



## **LWV Monmouth Board Minutes: (Abbreviated) meeting**

at the home of Co-President Barbara Chaudhery, Tues, December 13, 2022, 6:45 pm

In Attendance: Wilma Pfeffer, Harriet Bernstein, Luisa Paster, **Sharon Steinhorn**, **Mary Donnelly** & David Puchalski, Janice McGowan, Pat Supplee, Phyllis Garr & Nolan Wilence, Patricia and Bob Baroska, Stacy & Glen Goto, Sharon Miggins, **Justine** & Bob Cook, **Susan Sferas**, Adina & Michael Kantorowitz, **Annette Scott**, **Marianne** & Larry Kligman, **Evelyn C Murphy**, Janie & George Schildge, Mary Anne DeVarti, **Carole Beyer**, **Louise** & Dave Usechak, **Elizabeth Bond**, **Nancy Sabino**, Sophia Luna, J.J. Mistretta, **Barbara** & Shoki Chaudhery, Theresa Blackburn.

\*Board members (12)

1. Evelyn called the meeting to order at 6:45. The board approved the November minutes by consent.
2. Evelyn gave a brief explanation -with a hand-out- of The Green Amendment. The board approved using this opportunity as a "Hot Topic" Program in cooperation with the LWV NJ's request to help move this topic forward in Monmouth County. It will likely be a Webinar on Zoom scheduled in February or March with a presentation by Maya van Rossum of Delaware Riverkeeper Network. (See information document attached.) There is a need for point person(s) from our league and **JJ Mistretta and Phyllis Garr volunteered**.
3. As per our By-Laws, Barbara brought up the need to appoint "one or more" members of the Board to the Nominating Committee. Both **Elizabeth Bond and Peggy Dellinger were voted in** unanimously.
4. Susan Sferas briefly discussed the need for **Program Planning** for the LWV NJ Convention in June. We need to take part in this in the coming 2 months to submit our work by March 1. She alerted everyone to save the date for a 45-minute Kick-off Meeting – Tuesday, January 17, 6PM and to watch for the recording of the information session by the Program Planning Committee which was occurring at the same time as our meeting.
5. Sharon shared information about the state League's **Annual Appeal**. All donations that a member makes during a year count toward the percentage of dollars that are returned to that member's local league. It is not only the Callathon contributions that help finance a local league.
6. Open Comments
  - Maryann DeVarti is working on **Voter Girl** for the end of March 2023
  - Evelyn spoke of the many last- minute removals of the Colts Neck Manor issue agenda items from the Development Review Committee meetings and the need for that agency to continue to offer WebEx and phone participation at its in-person meetings. Based on the "Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation" position in LWVUS *Impact on Issues*,

the Board unanimously approved a proposal **to send a formal request for continuing hybrid meetings** to the Planning Board and Development Review Committee and to **write a letter to the editor expressing the need for a hybrid system of meeting to allow public participation**. The co-presidents will work on a letter with our PR team.

7. At 7:05pm the meeting was adjourned, and the holiday celebration began in earnest. Thank you to all the attendees who provided the hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Thanks to Sharon Miggins for creating the fun and educational activity!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Steinhorn, Temporary recorder

## **Green Amendment “Hot Topics” Webinar**

We have received a request from LWVNJ to collaborate with Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the NJ Green Amendment Coalition on a project that seems well-suited to our Hot Topics series.

The Co-Presidents recommend that we plan a Hot Topics Webinar on The Green Amendment, to be held during the first quarter of 2023, featuring Maya van Rossum.

- Maya is the leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and author of two books (*The Green Amendment, Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment* and its 2nd edition *The Green Amendment, The People’s Fight For a Clean, Safe & Healthy Environment*).
- Maya was the featured speaker last spring at the Annual Meeting of LWV of Ridgewood and we have been told Maya is an excellent speaker and has an engaging PowerPoint presentation
- If the Board concurs, our next step will be to identify one or more members to spearhead organizing the webinar. Melissa Marks at LWVNJ will connect us with Maya

Details about the Green Amendment can be found at

<https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/ongoing-issues/new-jerseys-green-amendment-generations>

### **As proposed the New Jersey environmental rights amendment would read as follows:**

1. Every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of the environment. The State shall not infringe upon these rights, by action or inaction.
2. The State’s public natural resources, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all the people, including both present and future generations. The State shall serve as trustee of these resources and shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.
3. This paragraph and the rights stated herein are (1) self-executing, and (2) shall be in addition to any rights conferred by the public trust doctrine or common law.