

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

**Board of Directors Meeting January 16, 2024**

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Those calling in: Cynthia Chambliss, Janet Gorn, Carol Proven, Carol Noggle, Trish Freed, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Laurie Parnfinczuk, Cheryl Saggers, Jane Touchet, Judy Hingle, Sheila Arrington. Cathy Ring and Barbara Greiling.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the October and November board meetings were approved by unanimous votes.

**Treasurer’s report:** Trish Freed reported that, as of Jan. 9, there was $2,354.85 in the Education Fund and $14,674.73 in the checking account for a total of $17,029.58. Based on projected income and expenses in the 2023-2024 budget, Trish estimated the league faces a $917.16 deficit at this point in time. The budget for printing has been used up. However, there is $500 in the budget for marketing that could be used for printing. The budget includes $300 for Vote 411, but the LWV-VA is expected to cover that expense. Trish asked if our league should pay for Vote 411 if the state does not. Board members pointed out that the website offers little information about candidates’ positions and that better information is available on VPAP and other sites. Cathy Ring made a motion that we drop the line item for Vote 411 from the budget. The motion was seconded by Janet Gorn and passed on a unanimous vote.

Trish reported the coming transformation mandated by LWVUS will change the membership fee structure outlined in our bylaws. Student, household and Champions of Suffrage categories will be eliminated. The transformation will include a pay-what-you-can option of a minimum of $20, which eliminates the need for a $15 student membership. Our budget currently includes $70 for membership assistance, which has not been used in recent years. Trish made a motion to eliminate that line item from the budget. Cathy Ring seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Trish suggested a letter be sent to all members, explaining the transformation and membership fee changes. Carol Proven agreed and added we should also use the website, newsletter and Constant Contact to get the word out. Pat Reilly said that, as the transformation is a National League initiative, LWVUS should write the letter explaining it. Trish will request a letter for members at the next transformation meeting she attends.

There was discussion of when our league should initiate the new fee structure, which will take effect nationally in 2025. Trish will find out what other leagues are planning and determine what timeline would be most advantageous for us.

The Budget Committee, which includes Trish, Kim McCusker and Grace White, hold its first meeting Feb. 13. Trish and Pat urged all board members to let the committee know what they will need for the coming budget year.

Pat Reilly reported she and Trish had examined the budget and determined that $400 could be used to reimburse Cynthia Chambliss and Sheila Arrington for the $864 they spent when the site for the November kickoff meeting had to be changed at the last minute. Laura Feld-Mushaw made a motion that up to $400 be authorized as reimbursement. Carol Proven seconded the motion and it passed. Several board members offered to help make up the difference. Barbara Greiling asked if donations made on the website could be earmarked for that purpose. Trish said there was on option on the website for operating fund donations that could be used or checks could be sent to her with a memo line specifying the purpose. Trish asked that donations be made by the end of January.

**President’s report:** Pat reported she and Laura Feld-Mushaw attended a very impressive Martin Luther King birthday celebration at Colgan High School. A community choir of students from many different schools performed, and six students from Prince William middle and high schools spoke about ways to make our union more purposeful. Our league gave collections of Dr. King’s speeches to each of these competition winners. Pat thanked Carol Proven for acquiring and wrapping the books.

**Meeting co-chairs**: Cynthia Chambliss discussed plans for upcoming meetings and asked for guidance on dates. Board members said Sunday afternoons seemed to allow the most people to attend. A date of Feb. 18 or 25 was suggested for the next meeting. May 5 was suggested for the annual meeting, with the Manassas Park Community Center as a site. It was also agreed that refreshments at meetings be potluck or pay-for-your-own.

**Book club:** The book club will meet Jan. 24 at Old Towne Sports Pub in Manassas to discuss *Untold Power*.

**Membership report:** Cathy Ring reported she has been in contact with Northern Virginia Community College about voter registration and education opportunities.

**Advocacy:** Carol Noggle reminded members of weekly women’s legislative roundtables and reported that bills to reduce early voting and calls for more stringent photo ID requirements had been defeated in committee. Representatives of LWV-VA testified before the committee in opposition to the measures. She also reported the state league is working on getting answers from the governor’s office about the restoration of voting rights to former prisoners.

League Day is Feb. 7 and information is available on our website.

**Voter** **Services:** Laura Feld-Mushaw reported that voter registration was scheduled Thursday at Freedom High School. She has worked with the social studies department to set up an opportunity for students to register. Carol Proven set up a table at Osbourn High School during the times when *So You Are 18* programs were scheduled, but over two days, only 25 students were registered. It was agreed that it was not a good use of time and another format should be tried.

**Other business:** Pat Reilly proposed that breakouts from land-use study be offered as a series of webinars.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. The next board meeting will be Feb. 20.

Submitted by

Barbara Greiling

Recording secretary