

League of Women Voters of Iowa  
State Convention  
ISU Alumni Center  
Ames, Iowa  
June 7-8, 2019

LWVIA President Mary Rae Bragg, following welcomes from Ames/Story County Past Co-Presidents Becky Coats and Nancy Halvorson, and Ames City Councilor Chris Nelson, called the convention to order at 9:14 am. Presentation of the colors was by Ames Girl Scouts. (Brownie Troop #1114, Junior Troop #253, and Cadette Troop #1173)

President Bragg introduced the LWVIA Board of Directors and Officers, and LWVIA past presidents in attendance: Pat Jensen, Myrna Loehrlein, Bonnie Pitz, Deb Turner, and Jean Lloyd Jones.

Nancy Halvorson announced 84 delegate members, 3 non-delegate members and 1 non-member observer attending, with representation of all 11 local Leagues.

The motion to adopt the Agenda was made by Linda Murken, seconded by Linda Schreiber, and passed on voice vote. Pat Jensen was appointed session parliamentarian. The motion to adopt Convention Rules was made by Linda Meloy, seconded by Mary Ellen Miller, and passed on voice vote.

Local League presidents answering roll call reported on their locals' activities. The League's mission of study, education, and advocacy were well represented in the activities reported. Voter Registration, candidate and legislative forums, and plans for commemoration of 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 2020 were frequently mentioned.

Bev VerSteegh, Ottumwa  
Jean McMenimin, Linn  
Syndy Conger, Johnson  
Linda Hagedorn, Ames/ Story  
Jessie Hill, Metro Des Moines  
Sue Johannsen, Muscatine  
Dagna Simmons, Sioux City  
Terese Grant, Grinnell  
Bonnie Pitz, Jasper  
Tam Prenosil, Dubuque

The 2019 Legislative Report was provided in written format by Amy Campbell, *in absentia*.

President Bragg alerted the attendees to SAVE THE DATE Saturday, August 10, 2019 for “**Local Leagues Rock**” in Grinnell. This will be an updated Leadership Training.

Sue Wilson and Tam Prenosil presented an update on our **Upper Mississippi Region Inter League Organization (ILO)**. They shared the formation, purpose, and agency coordination data. Check it out at [www.lwvumrr.org](http://www.lwvumrr.org).

Doris Kelley presented an update on **Centennial Activities**, which, so far, includes 26 projects and activities in the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Campaign. She gave us 3 assignments: 1) check out the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment campaign website, 2) provide Mary Ellen Miller names of possible contributors, and 3) contact local Service Agencies to host a 15-20 minutes power point presentation.

Myrna Loehrlein, representing the **Criminal Juvenile Justice Committee**, reported on the LWVIA effort in support of **restoration of felon voting rights**. A felony does not define a citizen. Voting is a citizen’s right. Voting rights restoration needs a constitutional amendment, which Governor Reynolds proposed in her 2019 State of the State address. Actions completed include 700 emails to support the Governor’s proposal, Letters to the Editor of local newspapers, and a meeting with the Governor’s staffers resulting in revised form to request restoration of voting rights. Future action steps recommended are to distribute “Support Restoration of The Right to Vote” cards (provided on table) at League events, download the form from Auditor’s office website, and send emails to Legislators.

Deb Turner, LWVUS Board member, explained the **Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Mission** as the “DNA of LWV”. She gave the example definitions: Diversity is being invited to the party, Inclusion is being asked to dance, and Equity is for everyone to have opportunity to be successful (not equal but equitable). The mission is to change the face of LWV, and it will take 3 levels of understanding: personal, organizational, and vision. The goal is to have the D-I-E mission statement adoption at state and local level.

Mary Ann Nelson presented the new version of **Leadership Development**, formerly MLD, which seeks to be creative and impactful through communication. As a grassroots organization, LWVIA will host phone call conversations between all levels: local, state, and national, members and leaders, to share achievements and solve problems.

The Keynote speakers were Andie Dominick (editorial writer) and Carol Hunter (Executive Editor) of the Des Moines Register. They gave examples from their publication to support the theme “For Iowa to be the place we want it to be, it has to be good for everyone”. This touched on many of our LWVIA policy priorities: affordable housing, healthcare, education, and voting rights. The Des Moines Register seeks to provide relevant journalism to help Iowans live their lives.

Bragg's State of the League in Iowa address stressed the importance of nonpartisanship to the League's identity. She feels the LWV nonpartisan ethic is the answer to current political dysfunction, and listed steps to reach goal where Independent, Republican and Democratic parties come together to create policy.

- 1) Support the nonpartisan process
- 2) Assert ourselves in public
- 3) Reach out to other alliances

We are no longer the women who passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; we are more diverse with respect to race, class or income. Laws we get passed affect generations to follow. It time for LWV to publicize what we do, and join coalitions. Her vision is that we hold conversations in our communities to seek financial help through estate planning contributions, and applying for grants. This could enable us to create scholarships and support radio/TV ads. Let's create good government and a healthy environment.

The Carrie Chatman Catt Award was presented to Doris Kelley. Doris is Chairperson for the **HARD WON, NOT DONE campaign** of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment organization. Through her vision and effort, many commemoration events and projects will take place throughout Iowa, with an emphasis on education and recognizing the role of the past in shaping our future. Partnerships among formal and informal "Leaders for Equality" have formed to create experiences that people will value, remember and talk about for years to come. Check out the website: [19<sup>th</sup>-amendment-centennial.org](http://19th-amendment-centennial.org). Thank you Doris, for making LWVIA a priority in your life.

Bragg reported that the LWVIA Board, in accordance with LWVIA by-laws, previously approved the minutes of the 2017 convention. Linda Schreiber moved the 2017 Convention minutes and the 2018 Council minutes be approved. Caba James seconded the motion. Motion passed on voice vote.

Linda Meloy presented a report on LWVIA financial status, including the Education Fund and the Heartland Investment account. Nancy Porter moved and Diana Henry seconded motion to accept the Financial Report. Motion passed on voice vote.

Linda referred the delegates to the proposed 2019-20 Budget printed in the Convention booklet. Myrna Loehrlein moved and Susie Corbin-Muir seconded the motion to approve the budget. Motion passed on voice vote.

Karen Kendrowski of the Carrie Chatman Catt Center invited the LWVIA membership to the **Official 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Commemoration Kickoff Event** Thursday February 14, 2020 in Ames, Iowa at the ISU Memorial Union. The keynote speaker will be author Elaine Weiss speaking on "the History of Ratification". Professor Jane Cox will present her enactment "the Yellow Rose of Suffrage".

Bragg introduced Melissa Currence, our Iowa liaison to LWVUS. Melissa shared her role as liaison and her podcasts.

Bonnie Pltz presented the Nomination Committee's slate of officers and directors for 2019-2021. They are President, Terese Grant, Vice President (2019-2020), Nancy Halvorson, Secretary, Polly Horton, Directors Bev VerSteegh, Sue Wilson, and Mary Ann Nelson. Karen Person made motion to accept the Nomination Slate by acclimation. Motion passed on voice vote.

LWVIA Council 2020 remains without a host league.

LWV Dubuque volunteered to host the LWVIA 2021 Convention.

Pat Jensen recommended discussion of program in the next 2 years. Local Leagues submitted no topics for program of study to LWVIA. Mary Richards moved, and Sue Johannsen seconded a motion to retain the current LWVIA positions. Motion passed on voice vote.

**Directions to the Board**

1. Actively recruit people of color. (LWV Dubuque)
2. Reach out to LWVUS to discuss and advocate for support for the DEI policy. Amend the LWVUS blog that introduces this policy to include a better, more accurate depiction of the racism that surrounded the suffragist movement. (LWV Ames/Story County)

Becky Coats announced that the Auction profit was \$2555.00 for LWVIA.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Polly Horton  
LWVIA Vice-President/ Acting Secretary  
June 8, 2019