



Milwaukee County Department on Aging Advocacy Committee October 1, 2018

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee held its monthly meeting on October 1, 2018 at the Marcia Cogg Building, 1220 West Vliet Street, Room 104, Milwaukee, WI 53205 in Room 104.

Advocacy Committee Members Present

Commissioner Fred Knueppel
Barbara Bechtel
Casper Green
John Griffith
Bob Haase
Tim Harrington
David Hoffman
Gary Mikolajczyk
Judith Troestler
Dr. Elliott Moeser

Dain Maddox

Milwaukee County Staff Present

Jon Janowski
Andrew Bethke

Guests Present

Gary Sprong
Stephanie Sue Stein- League of Progressive Seniors

Advocacy Committee Members

Excused:

Commissioner Bettie Rodgers
Tom Frazier

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fred Knueppel called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 6, 2018 and SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

Discussion was held regarding the accuracy of the September 10th meeting minutes. Mr. Mikolajczyk said the September minutes were wrong and asked that they be corrected. Mr. Janowski said that he would correct the meeting minutes and that they would be sent, as amended, to the Commission on Aging for approval at their October 26th meeting.

MOTION: Approve the August 6, 2018 meeting minutes

ACTION: Ayes: Bechtel, Green, Haase, Harrington, Hoffman, Knueppel, Moeser, Troestler Nos: Mikolajczyk (Green moved, Griffith seconded)

III. PRESENTATION: AARP VOTER REGISTRATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, LISA LAMKINS, AARP

Ms. Lamkins summarized the voter registration and outreach work that AARP is doing all over Wisconsin. She emphasized that the organization's outreach efforts are focused on older voters in the mid-term elections. She passed out packets of information that summarized 2018-19 position papers and questions for Wisconsin candidates for office. She said that people can connect to AARP's Facebook page and talked about AARP telephone town halls – one with Senator Baldwin that had about 9,700 people on the phone, and one with Senator Vukmir that is coming up on October 10th.

Ms. Lamkins talked about AARP's "voter van" that is going around the state to collect pledges from people in an effort to increase voter participation. She also talked about their first postcard party recently held in Madison which involved postcards being sent to public officials. Another postcard party will soon be held in Wauwatosa and everyone was invited to attend.

Ms. Lamkins also walked through the AARP website that provides information about voter registration as well as links to candidate websites and AARP position papers. She highlighted some of the issues AARP is working on, including preserving Social Security and Medicare for future generations. Candidates are being asked how they will strengthen these programs. She also touched on the importance of preserving Medicaid, and how this program is being targeted at the federal level for big cuts and changes. She also mentioned the importance of prescription drug prices and family caregiving services – including the benefits of Sen. Baldwin's RAISE Family Caregiver Act.

Ms. Lamkins mentioned the CARE Act and the importance of getting this type of legislation passed in Wisconsin. Caregiver tax credits are also important and are part of a statewide legislative initiative. "Work and Save" laws have also passed in other states and could be another statewide focus.

Some discussion focused on the Affordable Care Act and Wisconsin's effort to overturn the ACA. Ms. Lamkins encouraged everyone to become an informed voter and ask their friends and colleagues to do the same. AARP pledge cards were passed out.

MOTION: Committee will write a letter in support of Assembly Bill 631 and Senate Bill 528 to all state representatives within Milwaukee County.

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Mikolajczyk moved, Haase seconded)

Some discussion ensued about the state CARE Act. Mr. Harrington noted that this legislation did not have a bill number in the last legislative session and that this issue is a “wait and see” issue for the next legislative session. The Committee agreed to keep this issue on their radar as the next legislative session begins.

IV. PRESENTATION: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, MICHELLE GOLDSTEIN, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ms. Goldstein introduced the work of LWV. LWV has been working in the community for almost 100 years and takes action on wide variety of local, state, and federal public policy issues.

Ms. Goldstein referenced the elimination of the state’s deputy registrar program and congratulated the Committee for taking a position supporting the reinstatement of this program. She emphasized that the current online voter registration system needs to be improved.

She noted that every library in Milwaukee has a kiosk where people can get help with voting resources. She said that LWV registers new citizens to vote at the Courthouse, and they also work in high schools to ensure that eligible youth are registered to vote. She encouraged everyone to become a voter registration advocate. She said that LWV particularly works with seniors and people of color who are underrepresented in the voting population, and they hold monthly voting trainings, which are posted on the LWV website, that everyone was encouraged to attend.

Ms. Goldstein passed our MyVoteWi cards and walked the Committee through different components of the state’s MyVote website. Some discussion ensued about the complexity of ballots and how difficult it was for seniors and other people to follow the current ballots. Credit card statements are now allowable as proof of residence for voting purposes, which is a new development.

Ms. Goldstein also mentioned that UW-Milwaukee is an early voting site this year. She said LWV is not putting too many resources into college outreach and recruitment.

Ms. Goldstein passed out LWV outreach materials, including MyVoteWi cards, early voting hours information in Milwaukee, a candidate information flyer, Milwaukee Election Commission leaflets, a Disability Rights Wisconsin flyer, and VoteRiders cards. She emphasized that state ID’s are free of charge. She said a key message is to encourage people to fill out absentee ballots and vote early in the process.

V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: FEDERAL UPDATES ON AGING ISSUES

No updates were presented.

VII. DISCUSSION: ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Mr. Hoffman announced that a new coalition has been formed in Milwaukee County that will be advocating for a “fair share” of revenue from the State of Wisconsin. All Milwaukee County residents are being encouraged to support this effort. Mr. Hoffman asked that the Advocacy Committee be a part of the new coalition.

MOTION: Send a letter to the Milwaukee County Executive and Chair of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors that the Advocacy Committee be a part of the new “Fair Share” coalition and have a Committee member be represented on Milwaukee County’s new “Fair Share” workgroup

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Hoffman moved, Mikolajczyk seconded)

Mr. Harrington mentioned that there will more federal funding (\$425 million to the NIH) put toward Alzheimers research due to the recent passage of the FY2019 budget.

Mr. Mikolajczyk mentioned that WAAN’s Aging Advocacy Day is May 14, 2019 in Madison. He also mentioned that he reached out to Congresswoman Gwen Moore’s office to note that it’s been several months since they have sent a liaison to the Advocacy Committee meetings. Mr. Griffith added that he’s been communicating with state legislators and County Supervisors that they start attending Advocacy Committee meetings and pay attention to senior issues.

Mr. Griffith also mentioned that there will be a “transit for all” roundtable organized later this fall and more details would be forthcoming.

Stephanie Stein from the League of Progressive Seniors mentioned that this group will be organizing a “Scott Walker and His Scary Friends” demonstration/parade on October 17th in downtown Milwaukee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting

ACTION: Motion carried unanimously (Haase moved, Hoffman seconded)

Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 5 at 1:30pm at 1220 W. Vliet Street, Room 104.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Janowski

**Jon Janowski
Director of Administration**