



LWV-PWFA Board Meeting Nov. 19, 2024

President Pat Reilly convened the meeting at 7:03 and confirmed that we had a quorum present. Pat Reilly, Carol Proven, Carol Noggle, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Catherine Ring, Judy Hingle, Shari Oley, Cheryl Saggars, Kathleen Montgomery, Janet Gorn, Sheila Arrington. Cynthia Chamblis and Jane Touchet joined later.

October meeting minutes were unanimously approved with no changes. In the absence of our recorder Barbara Greiling, due to travel. Pat Reilly agreed to take minutes.

Shari Oley, our new treasurer, asked for the Board's patience as she needed more time to study the documents she inherited from former treasurer Grace White. Special kudos to Trish Freed and her husband, who worked with Shari to understand the budget and the many files that came her way in the transition. Shari has attended a transformation Zoom call and sees many benefits in the centralization of the work at the national level.

Pat gave a last call GOTV activities receipts. We will easily make the \$1,000 limit for reimbursement.

Shari reported that she received funds for three new members and 8 renewals.

President's Report copied here:

I feel the need to correct my initial understanding when I said in early days after Nov. 5 that voter turnout in Virginia was headed for record levels. After the dust settled on the Presidential Election, voter turnout in our neck of the woods, Northern Virginia, has been reported as low compared to other years. A surprising number of voters chose not to vote this year—despite our remarkable numbers of GOTV activities and those of other organizations.

As I projected at the last meeting, I would like to spend the bulk of this meeting discussing our activities to register voters and get them to vote. I would like to report to the state how many volunteers and volunteer hours we spent on each type of activity--- colleges, libraries, senior residences, forums, street fairs--there were many more than we originally planned. For the record, and not for reporting tonight, we will need contact information on each of the facilities or organizations with whom we partnered in order to make future planning easier.

I want to thank the 11 members who attended the consensus meeting on the questions from the committee that created *The Inalienable Right to Vote* on Nov. 12 on Zoom. We

had great discussions on each question and thanks to Carol Proven, we have a video link to our meeting and a report on our responses to the questions. The participants also helped with editing. A report will go to the study committee by Dec. 15.

I hope to move through our officer reports quickly and get to Voter Services.

Treasurer Report:

Introduces new Treasurers Shari Oley, who reports eight renewals and 3 new members. Since July, no submissions of receipts to get GOTV grant money reimbursements.

Pat points out that Judy Hingle has receipts for \$650; Laura Feld-Mushaw has sent receipts from Polaris Press.

Shari suggests we should be able to take money electronically as younger members come in. Several members point out we use PayPal. Shari reports that Transformation refers to digital banking and we may have to do that.

Jane Touchet joins by phone. Cynthia Chambliss joins.

The next study is the Judiciary Committee and Carol Proven will send the invite to the committee to all members tonight.

Officer, Directors, and Chair Reports

Meeting Co-Directors: Cynthia Chambliss and Sheila Arrington reported that the Social Meeting on Dec. 8 2 PM to 4 PM will take place at the City Tavern in Manassas. The restaurant will offer a lunch buffet for \$30 per person. They required a \$300 deposit, says Cynthia. LWV has not paid a deposit before. Pat asks how we will manage that. Catherine Ring said she would divide among the participants the money from the deposit once we are reimbursed. Shari says that will send the Tavern a check for the deposit when Cynthia gives her the address.

Cynthia said she asked for the community room with the lunch buffet. Cynthia says that the Tavern expects 22 people. Several people mention the noise was an issue the last time we went there. Cynthia says that as of this Nov. 19 meeting, no one else is scheduled for that room. Catherine says to tell them we want to stay in the room with the buffet and not go in and out the way we did in that past. Cynthia agrees to tell them that. Pat is concerned about reimbursements if we have 20 people, how does it work? Catherine agrees to handle the reimbursements at the lunch. Cynthia says she will call the Tavern people back and ask them about the bottom line.

Judy Hingle agrees to put the SignupGenius page for the Sips luncheon up tonight before she leaves town in the morning. Carol Proven will follow with an invitation to members to this event.

Membership Records: Director Jane Touchet reported that as of this meeting, we have three new members and 8 renewals. So, 81 members listed. The Board agreed that those listed who have not renewed by Dec. 31 will be removed from the active list. Jane estimated that would leave us with about 53 members. (Laura gives report for Jane who is in a car and unable to unmute) Carol P. agrees to give all members access to the latest spreadsheet roster. She further says that we should only pay for those who are active.

Shari asks how we pay the \$2,160 she was billed by LWV US for 2023. That leaves us \$1,000 on the budget line. Transformation advises that we will pay for 2024 members. In future, when people don't renew with the U.S., they will be billed automatically unless they opt out. Carol P. recalls that they may bill us again.

Carol P. confirms the current list is 81; Shari says 26 people have not renewed. Catherine has called 16 people; nobody says no. Judy Hingle will square her signup list with the latest roster.

Advocacy: Coordinator Carol Noggle reminds us Legislators are meeting. The Constitutional Amendments proposed are key to pay attention to. There is a League Day in January. There is a League Pre-session Zoom call on Dec. 4. Carol N. will go to the jail board meeting to monitor Nov. 20.

Voter Services – Directors Carol Proven and Laura Feld-Mushaw will lead the discussion of activities. See the attached documents about actual events and volunteers present. NYRD tally is what we did all season, not just that day.

Community colleges. NOVA Manassas Sept. 19. Laurel Ridge every Mon. and Tues. under an agreement Kim Mc Cusker made. Left behind QR code poster at Laurel Ridge lobby.

Judy Hingle says we don't know how many students use QR code so we can't track. Carol P. will set up a special QR code for our tracking use with the state elections office.

Only four High Schools listed in PW report. Hylton H.S. Barbara, Brenda, Lucia and Laura did 16 classes and signed up 170 kids. 12 very productive hours over two days. Gainesville was not at productive, 4 hours, 4 registrations, but may be others registered on QR code.

Oslo H.S. had a candidates forum over two days. Only got two registrations, but it was interesting. Carol P. notes that if we got the Hylton model going on in other schools, we would have it made.

Community Events – African American Manassas was not fruitful but had a great volunteer student, Julie from Fairfax. Manassas street fair had a volunteer who spoke

Spanish—about 5 registrations. Teacher orientation was badly organized and we got nothing—some would not do that again. Carol N. objects.

Pat asks how we can gather information from Fauquier. Laurel Ridge yielded about 5 registrations. (Amster later reported 4-5 at the Fauquier Library on NRVD) Barbara G. gathered numbers from Eastern Libraries.

It is moved by Laura and seconded by Catherine that we will purchase books for the Oratorical Contest at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church Dumfries on 234 on Jan. 18 and present to the winners. Cynthia will do the presentation. A vote was not taken, but the cost (less than \$100) did not warrant one.

Pat thanks Judy Hingle for generating lists of volunteers from Signup Genius that could be easily reviewed. Pat was curious about the number of members who volunteer. If they came to a social meeting, worked a library registration...About half of the membership spends time with us. 25 people repeatedly volunteer. Judy Hingle wants guidelines about what we do with how many volunteers for what projected outcome. We want to welcome new members to be active.

Kathleen M. says we should ask State and other Leagues about what their experience is. The numbers sound familiar to her.

We will have a volunteer strategy meeting at Carol P's House at 11:30 on Tuesday Jan. 14 for Board members to discuss being more strategic about volunteer hours in the next year. Bring your own lunch!! This is a Board lunch meeting.

Pat Reilly says we want to make volunteering more attractive to more people.

Carol P. says that we should look at overall voter participation, which declined.

Sheila says that she saw a lot of young new people voting provisionally at her precinct.

Unfinished Business:

Our next business meeting is Jan. 21, the Tuesday after MLK Day. Our December meeting is a Sips and Civilities on Sunday Dec. 8.

Pat adjourns the meeting after Laura moves to adjourn and Judy seconds.