

**Prince William Area League of Women Voters of Virginia Executive
Committee Minutes**

February 20, 2018

at Manassas City Hall

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

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 9:42 AM.

Minutes of Dec. 19, 2017 meeting.

Motion: J. Barringer moved the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: G. White reported. There were three new memberships in January. As of Jan. 31, 2018, the Operating Fund balance is \$10,066.30. This includes the VCET Grant of \$5,000.00; the Education Fund balance (held at LWVUS) is \$2,021.78 which includes \$180.00 raised at the Jan. luncheon raffle. One check for \$100 is not yet in this report. C. Proven asked if all were in favor of accepting the report, all were in favor.

Membership: J. Touchet reported. Welcome kits will be sent to new members when all are onboard. Membership handbooks will be available online, and we will look into printing an additional 25.

LWVUS Database Roster: Our roster has been updated. It will be used by the National League and the State League to assess our annual per member payments (PMP).

2018 They Represent You (TRY) Brochures: These brochures have been updated and currently are being printed.

School Voucher Task Force (TF): C. Noggle reported. On Jan. 22, TF members B. Amster, C. Proven, and C. Noggle saw a movie, "Backpack Full of Cash", in Williamsburg and heard an excellent panel presentation about charter schools and other school choice options. [The movie is not Virginia-focused and at 1.5 hours is too long to show to our members.] The TF will finalize its recommendations for the League's position on this issue before the end of March; its report will be sent to all local Leagues prior to the LWV-VA Council meeting on June 16. Delegates to this biennial meeting will include the president of each local League (in our case, C. Proven) plus representative(s). Informational messages will be sent out about this issue and related legislation as it unfolds. The LWV-VA website contains all task force documents.

General Assembly Update: Crossover occurred last week -- some bills were eliminated and the budget is now the big issue. The ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) did not pass in the Senate or House. Bills prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment remain in committee. Elections and absentee voting are packaged together; changes to the redistricting process would require a constitutional amendment and would need to be proposed for the 2019 session. J. Hingle noted that One VA2021 will be educating volunteers on the issue of redistricting on

Mar. 4. B. Amster asked if LWVUS has a national position on the gun issue. It does, however, bills have gone nowhere in the Assembly. Also, the Virginia League has a Firearms Safety Task Force that advocates during the General Assembly.

Voter Registration (VR): J. Hingle reported. Ryan Mulligan (interim) in the Office of Elections is new and enthusiastic. Right now, he wants to make VR presentations himself, but introduces us. At his first presentation he spoke about the history of U.S. constitutional amendments saying there will likely be three Virginia Constitutional Amendments on our November ballot, and he spoke about the importance of primaries. Since the Parkland shootings, there has been a huge national online effort to get young people to vote. We will see how this affects VR. We got 116 and 132 registrations at Osbourn and Hylton High Schools, respectively. Coming up: March 6 & 7, Garfield HS (J. Hingle, J. Shelley, J. Touchet); Mar. 21-22, Freedom HS. There are other opportunities for folding, stuffing at the home of Louise Morello. She has been bundling TRY brochures in sets of 20 at home for inserting into the “So You’re 18” booklet distributed at high schools.

Break: Lamiya and Nathan Mowery of the Dar-al-Noor Mosque presented to the Board on The Burma Task Force Coalition. The excellent presentation educated us to the plight of the Rohingya people, their history and current situation. The Coalition’s goal is to convince members of Congress to support bills in the Senate and House to declare the situation, now defined as ethnic cleansing, as genocide; secure aid for the refugees; place sanctions on Burmese military leaders and trade.

Re-Entry Council Family Orientation. J. Hingle reported. Brenda Carswell, J. Hingle, and C. Noggle support this activity. The Jan. 18 presentation was packed with organizations that provide support, including the PWC Sherriff’s office, churches. Many grandparents were present with young offenders. Information about regaining the right to vote was available, and people were interested. Other events may be scheduled on Mar. 15 and Apr. 17 (a community fair for inmates at the Adult Detention Center (ADC). “Ban the Box” was approved by the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) for County agencies so that former inmates do not need to check the “Have you ever been convicted of a crime?” box on employment applications. Our League advocated in favor of this policy.

Since we think this is a necessary and worthwhile activity, C. Proven suggests that we organize a group of volunteers who could be called on to attend these events. We can place an announcement in the newsletter explaining our role in re-entry orientations to provide “Ban the Box” information.

Women’s Legislative Round Table (WLRT): C. Noggle reported. Two more meetings of the WLRT have been held.

Calendar & Event Planning: L. Larsen reported. We welcome Judy Shelly and Mamie Thompson to Event Planning. Their input is reliable and helpful - their help is much appreciated. Forty-nine people attended the General meeting in Jan., and three new members signed up.

“Chasing the Dragon”: Judy Smith led a pre-planning meeting for the February 24 program on opioid abuse at the Marque in Gainesville. C. Proven, Mamie Thompson, J. Maddocks and L. Larsen attended. On Feb. 24, the documentary about the consequences of opioid abuse will be shown. The purpose of this program is to educate members and guests on this issue, and to

introduce the concept of a Topic of Interest to the local League. Chrissy Fauls and Heather Martinson will speak and answer questions following the documentary. J. Hingle is providing popcorn, B. Amster is baking cookies, L. Larsen will bring water.

The same Program will be presented on the east side of the county at the Bungalow Alehouse in Woodbridge on March 24. Members and guests are invited to stay for lunch following the program. In the spring we will evaluate the success of the programs and decide if we want to look for a partner to make these showings a larger event next year.

March 10: The Book Discussion Committee will meet at 11:30 at Jirani's in Manassas. Judy Smith will lead the discussion on how to find and develop a theme for discussions held in 2018 - 2019. The committee expects to meet one time. B. Amster, C. Gilman and Judy Smith will coordinate with Events to plan dates and locations of Book Discussions and ensure there are no conflicts with the School Task Force or other activities.

April 8: Kim Hosen has invited us to set up a table at Merrimac Farm on the day of the Bluebell Festival. Voter Services, Membership and Events will work together to decide on the level of participation. We'd like to invite members/guests to participate in this environmental and educational activity.

April 21: C. Proven is working on a post-legislative forum. Information to come.

The date of the annual meeting is changed to June 23. Events and Membership (Judy Shelly and J. Touchet) are looking into using the facility at Tall Oaks on the eastern side of the county as a venue for the annual meeting. More information will be available soon.

Events and Voter registration committees will discuss ways to incorporate our young and newest members in community events planned in the summer and early fall. B. Amster has researched upcoming events in which we may wish to participate. She will put together a list for discussion. And, the Events Committee is looking into offering a guided tour to interested members/guests.

It was suggested that we look into Historic Manassas for meeting venues, e.g., there may be a meeting room at the Manassas airport. Rebecca Rays at the museum is a good resource.

Communications: B. Amster said there is nothing current to report.

Newsletter, Website, FB: Please send contributions for the newsletter to K. Kallmeyer by the end of March.

New Business

T-Shirts: J. Touchet reported. Shirts have arrived but run large. Jane proposed we order 20 more shirts (same price if ordered by March 1) in smaller sizes to be sure we can take care of demand. All were in favor.

L. Larsen suggested we consider a two-sided card (she had a sample) with information about the League to be used as handouts and inserts. B. Amster confirms there are four tents for use at events.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: March 20, 2018, Manassas City Hall, 9:30 AM.

Annual Meeting: June 23, 2018. Location TBD.

J. Barringer moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded, passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Submitted by: Pamela Farrand, Recording Secretary, March 14, 2018