League of Women Voters-Prince William Area

Executive Board Meeting Jan. 21, at Manassas City Hall

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.,

In attendance: Carol Proven, Connie Gilman, Barbara Amster, Lorraine Schooner, Janet Gorn, Cheryl Saggers and Barbara Greiling.

Minutes: Minutes of the Dec. 17 meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s report: Lorraine Schooner reported there is $2,186.54 in the General Fund and $3707.94 in the Education Fund as of Dec. 31

A $500 grant has been awarded to our League in partnership with the Loudoun County League for voter registration at high schools and community colleges in Fauquier, Clarke and Loudoun counties. Carol Proven reported that money from the grant can be used for printing and mileage costs. Members are urged to keep track of costs for this project and others for budget purposes. Lorraine pointed out that, while members may donate the cost to the League, such in-kind donations should be reflected in the budget for planning purposes.

Connie Gilman moved that our League adopt the state League’s reimbursement schedule for mileage and travel expenses. Barbara Amster seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Membership report: Johnette Fisk submitted a report showing 70 members. On Dec. 30, a letter was sent out delinquent members informing them that their names would be dropped from the League roster if their dues were not paid. This resulted in several renewals and others opting to become inactive members.

Reports on January Events:

1. General Assembly updates: Carol Noggle is in Richmond and will continue to update members. In addition, the state League issues frequent updates and action items.
2. Jan. 13, Voter Registration Presentation Training. Carol Proven met with Lorraine Schooner, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Ruthann Litchford and Barbara Greiling, who had volunteers to be presenters. They went over a script for instructing students on how to complete the registration forms, what to expect at the polls and their rights as voters. Procedures for handling the forms and turning them into the election office were also discussed. Each presenter received an information packet.
3. Jan. 16, Naturalization Ceremony at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Several members assisted the elections office with registration of new citizens.
4. Jan. 19, General Meeting. The meeting, which was to address gun safety and be held in Warrenton, was canceled due to problems with speakers. Barbara Amster reported that despite early contacts with the Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office, she had no firm commitment a week ahead of the meeting, and the decision was made to cancel. She heard from a representative of the office on Jan. 17, who was willing to speak, and she received assurances that he would participate should the League reschedule at a later date.

A decision on rescheduling was tabled.

1. Jan. 20, MLK Day Oratory Contest. Connie Gilman reported that she was unable to get the books to be presented to winners in time for the contest. Last year was the first time the League awarded books to the winners, and plans were made to try to get information on the number of books needed earlier next year.

Voter Registration: Upcoming registration dates are as follows: March 11. 12: Patriot; March 24, 25: Potomac; April 1, 2: Forest Park; April 14,15: Stonewall; May 19, 20: Woodbridge. Registration will also be held at Wellington at Lake Manassas on Jan. 29 and 30.

Upcoming meetings/events:

**Jan. 27**, Book discussion from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Juke Box Diner in Manassas. Grace White will lead the discussion of *The Gatekeepers: How the White House Chiefs of Staff Define Every President* by Chris Whipple.

**Feb. 12**, League Day 2020 in Richmond will celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters. Visit www.lwv-va.org for information and registration.

TRY update: Connie Gilman reported the TRYs are at the printer.

Centennial update: Janet Gorn reported the Historical Foundation is planning its spring tea celebrating the anniversary of women’s suffrage at Rippon Lodge, which will allow more people to attend. Barbara Amster said she has discussed a newspaper story about the League and the centennial with reporter Jill Palermo of the Times papers.

Affordable housing: Cheryl Saggers attended the Alexandria Housing Summit.

Communications**:** Barbara Amster reported that she is working on a brag sheet to give prospective members information about our League.

Website and Facebook content: Carol Proven reported that Lyssa White is working on updates.

**New business**:

Cheryl Saggers pointed out that the draft is no longer used, and that it was the driving force behind setting the voting age at 18. She proposed that the League review the voting age. The motion was seconded. Janet Gorn said both the state and national Leagues have ongoing election studies and offered an amendment that the motion be tabled until those studies are complete. The amendment was seconded and passed.

February meeting: The meeting has been scheduled for Feb. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m., but as yet there is no venue. Connie Gilman will explore locations. The African American Heritage in Fauquier has a program on voter suppression. Barbara Amster will ask them to present it at the meeting. The Prince William Board of Elections will also be asked to send a representative to report on voting issues.

March meeting: The League has been approached by the Prince William Public Library System to participate in a series of Civic Labs, book discussions and film screenings and discussions as part of its community engagement activities. We will work with the library system to combine our meeting with one of these events.

World Census Day: The League has been asked to conduct voter registration at Northern Virginia Community College on April 1 as part of World Census Day.

Prince William Board of Elections: The Board of Elections has published its 5-year-plan, which is available on the PWC website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling