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

 January 16, 2018 at Manassas City Hall

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

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Minutes of Dec. 19, 2017 meeting. Discussion. J. Touchet asked who would update our membership form as noted in the minutes along with dates on the forms. As Webmaster, Anna Ritter will be asked to make website changes, and Jane will coordinate paper changes. Note that a membership application is also on the LWVVA website.

**Motion:** Connie G. moved the minutes be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Reports**

Treasurer’s Report: G. White reported. As of Dec. 31, 2017, the Operating Fund balance is $10,147.41. This includes the VCET Grant of $3,202.47; the Education Fund balance (held at LWVUS) is $1,860.00. In calendar year 2017, we received $3,990.00 in membership dues, $360.00 in Champion contributions, and $700.00 in Education Fund donations.

Membership: J. Touchet reported. Janie Ritter was added as a member by her mother. Otherwise, membership numbers are as reported in Dec. Jane attended MLK Day at the Hylton Memorial Chapel, Woodbridge, and distributed membership information.

LWVUS Database Roster: J. Touchet & C. Proven will update.

2018 They Represent You (TRY) Brochures: C. Gilman is working on the 2018 update, has discussed edits with the Election Office staff who will review/update (e.g., confirm upcoming Town elections). We will add a sticker on the brochures. Last year, these were printed by Benjamin Franklin Printers, Richmond, 5,000 brochures/$1,500. Will get new estimates, perhaps find a printer in PWC.

School Voucher Task Force: C. Noggle & B. Amster reported. Bills are now being presented in the Gen. Assembly and, where dollars are involved, they will be put in front of the Finance Committee. Action Alerts will be sent by LWVVA to members. Any legislation will have to comply w/existing federal laws. The same voucher bill that was vetoed by Gov. McAuliffe last year is up for consideration again. Some provisions are meant to help students who have trouble in mainstream schools, specifically where schools are too small and do not have the facilities to accommodate them. However, LWV-PWA members should tell their legislators that our tax $ should be directed to public schools. Members may watch committee meetings at the VirginiaGeneralAssembly.gov website. Informational messages will be sent out about this issue as it unfolds.

Voter Registrations: J. Hingle reported. When schools have late openings, closings for weather, etc., the schedules change. Start times are 7:30 AM. Osbourn Park High School is on the calendar Jan. 23/24, but we’ve not received full information. Judy, B. Amster, and

C. Noggle will attend and we’ll ask Ryan Mulligan of the Election Office (interim in the job), to give us five minutes for our presentation.

There is a Re-Entry Council Family Orientation for preparing for the release from detention of relatives on Jan. 18, 5:30-7:30 PM in PWSkill Source Center. LWV-PWA provides information on Restoration of Rights and on Ban the Box on county job applications. Brenda Carswell is representing us, and J. Hingle will attend.

Jan. 6 PWC Gen. Assembly Reps. meeting: C. Proven and C. Noggle attended this info meeting which was packed. A 4th grader spoke in behalf of more recess time!

Women’s Legislative Round Table (WLRT): C. Noggle reported. Nothing new. These 8:30 AM Wednesday meetings have been moved a few blocks away from the Gen. Assembly, and organizers are looking for a larger, more convenient location.

Calendar & Event Planning: L. Larsen reported. The Jan. 20 event has 44 attendees signed up. G. White and Jane T. will manage the entrance, memberships, and raffle tickets at entrance. Committee members will be seated at each table. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Education Fund.

“Chasing the Dragon” events, previously reported on, are shaping up with several members working as a committee to ensure they run smoothly. C. Proven will contact potential presenters -- Shane Dana, former FBI officer, and Chrissy Pauls. For larger spaces, we hope to expand outreach to the larger community.

Book discussions: C. Gilman and L. Larsen have volunteered to facilitate book discussions; other members may wish to do so as well. C. Gilman and J. Touchet mentioned reaching out to students to participate in summer book discussions; and a recent book on N. Korea might be one of interest.

A post-legislative forum on/about Apr. 22 will be held in a library to discuss this year’s legislative outcomes.

Finally, we’re starting work on June’s annual meeting (either 1st or 16th), looking at formats, locations, speakers – e.g., asking two State Senators (Republican/Democrat) to present on an issue such as the environment, immigration, college tuition.

Communications: B. Amster reported. The Washington Post no longer publishes a weekly PWC calendar section. She recently met with the editor of The Times newspapers in Warrenton (reporter Jill Palermo was not available), and introduced him to the League’s non-partisan work, providing him with an information packet on school choice issues. She requested exposure for our issues, asked for an article, talked about guidelines for Community Calendar. She will also research InsideNoVA, another local publication, and look for additional public spaces in libraries and on community bulletin boards to publicize our issues. Also, the Prince William Committee of 100 will hold a January meeting on “Arts in PWC” (notice was sent to our members) which J. Hingle will attend.

Newsletter, Website, FB: Newsletter is in e-mail boxes! Thank you Karen. No updates on Website and FB.

**New Business**

T-Shirts: J. Touchet reported on materials, pricing, ordering. She recommends the polyester/cotton blend because the material doesn’t shrink. Best price: 25 regular sized shirts $9.45 each; 50 shirts - $7.30 each; $2+ for XXL. Onetime charge for artwork. At fairs/events, we will charge $15 per shirt. We will also canvas members about sizes at next event to be sure we are on the right track for this order.

**Motion**: C. Gilman moved we buy 50 shirts in an assortment of sizes, half of each quantity/size ordered to be red, half to be blue. The motion was seconded and passed.

Advocacy Tracking Contest: C. Proven reported. LWVVA Board has invited us to participate in a contest that would require us to track all members’ lobbying efforts and report them by the end of March. None on the committee were in favor and it was decided that we would not participate.

Burma Task Force: Nathan Mowery, who does outreach for The Dar-al-Noor Mosque, asked if he could speak to us about the plight of the Rohingya people and join a Task Force the mosque is forming. We will invite him to present to us at a future meeting.

Legislative: It’s time to begin asking legislators to support No Excuse Absentee Voting (NEAV); C. Noggle distributed talking points. Two bills now proposed relate to the Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit Programs (EISTC) that send donations to private schools and may need opposition. One greatly expands the $ amount of scholarship grants.

C. Noggle recommended *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries,* by Cynthia A. Kierner, Jennifer R. Loux, & Megan Taylor Shockley.

One VA2021 – Lobbying Day is Jan. 23 for Northern Virginia redistricting and you may register on the website.

G. White asked if we want to pay $200 towards the Vote 411 website. This site had several problems in 2017. It was decided that in its current state we should not support the project.

**Motion:** G. White moved that Vote411 not be supported at this time. It was seconded and passed.

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

J. Barringer moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded, passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.

*Submitted by: Pamela Farrand, Recording Secretary, January 28, 2018*