League of Women Voters-Prince William Area

Executive Board Meeting April 21, 2020, via Zoom

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Calling in: Carol Proven, Connie Gilman, Barbara Amster, Lorraine Schooner, Carol Noggle, Judy Hingle, Janet Gorn, Johnette Fisk, Miriam Anvers and Barbara Greiling

Minutes: Minutes of the February board meeting were approved, with an addition from Carol Noggle about voter registration at Little Union Baptist Church.

Treasurer’s report: Lorraine Schooner reported that bills for printing the TRYs and for 411 software were paid in March and that funds were transferred in April from the Education Fund to the General Fund to reimburse those payments. The Education Fund balance is $908.46.

Membership: Johnette Fisk participated in an online meeting with membership chairmen and other officers from other Leagues. Among the challenges they discussed were attracting younger members and drawing new members to a nonpartisan group in these highly partisan times. Among the suggestions were more social events. Janet Gorn also suggested that issuing pamphlets on League studies might attract interest. Carol Noggle added that all League position papers are online and could be downloaded and distributed.

Fauquier County: Miriam Anvers reported that Fauquier County members have been working on expanding voter registration in Fauquier schools, participating in a local consortium of volunteer associations, and representing the League at First Fridays. Those efforts are on pause due to the corona virus.

Voter Services: Carol Noggle is working on Vote411 for upcoming town elections and the June primary. The primary has been moved to June 23. The governor has proposed moving the May local elections to November. The General Assembly was to vote on the measure April 22. Election Day, Nov. 3 will be a state holiday.

Affordable Housing Study: Janet Gorn reported the state study group’s report on its research should be out by May.

Election Study Group Review: Carol Proven reported that Connie Gilman, Judy Anderson and Barbara Amster will participate.

Centennial Committee: Janet Gorn reported the Prince William Historical Committee is postponing the Suffragists Tea until 2021 due to scheduling problems in September.

Effort to Fight Voter Misinformation: Our League has been invited to join the MITRE Corp. and the Fairfax League in tracking and reporting misinformation on social media. The reporting is done through an app developed by MITRE. Janet Gorn raised several questions about the project. According to its briefing, the project is open to “trusted organizations,” who are those organizations? Would participation impact our nonpartisan status? Do we need permission from the National League to participate? Janet will forward a detailed list of questions to Carol Proven. The board agreed that more details are needed.

Budget: Lorraine Schooner and Carol Proven presented the proposed 2021 budget, which reflects the prospect of fewer grants next year. Cutting back on printing costs for the TRYs and Top Tens was discussed, as well as seeking contributions to help fund the TRYs. Barbara Greiling moved that the proposed budget by approved; Judy Hingle seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the proposed budget and distributed it the members for a vote at the annual meeting in May.

Annual meeting: The board agreed to hold the annual meeting via Zoom on May 21 at 7 p.m.

The next board meeting will be May 19 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Book Discussion: The next book discussion will be an online meeting on April 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The book is “Evicted,” by Matthew Desond. Miggy Strano will be the moderator.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling