

L**eague of Women Voters of the Prince William Fauquier Area**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**February 21, 2023**

President Janet Gorn opened the meeting at 7:02 P.M.

In attendance: Janet Gorn, Judy Hingle, Carol Proven, Cathy Ring, Miriam Anver, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Lisa Grant, Trish Freed, , Connie Gilman, and Observer Cheri Saggers.

President Gorn once again, requested board members to submit issues for consideration, for inclusion in the *LWV-PWFA 2023-2025 Action Program*. She drafted a Strawman Action Program for members to consider. The FY-2023-2025 Action Program will be voted on at the March Board meeting consistent with the Bylaws.

The FY-2023-2024 proposed Budget will also be considered and voted on at the March Board meeting consistent with the Bylaws.

President Gorn continued with announcements:

* New LWV League forming in the neighborhood – A Work in Progress.

George Mason University has three suburban campuses: Fairfax City, Manassas Innovation Park, and Arlington Manson Squire, The LWV Arlington Newsletter included the following announcement:

*“NEW OUTREACH TO GMU STUDENTS: The LWVFA is looking for students at George Mason University who would like to work with us to start an on-campus LWV group. If you are or know a student who might be interested, please contact Arina:**arina@lwv-fairfax.org**.*

*Pizza and donuts WILL be involved!”*

* February 9, 2023 *INSIDENOVA,* LWV-PWFA League quarter page color ad (page 7) celebrating the LWV 103rd February 14th Anniversary.
* The February 9th Candidate Special Election Debate for the Gainesville Supervisor position cosponsored with the Committee of 100 was very successful.

President Gorn thanked Vice President Connie Gilman for editing the January Meeting Minutes and asked her to take minutes for the February meeting.

President Gorn noted the Treasurer’s Report was attached to the agenda. The account balances as of 2/13/2023 were $2,164.37 in the Education Fund and $13,554.19 in the LWV checking account.

In addition, President Gorn reviewed the written reports, which were attached to the agenda.

Barbara Amster submitted a written report on the Fauquier Unit Observer Corps’ on the Warrenton Town Council meeting, held on February 14, 2023 in the Fauquier High School. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a *Special Use Permit* for the proposed Amazon Data Center. Amazon paid $1 million an acre for forty acres. Currently, Warrenton law prohibits building the center. The almost 1000 citizen turnout was overwhelming, filling nearly every seat in a packed auditorium. The meeting lasted until 2:00 am with most attendees opposing the Data Center. However, the Town Council voted (4 -3) in favor of approving the Special Use Permit.

Carol Noggle submitted a written Voter Services Report which included the voter service events that were held since the beginning of 2023 and Voter Registrations. There were 7 days of high school visits where the League helped register 419 students to vote. In addition, on January 26th Carol reported she attended the Re-Entry Council Orientation for Returning Citizens & their Families. It was held at Mount Olive Baptist Church on Minnieville Road. On February 9th the Candidate Special Election Debate for the Gainesville Supervisor position, was held cosponsored with the Committee of 100. Carol Noggle and Carol Proven served on the joint Debate Planning and Question Committee.

The Board needed to act on participation sponsorship in the BLM Vigil Coalition. Although it had been discussed at a previous meeting, the Board had not taken a vote consistent with the League’s “*Cooperation with Other Organizations Policy*” and liability insurance coverage. Judy Hingle moved, to approve the LWV-PWFA League sponsorship in the Black Lives Matter Warrenton Vigil coalition. Miriam Anver seconded, and the motion was passed.

The *2023 List of Participation in Community Events* which had been tabled during the January meeting needed to be voted on. Carol Proven moved to accept the list and Trish Freed seconded the motion. There was discussion about adding participation in National Voter Registration Day, however it was noted it is a League outreach activity and not a Community Event. In addition, Trish Freed suggested we go to the Community Colleges on National Voter Registration Day. A vote was taken, and the *2023 List of Community Participation Events* was approved. The President announced Judy Hingle volunteered to take on the Event Registrar Coordinator task to register the League for each of the community events.

The Board Members present discussed the LWV-VA Issue Studies Reports that were presented in February 19, 2023 Webinar workshop. The timeline deadline (February 28) for reporting to the LWV-VA Program Director for the reports was explained. Trish Freed expressed her concern about the Issue Study Committee’s reporting on the permitting process in the Environmental Justice Report.

Connie Gilman moved to approve all four of the Reports LWV-PWFA responses to the consensus questions, including the Trish Freed amendment to the Environmental Justice Report. Trish Freed seconded and the motion to accept the LWV-PWFA consensus question response to the Money in Politics Report, the Environmental Justice Report, the Education Equity Report, and the Child Care Report was approved. [Note: Subsequently the final League report was submitted to the LWV- VA Program Director consistent with the LWV-VA Bylaws timetable deadline.]

President Gorn informed the Board that she applied for a grant from the LWV- National Capitol Area and that she just received confirmation that the application was accepted and favorably reviewed. The High School Voter Registration Program, in tandem with the Prince William Bar Association was the subject of the grant. Now that she has received notice the application was accepted, she will send the completed application to Board members.

Connie Gilman, along with others, thanked Janet for applying on our behalf. She also commented that it would be a courtesy for Janet to inform the Board when she applies for grants. It was also noted that Connie Gilman had applied for and received a $500 grant from NOVEC in 2022. The League in the past has received grants from time-to-time. President Gorn pointed out that there are a variety of nonprofit organization grants opportunities that could benefit the League. Trish Freed commented that it is important to keep track of grant applications from year-to-year, if/when they are received, the amount of the grant, and what the grant is to support. Such a tracking currently is not done. She announced she will begin a spread sheet for grant tracking.

President Gorn asked for Board members to volunteer for a grant/fund raising committee. Judy Hingle commented that she had posted a 2022 need for grant/fund raising volunteers on Sign-up Genius, but she will send it out again. President Gorn also suggested the LWV-PWFA League approach the Women’s Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, for a donation as well as other League supportive business. Treasurer Trish Freed thought that was a good idea. Other ideas for fund raising were discussed.

Purchasing a new tent for the League and also the sandwich board that Cathy Ring had previously requested was discussed. Trish Freed reported that there was enough money in the budget to purchase both. Trish moved to purchase a new tent with our updated logo. Judy Hingle seconded. Under discussion, Cathy Ring amended the purchase to include a tent with wheels for easy transportation. Trish Freed seconded the amendment. The motion carried.

Branding other League items and handouts was discussed. It was noted that we need to be consistent in using the current LWV Prince William-Fauquier Area updated logo. Lisa Grant noted that her husband can do design work for the League when needed. Connie Gilman is reviewing the League’s publications and will report to the Board.

President Gorn mentioned that Ruthann Litchford ordered more *Vote Like a Girl Buttons*; 500 for Fauquier to use and 500 for Prince William events.

Laura Feld-Mushaw brought up a concern with the number of presenters the League has for doing high school voter registrations and voter educational information presentations. Only she, Carol Noggle, and Carol Proven are doing presentations. She suggested that we invite members to come to the March 7th school voter registration event presentation so they could become comfortable with the format. Judy Hingle suggested that the 2023 fall kick-off meeting focus on high school voter registration. A mock presentation could be done so members can better understand what goes on and can ask questions. [Carol Proven subsequently prepared Draft Presenter Guidelines]

President Gorn encouraged members to attend the League of Women Voters - Virginia Convention June 2-4, 2023 which will be held in Williamsburg.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Connie Gilman, Vice President.