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Location, Church of Christ, 900 Waldron St, Ft. Smith, Arkansas

Attending were representatives of Ft. Smith, Washington County (Fayetteville), and Pulaski County (Little Rock). In addition, one member at large, Tricia Weidling was present. Toni Larson, of Greater Metropolitan Denver League and National LWV board member, was an observer.

The purpose of the meeting was to approve new bylaws after the suspension of the Arkansas bylaws by National. Additionally, a new Leadership Team would be selected and a 2014-2016 budget would be approved. The Program for LWV ARK would be considered.

Meeting was called to order at 11:40 AM by acting President **Stephanie Johnson**.

**Karen Farris** moved and was properly seconded for adoption of the agenda. The motion passed.

### **Adoption of Program**

Following traditionally parliamentary procedure, delegates from the three Leagues and the total voting members in attendance were recognized. Delegates from each League presented Action Programs for consideration to be adopted by the Council in the afternoon session. Ft. Smith and Washington County requested that their ongoing programs including studies and information gathering related to social wellbeing such as awareness of fraud against senior citizens, mental health of prisoners, and elderly vulnerabilities be approved to continue. Candidate forums were to continue. Community-driven topics would continue to be studied. Pulaski County and Washington County support further work on Voter Identification (Voter ID) issues.

### **Adoption of Bylaws**

New bylaws, patterned on the National League's Streamlined Bylaws by an ad hoc group, were presented. These bylaws had been distributed via email earlier to all League members. **Nell Matthews** moved adoption of the bylaws.

**J. P. Peters** noted that no explicit requirement for yearly auditing of the financial records was described. She also urged wording to require an audit whenever the financial team member responsibilities transferred from one person to another.

### **Nomination of Leadership Team Members**

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Nell Matthews (Pulaski County), Joyce Hale and J. P. Peters (Washington County) and Pauline Novak (Ft. Smith) were nominated. **Stephanie Johnson**, seeing that no additional nominations were forthcoming, closed the nominations.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

### **Afternoon Session**

**Carole Harter** presented the current status of the LWV ARK finances. (A financial report should be appended to these minutes.) LWV ARK total is \$79,547.25.

### **2014-2016 Budget**

The general expenditures required for the past year will be used to allocate estimated expenses for the upcoming two years.

The current 2012-2014 budget was amended on a motion by **Delores Chitwood** (with proper second) to increase the allowance for meetings from \$1000 to \$4000 to allow Leadership Team members to attend the Dallas National Convention on June 6 – 10.

The following individuals are prepared to attend Convention: Nell Matthews and Kater Reynolds (Pulaski Cty League), Joyce Hale (Washington Cty), and Stephanie Johnson (LWV ARK). Other potential attendees include Carol Young (Pulaski) and Pauline Novak (Ft. Smith).

The amount of reimbursement by LWV ARK per member was generally accepted to be \$1000 per member. Registration (before May 1) is \$335. The Omni Hotel is \$780 for four nights with double occupancy. Thus, two people could attend for a total of about \$1400 exclusive of transportation and meals. Additional reimbursement of expenses may be sought from local Leagues.

The following were Moved Forward for consideration and approval:

Action/Program, Budget, Election of Leadership Team.

**Carole Harter** moved for acceptance of the LWV ARK Program. The Program, for local Leagues to continue their ongoing programs related to community concerns and action on Voter ID, was approved.

**Carole Harter** moved for acceptance of the slate of four Leadership Team members. The slate was elected.

**Tracy Pinnard** moved for the adoption of the new Bylaws. After a brief discussion of changes that will be needed, it was decided that we would work with these bylaws as written until we can further review them. Amendments to these bylaws will be presented at the next gathering of LWV ARK in Pulaski County in the spring of 2015. The bylaws were approved. Note: once the new bylaws have been approved, LWV

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ARK will operate under these bylaws and all past officers are replaced by the new Leadership Team.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 PM.