

MINUTES

March 2, 2022 Board Meeting (LWVGRBA Lead)

via Zoom

ATTENDING (10): Carole Beyer, Elizabeth Bond, Barbara Chaudhery, Peggy Dellinger, Marianne Kligman, Evelyn Murphy, Susan Sferas, Sharon Steinhorn, Anne Torre, Louise Usechak.

Standing business

- MINUTES OF THE JAN. MEETING: Approved.
 - TREASURER'S REPORT: Only income was interest. Only expense was liability insurance paid (\$100) to cover meetings. Bank balance of \$5,111.32. Report filed for audit and available in the ILO Room on the Members Only page of lwvsmc.org.
 - LWVUS Convention Delegate: Budget includes \$300 for virtual attendance at LWVUS Convention (6/23-6/26); ILO has one delegate (SMC has 3; GRBA has 2, WM has 1). Decision made that Susan will take the ILO slot.
 - Additional Zoom account: Motion passed: To contract (month by month) for a second Zoom Professional account to cover extra activities at this time of year (including the Legislative Interviews).
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Merger Discussion Update_(led by Anne Torre, chair of Merger Investigation Team)

- Consensus meetings were held by three Leagues separately. Members approved the merger of the three local Leagues and the ILO into a single League.
 - Anne incorporated a statement into White Paper that combined the consensus of the three Leagues and submitted it to the LWVNJ for consideration at the 4/2 LWVNJ Board Meeting. (LWVNJ President Jennifer Howard replied that the process we followed and our White Paper should be a model for others look to merge.)
 - Merger brainstorming discussion scheduled for 3/15 (Currently 26 registered.) [*Post-meeting update: 40 registered, 25 attended.*]
 - If all goes as planned, the earliest timing for the merger would be late summer or fall. We should have some inkling in May or June
 - Considerations: Fiscal year runs through June 30. Plan will be to operate under the three separate Leagues for budget, nominations, etc. until the merger is official. We'll do what's required and not necessarily do full-blown annual meetings. Need to consider the ramifications of adopting a new dues structure—and possibly postponing the first solicitation for dues until July or August.
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Natural Resources (Louise Usechak)

- COLTS NECK: local group has organized (POWER) to address water resource issues, specifically associated with Colts Neck Manor, and have meet with Vin Gopal. The application is being reviewed at county level for drainage and off-site traffic. Have asked for access road changes; applicant to date has resisted. The Sierra Club hasn't done hands-on work at the local level and has generated some confusion about what the country is actually able to control or address. Application affects everyone from Colts Neck east to the ocean and north to the bay.

Question raised whether this issue would be a candidate for inclusion in the upcoming Legislative Interviews. (BACKGROUND: Gov. Christie eliminated state planning board and state action is needed to reinstate state oversight and direction.) Louise will follow through for LD13 interviews.

Hot Topics

- **March 20 program;** Wind Power (Sharon Steinhorn)
 - Three excellent speakers.
 - PR: Flyer has been distributed; Press release has gone out; Listed on LWVNJ website
 - 32 registered
 - Arranged a Zoom meeting noon 3/7 among panelists to coordinate their remarks
 - Roberta Kaufman will monitor questions and will moderate Q&A.
- **Ideas for upcoming programs** (July/ November)
 - September 11 (LWVSMC), 4 PM: New legislative and congressional districts (CD4 and 6) – and work now to improve the process for the 2031 redistricting, which needs to start now. The presentation would focus on next steps.
 - November 13 (LWVGRBA) 4PM:

Voter Service

- Education (Marianne Kligman)—Working with three students to participate in Legislative Interviews
- Two nonpartisan municipal elections in April: Keansburg and Long Branch. If they are competitive, we should look into hold forums. *[Post-meeting update: Neither race is competitive.]*

Observer Corps

- Sandy VanSant of LWVGRBA is interested in attending County Commissioner meetings. Barb will send her Marie's contact information for coaching

Public Relations

- Three PR directors from three Leagues met January 27
- Calendar:
 - February: Hot Topic materials out
 - March: Press Conference
 - May: Primary information and VOTE411
 - July/August: Press Conference: Voter education, VOTE411, Webinars, Hot Topic, possibly reorganization to expand our influence and fall would be good timing
 - August: Hot Topic on Redrawn maps
- Creating a publicity primer—one unified website, social media, rules of thumb, etc.
- Janis Iwanyk is leading a social media team covering all three Leagues.
- Suggestion: Ask League members to be on the lookout for articles relevant to League and League priorities and send to local president

Annual Meeting

- Need an ILO annual meeting. Unless we hear that LWVUS has approved the merger, we will plan for three local League annual meetings and one ILO annual meeting before the end of the fiscal year. We will ask the state to urge national to take early action. (ILO Annual Meeting: In person, social element, possibly at Thompson, Tatum, or Holmdel Park.)

Upcoming workshops

- Moderator Training—4/30. Flyer went out 3/2 to local leaders around the state with link to the registration and already have 3 registrants.

Close-

- Adjourned at 3:02
 - Next Meeting 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 4 (LWWM lead)
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