**Prince William Area League of Women Voters of Virginia**

**Executive Committee Minutes**

April 17, 2018 at Manassas City Hall

In attendance were Carol Proven, Carol Noggle, Jessie Barringer, Connie Gilman, Judy Hingle, Jane Touchet, Grace White, Barbara Amster, Linda Larsen, Karen Kallmeyer, Pam Farrand.

Regrets: Jane Maddocks.

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. She welcomed Ruth Ann Richford from Fauquier County and made introductions.

**Motion:** J. Barringer moved the minutes of the Mar. 20, 2018 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Reports**

C. Noggle requested that agenda item d. (School Task Force) be moved to follow item f. (Update on LWV Vote 411).

Treasurer’s Report: G. White reported. As of Mar. 31, 2018, the Operating Fund balance is $4,510.54. The Education Fund balance (held at LWVUS) is $4,870.00. As per last month’s motion, $2,000.00 was transferred to the Education Fund to cover print costs for TRY brochures. The Dar-al-Noor Mosque has not yet cashed its $100.00 check. The report was accepted.

Membership:  J. Touchet reported. There are now 80 members, including 4 from Warrenton, 2 from Fredericksburg. L. Larsen mentioned we will have to study how to handle larger groups!

2018 They Represent You (TRY) Brochures: C. Gilman reported that packets have been handed out to libraries and five supervisors’ offices. Thanks to Louise Morello who packages brochures in bundles of 20. More volunteers are welcome.

Update on LWV Vote 411: Natl/State League will be posting Q/A’s online for candidates. Vote 411 is distributed on campuses.

School Voucher Task Force (TF) – Public Funds for Public Schools: C. Noggle reported. The League last issued a position on public education in 2003 at which time charter schools did not exist. The TF’s findings are in the process of review/comments from League members, Carol has distributed information to our members and is holding several meetings to discuss and gather feedback. LWVUS Council will vote at its June 16 meeting.

Charter schools are well regulated, with a robust approval process. In VA code, they may not charge tuition, may not teach religion, and are administered by a local school board among other things. The League is not concerned about charter schools.

Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits Program (EISTCP). This program provides state tax credits (65%) for persons or businesses making monetary or marketable securities donations to approved scholarship foundations that provide scholarships to eligible students for qualified educational expenses incurred in attending eligible nonpublic schools in Virginia. The problem is there is no control over how private schools use this money. The League opposes profit-making schools using public monies.

TF recommendations include: Standards and criteria should be restated by the General Assembly – separation of church and state, civil rights, requiring credentialed teachers in any schools that receive State $. The VA Dept. of Education requires reports from private and online schools and has an excellent process in place. We must reinforce it.

April 6 Electoral Board Meeting. C. Noggle attended. Primary ballots may confuse voters who must choose either a Republican or Democratic ballot. Schools are out as of June 8, and renovations will be starting on 13 schools—this may scramble some polling places. Educating voters about these changes is high priority.

Voter Registration (VR): J. Hingle and C. Noggle reported. We have registered 1,263 voters to date in 2018. Getting volunteers is a challenge and we’re working with the Election Office to make the VR process go more smoothly. On June 20, hundreds of new citizens will be sworn in at the Hylton Center. We are also evaluating community festivals in the county which provide an opportunity for education/outreach if not VRs. J. Touchet mentioned that we be cautious about signing up for evening events, difficult for volunteers. Volunteers for VRs should take the online voter registration training by the end of June at the VA Dept. of Elections website. It is quick and easy.

Re-entry Council Family Orientation. C. Noggle reported. Brenda Carswell and Carol attended an orientation today, noting detainees can apply for voting after finishing time and parole. Carol also attended an event on diversity sponsored by the Natl. Coalition of Black Women.

 Calendar & Event Planning: L. Larsen reported. Welcome Barbara Greiling to Events planning, and a big thank you to Mamie Thompson who will no longer be working in this area. The Mar. 24th showing of “Chasing the Dragon” had 19 attendees; Chrissy Fauls spoke, and Katrina King, a former addict, attended. Members of the audience shared reasons for being there. Also, four new members joined us from the Feb. 24th event. Thanks to B. Amster for publicizing the event successfully. We will evaluate the results of the program and report back to the Board in May.

We are working on the June 23 annual meeting. Jennifer Foy will speak. Our Sept. Kick-Off is in the planning stage and Pat Fishback, an expert on the ERA, will speak. The opioid crisis has proved to be a relevant topic to our members. Judy Smith has talked to Perley Eaton of the LifeLong Learning Institute proposing that we partner on an opioid education program at the Hylton Center in the fall. More to come in May.

Book Discussions: C. Gilman reported. The schedule is below. In the future we will be able to count on a larger conference room at the Chinn Park Library.

* May 5th, 2018, Glass Castle (J. Walls).  Barbara Amster will lead.  Meeting at Central Community Library from 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
* Aug. 2, 2018, Women and Power (M. Beard). Anna Ritter will lead.  Meeting location TBD, but will meet from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
* Nov. 3, 2018, The Sea Around Us (R. Carson).  Barbara Amster or Connie Gilman will lead.  Meeting location TBD, but will meet 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
* January 27, 2019 (Sunday) American Political Parties (L. Maisel).  Mary Winsky will lead.  Meeting location TBD, but will meet from 2:00- 4:00 P.M.

Communications: B. Amster reported. She is working on items for the newsletter.

Website, Newsletter, FB: Please send Karen Kallmeyer updates. She would like to finalize by end of April.

**Old Business**

T-Shirts. J. Touchet will sort shirts (sizes/colors) for events. We can also take orders at events. Be sure to wear yours at voter registrations.

**New Business**

G. White attended the 2nd Annual Virginia Democracy Summit, NOVA Community College.

Positions in Brief: C. Proven noted these will be updated during the LWVUS Convention, June 28 – Jul. 1.

LWV-VA Council, June 16. We send two voting delegates: Pres. C. Proven will attend, and L. Larsen was nominated to be the second delegate. **Motion**: J. Barringer nominated Linda Larsen as a voting delegate to the LWV-VA Council on June 16. The motion was seconded and approved.

PayPal. To improve the League’s membership payment process, the Board discussed contracting with PayPal which charges 3% for its service. **Motion**: C. Gilman moved we start using PayPal as a method of payment for membership. The motion was seconded and approved.

Student Dues.  LWVUS is considering waiving the **P**er **M**ember **P**ayment for student memberships**,** which means we could reduce our **$35** student dues by the current **$16** LWVUS per student  member fee.   J. Barringer will research this

Next LVW-PWA Executive Committee Meeting: May 15, 2018, Manassas City Hall, 9:30 AM.

LVW-PWA Annual Meeting and Luncheon: June 23, 2018, Manassas Park Govt. Bldg.

LWVUS Convention in Chicago: Jun. 28 -Jul.1.

J. Barringer moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded, passed, and the meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

*Submitted by: Pamela Farrand, Recording Secretary, May 15, 2018*