

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA CROSSE AREA  
93RD ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 15, 2017**

The 2017 annual meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by president Peter Nelson. There were 25 members present. The Minutes of the 2016 annual meeting were approved.

**PROGRAM:**

Tara Johnson, Chairperson of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors, provided us with an overview of the County Board's accomplishments and the challenges. She mentioned that in the past state legislative session there were 182 pieces of legislation introduced that would have eroded local control, taking power from technical schools, school districts, universities, municipalities or counties and the like, and included everything from cell tower siting to voting issues such as limiting when units of government could schedule the hours of early voting. She noted that local control seemed to be diluted. She indicated that La Crosse County was pushing back, not acquiescing, but choosing its battles wisely. She noted in 2016 county boards across the state, 28% of the makeup of the county boards was female but in La Crosse County it was 45%, and that leadership of the board was reflecting these numbers. In La Crosse County half of all department heads are female and increases are also being made in incorporating individuals of color and LGBT, although not equal to the proportion of the population in La Crosse County. Also, the County is making diversity on its committees a priority.

She also noted there was good collaboration between the County and the 18 municipalities including villages, towns and cities. She mentioned the Belle Square project, the mixed unit development that included housing, parking, medical and dental, and bank businesses. The County-owned surface parking lot was being repurposed into a facility that established an increase in the market value of that property for the City and County of La Crosse for tax purposes.

Tara mentioned the Family Collaborative which served 196 clients in 2016 helping to strengthen families and to reduce criminal referrals. She mentioned the Household Hazardous Removal Program removing 604,884 pounds of waste. She noted that the county landfill is the first Green Tier landfill in the state and that it has been repurposed into a site that the Boy Scouts have used for camping and has numerous hiking trails.

She mentioned that there have been 24 elections in La Crosse County since July of 2011, all of which had run smoothly. She noted that La Crosse County has a AA1 bonding, a very low debt to value of property ratio, and that La Crosse County has the seventh lowest tax rate in Wisconsin's 72 counties.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Peter provided a summary of the year in his President's Report found in the annual meeting booklet. He specifically mentioned Sheila Hilke's contribution to the board, re-orienting membership efforts to consider younger people also. Peter noted that we are trying to work with libraries to help with voter registration and also the neighborhood groups. He also mentioned that the local league has received a pass-through grant to help with voter activities.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion seconded and passed to approve the proposed budget. Also the financial statement year-to-date was presented to the group.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Nora Garland has agreed to take over the newsletter and some general discussion as to whether the newsletter should go back to being monthly. Lots of events come up that need immediate communication.

Deb Lutjen discussed the Lunch and Learn and asked for the members complete the survey to discuss topics and programs for the next year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The election of the following officers and board members was approved:

**2016-2018 Officers**

President – Deb Lutgen  
Vice President – Mary Nugent  
Treasurer – Jane Klekamp

**2017-2019 Board of Directors**

Ellen Frantz (1 year)  
Peter Nelson  
Kris Haskell  
Sheila Garrity

**Continuing Members**

Maureen Kinney – Secretary  
Kathy Mulliner – Board Member  
Pam Knutson – Board Member  
Nora Garland – Board Member

STATE CONVENTION:

It was announced that the league would pay up to \$250 per person for travel costs, lodging and registration for the State Annual Meeting this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted:

Maureen Kinney, Secretary