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

**Executive Committee Minutes**

March 20, 2018 at Manassas City Hall

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

Regrets: Jane Touchet, Judy Hingle, Grace White, Jane Maddocks.

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. As a first order of business, she reminded all of the LWVUS annual convention being held June 28 – July 1 in Chicago, and encourages all members to think about attending.

Minutes of Dec. 19, 2017 meeting. The minutes of the February 20 meeting were corrected to read “two constitutional amendments” under the topic titled General Assembly Update.

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

**Reports**

Treasurer’s Report: G. White reported. As of Feb. 28, 2018, the Operating Fund balance is $10,430.10. There has been no activity in the VCET Grant; the Education Fund balance (held at LWVUS) is $2,860.00; the NOVEC grant of $750.00 was added to the fund. C. Noggle asked if we are using the Education Fund to pay for the new printing of the 2018 They Represent You (TRY) Brochures (quantity to be printed 7,500); if so, there is not enough money to cover the print cost of $3,175.00 in the Fund. **Motion:** C. Noggle moved that $2,000.00 be transferred from the grant to the Education Fund to cover the cost of printing TRY brochures. The motion was seconded and approved.

A $100.00 check written in support of last summer’s block party at the Dar-al-Noor Mosque has not been cashed; Grace will call to see if they need a new check issued. New T-shirts are on order, so far there has been a preference for blue shirts.

C. Noggle suggested it is time to put together a Budget Committee in preparation for June’s annual meeting. B. Amster complimented Grace for her excellent budget reports. Grace White will continue as treasurer another year.

Membership:  J. Touchet reported. We now have 71 members and several have expressed interest in helping with voter registrations in high schools.  She has sent new members a welcome kit.

2018 They Represent You (TRY) Brochures: C. Noggle and C. Gilman reported that packets of several brochures will be distributed to each elected representative, supervisors and to public areas in libraries and other distribution points.

School Voucher Task Force (TF): C. Noggle reported. The TF’s research is done and will be presented to the LWV-VA as part of the process to update the LWVUS positions on charter schools and school vouchers. The last update of the League’s position was in 2003 and charters were not yet in the discussion. The TF does not oppose charter schools; they are public schools, defined in Virginia code and overseen by school boards. The TF does oppose tuition tax credits aimed at private religious schools; vouchers for parental education savings accounts; and vouchers for virtual online learning which has both public and profit-making characteristics. There will be meetings for members/delegates to explain these findings and opportunity for feedback. TF findings will be presented to LVW-VA on Apr. 3, and then to delegates at the League Council Meeting in June. There are eight charter schools in Virginia. Notices will be sent out to members about times/places for these meetings. Carol also noted that Ryan Sawyers, Chairman of the PWC School Board, has resigned.

Voter Registration (VR): C. Noggle reported. We are working at several area high schools in April and May, including but not limited to Freedom, Forest Park (Apr. 4-5), Potomac (Apr. 10-11), Battlefield (May). The teacher in charge at Colgan has indicated the kids may choose to conduct VR themselves. We’ll check with Ryan Mulligan, Office of Elections, and the Bar Assn. We’re also waiting to hear about NOVA’s Manassas and Woodbridge campus schedules. We will continue to remind members and new members in welcome letters and orientations how to take the very quick online training to qualify to participate in VRs.

*Inspire Virginia* has asked us about having a presence in school VRs; as earlier reported, they operate mostly online, using text reminders, a video about voting & reminding students to know their SSNs. We explained that the Bar Assn. and Election Office are the lead on VRs and what our role is. We doubt that they can be added to the schedule at this point in the season.

Carol also participated in a recent panel discussion with leaders from Loudoun County and the Piedmont area. Interestingly, the Loudoun County Election Office is reaching out to communities using a mobile van.

Re-Entry Council Family Orientations. C. Noggle reported. Brenda Carswell and J. Hingle attended a presentation by three state employees from Richmond who work in the area of restoration of rights. Their agency coordinates with probation officers. Gov. Northam is expected to continue former Gov. McAuliffe’s efforts to restore voting rights to felons. There will be a Re-Entry event on Apr. 17 at the jail which we will support. On May 19, there will be a presentation on opioid addiction and how to use naloxone the opiod –overdose antidote, titled “Revive Training”.

Calendar & Event Planning: L. Larsen reported. “Chasing the Dragon”: 24 people attended on February 24 at the Marque in Gainesville.  The program was well received including talks by Chrissy Fauls and Heather Martinson. Three people signed up to become new members.

Linda discussed the purpose of Topic(s) of Interest (TOI) events -- to educate members to attract new members by engaging in vibrant discussions that promote active involvement in the League; and to report to members on the highlights of the year. The Events Committee is committed to providing a program of excellence.

March 9:  Linda Larsen and Judy Shelly met with Mayor Jeanette Rishell of Manassas Park at the Manassas Park Community Center.  Linda and Judy signed a contract to hold the June 23 Annual Meeting at the Community Center from 1:00-3:30 PM and Jeanette generously gave a check of $100.00 as a deposit. (Thanks to Judy who alerted us to the facility.) This is a central location, a venue with a kitchen, and has good parking. We will provide box lunches and are contacting potential speaker(s).

March 10: Commendations to book club participants. C. Gilman and B. Amster led the Book Discussion Committee Meeting.  Linda Larsen initiated the meeting. Anna Ritter, Judy Smith, Judy Shelly, Mary Winsky, and Mamie Thompson attended. C. Gilman’s summary is below.

Book Discussion Committee Meeting Summary. This is a summary of the decisions we made at the meeting on March 10, 2018.

* Book discussions will be held quarterly
* The books will represent several topics of interest to our League
* Titles and dates were selected:

            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.

            August 2nd, 2018, Women and Power (M. Beard). Anna Ritter will lead.  Meeting location TBD, but will meet from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

            November 3rd, 2018, The Sea Around Us (R. Carson).  Barbara Amster or Connie Gilman will lead.  Meeting location TBD, but will meet  from 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.

A meeting of this committee will be planned for early December 2018 to plan the next four (or more) League Book Discussions.

March 24: There are approximately 10 people expected to attend “Chasing the Dragon” on at the Bungalow Alehouse; an additional invitation will be sent to members. B. Amster also sent information to local papers. Purpose: to educate and draw new members. There will be a follow-up committee meeting in April to assess the outcome and decide upon further action next year.  
  
April 5: Battlefield HS in Haymarket is holding an opioid panel discussion, 6:30 – 9:00 PM. Information will be sent to members in late March. This is not a sponsored League event.  
  
April 7: Democracy Program on civic engagement is sponsored by the Virginia Civic Engagement in which we collaborate as a member. More information to come. This is not a sponsored League event.  
  
April 8: The Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm is sponsored by Kim Hosen of the Conservation Alliance, 10:00-4:00.  There will be a LWV table; a detailed invitation will be sent to members in late March. This event is not a sponsored League event.

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

Communications: B. Amster reported. Press releases have been submitted to print media, NOVA, Spin-go (community calendar) and other options on events. Paid options could be considered in the future but they can be expensive. We also update our FB page.

Newsletter, Website, FB: Please send updates and contributions to K. Kallmeyer and Anna Ritter -- such as TF updates, events, book discussions, T-shirts.

**Old Business**

OneVirginia2021. G. White attended the March Forth! Rally in Richmond advocating for fair redistricting in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Two other members of PWA-LWV attended. We support them and the issue and are committed to sharing space for one event with them.

C. Noggle was asked to provide her expert advice on how to manage an Indivisible-NoVAWest debate between Democratic candidates for the 1st Congressional District (CD) before the June 12 primary (there is no Republican primary for the 1st CD). A Candidate Forum for the 10th CD Democratic Primary will be held at Battlefield HS on Apr. 10, 7:00- 9:00 PM.

**New Business**

Rep. Barbara Comstock’s newsletter this month includes an article on opioid addiction.

C. Proven hopes to attend the June 16 LWV-VA Council Meeting. Ruth Hoffman will speak on gun control on May 5 at its Natl. Capital Area annual meeting. Two persons will represent our League at the LWVUS June 28 Convention in Chicago.

C. Gilman discussed the idea of partnerships with other organizations. Her remarks follow:

* PWPLS is willing to have an informal partnership with the area League. This will enable us to schedule meetings ahead of time. And may help us in other ways. Agreed to do a year to test the waters. Sadly, MAGIC is no longer going to have an electronic version of the TRY on their website. I will be asking for a direct link back to our website.
* I would like to try other informal partnerships/support that can financially help us. I want to ask each County Supervisor for some “funding” from their budget to help us with educational efforts. I thought this request might go further if it was Educational rather than specifically for printing TRYs.
* The Council Members from the cities would also be approached with a request to support the League’s educational mission.
* There is a need to explore other businesses in the County and Cities to see what types of grants/aid they provide to the community. A list needs to be developed and a requesting letter needs to go out.

B. Amster answered questions about SpinGo, a new social media/event management tool and more & explained that we are not a large enough organization to use the technology.

C. Noggle mentioned the LWV-VA will participate in Vote 411 and has asked for questions for Senators, and U.S. representatives for the website.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: April 17, 2018, Manassas City Hall, 9:30 AM.

Annual Meeting: June 23, 2018, Manassas Park Government Building.

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, April 15, 2018*