

❑ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DARKE COUNTY - BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- Date:** March 1, 2011
- Place:** Library Conference Room
- Presiding:** Karen Brooks, Co-President
- In Attendance:** Karen Brooks, Jan Boyer, Lyn Bliss, Diane Johnson, Marie Boas, Anne Vehre, Loretta Ezzell, Julie Monnin, Janey Christman
- Absent:** Irene Winterrowd, Holly Finnarn, Shirla Neff, Joan Klein, Mary Bankson, Sacha Francis, Becky Reier
- Minutes:** Minutes of the November, 2010 meeting were read and approved by votes on a motion by Diane, seconded by Anne.
- Treasurer's Report:** Marie reported that \$1, 128.60 has been sent to national for dues, creating a shortfall of \$170 since our membership dues fail to cover the amount required by national. We have 32 members and 2 spouses in paid membership. Our remaining balance is \$2,378.57. The Treasurer's report was approved on a vote to approve and file for audit by Diane, seconded by Lyn.
- Membership:** Marie distributed a members' roster with the yellow areas being the new members and the gray areas being those who are no longer members. Anne voiced concern about loss of membership due to increased state and national dues and because of some disagreement with the state and national issues.
- State House Day:** Karen noted that State House Day, April 9th, would be a good time to voice our concerns. This has been done before but we have no power over state and national. The state LWV has been responsive, however, to requests we make for assistance such as with the Sunshine Law forum we held last year. We need a greater number to attend this year to make our voice heard. The cost is \$35 and reservations must be made by March 31. Karen and Lynn will attend. Diane and Anne may attend, also.

OLD BUSINESS

- Funding Raisers:** We will proceed with Tour of Homes planning for September. As of this date, we have not heard from Bears mill about collaboration on home sites. Possible homes were suggested. Marie will e-mail the members asking for suggestions.
- It was decided that this year was too soon for the Spring Fest, A committee will be formed to work on it for 2012. Janey will talk to Jan Teaford about helping.
- League Direction:** A committee will be formed to pursue the future direction of the League. Lyn and Anne will do research on other Leagues for ideas on what they have done.
- March Program:** Anne gave details on our March 28 educational program at Edison Community College at 6:30. Julie will be presenting "Eminent Domain. Environmental damage from natural gas exploration is a problem in eastern Ohio and although eminent domain is not currently a problem in Ohio as it is in Indiana, we need to be prepared. Lyn asked if we might get Impact money for this. Anne Nelson might assist us in this. We could apply for a grant from the Steven's Fund for educational purposes, since our main goal is the educate voters. We would need to apply for non-profit status which would cost us.
- Audit Observations:** Jan reported on observations that she and Becky Reier had done as LWV

representatives at the Darke County Elections Audit. She said the Board of Elections people and technicians were very helpful and encouraged them to ask questions. Knowing it was our first audit observation, they explained each step very thoroughly. Becky and Jan were most impressed that the ballots were always with two people, a representative of the Democratic Party and a representative of the Republican Party, except when they were stored in a locked room. This protocol was followed from the precinct t It required both parties, each using a key to get into the ballot storage area. Even the counting of the ballots was done by four teams, each having a Democrat and a Republican. A document of record is signed be each person who has had charge of the ballots as they turn them over to another set of caretakers.

Becky and Jan did not feel very prepared for their task. They had a lengthy survey which was impossible to use during the audit. They resorted to taking careful notes to be used later to complete the survey. They recommended a vocabulary of terms used would be helpful and that a video or brochure explaining the procedures would be good to use for training. Karen noted that larger counties may have had visuals as part of their training.

Becky and Jan were pleased with the experience, feeling that they had learned a lot and the Darke County ballots were in good hands. Karen thanked the two for doing the observation. It was suggested that this would be a good presentation at our annual meeting in May.

After hearing Jan and Becky's observation experience, it was suggested that we take advantage of the Sunshine law and have representatives at some of our community's meetings. Meeting dates could be posted in *The Voter* with members encouraged to observe.

NEW BUSINESS

- Political Affiliation*** Julie Monnin will be running opposed in next fall's election so will be taking a temporary leave of absence from the board.
- Candidates Night:*** The positions of mayor and city council will be on the ballot so we will have a Candidates Night in April. Holly will be asked if she will check on use of the American Legions, sound and camera for the event.
- Next Board Meeting:*** April 5, 2011 at the Library.