded the board that the LWVMN Board will review program recommendations and approve a proposed program for Convention delegates to consider at its March, 2005 meeting. In order for a topic to be considered it must be proposed by at least one member during program planning. February 25 will be the deadline for submitting program proposals.

12. Budgeting for 2005-2007: Sawyer for Nordling:

Sawyer reported that the next meeting of the LWVMN Budget Committee is set for January 27 at 1:30 pm. At that time the committee would like to have requests from Board committees completed, including requests for office staffing and operations. Sawyer requested that board members complete the budget form distributed at the November 17th meeting. Sawyer and Nordling will be happy to assist.

Sawyer reported that the budget committee is beginning to meet with various program committees to discuss budget issues. These meetings have generated lots of great discussion about priorities and goals. The board agreed that this process should continue.

13. LWWUS Convention 2006: Frisch:

Frisch reported that she and Moormann have been in contact with LWWUS to begin discussions about the 2006 Convention. A walk-through of the hotel has indicated that it will be an ideal location for the convention. Garrison Keillor has agreed to be a keynote speaker. Ideas for other activities are welcome.

14. Diversity Plan: Jenkins-Nelsen

Jenkins-Nelsen was not able to participate in the meeting due to illness. However, she sent an invitation for members to participate in the diversity committee. The committee hopes to create a dialogue between diverse groups. Several board members expressed interest in continuing to meet as a committee.

15. Minnesota Women's Consortium: Gochberg

Gochberg reported that the MN Women's Consortium will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. On January 26, 2005 the Minnesota Women's Consortium will celebrate its 25th anniversary with "**Celebration 25 - Now More Than Ever**" at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in St. Paul's Midway area 5:30 - 8:00 PM. Cost is \$35 per person in advance or \$40 at the door.

16. LOTT: Biales for Palank

Biales reported that everything is in place for the LOTT Conference on January 13. She indicated that 50 students from across the state will be participating and that excellent speakers will be on hand throughout the weekend. She reminded board members of the Rosalie Wahl fundraiser that will take place as a part of the conference on Thursday evening.

17. Early Childhood Education Forum: Marshall

Marshall reported that there had been some discussion about combining an Education Forum with Citizen's in Action. That idea has been rejected, but now the planning group is looking for a good date to do this. Marshall will keep the board informed as plans develop.

18. Meeting dates:

The board reviewed upcoming meeting dates. Upcoming dates are: February 19, March 16, April 23, May 12, 13, 14 Convention.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

LWVMN/EF Board Meetings
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Wednesday, November 17, 2004
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Members Present: Palmer, Marshall, Regal, Frisch, Hondl, Peterson, Nordling, Stuthman, Ziols, Myers, Oliver, Doepner-Hove, Jenkins-Nelsen, Gochberg.

Staff Present: Sawyer

Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

1. President's Report: Palmer

LWVMN and Local Leagues really distinguished ourselves this election season; it was remarkable, phenomenal.

We will be continuing our discussion of who and where we are. Last year we updated FutureTrek; now we're focusing on the budget process, prioritizing, etc. The discussion must continue.

The October issue of *Scientific American* had an article called "Fixing the Vote – Electronic Ballots and Democracy," which references the League's convention resolution to adopt recountable election systems.

Question: Do we want to invite (LWVUS President, Kay) Maxwell to come visit us? Maybe we could get a group together to plan that. Maybe the visit could coincide with the 2006 convention? Or before? As the Minnesota League we need to hold LWVUS' feet to fire on DRE. We need to hold them accountable and we need to get the word out. A NY Times report said that 1/3 of voters across the U.S cast ballots without a paper trail machine. The problem of non-recountable ballots is not going away so we should keep it at the forefront of national and local conversation.

We need to make sure LWVUS is tending to the issue of voter fraud.

Note that our national position on Election of the President: LWVUS supports uniform voting procedures and qualifications for election of the President.

League is well suited to do forums (i.e. Early Childhood Education forum). We recently cooperated with University of Minnesota on immigration and law. On December 2, we are holding a forum on U.S. foreign policy and its impact on women in Afghanistan and Iraq. I hope we'll think of new topics like church-state relations.

"You are the Government" is a nice booklet from 1952 in Minnesota explaining how government is "you," how it's divided, how it works, etc. The most recent edition is from the 1970s. An update is very much needed now – should we do it? Ziols, Wickstrom, Steen, and Simmons

interested in updating. Sawyer pointed out that we should be careful to research the market because we don't want to duplicate other booklets. The Secretary of State used to do one. The committee can do the market research. Stuthman: Maybe we could do a simplified version for immigrant communities. The Road to Election Day is another good project but is not well suited for English language learners. Doepner-Hove: Education Minnesota gives grants for programs that are part of a curriculum. If we could put some of these things into a curriculum, we may be eligible to apply for one of these grants.

2. Minutes: Peterson: Motion: to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2004 LWVMN Board Meeting as printed. Motion seconded, passed.

3. Treasurer's Report: Hondl: the Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31, 2004 was presented. Operating expenses, payroll: We decided to ask Ady (Wickstrom) to work full time until 11/30/04, then part time (25 hours/week) after that. Sullivan is coordinating the action program working 25% time until December 31, 2004 then 50% time until the end of the legislative session. Now is the 58% point in the year. Note that services provided to Ed Fund are at 56% - so close to 58% mark. Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

4. Revision of the agenda: all: Stuthman requested 5 minutes for a point about immigration.

5. Budget Committee: Frisch: Motion: to appoint Ann Pugliese, LWV Minneapolis, and Susannah Dodson, LWV South Tonka, to the LWVMN Budget Committee for 2005-2006 and for 2006-2007.

Background: Elizabeth Nordling, LWV White Bear, North Oaks, Mahtomedi, is the elected chair of the Budget Committee. Other committee members are chosen to represent local Leagues of various sizes and locations. As of this writing we are waiting to hear from LWV Duluth. The St. Cloud President declined to serve because of other commitments. We will continue to search for two other local League representatives. The president, executive director, treasurer, and development director also serve in an ex officio capacity on the committee. The Budget committee is trying to get a representative from greater Minnesota because the budget committee should represent members from around the state. Committee is currently working on a representative from Rochester.

6. Budget Process and Budget planning form: Liz Nordling distributed budget planning forms for each board member to fill out. The first budget committee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2004 so input is needed ASAP. Budget committee must present a budget at convention in May.

Sawyer, timeline for budget: The December 9 meeting is really an orientation for people. No plugging of numbers will occur at that point. Committee chairs can and should talk about budgets in any upcoming meetings. Also passed out was a reminder of the last cycle as it relates to FutureTrek to help people think about next budget cycle.

January 2005 - Second budget committee meeting.

February 2005 – The preliminary budget for LWVMN and LWVMNEF for two fiscal years is due. Some of this may be able to be accomplished via email.

March 2005- Budget committee finalizes and proposes budget in March Presidents mailing. The budget will be adopted on day 2 of convention.

Sawyer – There should be some discussion about what LWVMN is doing: are there some things we do that we need to reconsider - are we the organization to do them? What do we bring that is unique and valuable? The League needs to change with the rest of the world.

7. Nominating Committee process: Judy Stuthman: The Committee is composed of three elected members: Karen Langsjoen, LWV St. Cloud, Chair: Paulette Hastings, LWV Edina; Nancy Witta, LWV Minneapolis; and two members appointed by the LWVMN Board, Miriam Simmons and Judy Stuthman. Survey of board members' intent for next year was distributed and requested to be given back to Judy either tonight or ASAP.

Palmer: We need to think about other people to recommend to board. We need to train leaders who have potential. One duty of the League is to help replace ourselves. We should also be thinking about diversity.

8. Program-planning: Doepner-Hove reported on the results of the first round of program planning suggestions and asked for ideas for the second round. Local Leagues will receive the program-planning packet at the end of November and will hold planning meetings in January or February. (Members are not held to ideas presented in the program-planning packet at this point.) In March program recommendations will be reviewed; the board will approve its proposed program, including recommendations for a new study (if any); we will mail the proposed program to local Leagues and members in the President's Mailing in March, 2005. Doepner-Hove distributed a list of program ideas received thus far from Local Leagues, Action Committee, and members. The list is broken out by program for action topics. So far there has been a great variety of suggestions.

Myers – Transportation is an idea for a study. We have no position so far that allows us to support mass transit at Legislature (unless we do it under environment).

Question about keep, drop, update grid – Not doable in a meeting so can we handle it differently? Sawyer – The process of filling out the grid is a good one to educate members on our positions but local leagues don't have to fill out grid in-person at a meeting.

Peterson – The process of filling out the grid as part of an in-person meeting is where individuals' grassroots voices are heard. This process allows people to voice support or opposition to positions and topics.

9. Diversity Task Force: Vivian Jenkins-Nelsen, Karen Gochberg: an outgrowth of the LWVMN Board Retreat was the clear need for a diversity task force to broaden the membership of the League and make it more representative of the communities in which we live.

Jenkins-Nelsen: The task force held a recent meeting to get going on a diversity plan. We want women of color on board and we have a plan. We also want a committee to put together an overall diversity plan. The League does a lot of work the community doesn't know about so we need to get information into papers where women of color will see it.

Palmer – A suggestion for a possible “summit” for women and women of color.

Jenkins-Nelsen – A summit to talk about issues and get action going around issues important to women from diverse communities.

Gochberg – Indicated desire to be part of the committee but without a leadership role. Anyone who knows someone who might be interested should email Karen with contact information for that person. Will get together with Vivian and set up meeting since she will lead.

Doepner-Hove – Recommended Heather Olson for Latina connection.

Stuthman – Somali women group has an after school program that took kids to Kids Voting (not sure where) but the woman at the polling place was impressed with LWV because the kids asked so many intelligent questions.

10. Convention plans and theme: Juanita Peterson, in the absence of Miriam Simmons, led the discussion. The proposed theme is “Healthy Leagues, Healthy Communities” and various workshops and speakers building on the theme of health are being considered. “Health” in the convention theme can be physical health or the health of the environment, for example. The Convention will be held in Rochester, May 13 & 14, 2005. Program-planning, budget, bylaw amendments and nominations processes are underway. Ideas for speakers for banquet and workshops are needed. If you want to conduct a workshop, speak up. Boche usually does convention logistics but can't be there for some of the weekend so board members will need to help.

New LWV in Bloomington – arose from Voter Service issues. Potential new local leagues in three others areas including the Milaca area.

Peterson - U.S. Convention in June 2006 –Garrison Keillor will speak at banquet Monday night.

Doepner-Hove and Myers will work on by-laws changes. Sawyer to help gather input from Local Leagues.

11. Juneteenth Freedom to Vote project report: the report from Vivian Jenkins Nelsen (who had to leave early) was that it was highly successful.

12. Voter Service round-up: Stacy Doepner-Hove: Everything went super. Project directors did amazing work. Eve Webster did a great job with five US House debates and we're only waiting on her final report. Eve and Laurie (Boche) worked on Local League forums. Local Leagues did great things as well. We will have a survey of all Local League events for convention. Voter Guide and Judicial Voter Guide contained great questions and were beautiful. All information

was also available on-line. Linda Loomis ran the hotline again (for both the primary and general elections). KSTP was good to work with. We got lots of volunteers (LWV and Blue Cross). The Minnesota Compact – Janna Haug and Judy Duffy ran several forums and are convening a group again. Laurie Boche handled more speaker requests than ever before. The Road to Election Day video and booklet were re-done. We held a moderator training. We met with the Secretary of State on the new registration system. Gwen Myers and Nancy Witta attended citizens oversight committee. We attended the Minnesota Council on Nonprofits' C3 trainings. Several ideas for next time: corporate package of voter services for corporations is one idea. Big thanks to Helen, Sally, Heidi, and Juanita. There were >170,000 hits on our website in the 8-9 days before election.

Palmer – We also have developed good relations with Secretary of State Kiffmeyer over the course of the election. Also we were involved in an election protection effort with many organizations in the coalition.

Sawyer – Tremendous amount covered; more than I've ever seen.

13. Election media coverage of LWVMN: Juanita Peterson, communications director par excellence, reviewed publicity garnered by LWVMN this fall.

Highlights:

- Sviggum vs. LWVMN brouhaha
- Working as part of many coalitions
- President (Palmer) was out there
- Voter fraud story
- Radio interviews
- Radio show
- NPR interviews
- Lots of newspaper articles
- Spent money on radio ads on MPR (700,000 listeners)
- September State Fair ads on MPR
- FM-107 approached LWV
- Six ads in greater MN
- 90% of the volunteers we needed came from LWVMN-Share email list.

KSTP was wonderful. We did one live congressional candidates debate with 6th district candidates that had 75,000 viewers. WCCO and MPR both rebroadcast the whole debate. Overall, we got great coverage.

14. Legislative preview/interviews: Myers: Many new representatives to interview. Passed around draft of questions for local leagues to ask new legislators. Will add immigration questions. Interviews should not be done by mail because no one will take the time to answer them. Face-to-face interviews are best. We will cover area legislators where there are no Leagues by assigning interviews in district order. Action committee will give final approval to interview questions on Friday, November 19 so make any comments and get them to Gwen ASAP.

15. *VOTER*: Steen: If people can get articles to her by December 1, Hilary has agreed to help with the next issue of the *VOTER*. December 1 deadline means we can get it to the printer and out to members by December 10th at best, by the 15th is more likely. Will highlight Voter Services (retrospect) and Action (hot issues). *VOTER* is good PR for funders and advisory board members and it's good reading.

16. Forum on the Impact of US Foreign Policy on Women in Iraq and Afghanistan: see enclosed flyer. This forum is made possible by a grant from LWVEF and is being planned by Judy Duffy, Janet Gendler, Helen Palmer and project director, Janna Haug. Palmer: Key speaker declined suddenly so LWVUS league needs to decide whether or not anyone will replace her. Forum will go on as planned. Collaboration between US and MN. Deputy Dir of LWVUS will be here for forum.

17. Leaders of Today and Tomorrow: Palank: A committee is meeting regularly to plan for January seminar. The committee's next meeting is December 8. The keynote speaker is confirmed: Marie Wilson, Executive Director of The White House Foundation. Wahl fundraiser will be the same evening. Program speakers are good so far but we're trying to invite more diverse speakers. (Vivian and Chia may be able to help with diversity needs.) So far scholarship applications are from students at St. Scholastica, St. Cloud, and St. Olaf. It's possible we could have Secretary Kiffmeyer welcome people. Send Palank ideas for speakers.

18. Immigration reform: Getting it Right: Frisch: Many LWVMN members attended the forum.

19. Early Childhood Education forum: Scott Marshall reported he is working on an ECE forum with Fran Hesch of the Action Committee on Early Childhood Education for early 2005. Approval as an EF project is on the LWVMNEF agenda.

20. Citizenship ceremony update, Stuthman: Partisan organizations became involved this year and brought a lot of confusion to the ceremonies. Registration cards now cannot be distributed as part of new citizens' folders (directive from Washington, DC) so now we're passing out cards with individuals. All 527 organizations must remain outside the ceremony building but the League is allowed to pass out cards inside.

Adjourned 8:26pm.

**LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 15, 2004
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul**

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

Staff Present: Sawyer, Losinski, Wickstrom

Others Present: Jane Gilley

Palmer convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Housekeeping: Sawyer:** Sawyer requested that Board members turn in articles and enclosures for the President's Mailing, scheduled to be mailed September 22 or 23. She also requested that board members turn in expense vouchers and volunteer hours.

2. **President's Report:** Helen Palmer

Palmer reported that the LWVMN has been featured in several media articles. These have for the most part been resolved positively. The League has been featured 6 times in articles. The question about whether LWVMN will be sponsoring debates between the House Leaders remains to be decided.

At the retreat there was discussion about inviting Kay Maxwell to Minnesota to talk with her about various issues. An Article in The Nation regarding the upcoming elections characterized the discussion at the National Convention poorly. Palmer alerted the National League, who responded to the Nation clarifying that the position of the League had been revised—and used the wording of the Minnesota resolution to further clarify the position that had been taken.

Wickstrom expressed concern about a group at the National Level that continues to want to seek a reversal of League's position on a paper trail. In particular, this group is concerned about the information displayed on the National League Web Site.

Wickstrom suggested that the National League be contacted and urged to provide more balanced information on the web site. It was decided that the planning group for the National Convention will meet to discuss a response.

Palmer thanked Jenkins Nelsen for facilitating the retreat. After the election, it is hoped that the board will continue the work that was started at the retreat. Further examination of the "wolf" list will serve as a starting place. Copies of the "wolf" list were distributed to the board.

3. **Minutes of the April 17, 2004, LWVMN Council:** Biales: Motion: to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2004, LWVMN Council as corrected. The minutes have been read by Lynn Solo, LWV of Mankato and Michelle Hammes, LWV of St. Cloud.

The motion received a second and were approved unanimously.

4. **Minutes of the June 22, 2004, LWVMN Board Meeting:** Biales: Motion: to accept the Minutes of the June 22, 2004, LWVMN Board Meeting with one correction. The amended minutes should indicate that Frisch was present.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending July 31, 2004:** Hondl: Hondl indicated that the report reflects that 33% of the year has been completed. She also indicated that Wickstrom will be paid for full time between August 15 – November 15. After that date, the situation will be reviewed.

The board accepted the report which will be filed for audit.

6. **Revision of the Agenda:**

Palank requested some time for a short report on LOTT.

7. **Approval of the Voting Systems Consensus Questions:** Oliver: Motion: to approve consensus questions for the Voting Systems Study as modified.

The board reviewed the draft discussion guide with consensus questions. The questions were developed, reviewed, debated and approved by the study committee. They were also reviewed by two members outside the study process.

The motion received a second. The board reviewed the questions that had been included with the board mailing.

Oliver pointed out that the discussion guide section helps lead Local Leagues through the report by providing some background that is pulled directly from the report.

The board made suggestions for improving both documents. Several corrections were accepted by the committee for revision.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Merger of LWV Northfield & Cannon Falls Area: Simmons: Motion: to recommend the change of the organizational basis of LWV Northfield and LWV Cannon Falls to LWWUS.

The Member Resources Committee has been meeting with LWV Northfield and LWV Cannon Falls to discuss with them the possibility of changing their organization status to a combined Local League. The committee recommended this change be made.

The motion received a second and passed. Steen of LWV Northfield abstained from the vote.

9. Appointment to LWVMN Board: Steen: Motion: to appoint Joan Regal, LWV RoMaFH, to the LWVMN Board.

The motion received a second. Frisch indicated that Regal has participated in many League activities almost in the capacity of a board member. Palmer indicated that she will discuss with Regal her particular role in the board—but that she has many community connections and an international focus as well. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Citizen's League/Humphrey Institute civic calendar agreement: Doepner-Hove: Motion: to approve LWVMN participation in the civic calendar of the Citizen's League and the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota under the terms outlined in the enclosed agreement.

The motion received a second. Wickstrom gave background information about this electronic calendar. It appears to be a good way to distribute calendar information quickly. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Co-Sponsorship of Immigration Forum: Frisch: Motion: that LWVMN co-sponsor a forum at the Humphrey Institute on November 12, 2004, which will address immigration and legal issues.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously. This item was approved as a LWVMNEF project.

12. LWVMN Convention plans: (Simmons):

Simmons requested assistance from the board to fill positions for the nominating committee, budget committee, and bylaws committee. Suggestions should go to Simmons. The Member Resources Committee will be meeting with the Rochester League to continue the planning for the event.

13. Voter Service update: Doepner-Hove:

Doepner-Hove indicated that voter service projects are progressing well.

She reported that the Voter guide will be finalized by the end of the week (September 17). The Judicial guide is on-line. She also indicated that the Hotline went reasonably well for the low turnout primary.

Wickstrom reported that we had several thousands of hits to the website that were recorded in the days prior to the primary election.

Doepner-Hove reported that the congressional debates have been scheduled, Local League forum funds have been distributed, and moderator training was well attended.

14. Issues Debates with Sviggum/Entenza: Palmer:

Palmer reported that because the debates have not yet been scheduled, it is becoming more unlikely that the League will be involved. The two parties have not been able to agree on a format and time is running short to plan these debates. It was suggested that perhaps these debates could occur after the elections—however it seems unlikely that the two sides would find benefit at that time. Doepner-Hove indicated that it might be wise to present what we are willing to do and if the parties don't agree, then we must pull out.

15. Forums: Marshall:

Marshall indicated that a number of ideas for forums have been proposed of late, including both an immigration forum and a forum on the impact of foreign policy on women in Iraq and Afghanistan. Both of these forums seem likely to occur. Other suggestions have included: Early Childhood Education, Separation of Church and State and Beijing+10. The planning for these forums is in its early stages. More information will be forthcoming.

16. Action Report: Myers:

Myers reported that it was too late for LWVMN to do its own Amicus Brief supporting the decision on the conceal-carry law. There was some thought that LWVMN could join the ACLU on their brief. However, the timing was too short for the board to review and join the ACLU.

Myers reported that a forum on No Child Left Behind will be held in New Ulm. Details will be forthcoming. She also reported that the Minneapolis League will be sponsoring a forum on September 18 with Art Rolnick from the Federal Reserve speaking about the importance of Early Childhood Education.

Myers invited board members to attend the Action Committee meeting on September 24.

17. Report from the State Fair: Peterson:

Peterson reported on the activities at the State Fair which were well received. Activities included bookmarks encouraging people to vote and a citizenship quiz.

Peterson also reported that LWVMN ads have been running on the radio. These brief ads failed to mention Target in the voter guide. Plans are in the works to correct this situation.

18. USCIS Ceremony: Simmons:

Simmons reported that Stuthman had arranged for many League members to attend the citizenship ceremony on September 15 at Bethel College to do voter registration. Some concerns have been raised about political parties helping new citizens fill out voter registrations and collecting the information. USCIS decided not to allow for the League to do the registrations at the ceremony. This was a huge disappointment.

19. New State Units: Simmons:

Simmons reported that she and Laurie Boche traveled to Detroit Lakes to meet with a few people who are interested in forming a Local League. The group is raring to go and promptly set about organizing their unit.

Boche also received a call from a woman in the Bloomington area who is interested in starting a League in Bloomington. The member services committee will continue to work with them.

20. LOTT: Palank:

Palank reported that LOTT would like to set up each of the conference participants with a League mentor. The group is still working on the details, which will be forthcoming.

Palank also reported that LOTT is working on some promotional materials. She passed around a draft postcard for the program.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

LWVMN Board Meeting Minutes
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Tuesday, June 22, 2004
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Members Present: Biales, Gochberg, Hondl, Jenkins Nelsen, Marshall, Myers, Palank, Palmer, Peterson, Simmons, Stuthman

Staff Present: Sawyer, Wickstrom

Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Housekeeping: Sawyer:

Sawyer requested that board members place vouchers, volunteer hours and articles/items for the Presidents' Mailing in the folder that was passed during the meeting.

2. President's Report: Palmer:

The board briefly discussed the role of LWVMN at the convention.

3. Minutes of the May 12, 2004, LWVMN Board Meeting: Biales:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2004 LWVMN Board Meeting. The motion received a second.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report: Hondl:

Hondl presented the LWVMN Treasurer's Report for the Period ending May 31, 2004. She reported that cash flow continues to be a problem. However, LWVMN is now able to use the bridge fund from the Power of 3 Campaign. This makes a tremendous difference in the organization's ability to weather low cash flow periods.

Hondl referred the board members to the balance sheet which indicated that LWVMN is now able to pay the expenses for rent to the LWVMN Education Fund.

She also indicated that LWVMN has received some income from sales at LWWUS convention.

Sawyer indicated that the 501 C(4) campaign has brought in some money, but not as much as was hoped for.

The board agreed to file the financial report for audit.

5. Revision of the Agenda

Jenkins Nelsen requested some time to report on the Juneteenth celebration. Stuthman asked to add a report on Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. The board agreed to add these two items to the end of the agenda.

- 6. MN Women Candidate Development Coalition: Biales:** Motion: to approve a contribution of \$50 from LWVMN to the MN Women Candidate Development Coalition.

Biales reported that she serves as the LWVMN representative to the Coalition's Board. LWVMN made a similar contribution in 2003. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

- 7. LWVUS Convention Report: Palmer, Peterson, Wickstrom, Simmons, Frisch, Sawyer:**

The delegates to the National Convention reported on convention workshops including DRE/VVPAT, Diversity Award, Patriot Act, 2006 Convention promo, Death Penalty and other workshops.

The Minnesota delegation was well received and contributed tremendously to the convention activities.

- 8. LWVMN Convention 2005: Simmons:**

Simmons indicated that it is time to start thinking about theme, speakers, workshops for the May 12, 13, 14 LWVMN Convention at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester. She asked board members to send their ideas to her via e-mail.

Simmons asked all board members to reserve the dates for convention now. She also encouraged board members to bring along significant others. Lively issues to be discussed at the convention will be requested from the Action Committee.

- 9. Voter Service Committee Report: Wickstrom for Doepner-Hove:**

Wickstrom reported Eve Webster has been named project director for the debates for 2004. KSTP has agreed to televise all of the congressional district debates.

Wickstrom also reported that Heather Olson has been named project director for the Voter's Guide. The Voter Services Committee is running the questions for the Voter Guide past Target to ensure that nothing is asked that they can't publish.

D-Net is still in negotiations with LWVUS. It is hoped that LWVMN will be able to participate in some way with D-Net again this year.

Edyie Kargas will be the project director for congressional and judicial voter guide on-line. All forums will be listed on the web site as well as any forums sponsored through the Minnesota COMPACT. LWVMN and Minnesota COMPACT have

been sponsoring several public forums on a variety of topics.

Moderator training will be held on August 21, 2004. A list of moderators will be generated to provide to those communities planning for forums.

Peterson indicated that LWVMN will have two ads on MPR advertising the Judicial Voter Guide.

Wickstrom made the following motion:

LWVMN Congressional Debates Resolution

That LWVMN agree to the KSTP-TV proposal to televise all eight Congressional debates at its studio in MSP (with the possible exception of the eighth district which might be produced in Duluth), as outlined in project director Eve Webster's June 19 e-mail to Patrick Armijo, KSTP Executive Producer.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Myers suggested that we add definitions of each of the parties (written by the parties) to the voter guide.

Wickstrom indicated that Voter guides will be available for purchase to other organizations. The Road to Election Day video and Manual have been updated and will also be available for sale.

10. LWVMN Retreat: Palmer/Sawyer:

Palmer reported that a board retreat is planned for August 28 at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Vivian Jenkins Nelsen will lead the meeting. She encouraged board members to watch for detailed information in early August.

The meeting will from approx. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Palmer indicated that she would like suggestions from the board about what topics should be covered.

11. Citizen Oversight Committee on HAVA: Palmer:

Palmer reported that the LWVMN Board has approved participation in and leadership of the Citizen Oversight Committee on the implementation of HAVA legislation.

Palmer reported that LWVMN and the Minnesota Coalition of Nonprofits met with a representative of the Secretary of State's Office to discuss the new computerized voter registration system. There was continued discussion about the voter registration cards and concern about differing information required. The new electronic system is up, and the Secretary of State's office has been doing training with the county auditors.

Palmer indicated that Minnesota already has a statewide voter registration system so our transition will be easier than many states.

When the citizen's oversight committee met, concern was expressed about the lack of voter registration cards in other languages. Concern was also expressed that voter registration cards must be returned within ten days of people registering. The Secretary of State has indicated that all cards are being accepted at this point. There is also a new provision which allows victims of domestic violence to register and not have their names published publicly.

Stuthman reported that LWV RoMaFH has been registering new citizens the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Bethel College. Stuthman indicated that RoMaFH could use some assistance with this project.

12. Leaders of Today and Tomorrow: Palank:

Palank indicated that the LOTT steering committee is working on trying to bring Marie Wilson from White House Project for our January Seminar. She has expressed interest in participating.

The committee has also been working on raising funds to support the seminar. A Grant to Josten's has been submitted and an annual appeal letter will be sent out following the board meeting.

Palank congratulated the volunteers on the Power of 3 Campaign for their successful presentation to GMAC. She has heard glowing reports of the visit.

13. LWVMN Annual C (4) Appeal Status: Frisch:

Frisch reported that the annual appeal letter that was sent to members in May has yielded \$3,840 as of June 18. The goal for the appeal was \$10,000. Contributions to LWVMN are NOT tax-deductible. The appeal raises money to support our lobbying activities. Frisch did indicate that contributions are still coming in.

14. Annual Meeting for Minnesota Women's Consortium: Gochberg:

Gochberg encouraged the board to attend the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Women's Consortium on Wednesday evening, July 21, at Hamline University 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. She indicated that Lori Sturdevant will be the speaker at this dinner. Tickets will be \$12 or \$20.

15. Juneteenth Celebration: Jenkins Nelsen:

Jenkins Nelsen reported that the meetings for the planning of this event continue to be very difficult, although the partnerships that have been created may pay off in the future.

She gave some background about Juneteenth. The nineteenth of June was the day that African Americans in Texas were told of their emancipation, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Rev. Ralph Abernathy asked people to

celebrate this day at the people's march on Washington and Minnesota was one of the first states to take up this charge and create celebrations. Jenkins Nelsen reported that 50 Volunteers showed up to help register voters at the event this year.

She also indicated that there has been a great deal of discussion about whether ex-felons are eligible to vote. Despite mixed messages from the Secretary of State's Office, if people have paid their debt, they are eligible to vote. Individuals should be told to bring their letter restoring their citizenship and other registration information with them to the polls in case they are challenged.

More than 90 different agencies are connected to the Juneteenth effort. The group is also organizing in the Jordan neighborhood in Minneapolis to encourage people to register and to train people to vote. In particular they are focusing on young Black and Asian males, who are the most under-represented at the polls.

16. Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride: Stuthman:

Stuthman reported that the League of Rural Voters is working with the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride and is planning to register voters and get out the vote. They would like LWVMN to be a part of this. They will be having a meeting on June 24 at the Resource Center of the Americas and are hoping for some League participation.

17. Web Site Colors: Wickstrom:

Wickstrom reported that LWWUS has come up with a new color scheme. She requested permission to change the color on the web site. A motion was made to allow Wickstrom to change the colors on the web site to be consistent with LWWUS. The motion received a second. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

LWVMN Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 12, 2004
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Members Present: Ellen Biales, Carol Frisch, Karen Gochberg, Connie Hondl, Scott Marshall, Gwen Myers, Marsha Oliver, Melissa Palank, Helen Palmer, Juanita Peterson, Miriam Simmons, Mary Steen, Judy Stuthman, Hilary Ziols.

Staff Present: Heidi Losinski, Sally Sawyer, Ady Wickstrom.

Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Housekeeping:

Sawyer requested that board members turn in expense vouchers and volunteer hour forms. She also requested articles for President's Mailing (to be mailed to local League Presidents the week of May 17th).

President's Report:

Palmer indicated that this board has now been operating for a year. It has been a tremendously busy year. She indicated that we need to continue to work on getting more people involved in the league to spread the work around.

Palmer reported that LWVMN had a press conference in the week before the meeting and had a hearing before the Senate Elections Committee on May 11. Both of these efforts led to a lot of great publicity for the League. Several people indicated that they were glad that the League is following the status of voting rights in the state. Sawyer indicated that the testimony at the hearing was exceptional.

Palmer also reported that she had had a conversation with Kay Maxwell. Maxwell believes the LWVUS has taken the correct position on the need for a paper trail in electronic voting systems. She believes that continued efforts in opposition to this opinion by LWVMN will make the position of LWVUS neutral and that the League and weaken the League's voice in the debate. Maxwell would like to see the Federal Elections Committee do its work. She indicated that LWVUS has not been aggressive on the issue.

Maxwell also indicated that the time to take up the matter is after the 2004 elections, perhaps through a study. She indicated that she does not want a debate during a plenary session of the convention. She suggested LWVMN work through the parliamentarian to get the issue addressed.

Palmer indicated that the issue nation-wide has now become how LWVUS board has handled the issue. An update on LWVMN strategy at the convention is on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Minutes of February 25, 2004, LWVMN Board Meeting: Biales: Motion: to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2004 LWVMN Board Meeting as printed.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Hondl:

Hondl presented the treasurer's report for the period ending March 31, 2004. She referred the board members to the financial statements that had been distributed in advance. She indicated that the accounts payable for were lower for 2004. She reviewed several other line items for the board members. The board accepted the Treasurer's Report.

Revision of the Agenda:

Ziols requested time to update the board on the St. Peter redistricting case. The board agreed to add this topic to the agenda.

Forgiveness of Accounts Receivable from LWVMNEF: Hondl: Motion: To forgive accounts receivable from LWVMNEF in the amount of \$13,946.27 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Hondl indicated that the Treasurer and Executive Director recommend that LWVMN forgive LWVMNEF unpaid invoices in the amount of \$13,946.27 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. LWVMNEF is billed for office services (staff, copier, phone, postage, etc.) provided by LWVMN. At the end of a fiscal year, outstanding invoices, mostly for general administration and fundraising, are reviewed; if it seems unlikely that enough unrestricted funds will be raised to pay them, then forgiveness is recommended.

The motion received a second.

Palank asked a question about administrative reimbursements, and why some would be forgiven. Hondl responded that LWVMNEF does pay these reimbursements when the money is available. However, it helps LWVMN to clear these items off our books when payment is unlikely to occur.

The motion passed unanimously.

LWVMN Council Report: Simmons:

Simmons reported that in general the day went well, except that there was confusion about the choice between workshops at the end of the day.

Peterson indicated that the skit for voter services was filmed and may be usable for Local Leagues. She thanked the members of the artistic team.

Peterson also asked a question about why Members At Large are not able to participate in voting at council or convention and perhaps the board should set aside some time to educate ourselves about the by-laws.

Simmons indicated that the member services committee could take a look at the by-laws at their next meeting.

LWVMN Board Retreat/Calendar Planning: Palmer:

Palmer indicated that she thought it would be a good idea to try to have a board retreat some time in August. She asked if other board members thought that this would be a worthwhile activity. Board members indicated that it seemed like a good idea. The member resources committee will collect possible locations and suggest a good date.

Palmer also indicated that it might be helpful to have a board meeting in June to discuss the national convention. The board discussed potential dates and decided on Tuesday, June 22.

The board set tentative board meetings for the following dates:

- September 15
- October 16
- November 17
- January 8
- February 19
- March 16

Simmons reminded the board that the convention is scheduled to take place on May 13-14, 2005 in Rochester.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) update: Doepner-Hove, Myers, Palmer, Stuthman:

Palmer reported that there are many complexities in regards to HAVA right now. Questions remain unresolved about voter registration cards and procedures; there have been conflicts between the Minnesota Secretary of State and Ramsey, Anoka and Hennepin Counties over mail-in registration cards and procedures. There is a great fear that voters registered through voter registration campaigns will find themselves not registered to vote on election day and will be turned away if they have no acceptable identification. There is also concern about the implementation of the Secretary of State's centralized computer voter registration system which does not appear to be ready for this fall's election, leading to fears that voters may find themselves wiped off the rolls.

LWVMN is led a news conference on 5/6 and testified at a legislative hearing the same day. Judy Stuthman also has been working on voter registration efforts. All involved in the discussion reported that the best advice is to urge people to vote in the Primary and to bring approved identification to the polls.

Myers reported that the State Senate met earlier in the day and were supposed to attach amendments to legislation on HAVA. However, there has been no report as to whether they were added or passed. All reported that working in a coalition with several other organizations was a difficult but ultimately rewarding experience that has resulted in attracting the attention of the Senate.

Juneteenth Freedom to Vote Project Update: Vivian Jenkins Nelsen:

Nelson was unavailable for the board meeting, however, Palmer reported that the coalition continues to meet every Wednesday. This project will result in a massive voter registration drive.

LWVUS Convention Strategy on DRE: Simmons, Myers, Wickstrom, Peterson, Palmer, Sawyer:

Palmer began the discussion about strategy by indicating that LWVMN will work in collaboration with other state Leagues in order to get a resolution passes by the Convention. To get a resolution passed by the Convention will probably require amending the rules to allow resolutions of substance and amending the order of business. Approval of a non-recommended study adopted is another strategy.

Wickstrom discussed the strategy. First the group will need to get to the microphones to change the rules and agenda to ensure a spot on the agenda before the program is considered. Other state Leagues will be contacted to coordinate strategy and there will be several caucuses to discuss strategy.

A motion was made by Myers: to reword the resolution that was passed at the LWVMN Council on April 17th to read:

Whereas, there is strong disagreement among League members on the interpretation of the position on "Citizens Right to Vote" that LWVUS has taken on whether a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail should be a requirement with Direct Recording Electronic Voting,

Be it resolved, that the LWVUS remove the following wording from its interpretation:

"The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve that 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 don't work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other than the individual paper ballot confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems."

The interpretation of the position will now read:

"The LWWUS supports an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems."

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

Indians in Minnesota, Fifth Edition: Sawyer:

Sawyer reported that the 5th edition of this publication has been in process since 1993. She indicated that LWWMN has now hired a group of writers to edit the report so that it can be accepted by the University of Minnesota Press. The edited report was submitted to the University Press, but was rejected due to form and other issues. The University of Minnesota Press has agreed to give the League one more opportunity to submit within six months.

Minnesota Community Campaign next steps: Frisch and Stuthman:

Frisch reported that "The New Minnesotans" show on TPT was very successful. Tapes are now available.

Frisch also reported that the coalition that has worked on the project is working to try and garner additional funding to edit the tape and has met with a group of foundation representatives. A budget has been developed and individual organizations will approach these funders. The LWWMN part of the proposal will be to develop a discussion guide booklet to go with the video tape. There may be a small amount of money for Local Leagues to pilot the tape and hold discussions. The campaign will continue for the next two years.

Voter Service Projects for 2004: Doepner-Hove:

Sawyer gave the report in Doepner Hove's absence. The voter guide will be completely funded by Target. The judicial election voter guide has hired a director and the guide will be published on-line. Hotline has not been funded as yet. However KSTP has expressed interest in hosting the hotline.

Road to Election Day Videotape: Peterson:

Peterson reported that "The Road to Election Day" video tape has been printed and is ready to be distributed. The process of working with KSTP was positive and they did a terrific job putting it together.

Peterson also reported that The Minnesota Compact has put together a series of seminars to review various aspects of campaigning. The first Seminar will be held May 13.

Leaders of Today and Tomorrow: Palank:

Palank reported that Kim Ode from the Pioneer Press is interested in doing a story on LOTT and will be meeting with Melissa in June to learn more about the program.

The LOTT steering committee's standing meeting is the first Tuesday of the month. The group plans to begin booking monthly speakers on topics timely for young women.

Palank reported that two students from the environmental school in Apple Valley have been doing a project on the importance of voting. They have been working with Laurie Boche and LOTT to put together a presentation and other information.

Palank also reported that an exchange student from Germany has used her LOTT experience to two internships.

A motion was made to have the LWVMN approve LOTT partnerships with the following organizations: Every Woman Votes, The White House Project, and Vote, Run, Lead.

The motion received a second and passed unanimously

Voting Methods Study: Oliver:

Oliver reported that the committee has almost completed a final draft that will be sent to readers shortly. She indicated that things are moving according to plan and that it has been a good thing that the report has taken a little longer than expected because new information has come to light. Overall, the study has been a positive experience.

VOTER: Steen:

Steen reported that the next issue of the VOTER will be out in early June. There is a tremendous amount of variety in the articles for this next issue. Steen indicated that there may be a small article about Ann Duff who passed away on May 12. The deadline is May 15.

Development: Frisch:

Frisch indicated that a fundraising appeal has been mailed to all LWVMN members requesting support for our legislative program. Frisch encouraged all board members to contribute.

Rice County Redistricting: Ziols:

Ziols reported on the results of the redistricting court case. The plan that was picked was the most equal plan, but not necessarily the plan that was best for Rice County. The County Board has agreed not to appeal this decision.

Ziols asked the board if she could approach other Local Leagues to request some additional funding to pay attorney's fees. A question was raised about whether Hope Washburn funds could be used in this case. Sawyer indicated that those funds could potentially be used. The board agreed to consider this at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion received a second and passed unanimously.