

## MINUTES

**Board Meeting: 1 to 3 PM, Wednesday, September 1, 2021**

via Zoom

Lead by Barbara Chaudhery of LWVGRBA

*ATTENDING (15): Carole Beyer, Elizabeth Bond, Barbara Chaudhery, Peggy Dellinger, Marianne Kligman, Vanessa Merhi, Evelyn Murphy, Annette Scott, Susan Sferas, Sharon Steinhorn, Louise Usechak, Sherri West. Member guests: Rita Klotz, Nancy Sabino, Anne Torre.*

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### Standing business

- **MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING:** Approved with the correction “Sharon” not “Susan Steinhorn.” The ILO Leadership Team (the three local League presidents) agreed to send a copy of the ILO Board meetings minutes to their local boards. They agreed use the LWVSMC/ILO Zoom account for future virtual ILO Board meetings and to require registration, share registration invitation with their memberships, and send a reminder to registrants from Zoom the day of the meeting. Peggy will set up Board meetings on Zoom account.
- **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Total YTD income \$350.23. No YTD expenses. Bank balance (available funds) \$5,453.06. \$427.15 in Education Fund. All local League Fair Share and Contributions are paid in full.

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### Non-Partisan Policy

- Susan presented the latest version of the ILO Nonpartisan Policy, as revised at the July ILO Board meeting. Substantiative revisions included:
  - Rule #2: Added County “Government Program Director” to list of “key” Board member positions prohibited from running for or holding office in any nonpartisan election.
  - Rule #5: Changed rules on political contributions to read “All Board members may make contributions below the reporting level to a political party or candidate.” (Consistent with LWV/NJ Nonpartisan Policy.)
- Concern was raised that the contribution rule (#5) should be specific and include the exact amount of the reporting level. Louise agreed to research the exact amount. Susan will incorporate the amount into the language of the policy and present it to the Board at its November meeting.
- **Motion was passed to accept the proposed the Nonpartisan Policy omitting for now rule #5 on contributions. This rule will be revised as agreed above and considered for approval and inclusion in the Nonpartisan Policy at the next (November 3) ILO Board meeting.**

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### Meeting with County Election Officials on new voting equipment and changes to election process

On August 26, the local Monmouth County League presidents and Peggy met with Mary DeSarno (Monmouth County Superintendent of Elections) and Robin Major (Monmouth County Administrator of the Board of Elections) to discuss the purchase of new voting machines and changes to the voting process.

- **WRITTEN REPORT:** Details of the meeting are documented in a written report sent to the Board in advance of the meeting and available in the ILO Room of lwvsmc.org with the documents associated with today’s ILO Board meeting.
- **OPPORTUNITY TO AUDIT TRAINING:** Both County officials welcomed the League’s help in educating voters on the new machines and voting process. To help us understand and master the changes to the process, Robin Majors agreed to accommodate a few members at the County’s poll-worker training. Vanessa, Marianne, and Carole volunteered to attend. Peggy will work with Robin to schedule. Vanessa, Marianne, and Carole will work with Luisa Paster of LWVSMC to create training material based on what they learn. Anne has signed up as a poll worker and is registered for training in early October.

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## VOTE411 Report

Anne reported on the status of our VOTE411 project.

- WORKSHOP: She and Nancy Clarke led a workshop for volunteers via Zoom, August 19. 39 registered; ~29 attended; 25 signed up as “champions” to support/encourage candidates to participate.
- COVERAGE: We have populated the VOTE411 software with and have volunteer champions for a total of 66 races: all competitive municipal and Board of Education races in Monmouth County and a sampling of races in Ocean County. Anne is also committed to covering the special Red Bank charter study commission election as well.
- LAUNCH: Today (September 1) is our official launch date for the Champions to contact the candidates. Anne will be sending the Champions a reminder email.
- PARTICIPATION: Getting candidates to participate remains a challenge. We committed to communicate to candidates in our forums the importance and value of VOTE411 participation.

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## Voter Service Reports (Marianne, Vanessa, and Carole)

- Greater Red Bank Area (GRBA): Marianne reported that her LWVGRA team met with Pat Supplee, head of Energizing Young Voters, this week. GRBA is sending email to the schools in their footprint to promote all we offer in registration, voting information, and civics education. GRBA will have a presence at Middletown Day in September. They are distributing materials through libraries and schools. They have connected with Covenant House and will be making presentations for them state wide.
- Western Monmouth (WM): Carole reported LWV is covering Freehold Day, Freehold Township Day, and Marlboro Day. They are contacting the high schools about voter registration.
- Southern Monmouth County (SMC): Evelyn reported four SMC voter registration commitments, including events in Ocean Township, Ocean Grove, and Asbury Park (Jersey Pride celebration). SMC has plans for National Voter Registration Day and National Vote-Early-Day (10/23).

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## Natural Resources

Louise reported that the Transco natural gas pipeline permits, denied by the state in 2020, may be back on the table. Transco is determined to expand and extend its pipeline under Raritan Bay in a route that would pass through a superfund site in Sayreville. The plan affects Monmouth County. It is threat to fish and water quality. LWV came out against the pipeline last year and convinced the Monmouth County Commissioners to oppose it. The permit was denied based on provisions of the Clean Water Act. The Trump administration rewrote rules to eliminate states’ right to deny permits based on threats to water quality, etc. Louise invites League members to become involved.

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## County Commissioners/Surrogate Candidate Forum

Sharon reported on the status of plans for the County Commissioners/Surrogate Candidates Forum:

- DATE: September 29, via Zoom.
- CANDIDATES: 2 for County Commissioner; 2 for Surrogate. All have agreed to participate.
- VOLUNTEER TEAM: Susan Ferris, moderator; Rita Klotz, platform host; Elizabeth Bond, question screener.

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## Candidate Forum plans

- LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS: Evelyn reported on the status of plans for candidate forums within the Legislative Districts within the ILO’s footprint (11, 12, 13, and 30):
  - Sponsor: The Religious Action Center of New Jersey has agreed to sponsor the LD 11,12,13, and 30 forums and will promote the events.
  - Invitations/Responses: To ensure consistency, all candidates in all races were sent invitation letters and descriptions of the forum format using the same templates. A few candidates (in LD 11, 12, and 13) have

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already responded. Marianne developed a press release announcing that candidates have been invited to the forums which she is sending out today to the local League PR directors.

- Dates/Moderators: LD 11—10/5, Sharon moderator; LD 12—9/30, Evelyn moderator; LD 13—10/14: Anne moderator; LD 30 —10/11, Susan Sferas moderator.
- OVERALL FORUM MANAGEMENT: Evelyn reported structural support for the 2021 General Election forums:
  - Training: The scheduled Forum Volunteers Workshop for August was cancelled for lack of registrations. It will be rescheduled, if needed, for October.
  - Tracking: Nancy Sabino is maintaining a spreadsheet of all the Forums within the ILO footprint that tracks dates, sponsors, moderators, volunteers and their roles.
- HANDLING DEMAND:
  - Potential interest: Sharon reported potential interest for forums for Manalapan BoE, Marlboro BoE, Greenbriar (residential community in Manalapan).
  - Platform capacity: Evelyn explained that the dates available for forums are mostly filled and asked if the ILO wants to authorize a second Zoom account with webinar capability, if needed. **Motion was passed to authorize the expenditure to acquire a second Zoom webinar account for up to two months, if needed, to accommodate additional candidate forums.**

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**Hot Topic rescheduled. LWV member webinar on General Election slotted for the date.**

- HOT TOPIC COMPLICATION: Sharon reported on the status of the Off-Shore Wind Power Hot Topic originally scheduled for September 19:
  - Speakers were set up from Orsted (one of the two companies that have signed state leasing contracts), NJ Economic Development Authority, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action, and representative of fishing industry.
  - NJ Economic Development Authority pulled out and was unable to find a replacement speaker.
  - Given the short timeline, Sharon made the decision to postpone.
  - Louise pointed out that Rutgers has experts on economics and energy and on marine ecosystems. She volunteered to make contact, if we want to invite them as panelists.
- GENERAL ELECTION WEBINAR SUBSTITUTION: Marianne suggested and the Board agreed to use the September 19 date for a webinar to educate our LWV members on the changes to the general election. Rita will create a placeholder date for the Hot Topic in our Zoom account. Evelyn will set up the General Election Webinar for September 19.

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**Close-** Next Meeting 1 p.m., Wednesday, November 3 (LWVWM lead)

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