

# League of Women Voters of Southern Monmouth County

**Board Meeting: 2:00 to 2:45 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Peggy Dellinger, Susan Sferas, Diane and Sol Hara, Annette Scott, Marie Curtis, Robert and Dallas Grove, Wilma Pfeffer, and (member, guest) Judy O'Malley

<b>Check-in:</b> How is everyone doing? Best stay-sane advice? Drink more wine!	All
<b>Standing business:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Treasurer's Report : No activity since prior report. (Report on file along with minutes at lwvsmc.org, "Members Only" page.)</li><li>Minutes of March meeting: Emailed to all, then revised version emailed to all!</li></ul>	Robert Evelyn
<b>Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Fighting for the Vote:</b> Pat Supplee, Evelyn, and Peggy are working on virtual lesson plan based on a Powerpoint developed by the Austin TX LWV that walks students through the process to register to vote and vote by mail. They are working to have teachers in the schools previously scheduled for Fighting for the Vote deliver the lesson virtually. LWVUS grant for FFtV has extended the deadline from the end of June to past the general election due to COVID-19. The new deadline to report our activities under the LWVUS grant is November 30, 2020.</li><li><b>VOTE411.org:</b> Deal, Allenhurst, Loch Arbour, and Keansburg are holding non-partisan municipal elections May 12 (rescheduled due to COVID-19). Ted Dellinger has requested candidate information from the municipal clerks of Loch Arbour and Allenhurst and has invited candidates from those communities to participate in VOTE411.. The other two town clerks have not responded. Ted will follow up.</li><li><b>NJ Reentry:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Annette is participating by offering virtual voter registration support to returning citizens.</li><li>She responded to a state prison inmate (Ralph Hendrickson) who wrote offering to volunteer after seeing Annette on NJTV. Thanked him for his interest and explained the constraints on his participation.</li><li>She is participating in a conference call with the group Indivisible on April 14th @7pm, for voter education and registration and in particular registering citizens on parole or probation.</li><li>Annette did her first teleconference for the Bergen County Reentry program. She updated the staff as to the new voting changes and was also able to speak to 2 citizens who were released Monday, one was on parole and one was not. She is leaving registration forms outside doors including postage. There may be Federal funds available to states to assist in vote-by-mail programs to pay postage.</li><li>Sol Hara pointed out that Gov. Murphy on his press conference emphasized that job openings are posted on the NJ website (Instacart). Applicants may apply on-line, but many have no computers and libraries are closed. Annette pointed out the barriers during self-quarantine, on interviewing for positions.</li></ul></li></ul>	Evelyn Peggy Annette
<b>New Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>New Jersey Primary.</b> Has been rescheduled from June 2 to July 7<sup>th</sup>. A change in party affiliation must be declared 55 days ahead. By law, undeclared voters can declare a party at the polls the day of the election. Peggy wrote to Jesse Burns to ask how this will work if the state decides to run the Primary exclusively by mail. Jesse Burns replied: "Unaffiliated apply for vote by mail ballot County clerk sends both Rep. and Dem. ballot Unaffiliated voter votes with one ballot (declaring then) and sends it back I think the complication here that you might be getting to is if voters are automatically sent ballots without applying – there is a question about if unaffiliated voters will be automatically sent both ballots or if they will need to apply. Folks don't know the answer to that yet."</li></ul>	Evelyn

<p>The Board agreed to wait a little bit longer before aggressively promoting vote-by-mail applications in expectation of learning whether or not the Primary will be held by mail and if all unaffiliated registered voters will automatically be sent ballots. If we don't hear in the next week or two, we can go ahead in the face of the unknowns.</p> <p>(Marie Curtis, as a veteran poll worker, had offered a scenario compatible with Jesse's reply, which Peggy emailed to the Board after the meeting. Marie wrote in response: <i>"The first paragraph of Jesse's reply is what I tried to explain on the call. They will have to make a decision soon about whether it will be all mail-in or if polling places will be open because worker notices have to go out long before the date. That is when they will probably decide about need to request or not."</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Online registration</b>, by law, must be available in mid-July. The LWV NJ is urging the state to accelerate the schedule.</li> <li>• <b>VOTE411.org</b>: VOTE411.org has added bilingual COVID-19 updates by state.</li> <li>• <b>Virtual services</b>: Peggy asked the Board to begin thinking of creative ways to provide critical voter services (registration, forums, vote-by-mail support, candidate forums, . . . ) in the current COVID-19 environment.</li> <li>• <b>"Science Rising Challenge Fund" grant</b>. Marie Curtis brought to our attention a grant opportunity from the Science Rising Challenge Fund, which is managed and distributed by the Union of Concerned Scientists, a 501(c)(3) organization. Funded projects must be related to Science Rising's goal to elevate the role of science in the decision-making processes of our democracy, with attention to science, justice, and equity. Priority is given to proposals that are led by STEM undergraduate and graduate students, are focused on civic engagement in our democracy, voting rights, equity and justice, and/or science advocacy, and work with impacted communities or justice-based groups. The current grant deadline is April 30, 2020 and recipients will be notified around 2 weeks after the deadline. Awards will be \$250, \$500, or \$1,000. Evelyn has downloaded the grant information and will collaborate with Peggy Dellinger and Marie to develop a proposal. Other Leagues have applied but there are several grants of different amounts. STEM students are a priority. Evelyn will present updates at our next meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Annual Meeting</b>: The Board decided to hold a virtual annual meeting, 5:30 to 6:30, Thursday, June 18 via Zoom. Agenda will include adopting the budget and election of Board (nomination list is attached). Susan will serve as Budget Director and meet with a team (Robert Grove, Judy O'Malley, and Evelyn Murphy). Notice of the meeting, the budget, slate, and any program or bylaw changes must be sent to the membership 30 days before June 18.</li> </ul>	<p>Peggy</p> <p>Peggy</p> <p>Evelyn</p> <p>Peggy</p>
<p><b>Close</b>  Review of Action Items (emailed to all)  Next Board meeting: 2 PM, Wed., May 13 via Zoom</p>	<p>Peggy</p>

# 2019-2020 LWVSMC Board

Proposed by Board at April 8, 2020 meeting

<b>President</b>	Peggy Dellinger	2 years	6/30/21
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP</b>	Evelyn Murphy	2 years	6/30/21
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP</b>	Marie Curtis	2 years	6/30/22
<b>Secretary</b>		2 years	6/30/22
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Grove	2 years	6/30/22
<b>Elected Director</b>	Annette Scott	2 years	6/30/21
<b>Elected Director</b>	Wilma Pfeffer (Membership)—unfilled term	2 years	6/30/21
<b>Elected Director</b>	Diane Hara (Membership)	2 years	6/30/21
<b>Elected Director</b>	Dallas Grove	2 years	6/30/22
<b>Elected Director</b>	Susan Sferas	2 years	6/30/22
<b>Elected Director</b>	Sol Hara	2 years	6/30/22
<b>Appointed Director</b>		1 year	6/30/22
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*The elected Board appoints up to six other directors who serve one-year terms. Lois Kiely will be reappointed and the new Board at their first meeting after the Annual Meeting can invite up to five others to serve, an opportunity to tap the talents of our new members.*