

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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Jan. 21, 2025**

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Those calling in: Carol Proven, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Catherine Ring, Carol Noggle, Cynthia Chambliss, Jane Touchet, Martha Ades, Connie Gilman, Kathleen Montgomery, Sheila Arrington, Janet Gorn and Barbara Greiling.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the November board meeting were approved unanimously with one correction.

**Treasurer’s report:** Treasurer Shari Oley could not attend the meeting and submitted the following written report about LVWUS transformation:

* 1. The percentage split of the membership fees will change. The LWVUS will only get 33%, down by 11%. The State league will get 47%, and the local leagues will get 20%, up from 17% as it is now.
	2. The new recommendation for the membership fee nationwide is $75.
	3. There will be a step in the membership joining process (through the new monetary conduit - STRIPE) when members have an option to make a donation – the donation will go EXCLUSIVELY to the league that they are joining, i.e., there will be no percentages taken out.
	4. Something to think about – Perhaps members who currently pay a higher membership fee should drop down to the normal $75 and put the balance as a donation to our local league.
	5. Because we will still be billed, and must pay before June, the old percentages to the US and the State, while we are only getting our 20%, the LWVUS announced that they will “make Leagues whole” for the first two years after launching the new system, i.e., LWVUS will “pay the difference between the net amount that the local League would have retained from base member dues under the old PMP system and the reallocation under the new system.” The fiscal year will change to a calendar year (Yay!)
	6. Although I haven’t been able to get into all of ChapterSpot, there are some subprograms that we could decide to use (or not) in place of what we are paying for now, like Constant Contact and our website. ChapterSpot has a mass emailing function that we could use. As the membership is already in the ChapterSpot database, using their mailing subprogram might be easier. They also have a designed/designable website that we could use. Note - both of these functions would be paid for by the LWVUS, not us.

**President’s report:** As discussed at the November board meeting, our League will report to LWVUS and LWV-VA only those members who have renewed and paid dues. While we will keep former members on our communications list unless they opt out, we will describe ourselves as a 58-member league and set a goal of expanding that number. Less than half of those 58 members have volunteered in the last year. The League wants to increase that number. To examine ways to achieve those goals, an all-board committee meeting was held Jan. 14 on membership, member engagement and strategic use of resources.

Pat gave board members a written report with the notes and thoughts of people at that meeting. She said the board must take immediate action to form a committee to create a strategic plan for our chapter that will determine our goals for the year and the objectives we might set to reach those goals. The committee should examine community events, volunteer opportunities and social events for the calendar year that make the best use of our members’ time and resources. The committee should report back at the next board meeting.

Other areas of work, Bylaws, Communications, Voter Services, Membership, Event Planning, Advocacy, Programs will be delegated similarly, with the Board Member in charge convening a committee of interested members and setting an agenda.

In addition to the President, Kathleen Montgomery, Carol Proven, Cynthia Chambliss, Cathy Ring and Connie Gilman volunteered to serve on the strategic planning committee. A meeting was set for Jan. 28.

Janet Gorn pointed out that the State League has a new membership handbook and other materials that could be of use in engaging our members and expanding our membership.

Jane Touchet will assign lists of 6 to 8 members for board members to contact regarding upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Pat also announced that Vice President Kim McCusker has resigned. She feels that she has not been able to fulfill her duties. She is still eager to help with the work, particularly in her expertise—graphics and marketing. Pat appointed Carol Proven as the acting vice president.

**Advocacy:** Carol Noggle continues to monitor General Assembly actions and to send updates to members through the Communications Director. Most of the delegates and senators from our area are aligned with League positions, she said.

**Meeting Co-Chairs**: Cynthia Chambliss attended the Martin Luther King Day speech competition, sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta and presented the six finalists with copies of the speeches of Dr. King on behalf of our League. The high school and middle school speakers all were amazing, delivering excellent speeches without notes. Cynthia thanked Sheila Arrington for her help at the event. Sheila also took photos of the event, which she will forward to Carol Proven for Constant Contact and Connie Gilman for the newsletter. Sheila also will look into getting a link to a recording of the speeches.

**Voter** **Services**: Pat reported that Cynthia had been approached by Prince William School Board member Richard Jessie regarding a rumor that the League had been “banned” from county schools.Cynthia referred him to Pat, who spoke to him on the phone and explainedthat the League had not been banned, but had lost our spot in the Bar Association’s presentations to all senior government classes due to state mandated drug prevention program. Laura Feld-Mushaw also emailed him, making clear to him that the League was not the source of the rumor, and that we continue to search for new ways to conduct voter registration at the high schools, including a recent successful two-day program at Hylton High School. Laura said she had discussed the issue with Mr. Jessie in the past and he is very supportive.

The problem is a matter of scheduling, Laura said. In the past, government teachers were told by the county when their classes were to report to the auditorium for voter registration and So Now You Are 18 presentations. Now we need to work with each school to schedule voter registration and get permission from principals. She is continuing to contact high schools and is working with the director of social studies for the schools on the issue.

It was pointed out that schools are required by state law to provide voter registration opportunities to their students. In the past, Laura and Carol Proven met with the Office of Elections about school access, and staff promised to send a letter to School Superintendent Dr. McDade on the issue. We have never heard that such a letter was sent. Cynthia suggested that we send our own letter to Dr. McDade, outlining the requirement and our ability to help fulfill it. Pat said she had received a script used by the
Arlington League for school registration programs and suggested that we could include it in such a letter and in emails to high schools to show them what would be discussed.

**Upcoming events**: The book group will meet Feb. 12 to discuss *Sula.* The schedule for the year is on SignUp Genius.

The next board meeting will be Feb. 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Greiling