MINUTES
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of BERRIEN and CASS COUNTIES
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Lakewood Estates Clubhouse
8000 Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bickett,Dutton, Ennis, Gilbert, Lackner, Lauth, Ripley, and Zilke
MEMBERS ABSENT: Clapper, Klawiter and Ristau

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Zilke called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm. Gilbert formally announced her resignation due to her move to Oregon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2015

Ennis struck a sentence under Redistricting. Lackner **moved** to accept the Minutes. Seconded and **approved**.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015

Opening Checking Account Balance 8/1/2015		**$10,977.86**
Total Income:	+	$ 435.00
Total Expenses:	-	$ 125.00
Closing Checking Account Balance 8/31/2015		**$11,287.86**

Account Balances as of 8/31/2015

Checking Account Balance		$11,287.86
CD	+	$ 2,132.18
Ed Fund Balance	+	$ 1,158.42
Total Net Worth		**$14,578.46**

Ripley noted that PMP's of $3072 have been paid to the US League and that there is a pending payment of $2308.80 to the Michigan League. Bickett **moved** to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded and **approved**.

OLD BUSINESS

Redistricting Presentation

RESA of Berrien Springs will host on September 24. Zilke stated that the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary Club was interested in co-sponsoring. The Michigan League requires an attendance form be filled out as well as a handout be distributed. The presentation is property of the League of Women Voters Michigan and cannot be shared. LWVBCC will videotape. Promotion of the presentation has been published in the St. Joseph Herald-Palladium.

League US Studies

Zilke said a new member is interested in working on the Campaign Finance study.

November Luncheon

Tara Gillette, communications member of the Area Agency on Aging, will present November 18 at noon at Coach's on the work the Agency does.

November Evening Soiree

No event will be planned.

Dues Payments

Zilke would like to make a special appeal for money for upcoming candidate forums. A draft letter will be put together by Zilke. Ripley will do a mail merge and talk with our new webmaster, Mike McCaffery, about PayPal use for dues and donations on the website. A convenience fee will be charged for using PayPal. We will continue actual mailings to all members.

October General Meeting

Ennis gave an overview of the meeting on October 12 from 2-4 pm at the New Buffalo Public Library presented by Elvin Gonzalez. His topic will be the schools to prison pipeline. Bickett suggested we remind attendees of other things the League does and ask them to get involved as well as ask for future topic suggestions. Further discussion brought up new member mentoring. Zilke suggested we pair a Board member with each new member joining.

Co-President

Zilke again asked for members to step up to be a co-president for fiscal year 2016-17 and to assume the presidency thereafter.

Benton Harbor Mayoral Debate

Lackner met with Charles Jennings and Larry Feldman at the NAACP office in Benton Harbor. They are tentatively looking at October 28 or 29 for the debate with the venue being either the Citadel, the Benton Harbor Public Library or the First Presbyterian Church. Discussion ensued about costs of venues and time frame of debate. One and one-half hours was thought to be enough time. A moderator was suggested by the NAACP. Topic questions need to be formed. Bickett stated we needed to be concerned about potential "gotcha" questions. Cards will be available for audience members to write questions for the candidates. The cards will be collected and edited/coordinated by League members and handed to the moderator at the end of the formal question period. Gilbert suggested a small committee of four determine the quality and quantity of questions — two from the League and two from NAACP. Lackner was directed to previous debates by LWV online for direction. A League member and/or NAACP member will welcome those in attendance and set the scene for the debate. A script with the rules (which is available) should be given to NAACP prior to the debate. It was noted that the moderator cannot change the script. Lackner will set up a meeting with NAACP within a week to go over these concerns. She will let Zilke know the outcome.

LWVLMR Convention

Zilke and Dutton are registered for the September 25/26 convention. The cost is $95, which has been paid. Ripley requested they give him an invoice for reimbursement.

December Social

Ripley needs paperwork to make out a check for the deposit. Dutton will find out. The rental is $65 and the cleaning fee is $100. Zilke reiterated that we will pay for cleaning. Ripley suggested that if a member attends and gives a check for their dues to please give the check to Ripley immediately.

Roster/Membership Brochure

Bickett is working on it. The issue was that it does not fit into a #10 envelope. He may donate an envelope and incorporate the existing pieces. Fifteen to twenty envelopes are needed per year.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Board Positions

Zilke encouraged the Board to speak to members about becoming Board members. Gilbert suggested someone who may be interested.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS

A potential new person to do the Newsletters using Constant Contact has not responded after communication with her. There are ten issues (no August or February) per year with prepaid sponsorships. Gilbert noted that there should be a central person to coordinate the articles, communicate with the webmaster, update the calendar, etc. Ennis suggested someone who might be interested in putting together the Newsletter (but not writing the material) and will contact the person and ask if they would like to volunteer their services. Zilke suggested that if the person did a good job and liked doing it, perhaps we could consider paying them. Gilbert also suggested doing an e-Blast regarding our upcoming presentations/gatherings. Bickett will put it together and send out.

EDUCATION

Ennis reported that Michigan's teacher evaluation program is still being considered. It is expected that the legislature will determine new rules legislation this Fall. On another note, it appears that a teacher shortage is being felt across the nation. Indiana's governor has called for a study to determine reasons for this.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

No Report

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

No Report

FINANCE

No Report

MEMBERSHIP

No Report

VOTER SERVICES

Lackner will be coordinating voter registrations on September 22 at Lake Michigan College and Ripley will do likewise at the Niles Public Library and will get any registrations to the clerk's office at the end of the session.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Bickett put together a binder for registering voters with forms and ideas for how to set it up and network.

UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

September 21	Book Group
September 22	Voter Registration Day
September 24	Redistricting Town Hall
September 25	LWVLMR Annual Meeting
September 27	Gilbert Goodbye Reception
October 12	General Membership Meeting
October 20	Board Meeting
November 18	League Luncheon

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lauth
Secretary