

MINUTES

Board Meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2022, 5:00 – 6:15 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

ATTENDING: (17 participants) BOARD MEMBERS: Marie Curtis, Peggy Dellinger, Dallas Grove, Lois Kiely, Evelyn Murphy, Wilma Pfeffer, Nancy Sabino, Annette Scott, Susan Sferas, Pat Supplee, Anne Ugrovics. GUESTS: Juliet Cozzi, Cordelia Golden, Dallas Hlatky, Diana Klein, Jayne Mackta (Nominating Committee Chair), Anne Torre (LWVNJ Liaison).

Opening – Welcome, Introductions, and DEI Policy Pledge (read by Lois Kiely)

Announcements

- Cordelia Golden, elected to the Board at last meeting to fill vacancy, is stepping down as Board Director. She is an officer in a partisan organization and prohibited from holding a Board position by our Nonpartisan Policy.
- Susan Sferas, treasurer, will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year (June 30). She has taken on a leadership role in another nonprofit.
- Meeting has been scheduled for early February. It is a “Meet and Greet” with LWVNJ staff members responsible for community organizing (Observer Corps, GOTV, etc.).
- The Merger Exploration Team is continuing to meet. Members are invited to join and several have expressed interest. Looking for members who are able/willing to work as facilitators for small discussion groups on the subject.
- Looking for Voter Service leaders for LWVSMC.
- LWVNJ is setting up interviews with our state representative and is looking for volunteers.
- Received a \$700 grant from LWVUS for young voter registration/education for spring.
- Asbury Park TV (APTV) is now showing LWVSMC’s “Facts & Issues” at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays

Standing business *(Documents distributed to the Board in advance of meeting and are posted on lwvsmc.org, “Members Only” page.)*

- Minutes of December Meeting. Accepted.
- Treasurer’s Report. Income for December included a generous member donation, state reimbursements, and membership dues. Expenses included the 2nd qtr. Per-Member-Payment (\$674.69). Book balance as of the end of 2021: \$6616.13 (adjusted book balance: \$7641.13). The Treasurer’s Report was accepted and filed for audit.
- Team Activity Reports –No questions or comments.

2022 Plan of Work – Calendar Overview – Continued from December

- The Board continued work to develop the LWVSMC calendar for the 2022 calendar year, identifying known dates and recommended activities, by month, in key areas, including:
 - Program and Policy (Local, State, and National)
 - Voter Education and Registration (General, Young Voters, Returning Citizens, Voters we might be missing, . . .)
 - Vote411
 - Candidate Forums
 - GOTV (Get out the vote)
 - Observer Corps
 - DEI
 - Building Infrastructure (Website, Funding Sources, Member Trainings, Governance, . . .)

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- Celebrations
 - The discussion focused on several key areas:
 - Program: Our input to LWVUS program planning is due in February in preparation for this year's national convention. Marie is in charge of coordinating our review and Susan has agreed to complete and submit the required LWVUS forms. Pat Supplee recommended advocating for civics education in national program. At the state level, the Board recommends encouraging members to participate in the redistricting process/roll-out.
 - Voter Education: We will need to develop a plan during 1Q22 for using the \$700 LWVUS grant targeted to registering and educating young voters. We are looking to connect with student councils and other student organizations to conduct registration drives and voter education events. Pat offered to explore a way to make Energizing Young Voters (EYV) program deliveries visible to members. Annette suggested finding opportunities to incorporate EYV programs into the Re-enter-Register-Vote (RRV) initiative.
 - Vote411: Recognized the need to recruit and train additional behind-the-scenes volunteers to manage the interface with the VOTE411 software.
 - Observer Corps:
 - Discussed creating an architecture for municipality focused Town Teams as an approach to creating a stronger local-government focus. The Town Teams would manage local Observer Corp, Forums, advocacy, etc. LWVSMC has members in 25 municipalities (28 in OT, 17 in Neptune, 8 in Asbury Park, 7 in Long Branch, ...). The Montclair League currently uses the "Town Teams" model with considerable success.
 - Anne U. volunteered to observe Ocean Co. Bd. of Commissioners. Wilma Pfeffer is our Observer for the Ocean Twp. Council. (Ocean Twp. meetings are recorded; don't need to go in person.)
 - Focus on Asbury Park, Neptune, and Long Branch.
 - Explore how to make Observing more relevant. Strengthen reporting to members in the community. (AP Ballot question brought to LWVSMC for creating a white paper.) Juliet suggested tapping local media to highlight issues that come up through the Observer Corps; she is interested in observing in Middletown. Historically, members of the Observer Corps, having become known and respected by the government bodies, were tapped to serve on various governmental boards. Cordelia volunteered to observe AP Council and Bd of Ed.
 - DEI: The team has been asked to identify partners in target communities to strength our voter registration/education outreach. Lois asked for help identifying potential partners. There are openings for more members to join the team. Lois appealed to Board members to offer content for the DEI page on lwvsmc.org.
 - Infrastructure:
 - *WEBSITE*: We will begin migration of our website to Club Express during 1Q22.
 - *GOVERNANCE*: Search will begin in 1Q22 for a new treasurer to ensure enough time for training before Susan steps down. We also need a member to handle social media. Juliet expressed interest and Evelyn will put her in contact with Janis Iwanyk (LWVWM) who has agreed to handle Facebook until we find someone. [Post Board Meeting, Dallas Hlatky contacted Evelyn to express interest.]
 - *MEMBER ORIENTATION/TRAINING*: Discussed offering League orientation/training to members in 1Q22. Dallas and Susan have conducted an "Introduction to League" for LWVNJ several times.
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Close – 6:15

Next Board Meeting: *Thursday, February 10, 5:00 – 6:15*

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