League of Women Voters-Prince William Area

Executive Board Meeting October20, 2020, via Zoom

Vice President Barbara Amster called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Calling in: Barbara Amster, Lorraine Schooner, Judy Hingle, Miggy Strano, Judith Anderson, Catherine Ring and Barbara Greiling

Minutes: Minutes of the September board meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s report: Lorraine Schooner reported the General Fund balance is $11,779.71. The Education Fund balance is $1408.46.

Commendation for our League: President Carol Proven sent a notification to all members that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors issued a commendation to the League on Oct. 6 marking the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and recognizing our League for its “significant contributions to empowering voters and making democracy work.” The commendation is signed by Board Chair Ann Wheeler, a member of the League.

General Meeting Kickoff: Connie Gilman submitted a report that the Sept. 20 meeting was well attended.  There were 5 panelists: Ruth Anderson, Ann Wheeler, Tracy Lenox, Jinnea Monroe and Kris Spitler, with Millicent Stackhouse moderating.  There were 37 league members in attendance and they were able to learn about these women's reflections on "100 Years of Advances for Women" in their professions.  The panelists brought a lot of energy and shared so many insights with members.

October General Meeting: The Oct. 18 Zoom meeting was attended by about 20 people. Local housing experts offered a look at the current affordable housing situation in Prince William and Fauquier counties and at plans for the future. The speakers were David McGettigan Sr., long-range planning manager for the Prince William County Planning Office; Elijah T. Johnson, Prince William deputy county executive for human services; Andrew Hopewell, assistant chief of planning with Fauquier County; and Patrick Mauney, executive director of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission. Miggy Strano was the moderator.

Warrenton BLM vigil: Barbara Amster and Miggy Strano reported the Saturday morning vigils are slated to continue through the end of the year in their current form. Barbara Amster reported that Delegate Guzman had requested to give opening remarks and Barbara was concerned that her appearance could be perceived as campaigning. It was suggested that the League have frame a policy on such appearances or research state or national League policies.

Book Discussion: Four members attended the Oct. 13 discussion of “All the President’s Men” by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. It was a small group, but there was a lively discussion. Barbara Amster observed activities the book described were staggeringly familiar to today’s readers.

Calendar Event Updates: Connie Gilman submitted a report listing the following events:

General Meeting on Nov. 15, 2 -4 p.m.  ZOOM meeting with Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy discussing the topic "Post Election:  Civility, Unity, Healing and How the League of Women Voters - Prince William Area can aid in these processes.”

Sips & Civility on Dec. 3, 7- 9 p.m.  ZOOM meeting.

The January General Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17 from 2 - 4.  If the Library System opens its community rooms, we are booked at Montclair Community Library for a showing of "Suffragette."

A book discussion of "When Everything Changed" by Gail Collins is scheduled for Jan. 26. at Brittany's in Lake Ridge, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Book Discussions: Connie Gilman is looking for book discussion ideas for 2021.  Several people have already sent in suggestions and if you have a title you think would be good to discuss, please send her the information.  conniewg51@gmail.com   The titles will be selected at our January book discussion.

New Business: Miggy Strano asked how new members can find out what our League does and how they can become involved. Many of the League’s usual activities, such as high school and new citizen voter registration, are on hold because of the pandemic. Members are encouraged to attend or monitor county government meetings, but there was discussion of establishing a more formal observer corps as a way of getting new members involved. In answer to a question raised at the meeting, Jessie Barringer provided the following answer:

There is no “packet” that is sent to new members. I do send the “Why Join” brochure to prospective members as an attachment.

**Here’s what I mail to most new members.**

*Welcome! We are pleased that you have joined our League.*

*Enclosed is our “They Represent You” (TRY) brochure with edits from the Town elections. Also enclosed is our Top Ten handout.*

*We are looking forward to your participation in our activities.*

**Here’s what I mail to new Fauquier members.**

*Enclosed is the****Virginia League Handbook****. Since our “They Represent You” (TRY) brochure contains Prince William elected officials’ information, I thought this handbook would be more appropriate. I am also enclosing lists of National and Statewide elected officials and their contact information from our TRY brochure. Although it doesn’t include your 5th Congressional District information, we hope to add it to the next edition.*

The next board meeting will be Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling