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**League of Women Voters of Prince William-Fauquier Area**

**Hybrid In-Person-Zoom**

**Bull Run Regional Library**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2022**

President Janet Gorn called the hybrid in-person-Zoom meeting to order at 2:17 pm.

President’s Introductory Remarks:

* Abraham Lincoln: “I am a firm believer of the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.”
* In an environment in disinformation and deniers, this is even more important today for the survival of Democracy
* In 1861, 161 years ago, Democracy was under siege and launched a 4-year civil war and survived. In 2022, Democracy was again under siege and survived the 4-day midterm elections.
* The LWV-PWFA League had a role to play.
* The LWV-PWFA League leadership is front and center for this election cycle “Empowering voters, Defending Democracy”.
* Our members worked to empower voters through voter registrations in the community at large and the high schools. We defended Democracy through hosting candidate fora, distributing voter information, and serving at the polls on election day. Thank you one and all for your service.

**BUSINESS SESSION**

Attendees were reminded of the importance of the League’s “*Give the Gift of Democracy”* fund raising campaign. Of the $70 annual Membership Fee, the LWV-PWFA League only has $22 after paying the obligated LWV-VA and LWVUS membership fees. The campaign was launched through advertising extensively via Constant Contact, the Newsletter, and letters mailed USPS to individual League members. It was emphasized how important donations are to the LWV-PWFA Mission, to maintain and rebuild trust in our Democracy, and to continue to advocate for fair elections, open and accessible government, and informed, educated, citizen involvement

It was reported LWV-PWFA 2023 Nominating Committee will begin its consideration of candidates for election in June to the 2023-2025 Biennium Board of Directors positions for: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Voters Services Director, Action/Program Director, Volunteer Director, Meeting Director, Membership Records Director, and Membership Outreach Director. All current Board of Directors members are eligible for reelection. Interested members in serving on the Board of Directors should contact Ruthann Litchford, Nominating Committee chair.

The President announced that Dr. Constance Gilman is under consideration by the LWV-VA Nominating Committee for the Office of Secretary on the LWV-VA State Board of Directors.

It was announced the LWV-VA State Study Groups are completing their reports. The LWV-PWFA League is scheduling in February Webinars for each of the studies: Child Care, Education Equity, Money in Politics, and Environmental Justice. The proposed policy positions will be reviewed and voted on at the June LWV-VA Biennial Convention in Williamsburg.

The President announced Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association , will be the speaker for the Sunday January 15 2023 webinar. She will be making a presentation on Censorship and Book Banning (article in LWV-PWFA Newsletter). The American Library Association has developed an engagement guide for activities with LWVs. The LWV-VA has a long standing cooperative relationship with the Prince William and now with the Fauquier county libraries, that includes among a number of activities, speaker events, author and book signing evets, and voter registration on National Voter Registration Day in September. Interest has developed to further explore co-hosted projects through the establishment of a Library Committee. SignUpGenius to follow.

**Program Speaker**

Julie Bolthouse, Director of Land Use, Piedmont Environmental Council, spoke on the issue of Data Centers. Pro and Con discussion followed.

**Field Trip After the Meeting**

Attendees were given a review of the Bull Run Regional Library new “Hive 8051 Markerspace,” hosted by the Library staff.