

*Township of Ocean League of Women Voters*

*Annual Meeting*

*June 30, 2011*

*Minutes from the Meeting*

**Annual Dinner Meeting held at the home of Peggy and Ted Dellinger**

**236 Oakhurst Rd., Oakhurst, NJ**

**6 p.m. -9:00 p.m.**

Those in attendance were Dallas Grove (Chairing Meeting), Susan Sferes, Peg & Ted Dellinger, Don & Marie Curtis, Sally and Bill Madden, Lois Kiely, Robert Grove, Janet and Art Ferrante, Marianne Wilensky and Kerry Butch.

**Welcome/Introductions**

Dallas Grove opened the meeting and gave some of the founding history and the early years of the Township of Ocean League. She then introduced our guest, Kerry Butch, Executive Director of the LWVNJ and Marianne Wilensky, a guest. At Dallas's request, the members present introduced themselves and mentioned their involvement.

Dallas gave a brief review of the accomplishments and actions of the past year. She reported that the New Jersey League honored Marie Curtis with the "LWVNJ Distinguished Service Award."

Marie Curtis described some of the early fundraiser activities and also that the cable TV show "Facts and Issues" has been on the air for over 20 years. Facts and Issues is a show prepared, directed and filmed by members of the LWVTO.

The LWVTO now has an active website, with links to local, county, state and national websites that provide voting information and news of government agencies.

Dallas gave a brief explanation of the way that the LWVTO operates as a "committee of the whole."

**Non Partisan Policy**

Marie Curtis introduced the Non Partisan Policy. Since the LWVTO does not have board members but operates as a committee of the whole, a change to the wording was required.

Janet Ferrante moved that all LWVTO members accept the nonpartisan policy as league

members with the caveat that when LWVTO members are acting as representatives of the LWV, they follow the requirements of a board member. Sue Sferas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Don Curtis presented the treasurer's report. The current bank balance is \$5,072.93. During the past year, \$119.27 was taken from reserves to balance the 2010-2011 budget. The LWVTO currently has 13 individual members and 5 family members.

### **Budget Report**

Robert Grove presented the budget for 2011-2012. Income and expenses are expected to be similar to 2010-2011. One new budget item is a yearly fee \$75 to cover the cost of maintaining the website. It is anticipated that this fee will be taken from the reserve bank account. Peggy Dellinger seconded the motion to approve the budget for 2011-2012 and the motion was approved.

### **Fund Raising Proposals**

Marie Curtis reviewed the activities of the LWVTO moderators and reported that they earned \$300 this year. Moderators charge \$100 to moderate a forum or election of a private organization but the League moderates debates sponsored by other Leagues at no charge.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Voter Service**

The LWVTO, directed by Peggy Dellinger conducted two candidate forums in the Township of Ocean: one for the board of education and the other for the municipal council. Both were well attended and ran smoothly.

Ken Lutz, Land Use chairman, was not able to attend the meeting. Marie Curtis reported that there are four affordable housing suits pending before the Township of Ocean. The LWVTO will continue to monitor these suits. The League will also follow the developments at Poplar Village to assure that the flooding problem is corrected.

Facts and Issues, the LWVTO's cable news show, is continuing with Marie Curtis as moderator. Ted Dellinger and Don Curtis work with Marie as the technical production crew. The set for the show was recently renovated and Facts and Issues was not filmed for several months. The program is now being produced on the regular schedule.

### **Old Business/Follow-up**

There was a discussion about holding a candidates' forum for the 11th district for

state assembly and Marie Curtis agreed to contact the Red Bank League to suggest we co-sponsor the event.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY™ is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. The LWVTO is a member of the Green Team that applied for status as a sustainable town and we are currently waiting for a response to the application.

#### LWVTO Website

Ted Dellinger developed and is maintaining the LWVTO website. This new media tool provides useful links to local municipal news and local school events. Also available are links to the LWVNJ and LWVUS and the NJ Division of Elections. For future elections, we plan to post questions to and responses from candidates running in the Township of Ocean districts. We expect this website to be of great value in bringing information to the local citizens.

Action Alerts -- Dallas forwards to all members, encouraging individuals to respond when they support the position.

### **New Business**

#### Announcements

On October 26 the ILO will hold a candidates forum for Monmouth County freeholder and surrogate at the Manalapan Library

Calendar: schedule of meetings

The LWVTO will have regular meetings on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in any month there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. The dates for 2011-2012 are:

August 31, 2011

November 30, 2011

February 29, 2012

May 30, 2012

The Holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Peggy and Ted Dellinger.

### **2011-2012 Program**

Peggy Dellinger initiated a discussion on the focus for the LWVTO for the coming year. She suggested an update of the Township of Ocean "Know your Town." Once the information is assembled and the update prepared, the text can be posted on the LWVTO website. Peggy offered and it was agreed that she would lead the effort.

She offered a second action item and suggested that LWVTO focus their voter education this fall on first time voters, with the goal of energizing them and encouraging them to be involved in government.

Sally Madden reported on a recent meeting of the "Friends of Deal Lake." She discussed the efforts that are being made to clean up the water quality of Deal Lake and also the movement to encourage the local populace to assist in the effort.

Kerry Butch then brought us up to date on the activities of the LWVNJ. Membership recruitment will be emphasized as local Leagues are losing an average of 3 percent of their members each year. The State workshops will be held on Saturday, September 24. The focus of the workshops will be education and accountability of natural resources Encouraging younger persons to join is very important. The national education study is due in October/November. This phase of the study is information gathering and the material will be discussed at the August meeting.

Sue Sferas moved that we adjourn the meeting and Lois Kiley second. The next meeting will be at the home of Lois Kiley on Wednesday, August 31. Sue Sferas will chair the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with a unanimous vote at 9:00 p.m. with a "thank you" to the Dellinger's for hosting the meeting and to all members who contributed to the delicious dinner.

Minutes of the meeting respectfully submitted by Janet Ferrante.