

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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Feb.18, 2025**

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Those calling in: Judy Hingle, Trish Freed, Miriam Anver, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Catherine Ring, Carol Noggle, Jane Touchet, Kathleen Montgomery, Sheila Arrington, Janet Gorn and Barbara Greiling.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the January board meeting were approved unanimously with one correction. Barbara Greiling noted that she had received an email from Trish Freed about the Treasurer’s Report included in the minutes, which stated that in the future local leagues will get 20% of dues, up from 17%. Trish noted that leagues had been receiving $22 per $70 dues, or about 31%.

**Treasurer’s report:** Treasurer Shari Oley could not attend the meeting and submitted a written report. She said LWVUS now collects all dues and deposits 20% of each payment directly into our bank account. As treasurer, Shari receives no membership information about the payments. She said she thought that information was going to Carol Proven, who maintains the roster, and to Membership Director Jane Touchet. Barbara noted that bank balances and budget information was not included in the Treasurer’s Report. Pat said she would talk to Shari about including financial information in upcoming reports.

 **President’s report:** Pat reported on the January strategic planning session, where officers devised an outline for a plan for 2025 actions. She sent a copy of notes on the meeting to all board members. The session focused on our League’s mission, which mirrors that of the LWVVA. Our three main goals are: right to vote, right to marry and reproductive health. Fortunately, three proposals to amend the state Constitution passed both houses of the General Assembly.

Our strategic plan wants to use our resources, including volunteer hours, to best push forward those goals in our two counties. We want to involve more members in the work that officers lead, communications, program planning, member outreach, meeting planning, editing of bylaws and handbook We will identify the areas of work for each board member and give them a list for people to call to encourage participation. Connie Giilman is heading up the strategic planning effort.

At LWVUS Convention 2024, delegates voted to proceed with a study to develop a position on the federal judiciary as an essential component of U.S. democracy. The study's purpose includes addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence and ethics. The LWVVA will hold our consensus meeting on Wednesday, March 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom.Other leagues participating include Falls Church, Loudoun, Lynchburg and Washington County. A link will be sent to all members, and Pat urged everyone to sign up.

Election of officers will be held at the May annual meeting. There will be openings for president and vice president. Advocacy Director Carol Noggle and Volunteer Services Director Judy Hingle said they will not continue in their positions. Pat will contact Ruthann Litchford about convening the Nominating Committee. Members will be notified and asked if they are interested in serving on the board.

Board members made suggestions for future programs including a follow-up to the General Assembly session. A program on ranked choice voting was also suggested. Cathy Ring will contact Liz White and pass on information to the program committee.

**Membership Outreach**: Cathy Ring reported she had contacted Northern Virginia Community College about speaking to students about voting and holding voter registration. She has not heard back. Laura said she would send a copy of the Arlington League’s script for school voter registration presentations to Cathy so she can give NVCC an idea of what the program would be.

**Advocacy**: Carol Noggle reported that the General Assembly had rejected the Virginia Opportunity Grant Program, which would have provided private school vouchers. The rejection aligns with the League’s position on funding for private schools. Both houses also approved the three constitutional amendments dealing with the right to vote, the right to marry and reproductive health. The governor does not have to approve the proposed amendments, but they do have to pass next year’s General Assembly before they can be placed on the ballot as referendums.

The House and Senate also passed a measure ensuring that voter rolls cannot be purged in the 90 days before an election. That bill now goes to the governor.

Carol urged members to watch debates to see our representative in action. Many local legislators have been very impressive, she said.

Pat asked for any advice on what we can do going forward to support the three proposed constitutional amendments. A program, open to the public, was suggested to explain the proposals and how the amendment process works.

**Voter Services**: Judy Hingle said that, to avoid confusion, events should not be posted on SignUp Genius until we have registered for the events with the sponsors. Laura Feld-Mushaw said she had heard from Freedom High School about voter registration, but a meeting to discuss dates was preempted by snow days.

Judy said that a Lunch and Learn event was scheduled at Westminster Retirement Community to update residents about the voting schedule and voting rights. Judy and Carol Proven will handle the presentation.

**Other Business**: The book discussion group will meet Feb. 19.

Carol Noggle attended the Prince William County Electoral Board meeting. The board has two new Republican members.

Laura received a message from Jane Touchet. Jane joined the meeting, but had trouble with the audio. Jane has not received membership information from LVWUS regarding new dues payments. Pat will check with Carol Proven to see if the information is going to her.

League member Cheryl Saggers recently lost her husband. Kathleen Montgomery suggested that Cheryl be sent a card signed by the president on behalf of the League.

The next board meeting will be March 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling