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

November 21, 2017 at Manassas City Hall

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

Regrets: Jane Touchet, Judy Hingle, Karen Kallmeyer.

President C. Proven called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

Minutes: C. Gillman moved to accept the minutes of Oct. 17, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer’sReport: G. White reported. As of Oct. 31 the Operating Fund balance is $9,723.89 which includes the VCET Grant of $3,202.47; The Education Fund balance (held at LWVUS) is $1,860.00 (this balance was reported incorrectly in June when an error in a previous balance was picked up; error now corrected and brings the report into balance with Sept. 30 statement received from LWVUS Ed Fund). J. Barringer mentioned it is time to contact NOVEC about its 2018 donation.

Membership: The PWA-LWV currently has 53 members, of which eight are within family memberships, one is a student membership, and 12 are Champions for Suffrage.  J. Touchet provided the following Membership Committee report:

On November 10, Membership Chair Jane Touchet convened a meeting at Jirani Coffee House in Manassas.  Women who attended and agreed to be members of the Membership Committee were Helen Stackhouse, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Linda Larson, and Anna Ritter.

The committee discussed dues, membership recruitment, and membership involvement in our local league (PWA-LWV). Because only $22 of membership dues actually goes to the local league, it was felt nothing could be done to lower the dues structure to encourage recruitment of new members. Some suggestions were for members to sponsor newcomers, and possible fundraisers to add to our treasury.

Recruitment of a more diverse membership was discussed since the majority of our members are from the Gainesville/Manassas area. Efforts will be made to recruit more members from the East End of PWC and to increase age, gender and racial diversity. Anna suggested efforts to engage students would get the best results during summer vacation and spring and holiday breaks.

Jane brought up the issue of membership involvement and questioned if people join the League to get involved in its activities or simply to support the organization with their dues. It was suggested that the membership form be altered to include an option for new members to select a committee or activities that interest them, if they choose to get involved.

Publicity of events and selection of venues that would enhance recruitment were also discussed. Particular League events were discussed, especially the three annual meetings: Fall Kick-off, January meeting, and June meeting.  It was agreed that securing a speaker for these events is a plus and that attendees should receive a brief overview of our activities, while detailed reports of each committee should be saved for board meetings and the newsletter.

Voter Registration: C. Noggle reported that the School Voucher Task Force (TF) currently is writing talking points & principles to present to the VA-LWV board for approval on Dec. 5. (All members are invited to attend.) Sen. Deeds and Delegate T**o**scano attended the TF’s Oct. meeting; each expressed concerns about tax credits going to private schools.

Nov. Elections: Q: B. Amster asked whether or not the 55 absentee ballots that arrived late in Stafford County/Fredericksburg would be counted. A: the issue is in front of the State Electoral Board and can’t be predicted. Related issue, a nonpartisan redistricting commission has been proposed.

There will be no further voter registrations at high schools through the end of this year. Sometimes we’re given short or no notice before these events, and we will continue to try to get information sooner, but, we’re dependent on the Elections office and Bar Assn. for information.

C. Proven said the *After-Virginia-Votes* campaign discussion at GMU’s Arlington campus on Nov. 13 was a full house. Sen. Jill Vogel appeared.

Events. L. Larson reported and briefly discussed successful showing of *Iron-Jawed Angels*.
Upcoming events include: Dec. 2: Chinn Library: 10:30-noon – Orientation - talk by Pres. C., Proven, light refreshments. Dec. 11: J. Smith, Jane Maddocks and L. Larson will meet to check the sound system at the Little Theater/The Marque prior to the film showing in Feb.
Jan. 20: Luncheon at Regency at Dominion Valley clubhouse (see schedule below). Schedule:

Feb. 24: 10:00 AM – Noon, showing of *Chasing the Dragon,* filmed in PWC*,* as a TOI for Members/ guests at The Marque, Gainesville.
March 24: Noon – 3:00 PM – Lunch and showing of *Chasing the Dragon* at The Alehouse in Woodbridge.

New Business: In March, Pres. C. Proven, L. Larson, Judy Smith, Dale Marie Walton, Judy Shelly, Laura Feld Mushaw and Heidi Whitesel will meet to develop principles for book discussions that tap into the wishes of LWV members. J. Smith suggests selecting books around a theme for the year (successfully tried by another local league). J. Barringer asked if the theme might be around voting or other issues related to the League’s mission.

In consideration in the spring, a forum to invite legislators to talk what happened in this year’s legislative session.

Communications: B. Amster is taking on the role of Communications manager and will create appropriate press releases, letters-to-the-editor. Thank you, Barbara! Newsletter is in the works; please send information to K. Kallmeyer.

Vote411.org: C. Noggle discussed the need for improvements next year or this may not be worth the effort. There is a public need for more voter information because local news orgs. no longer produce detailed coverage. But, the site had technical problems, required delegate races to be inserted locally (inefficient, time consuming), and had too many blank spaces where incumbents had not provided responses to the League’s questions. We also needed more advertising to drive people to the site.

New Business

The Turning Point: G. White attended the excellent Night of Terror commemorative event on the suffrage movement. The evening included a dramatic reading of prison diaries. Museum might be a good location for a group tour and meeting although distance is a challenge. Pres. C. Proven gave an update on the National Capital Area League and will attend its next luncheon event. The PWC Board of Supervisors meets Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 there will be a League Roundtable pre- session to be attended by Pres. C. Proven, L. Larson, and G. White.

Judy Smith has proposed themes for book discussions, including the Glass Castle and Hillbilly Elegy and Secrecy (Jake Bernstein).

New member kits will be updated and libraries will be checked for new brochures, *They Represent You.*

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Dec. 19, 2017, 9:30 AM, Manassas City Hall.

Next General Meeting: Jan. 20, 2018, Regency at Dominion Valley, Haymarket; buffet luncheon, Noon – 2:00 PM. Speaker, Conservationist/Environmentalist Kim Hosen. Theme:  New Year; New Members: Challenge, Ask members to bring one guest

* 12:00 - 12:30 Networking
* 12:30- 1:15 Lunch
* 1:15-2:00 Speaker, Kim Hosen, *The State of the Environment in PWC*
* 2:00- 2:30 Carol N., update on Task Force
* There will be a raffle of an antique book(s) donated by Judy Anderson.

Meeting Adjourned: G. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

*Pamela Farrand, Recording Secretary, Dec. 2, 2017*