League of Women Voters-Prince William Area

Executive Board Meeting May 19, 2020, via Zoom

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

MITRE SQUINT project: Janet Gorn reported that the project, which is aimed at identifying and reporting election misinformation on social media, would be a good way for members to get involved. The League would have to join and then provide the names of members willing to participate as monitors. The reporting is done through an app developed by MITRE.

Minutes: Minutes of the April board meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s report: Lorraine Schooner reported that funds were transferred in April from the Education Fund to the General Fund to reimburse payments for education expenses, bringing the General Fund balance to $10,548.50. In addition to the usual spreadsheet, Lorraine provided a ledger sheet showing credits, debits and explanations. Board members agreed that it was very useful.

Membership: Johnette Fisk reported that membership is steady at 80. A renewal letter has been sent out to members.

Elections: Carol Noggle updated the board on results of the town elections as they came in. She continues to work on getting candidates’ responses for VOTE411 ahead of the June 23 congressional primary.

Carol Proven, Judy Hingle and Janet Gorn participated in a state League Webinar on new laws, including election laws, passed by the General Assembly. Julia Tanner and Lisa Koteen Gerchick, who conducted the webinar, have been asked to address our annual meeting on May 21.

Calendar: Connie Gilman outlined events planned for the remainder of the year. They include:

July 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Book discussion at Effingham Manor Winery, Nokesville. The book is The Boy Crisis: Why Our Boys Are Struggling and What We Can Do About It.

Sept. 19, Kickoff meeting, featuring a roundtable discussion on 100 Years Past Suffrage. Time and place to be determined.

Oct. 13, 12:30 -2:30 p.m. Book discussion at Jukebox Diner, Manassas. The book is All the President’s Men.

Oct. 18, 2-4 p.m. The meeting topic will be How Libraries and the League can work together to educate the public on the importance of voting. Time to be determined.

Nov. 15, 2-4 p.m. A showing and discussion of the film Suffragette at Bull Run Regional Library.

Book Discussion: A discussion of the book Evicted by Matthew Desmond, was held via Zoom on May 5. Miggy Strano did a great job as moderator.

Annual meeting: Judy Hingle reported that 35 people had signed up for the annual meeting. Barbara Greiling suggested that the vote on the annual budget be held at the beginning of the meeting to ensure that everyone is able to participate.

VA Council Meeting: The State Council meeting will be held online June 6. Carol Proven and Connie Gilman will represent our League as voting members, but others are encouraged to participate. Sign-up information will be sent to members. There is no cost. The LWVUS National Convention will also be held via Zoom June 25-29. Information will be sent to members.

Newsletter: Thanks were expressed to Bonnie Fahy for the spring newsletter and its attractive redesign.

Fauquier: Barbara Amster reported that she has identified additional meeting sites in Fauquier where we could hold events free of charge.

 Website: Carol Proven thanked Lyssa White for her updates to the website.

Centennial Committee: Janet Gorn suggested the League prepare proclamations to be submitted to the Prince William and Fauquier boards of county supervisors ahead of Aug. 26. She also suggested the League explore writing op-eds for local media celebrating the suffrage centennial. Janet and Barbara Amster will discuss it further.

The Prince William Historical Committee is exploring turning its Suffragists Tea into a video production. The board asked for more details before committing to participation.

Election Study Group: Judy Anderson, Barbara Amster, Carol Noggle, Carol Proven and Connie Gilman will review the draft report and give feedback to the state Election Study Group.

Affordable Housing Study Group: The possibility of a local study on affordable housing was raised. Janet Gorn suggested that members read the draft report from the state study group. The State Council presentation on the report will be recorded and made available to local Leagues as well. Carol Noggle suggested that a local study might look at applying the recommendations of the state study. Those recommendations won’t be final until 2021.

Voter registration training: In-person voter registration training with Delta Sigma Theta is planned for June 20.

The next board meeting will be June 16 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling