

Board Meeting: 2 to 4:15 p.m., Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Attending **Board Members**: Peggy Dellinger, Evelyn Murphy, Robert Grove, Lois Kiely, Diane Hara, Sol Hara, Wilma Pfeffer, Dallas Grove, Nancy Sabino, Marie Curtis, Annette Scott, Susan Sferas, Pat Supplee, Judy O'Malley, **Non-Board Members**: Harriet Cook, Elia Desruisseaux.

Standing business:

- Minutes of November meeting approved (On LWVSMC.ORG, “Members Only” Page listed on left of Home Page [pw: league1920])
- Treasurer’s Report
 - \$8058 Bank Balance
 - 113 members, 86 paid, 27 unpaid (current fiscal year dues)
 - \$6700 not included in bank balance & dedicated to Energizing Young Voters (held by State League) – for purchase of computer & peripheral items including using an intern to update slide programs, etc.
 - PayPal is functional and Ted is working on how to incorporate it into website.
 - Report filed for audit

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) – DEI statement of inclusion was read.

- *Discussion related to possibility of DEI Team’s recommendation to consider evening or weekend Board meetings. Current daytime slot excludes potential participation.*
- Options were discussed and members were asked to **consider proposal and further discussion & action** will be taken at next meeting. Some alternatives were: alternating day & evening meeting but maintaining 2nd Wednesday of the month as a Board meeting date, changing the day each month in numerical progression, etc. A poll of day/date preference was suggested.
- Gender neutral language issues were discussed: e.g. staffing booth vs manning booth, members vs fellows, etc. It was questioned as to whether or not DEI statement included intellectual ability. Gender neutral pronoun usage, e.g. preference for her/she, him/he to demonstrate advocacy of individual preferences, etc. was also discussed
- A website was mentioned that assisted in gender neutral pronoun usage. Evelyn sent this reference following the meeting. Click here to view: [Pronoun and Gender Guidance](#)
- The challenge to encourage Republican Party members to join the League (due to the perception that the League is primarily progressive and liberal and Democratic in its philosophy toward issues) was discussed.
- The organization Braver Angels is an example of a possible model for mixed party inclusion. Evelyn agreed to work with Pat on the possibilities.
- The DEI Committee would like to provide an educational opportunity for League members on “intersectionality” (18 min.) in January.

Membership

- Mentors now listed on membership form—available on lwvsmc.org
- Proposed changes to the membership form:

Member Interests Additions: Voter Registration, Education, & Assistance Vote 411/Candidate Information Candidate Forums Election Monitoring Minority Issues Bias Reduction Educating Young Voters	Student: \$10 (LWVNJ charges \$10 for each student) Individual: \$40 Household: \$60 (2 adults + \$20 for each additional adult in household) Young Leaguers: \$25 (age criteria?)
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- Suggestion: eliminate multiple membership lists & consolidate as many as possible into one form.
- It was proposed that “interests,” & “fundraising” be added to the membership form.
- Susan will research the League definition for ”Young Voters.”
- Peggy volunteered to work on a new form for membership and fees.
- Status of upload-able forms to be discussed at future meeting and whether or not someone should be hired to do this work.
- The question of how long the mentor-mentee relationship lasts was asked. Agreed that the critical time is the first year of membership, but the mentor relation can continue, as needed, indefinitely.
- Discussion: The effectiveness of giving League memberships as a gift was discussed. Two concerns: “Gift” members may not be interested or become active; each member costs LWVSMC \$17. Agreed a better idea is to offer a \$40 or more donation in some’s name that could be converted into a membership at the potential members initiation.
- Board was reminded that members who have not paid current year dues are removed from our rolls January 31, the date we are required to report membership to LWVNJ and LWVUS. This reporting is the basis of our per-member payments (combined assessment is \$5700\$17 more than our current dues. Robert has sent multiple email reminders to unpaid dues persons. **Robert will send the list of unpaid members to Peggy and she and Wilma and Diane will develop a final and friendly letter to the members in the hope that they will renew.** It was suggested that a “respond by date” be added to the letter to bring closure to the membership issue.
- **Mentors were encouraged to call** mentees to wish them Happy Holidays.
- The Board was reminded that LWVSMC can use its Scholarship Fund to assist members who may wish to continue as members, but have financial issues. The challenge is the sensitivity around identifying cases.

Voter Service

- Evelyn as submitted paperwork solicited by LWVUS to express our interest in a potential voter service grant.
- Joint Voter Service team will analyze lessons learned from 2020 General Election
- Pat and Peggy delivered lesson to citizenship classes to present voter information.

Energizing Young Voters (aka Fighting for the Vote)

- Website: EYV site under development by a professional website developer and will be linked to LWVSMC and professional educational associations in NJ. The work is being done pro bono.
- Deliveries: 12/2—Civics club in Edison, contact made through Nancy Hedinger; 12/8—Citizenship Class, Burlington County College
- Meeting to be requested with LWVNJ Executive Director Jesse Burns to discuss moving EYV under LWVNJ auspices—and supporting the move with some of the monies in the dedicated EYV fund.
- Looking for a trade school student to complete committee of Young Voters

Energizing Young Voters Goals for 2021

1. Hiring an intern to complete time-sensitive tasks and assist with administrative details (10 hr/wk/semester (10-15 weeks) @ \$10/hr paid for through funds already donated to EYV.
2. Data analysis to determine if the intention to vote is as strong as appears, and if the intention to vote leads to actual voting behavior.
3. Development of web and social media presence (underway)
4. Creation of a statewide rather than local league “home” for Energizing Young Voters (LWVNJ) Meeting with Jesse Burns early in 2021.

Note: the following information was sent by Pat following the meeting to support the discussion:

1. Curriculum development specifically addressing the second goal of the League of Women Voters, defending our democracy. Students will learn how they can become civically involved in the change they want to see.
2. Collaboration and responsibility-sharing (to assure that the programs survive beyond my engagement) with other members of our league and other Leagues to meet League goals specifically addressing the 18-29 year old age group
3. Outreach to schools, organizations and Leagues across New Jersey to disseminate our programs - presentations, conferences, public relations
4. Development - grants and donations
5. Engagement -volunteers, both young and old, as presenters, curriculum developers, grant writers, public relations, etc.

Old Business

- Reenter-Register-Vote – information not available at this time
- Facts and Issues- Marie would like to see programs alternate between those pertaining to League issues & others related to public issues. DEI members have been invited to be on the show.
- PR- Dallas and Nancy will develop a press release to submit to media outlets to wrap up the year by focusing on the myriad of League activities that have been conducted throughout 2020.
- The Coaster will be thanked for its support and coverage of League activities.

- Nancy suggested contacting a notable Republican to be interviewed (e.g. Christine Hanlon) about the 2020 political process, e.g. Absentee ballots.

New Business

- LWVNJ Program planning: Joint meeting, 7 PM, Tues., Jan. 19. Susan will lead the Jan. 19 county-wide meeting on LWVNJ program planning. She will invite a new member to work with her.
- LWVSMC in 2021—Priorities and programs (Brainstorm) – *See LWVSMC Brainstorm, attached*

Close- Next Board meeting: 2 PM, Wednesday, January 13, 2021