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League of Women Voters of Prince Wiliam-Fauquier Area

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023

President Janet Gorn called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Attendees included Janet Gorn, Connie Gilman, Trish Freed, Lisa Grant, Cathy Ring, Judy Hingle, Laura Feld- Mushaw, Ruthan Litchford, Miriam Anver, Carol Proven, and Carol Noggle.

1. President’s Report

-- Each One Bring One reminder to: 1) submit suggested *Sips and Civility* topics to Co-Meeting Directors and 2) submit suggested 2023-2024 Action Program issues for consideration to the President *(Bylaws, Article X: Action Program, Section 2: Action Program: “The Action Program is the education and advocacy platform that consists of actions to implement the LWVUS Governing Principles, as recommended by the LWV-PWFA Board of Defectors. The Action Program shall be adopted at the beginning of every Biennium…”)*

1. Membership Reports

-- Lisa Grant, Membership Records Director, reported official membership now

stands at 75 paid members.

-- Cathy Ring, Membership Outreach Director, reported on “A-Frame Sign” research

for various tabletop and standalone designs, materials, sizes, and funding needs. Board consensus supported interest in more information, in particular design photos, before making a decision. Cathy agreed to forwarding more information and design photos.

1. Announcements

* President Janet Gorn was appointed to the LWVUS UN Observer Working Group and selected to as a member of the national LWV-US delegation to the UN Commission on Women 67 Session (UN/CSW67), March 5, -17, 2023. Board members congratulated the President and look forward to a report.
* The LWV-PWFA League responded to the Annual LWVUS Survey with the LWV-PWFA FY 2021-2022 Annual Report (Posted on LWV-PWFA Website).
* LWVUS Education Fund Grant Awards: $750 *Youth Voter Registration*; $500 *Former and Incarcerated Persons Project*. In a December 22, 2022 email, The League was notified it was awarded the two grants by the

LWV-US Board of Directors Program Coordinator. These grants were

originally understood to be for “B*lock Grants*” and an exciting new opportunity to provide added value to basically what many leagues, including LWV-PWFA, are already doing. Both the LWV-US AND LWV-VA strongly promoted local leagues apply in various fora. However, upon receiving the Grant Award email (December 22, 2022), the awards were prefaced conditional on signing a formal contract (Example included in email) to be forwarded for signature and a Kickoff Call scheduled to provide further guidance. Review of the example contract raised a number of issues and questions obligating further review by the LWV-PWFA league Board before acceptance or declining the grants. President reported at this juncture, under her responsibilities as LWV-PWFA President to: 1) Monitor programs and activities and 2) Maintain financial soundness of the League, she did not recommend the LWV-PWFA League accept the two (2) Contractional LWVUS Ed Fund Grants. The President further reported the Board will be provided with additional LWVUS information as received and subsequently vote on acceptance. *NOTE: Bylaws, Article IV: Officers; Section IV.3.1: “The President, ….shall with the Secretary [Recording Secretary] sign all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board of Directors….”*

* January-June 2023 Schedule of Meetings. The Board discussed the

Schedule of Meetings in particular the in-person *Sips and Civility* event venue and format; the Biennium Meeting luncheon venue, format, and suggested speaker(s); and the Workshop webinar on LWVUS Issue Studies, review. The President noted as Pre-Preparation for the Workshop, a Constant Contact Notice to the full membership will be sent out the end of January, with linkage to the full study reports on the LWVUS website. The LWV-PWFA is obligated to report League consensus to the LWV-VA Program Director by February 28, 2023.

1. Appointments

The President appointed Vice President Connie Gilman to chair a review of all current LWV-PWFA publications, format, costs (budget issue), and funding, identify where the League could distribute in the community, and recommend other publications for the future.

1. Action Items

* Nominating Committee. The Board approved the appointment of Connie Gilman and Barbara Greiling, and Ex-Officio Judy Hingle, to the Nominating Committee chaired by Ruthann Litchford, consistent with *Bylaws, Article VII: Nominations and Elections, Section VII.1.2: Committee Member Appointment.*
* Budget Committee. The Board approved the appointment to the Budget Committee of Connie Gilman and Ruthann Litchford, chaired by Treasurer Trish Freed, consistent with *Bylaws, Article IX: Financial administration, Section 5: Budget Committee.*

* MLK Oratorical Contest. The Board approved sponsorship of the annual *Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest*, hosted by the Prince William County Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, by providing an appropriate book to each of the six (6) finalists.
* MLK Oratorical Contest Book Funds. The Board approved a cap of $200 for MLK Oratorical Contest book purchase.
* C-100 Cohost Invitation. The Board approved accepting the Committee-100 invitation to cohost the Gainesville District PWC Supervisor Special Election Candidate Forum consistent with the *“LWV-PWFA Cooperation with Other Organizations Guidelines.*
* Gainesville Special Election Candidate Forum Funding. The Board approved $150 from the “Gift for Democracy” fund raising campaign ($620) income for the Gainesville Special Election Candidate Forum.
* Recuring Expenses. The Boad approved a League policy for the Treasurer of the PWC-FA Chapter of the LWV, to set up automated payments, to the extent feasible, for recurring expenses such as and including Quicken, GoDaddy, Constant Contact, and SigUpGenius.
* Event Participation List. Absent a clear consensus on LWV-PWFA participation in the list of community events, action was tabled until the February 21st Board meeting. Board members were also reminded the 2023 Event Coordinator position is vacant and that under the Bylaws all participation in community fora agreements (both with or without a fee) are to be signed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. *NOTE 1: Bylaws, Article IV: Officers; Section IV.3.1: “The President, ….shall with the Secretary [Recording Secretary] sign all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board of Directors….” NOTE 2:* Participation is required to be consistent with the *“LWV-PWFA Cooperation with Other Organizations Guidelines;”* the *“LWV-PWFA Participation in Community Events Guideline;”* and the Balanced Budget requirements.

A lengthy useful discussion developed on the broader topic of participation strategy for the next FY 2023-2024. Consensus supported the view that there is a demonstrated need to conduct a further cost/benefit and value added “Reality Check.”

Board consensus also supported developing a system of data collection soonest at community events, high school voter registration, and other venues, to include number of attendees (or interaction at community events), number of publication handed out, and cost of printing (commercial or member reimbursed for printing and materials).

Views on the List of Community Events participation were divided, with some members leaning toward reducing participation in the number of community events and increasing sponsorship of candidate fora. Several members supported capping budget allocations for community events. However, it was pointed out that capping has budget challenges, because some community events do not post dates or fees until near the event, others are late in announcing.

There was a general view the League should explore other partnership options with the PWC and FC governments (e.g., Library Systems) or other nonpartisan organizations.in keeping with LWV-PWFA policies and guidelines.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.