

## Bylaws

### League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area

#### Article I

##### Name

**Sec. 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area. This local league is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

#### Article II

##### Purpose and Policy

**Sec. 1. Purpose.** The purpose of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

**Sec. 2. Political Policy.** The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area may take action on local governmental measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

#### Article III

##### Membership

**Sec. 1. Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

**Sec. 2. Types of Membership.**

- (a) Voting members shall be those citizens at least eighteen years of age who are paid members of the League of Women Voters or are life members.
- (b) Those voting members of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area who have been members of the League of Women Voters of the United States for fifty years or more shall be life members, excused from the payment of dues.
- (c) Associate members shall be all other non-voting members.

#### Article IV

##### Board of Directors

**Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, six elected Directors, and not more than six appointed Directors. Three Directors shall be elected by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

**Sec. 2. Qualifications.** No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area.

**Sec. 3. Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death or disqualification of an officer or an elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

**Sec. 4. Powers and Duties.** The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

**Sec. 5. Meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.

**Sec. 6. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

**Sec. 7. Executive Committee.** An Executive Committee, consisting of the elected officers, shall act for the Board between regular meetings, provided that any action taken shall be presented to the Board for ratification at its next meeting. Three members of the Executive Committee, including the President, shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

## **Article V**

### **Officers**

**Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers.** The officers of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area - shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President and Vice President shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

**Sec. 2. The President.** The President shall preside at all of the meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors; shall, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees; shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

**Sec. 3. The Vice President.** The Vice President shall, in the event of absence, disability, or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as the President and the Board may designate.

**Sec. 4. The Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors; shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election; shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to this office.

**Sec. 5. The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due; shall be the custodian of these moneys; shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and

shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board; and shall present monthly and quarterly statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

## Article VI

### Financial Administration

**Sec. 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area - shall commence on the first day of July each year.

**Sec. 2. Dues.** Annual dues shall be payable to July 1<sup>st</sup>. New members shall pay one half the dues the year they join the organization. In a household membership the first member shall pay full dues and each successive member shall pay one-half annual dues.

**Sec. 3. Budget.** A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole and a recommendation for the annual dues.

**Sec. 4. Budget Committee.** A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the Budget Committee.

## Article VII

### Meetings

**Sec. 1. Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year. The time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 2. Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting shall be held between April 15 and May 30, the exact date and place to be determined by the Board of Directors.  
The Annual Meeting shall:

- a) adopt a local program for the ensuing year
- b) elect officers, directors and members of the Nominating committee
- c) adopt an adequate budget, and
- d) transact such other business as may properly come before it

**Sec. 3. Quorum.** Twenty percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at the business meetings of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Nominations and Elections

**Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chair and two members, who shall not be members of the Board of Directors, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board immediately after the Annual Meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 2. Nominations.** Any member may send suggestions to the chair of the Nominating Committee.

**Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the floor.** The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and the Chair and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

**Sec. 4. Elections.** The election shall be by ballot except when there is but one nominee for each office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

## ARTICLE IX

### Program

**Sec. 1. Authorization.** The governmental principles adopted by the national Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

**Sec. 2 Program.** The Program of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area - shall consist of

- a) action to implement the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area, and
- b) those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

**Sec. 3. Program adoption.**

- a) Program shall be adopted at the Annual Meeting.
  - 1) Each year the Board of Directors shall provide the membership with a variety of opportunities to address the program. These opportunities may consist of: a general meeting, unit meetings, distributed literature and mail-in feedback, interactive website or any others the Board deems appropriate.
  - 2) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations submitted by the voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program.
  - 3) The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members one month before the Annual Meeting.
  - 4) A majority of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.

- 5) Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors, or those not submitted in advance, may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that
  - i. the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote and
  - ii. the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.
- b) Changes in the Program - In the case of altered conditions, changes in the Program may be made provided that:
  - 1) Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and
  - 2) Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

**Sec. 4. Member Action.** Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

## **Article X**

### **National Convention, State Convention, and State Council**

**Sec. 1. National Convention.** The members at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office shall select delegates to the Convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area - under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

**Sec. 2. State Convention.** The members at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area - under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

**Sec. 3. State Council.** The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that council in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area - under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

## **Article XI**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

**Sec. 1. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

## **Article XII**

### **Amendments**

**Sec. 1. Amendments.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

These Bylaws were revised and adopted May 5, 2003.