

Board Meeting: 7 to 9:15, Thursday, March 11, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attending: BOARD MEMBERS: Peggy Dellinger, Evelyn Murphy, Nancy Sabino, Susan Sferas, Sol Hara, Marie Curtis, Judy O'Malley, Annette Scott, Dallas Grove, Robert Grove, Wilma Pfeffer; MEMBER GUESTS: Lauren McCaskill, Anne Ugrovics, Karen Plaskow

Standing business

- **Minutes of February meeting**
The Minutes of the 2/11/21 Meeting were accepted and are available on the website.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - We now have 100 members.
 - Whatever issue prevented our current bank, Santander, from accepting PayPal payments has been resolved. The PayPal option will not be on our website until the interactive membership form is ready to go, but the PayPal account is functional. One member, who was sent the link directly, paid her dues via PayPal (current and next year as well as an optional payment to cover the cost of the PayPal transaction).
 - Judy O'Malley will assume the Role of Treasurer and Robert Grove will become the Budget Director. The new Web enabled Membership Form is almost ready to go. Thank you, Judy!!
 - Treasurer's report filed for audit.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

- LWVSMC DEI Policy was read by Karen Plaskow. There were no comments or changes.
- Evelyn pointed out that the descriptive sentence introducing the DEI Policy on the webpage needs to be edited to remove the term "proposed".
- LWVSMC will use social media to advance its DEI commitment. New member Lauren McCaskill will assume the position of Social Media Coordinator. We had received a \$500 grant to help implement our DEI Mission. \$100 will support the Suffragists Speak program. The Board passed a motion to use the remaining \$400 to support social media ads and information to reach and attract a more diverse membership/following.

Membership

- Judy O'Malley continues to work on the interactive, upload-able membership form for the website. She has created and vetted a prototype PDF file which works on Judy's machine, but not yet when sent to others for testing. Lauren suggested using Google Forms and offered to work with Judy.
- Identified the recipient of the 2021 Bill Madden Award.
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LWVSMC Annual Meeting (7 PM, Thursday, June 17)

- Nominating Committee: Eileen Sokol MacHaffie has agreed to serve. (Representing membership: Polly Dell'Omo, chairperson, and Eileen MacHaffie. Representing Board: Wilma, Diane, and Annette [only one will vote]. Meeting scheduled for March 18. The slate *when decided will be sent to the Board for as a courtesy and sent to the membership 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting.
- Bylaws need to be reviewed and proposed changes brought to the Board in time to send to members 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting. Changes may include: 1) adding boilerplate statement in

compliance with LWVUS DEI Policy; 2) enabling virtual meetings for any reason—not just emergencies; 3) shortening the notification-to-members timeline from 30 to 14 days before the Annual Meeting for budget, slate, bylaws, etc. Susan offered to review the bylaws and report to the Board at its next meeting.

LWVSMC legal and incorporation status

- Working with Robert, Marie, and Dallas, Evelyn found that LWVTO (now LWVSMC) is not and has never been incorporated or registered as a non-profit with the state. She will continue to investigate what is needed to become legally incorporated and gain official non-profit status.
- Evelyn pointed out the advantages of having 501 (c) (3) status [ability to accept tax-deductible donations, extreme discounts on software through TechSoup, etc.]. The first step is to establish our legal status, then we will discuss applying for the 501(c) (3).

Energizing Young Voters

(Peggy reporting for Pat Supplee, who could not join the call.)

- The EYV Website is live. It was developed pro bono by member Eileen Michael's son's (Jonathon Michaels's) website development firm "Geeks on the Beach." It will be linked to LWVNJ and LWVSMC.
- Pat delivered facilitator training via Zoom March 3 (8 participants, Student Advocate Toolkit) and March 4 (9 participants for Vote by Design). LWVUS staffer Morgan Murray attended both sessions.
- To date, EYV has reached 1,508 students and 399.
- Outreach: Braver Angels, NJ Center for Civic Education, LWVUS (Morgan Murray)
- Intern update: Gina Viola is halfway through her EYV internship. She's been updating data, arranging EYV delivery in Burlington High, and will continue as a volunteer after her internship.
- Pat Supplee, Evelyn, and Peggy met via Zoom with LWVUS staffer Morgan Murray to update her on how EYV has grown and succeeded since we received a seed grant from LWVUS.
- Pat's request of the Board: 1) Schools/community organizations to pilot FFC; 2) Schools for VBD and SATK for April and May; 3) Contact to handle EYV outside Monmouth County
- Discussed developing a social media "storm" for the project. Peggy will send a text to introduce Pat to Lauren to explore the possibilities and develop a process.

Voter Service

- The Monmouth County ILO has formed a team, led by LWVSMC member Sherri West, to monitor and influence the County's impending decision to replace its voting machines. Sherri, who anticipates becoming more politically active, is stepping back as leader of the team in keeping with our nonpartisan policy. The position involves being the League interface to the appropriate County officials. If interested, contact Peggy.
- Voter Registration commitments: Registration/information table at Ocean Grove festival, May 1st
- Possible candidate forums / VOTE411 – Monmouth Beach Forum in May
- Asbury Park may be having a spring election on the question of rent stabilization. Nancy agreed to monitor the situation and alert the Board if the question is going to ballot. If yes, the Board agreed to produce a non-partisan fact sheet on the issue.
- The Voter Service directors of all three Monmouth County Leagues have agreed on a candidate forum fee schedule:
 - Candidate or business sponsored forums: \$50/per candidate; \$250 minimum (fewer than 5 candidates).
 - Non-profit sponsored forums: \$30/candidate; \$150 minimum (fewer than 5 candidates).

- April 29th: LWIVUS is promoting a “Day of Action: for Fair District Voting and Anti-Gerrymandering.” Evelyn is looking into what supporting activities might be appropriate for us. She will reach out to Lisa Ianucci, who led our Census initiative, to ask if she might be interested. Suggestion was made to invite Phil Hensley, new LWVNJ staff member, on Facts & Issues, to talk about redistricting.

Old Business

- **Observer Corp Workshop:** Marie Curtis and Louise Usechak led a Zoom Observer Corps Workshop, 7 PM, Wednesday, Feb. 24. We had 45 participants—several from out of county and even out of state. The video is available on our website. At the workshop, two participants signed up as observers: Mayor/Town Council Observer: Wilma Pfeffer; Board of Educ.: Arlene Lutz
- **Facts and Issues:** Ted Dillingham, Executive Director of the American Littoral Society is scheduled to discuss Climate Change—recording sent for March 17. (Suggested “Fair Redistricting” with LWVNJ staffer Phil Hensley—see above)
- **PR:** Dallas called attention to comprehensive article on League based on an interview with Marie in the *Two River Times* and pointed out that the topics covered offer a good model for potential articles in other weeklies. Nancy continues to pursue contacts in Asbury school district for an article on EYV and the Ghana connection.
- **Reenter-Register-Vote:** Anne Ugrovics is joining Annette in registering voters at Parole facilities around the state. They registered 7 in Newark and 8 in Elizabeth. Annette reports the number of new registered voters to Evelyn for record-keeping Annette is working at some locations with Ron Pierce, a parolee who is interested in registering voters.

New Business

- **Callathon:** Marie and Wilma will be making calls to LWVSMC and other Leagues as part of LWVNJ's Callathon fund-raiser. LWVSMC receives a percentage of what they raise.
- **LWVNJ Convention:** Workshops May 17 to 21; Business meeting May 22
- **ILO Convention @ OT Museum** – Moved to June 29 (post-Board-meeting update—may be changed)
- **April 11: Hot Topic:** “Voting Rights: Suppression, Expansion, Confusion. Brennan Center and LWVNJ Speakers
- **OTHS Voter Suppression Lesson:** Peggy + Civic Leadership Class
- **Neptune video Know Your Town:** Based on the success of the County Government Hot Topic, we are considering producing “Know Your Town” webinars featuring overviews of the form of government, etc. of the municipalities within LWVSMC's footprint. Given the large number of members from Neptune, we thought it might be a good starting point. Peggy offered to speak to Dallas Hlatky about leading the effort.
- **Moderator Training:** 4/24/21

NEXT MEETING: 7 PM, Thursday April 8 via Zoom