

## MINUTES

### May 4, 2022 Board Meeting (LWVWM Lead)

via Zoom

*ATTENDING (9): Carole Beyer, Elizabeth Bond, Barbara Chaudhery, Peggy Dellinger, Evelyn Murphy, Susan Sferas, Sharon Steinhorn, Louise Usechak, Sherri West.*

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#### Standing business

- MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING: Approved.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: No income except small amount of interest. Expenses: Insurance, LWVUS virtual delegate fee for Susan, printing of posters, Zoom fees for webinar upgrade and extra account for legislative interviews. Available funds: \$4,889.98; Education Fund: \$427.15. Report filed for audit and available in the ILO Room on the Members Only page of lwvsmc.org.
- The Treasurer's Report prompted discussion of the upcoming LWVUS convention and LWVNJ gala.
  - LWVUS Convention representation from Monmouth County:
    - LWVSMC has three delegates: Pat Supplee and Sharon Miggins are going in person and Evelyn is working to fill the third slot. Evelyn going in person as an observer.
    - LWVWM: Sharon close to deciding to go in person.
    - LWVGRBA: Has two delegates—Marianne Kligman and a high school intern. Anne Torre may be attending virtually.
  - LWVNJ "Making Democracy Work" Gala May 23: Sharon, Evelyn, Susan, and Annette Scott are going.

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#### Moderators' Training

- Evelyn reported that the training, held virtually April 30, was led by Susan, Sharon, Marie, and Anne Torre. Evelyn was the technical host. 38 registered; 23 attended (including Pat Thompson, as an observer, from the state office). Of the 22, 20 (from 15 different Leagues) want to continue training. Used Breakout Rooms to emulate in-person training.
- Participants were sent follow-up emails and copies of the Moderator's Handbook. Evelyn requested that the leaders of each Breakout Room send follow-up emails to the participants in their group.
- Sharon emphasized importance of assigning a mentor to each trainee to ensure follow-up. She requested Evelyn call a short meeting of leaders to manage the next steps. (Evelyn added slides based on the discussion and will review them, as well, at the follow-up meeting.)

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#### VOTE411

- Sharon read a VOTE411 report from Anne Torre, who was unable to attend, as follows:
  - There are very few contested primaries (see list below), but Ted and I are setting them up in VOTE411 and will do the candidate encouragement ourselves. A few of these races have not submitted individual emails, so it is likely these will not appear, despite our best efforts.
  - We are prioritizing the Monmouth County races, but may include Ocean as well (with the caveat about group email addresses for the county commissioners).
    - Howell Council (Rep)
    - Manasquan Council (Rep)
    - Red Bank Mayor (Dem)

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- Red Bank County Committee (Dem) -- need GIS data for Red Bank Election Districts and a few emails
  - *Barnegat Committee (Rep)*
  - *Ocean Gate Mayor (Rep)*
  - Need individual emails:
    - Monmouth County Sheriff (Rep)
    - Monmouth County Commissioners (Rep)
  - Eatontown Council (Dem)
  - *Ocean County Commissioners (Rep)*
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## Primary Forums

- **CD 3, 4, and 6 have competitive races:**
    - Marianne sent invitation to **May 17** forum to CD4 candidates. Heard back from one who pointed out the representatives are supposed to be in D.C. the week of May 16 (Evelyn has information on which days in that week they might be available). One has dropped out.
    - Evelyn spoke with the presidents of those Leagues who cover municipalities within CD3, CD4, and CD6. All indicated they would like to have a forum if a Monmouth County league will organize and host. (Burlington Co. (making up the bulk of CD3) cosponsored with Philly radio station in 2020; looking ahead to the General Election, we should hand leadership of a forum over to them if they want to go ahead.) Evelyn will send Sharon the contact information for the Leagues within CD3. We will use our own platform and our own process in any collaborations.
    - Need three dates. (GRBA lead on CD4, WM lead on CD3, SMC lead on CD6.) Proposed dates to send to candidates as a starting point: **May 24-CD3 Dems; May 25-CD3 Rep; May 26-CD6 Republicans.**
  - **County offices**—Agreed to offer one forum for both Commissioner and Sheriff candidates on **May 31**. LWVSMC will take the lead and invitations will be sent via email, using the process we have in place. We will set no RVSP deadline: we'll ask for a response ASAP and not pursue if we do not hear.
    - **Commissions—two seats up**
      - Competitive for Republicans.
    - **County Sherriff**—
      - Competitive for Republicans
  - **Municipal races**—
    - **Red Back-Dems:** Barbara will check with Marianne. Potential date: **Sunday, May 22.**
    - **Manasquan Potential date: June 1.** Evelyn will reach out to LWVSMC members who live in Manasquan to handle.
    - **Howell:** Unassigned.
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## Merger Update

- Sharon reported that Evelyn led a virtual meeting last night (May 3) for members of the Monmouth County Leagues to review changes proposed by LWVUS for a new structure for League that will be presented at the national convention in June. The changes are relevant to the design of our new merged League.
  - The Merger Steering Team is holding a virtual meeting of the design sub-teams on May 10. Email invitations were sent to all Monmouth County League members.
  - Motion approved that “We cancel plans for an ILO Annual Meeting, Budget, and Slate in light of the pending merger of the three Leagues scheduled to take effect July 26.”
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### **Voter Service (registration dates and places)**

- Sharon reported on the success of Voter Registration/Education at Holmdel Day. Poster of the new Congressional Districts was a big help and engaged people, many of whom were unaware of the district boundaries.
- LWVSMC has three voter registration/education events coming up: Ocean Grove, Pride Festival, Juneteenth in Neptune and Asbury Park.
- WM signed up for Marlboro Day and will put up tables at the Library.

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### **Natural Resources**

- A massive REAE gas pipeline is headed for NJ that would increase greenhouse emissions 18%. Pipeline is coming in south of Philly and extending into Monmouth County; involves a compressor station and is bringing commensurate health threats. A state study finds we don't need additional natural gas.
- Affordable housing issues: 1) A new proposed 71.5 acre site in north Jersey is 50% wetlands and 50% on land that if developed would threaten a stream and local wells. Water supply insufficient for township as is. DEP is ignoring their own regulations when it comes to affordable housing sites. The DEP is authorized to make the decision on this site. 2) State Senator Vin Gopal has gotten involved with the Colts Neck affordable housing site and set up meetings with state agencies. Work is underway by opponents to specify what needs to be included in their comments.

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### **Hot Topics**

- Agreed to drop the September 11 Hot Topic and put the November 13 date on hold until we organize, following the merger. Agreed to put a committee together in the new merged League to handle the Hot Topics and link them more tightly to the new League's strategic goals.

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### **Observer Corps**

- Sharon gave an Observer Corps report on the Board of Elections April 6 meeting. Most of the Board's talk was about budget, following a meeting by two of the board members with the County Administrator. They are in a budget crunch. There is a staff shortage in the BoE office. They are looking to purchase a new machine (TriTech) to expedite counting of the vote-by-mail ballots. Administrator is open to putting money for the new machine in the budget.
- Sharon and Janis Iwanyk brought a "Thank You Election Heroes" poster from the League of Women Voters to the meeting as part of national day of appreciation.

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### **Close-**

- Adjourned at 3:00
  - Next Meeting 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 6 (LWVSMC lead)
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