League of Women Voters-Prince William Area

Executive Board Meeting November 17, 2020, via Zoom

President Carol Proven called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Calling in: Barbara Amster, Connie Gilman, Lorraine Schooner, Judy Hingle, Carol Noggle, Janet Gorn, Barbara Greiling, Miggy Strano, Judith Anderson, Catherine Ring, Jane Touchet, Cheryl Saggers, Laura Feld-Mushaw and Barbara Stokes.

Minutes: Minutes of the October board meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s report: Lorraine Schooner reported the General Fund balance is $12,046.86. The Education Fund balance is $1,408.46. Through Jessie Barringer’s efforts, $350 in dues were collected. Reimbursement of $350 toward the new voter postcard project was received from the Loudoun League. Carol Proven thanked the many members who took part in the postcard project.

Voter Education and Election Volunteers: Carol Noggle thanked members who staffed tables at PWC libraries on National Voter Registration Day as well as those who prepared materials for the event. Carol Proven also recognized the efforts of members who worked at the polls on Election Day and during early voting, including Carol Noggle, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Leslie Plummer, Cynthia Chambliss, Carol Proven and others. Other members posted and picked up signs supporting Amendment 1 at polling places on Election Day and during early voting. They included Lucia Anderson, Judy HIngle, Lyssa White, Jane Touchet, Grace White, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Barbara Greiling and others. Carol Proven sent a link to all members about the next step following the passage of Amendment 1: volunteers are needed to serve on the redistricting committee.

November General Meeting: The Nov. 15 Zoom meeting was attended by about 20 people. Delegate Jennifer Carroll-Foy spoke about healing after the election and finding areas where Virginians agree. She answered members questions on a variety of issues, including priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session. Board members commended her responsiveness, and Laura Feld-Mushaw commented that she welcomed the delegate’s perspective on the General Assembly and the work that is done there. Connie Gilman reported that plans are underway to have Republican candidates for governor speak at an upcoming meeting.

Warrenton BLM vigil: Barbara Amster reported the Saturday morning vigils have been suspended following the new Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings of more than 25 people. The Interfaith Council, NAACP and the League are looking for suggestions to keep the coalition going.

Encouraging New Member Involvement: Questions were raised at the last board meeting about what information new members receive. Jessie Barringer sends out a welcome letter to all new members. New members from Prince William receive copies of the Top 10 and TRYs. Fauquier members receive the Virginia League handbook.

Catherine Ring suggested that new members be directed to the League website (princewilliamlwv.org) for information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and the SignUpGenius link. Connie Gilman suggested new members be given an information sheet, including board members, committees and a description of activities as well as local, state and national LWV websites. The possibility of sharing membership lists was also discussed; members would have to give permission for that to be done.

Each month the board meeting agenda and minutes are sent to all members.

Judy Hingle will set up a Survey Monkey questionnaire on members’ interests

Observer Corps: Encouraging members to attend or watch county government meeting was also discussed. Each month’s board meeting agenda includes a list of Prince William County Board of Supervisors, School Board and other public meetings and how to access them. Miggy Strano will compile a list of Fauquier meetings so that they can also be included. Miggy asked how the League can advocate on a local level. Only the president can speak for the League, but members can speak as individuals during citizens comment time at meetings and email their supervisors and school boar members. If the League has a position on an issue, the president or a representative could address the issue on behalf of the League.

Calendar Event Updates:

Sips & Civility is scheduled for Dec. 3, 7- 9 p.m.  ZOOM meeting.

Connie Gilman reported that Prince William Library is not opening its community rooms until March so a January showing of "Suffragette" is canceled. A Zoom meeting will be held Jan. 17 from 2 to 4 p.m.

A book discussion of "When Everything Changed" by Gail Collins will be Jan. 26 via Zoom from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Titles for 2021 will be selected at this meeting. Send suggestions to Connie Gilman conniewg51@gmail.com.

The February General Meeting will be held Feb. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. The program will be about education Jennie Dean, a former slave who founded the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth, which served African-American students for decades.

The topic for the March General Meeting will be the history of suffrage and voting in Prince William County. It will be held in conjunction with the Prince William Library System. Librarian Lena Gonzalez-Barrios is assisting the planning.

Other business: Janet Gorn suggested that announcements for upcoming events be sent to Inside NoVa. Laura Feld-Mushaw reported that statues are up at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Lorton.

The next board meeting will be Dec.15 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling