

## Minutes from Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board members present: Peggy Dellinger, Evelyn Murphy, Robert Grove, Dallas Grove, Marie Curtis, Susan Sferas, Annette Scott, Sol Hara, Diane Hara, Lois Kiely, Wilma Pfeffer, Nancy Sabino Members present: Pat Supplee, Jayne Mackta, Judy O'Malley, Anne Ugrovics

Minutes prepared by Lois Kiely

### Standing business:

- Robert Grove, Treasurer's Report
  - Latest membership count and renewals status : 109 members, 2 new members, 79 paid members
  - \$8058.26 in bank account
  - \$3121.26 available funds
  - Robert received confirmation that the \$500 Re-entry award that the league received due to Annette's work may be used for any League programs.
- Treasurer's report was accepted and filed.
- Motion to accept the minutes of October meeting was carried.

### Action items:

- Robert will send an email reminder to unpaid members and email Anne Ugrovics to straighten out overpayment of dues
- Robert will prepare a list of members who have not renewed for next Board meeting so Board members they can extend a personal invitation to renew (esp. mentors/mentees)

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

- The LWVUS DEI policy was read and members were asked to share attributes within the DEI statement that they found relatively easy or difficult to incorporate into League work. Peggy shared League is not diverse when it comes to political party affiliation. Diane stated that perhaps this was because the League is viewed as a progressive and liberal organization.
- Diane discussed the powerful video shown to the sisterhood of Shalom Shalom on social justice. It had a positive impact on the group.
- Judy suggested looking at list of "protected classes" from national League and evaluate and incorporate inclusion categories into DEI materials.
- Marie & Lois volunteered to serve on committee.

### Voter Service

- LWVSMC was the lead organization in 8 forums, Western Monmouth in 2, and Greater RB in 2. The forums went smoothly and all leagues worked cooperatively to ensure their success.
- 32 volunteers participated in roles from moderator, organizer, timekeeper, director, tech support, media liaison, etc.
- The forums were recorded and on the GRB and SM websites to be viewed the day after.
- Emails with the link to the videos were sent to all who registered.
- The total live attendance at all zoom forums was 1508; uploads of the recorded events were 2,407. Total viewers reached 3,915.
- Charges for services were discussed (Ocean Twp. does not pay a charge due to its support for league activities from its inception). The total income from all forums was \$1,325.
- Fees were reviewed and the County-wide Voter Service team will make a recommendation regarding the current fee schedule.
- Peggy upgraded ZOOM capability Webinar 500, August through October. The enhanced platform also supported presentation of to Hot Topic webinars.
- Evelyn and team will refine the roles, responsibilities, and more to prepare for virtual future forums.

### Zoom—status and future

- Discussion: ZOOM forum appears to be an easier way for people to engage in meetings.
- Webinar 500 was \$140 per month for capacity to exceed 100 (originally, the county ILO had voted to use the money in the educational fund for zoom expenses). The state league offered money to leagues to support the voter service for

the General Election - \$250 per league (plus COVID-related reimbursements). Susan is investigating whether the state money can be used to cover the Zoom expense. Susan discussed the forms needed for reimbursement.

- Zoom should continue to be used for meetings at the present time. A hybrid type of meeting platform was suggested (in-person when possible and zoom). The quality of the questions posed at the zoom meetings appeared to be higher than actual meetings and there was more diversity on zoom.
- The issue of licenses for presenting more than one meeting at a time arose and needs to be investigated and addressed.
- A motion by Evelyn was passed to cover \$15 cost per month for zoom 100 person capacity subscription and to upgrade to "Webinar 100" as needed: Additional \$40/mon + tax; allows panellists to present to non-interactive viewers, up to 100 participants.)

#### **VOTE411**

- Nancy was not available, but sent her report: 60 races in Monmouth County, 206 invites to candidates, 79 responded, 21 league members volunteered to assist with the forums.
- Discussion regarding low candidate response-rate. Agreed that Vote411 is not a "household word" and more publicity is needed to make it successful. A 4-minute video of the Vote411 process was sent to all candidates to familiarize them with the project. Robert suggested that the league needs to enlist the political parties to support Vote411.

#### **Energizing Young Voters (Fighting for the Vote)**

- Pat Supplee gave an update and was congratulated as being the force behind the project
- Research indicated that 72% of young voters went to the polls – reason given – to make a difference.
- The three modules of Fighting for the Vote were modified for the remote classroom.
- Module 3 was converted to a Student Advocate Tool Kit, It equips students to support their families and networks to register and vote from home.
- "General Election 2020" presentations were made to 505 students and 124 adults.
- The Student Advocate Tool Kit was translated into Spanish.
- Module 3 is seen as a way to encourage problem solving, critical thinking and leadership qualities (Janet Makta had additional information).
- Pat has incorporated a program, "Vote by Design" developed by Stanford University into Energizing Young Voters. Stanford has agreed to use and promote the League's EYV's programs. is interested in using kit as well as NJ Council of Community Colleges, Vanderbilt, and others.
- Peggy & Pat shared resources with astate-wide education associations (NJ Principals & Association, NJ Association of Social Studies Supervisors, PTA, NJ Board of Education Association, and more).
- Pat worked with the Rutgers "555" project in which students from the Rutgers Camden project supported high schools in the state in voter registration.
- Marianne Kilgman and Peggy Dellinger delivered the Student Advocate Toolkit/General Election 2020 presentation to nearly 300 Red Bank Regional seniors.
- The program is expanding to establish a Young Voter Advisory Board that will seek a diverse population for its membership with the intended outcome of developing leadership skills and student leaders.
- A module was also delivered to adults who are becoming American citizens.
- Pat will reach out to schools who have expressed an interest in inviting us back.

#### **Re-enter-Register-Vote**

- Annette registered 125 previously convicted/paroled citizens to vote.
- Katie Couric's producer contacted Annette and did a second podcast with her.
- She registered six people at Seabrook Village, and other groups have reached out to her for voter register services.
- Monmouth University wrote an article about Annette's work.

#### **Membership**

- Diane, Wilma, Dallas and Nancy will work on marketing gift memberships and developing a tagline
- Evelyn & Ted Dellinger will develop membership form that can be submitted electronically.

#### **ILO Update**

- February Hot Topic: "County Government" --LWVSMC lead. 3 to 4:30 Sunday, February 7 on Zoom
- Other Hot Topic suggestions (Reprise of Electoral College, ERA, Voting Machines, Supreme Court Reform, Civil Discourse, Immigration and Sanctuary status, Prison Reform, Marijuana: What Now?)
- Workshops: Observer Corps Tues., 7:20, 1/9; Moderator Training Sat. 3/20

#### **PR**

- Dallas was congratulated for her voter information column in *the Coaster* and other press releases which have given the League good coverage and accessibility.
- Nancy Sabino developed relationship and placed press releases in various online, hyper-local media, including *The Patch*
- Media list needs to be updated with additions and deletions
- Dallas and Nancy will work together on PR
- 510 videos on How to Vote have been shown (Pat and Peggy)

**Old Business**

- Facts and Issues – Marie has a line- up of guests for winter –spring programs
- Discussed virtually producing Facts & Issues on Zoom

**New Business**

- A 19 page survey from LWWUS needs to be completed
- Observer Corps workshop with Marie to be developed.
- Consider e-newsletter to highlight year's accomplishments for members review
- Convene analysis meeting to evaluate effectiveness of the Forums (Evelyn)

- **Next Board Meeting is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 2:00 - 4:15**