

Minutes LWVCC Steering Committee Meeting Via Zoom

15 March 2022

Attending: Rachel Avila, Sara Bresler, Laura Brown, Peg Dobrinska, Sue Floyd, Jan Koch, Jenna Lugo, Sue Sargo, Sue Werner

Call to Order: 12:00 pm by Jan Koch

Minutes: Minutes were sent with an agenda prior to the meeting. Hearing no questions or concerns, Sue Floyd made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sara Bresler seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Floyd presented the monthly report. Hearing no questions or concerns, Laura Brown made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sue Sargo seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Cindy Hahn was unable to attend but provided information to Jan prior to the meeting. There are seven new student members and 1 new non-student member. Student members are welcomed by members of LWVPSU. Jan will reach out to the non-student member, Eileen Senn who is interested in helping with translation of materials.

Voter's Guide: Sara Bresler reported on the new Vote411 upgrade from LWVPA which is not yet ready for use as there have been multiple bugs to be addressed. LWVPA will send invitations to candidates when the system is ready and Sara will follow up to encourage candidates to complete the form. Sara requested assistance with responding to CDT concerns about publishing the Guide last fall. There was extensive discussion regarding those concerns. Sara will send Jan a draft response. Sara will contact the Gazette as well to discuss publication, in particular whether this election will be covered in one edition or multiple editions. Main concerns for publication from both papers are the constraints of issues affecting this election such as problems with 411, and delay of candidates listing on the ballot from PADOS due to ongoing redistricting and use of mail in ballot litigation. Jenna Lugo reported that the PSU Collegian paper plans to publish the QR code for Vote411.

Candidates' Night: Sue Werner reported that since the list of candidates on the ballot is delayed it remains in limbo. Our policy is to cover only contested races. At this point, several races are uncontested. It is possible that no Candidates' Night will be needed. It was decided that if there are only one or two races, it would be done virtually. Regarding candidate questions, Sue W. has not heard from Kris Eng, chair of the county Republican party and said there will probably need to be another in person meeting with her prior to the fall election. Sue sends a blind copy of candidate invitations to both county chairs of Democratic and Republican parties. Cindy had suggested to Sue W. that we use local journalists to present questions to candidates. That will be discussed in further detail.

Voter Education

High School: Sara Bresler reported that they remain unable to access students in person due to continued COVID concerns.

Campus: Jenna Lugo reported that LWVPSU has held 4 member meetings. They are working on creating a website. They have contacted Democratic, Republican and Independent student groups. They have posted on instagram regarding the intern position and to solicit help to work on info for banners and postcards. They have designed a tee shirt and will send all merchandise materials to LWVCC for approval. Jenna also reported that the primary news source for students is a weekly email from PSU.

Laura Brown reported on a meeting with Brooklyn who is LWVPSU representative to Tim Bailliet. Brooklyn gave a presentation to Tim's committee requesting PSU to encourage civic engagement of students. Tim has three student groups in progress in University Park: round table, voting ambassadors and an advisory group. The advisory group is to meet in April. Voter registration is offered whenever students register for classes.

Senior Outreach and Voter Registration; Sue Sargo reported that she has seven voter registration programs set including one at PSULWV. Additional programs may be scheduled. The deadline flyer has been delayed waiting for the most current news on litigation. Peg Dobrinska suggested that the flyer include blue and yellow to show support for Ukraine's democracy which is under siege from Russia at this time. Sue Sargo will send Laura Brown a rough draft.

State Liaison: Jan Koch welcomed Peg Dobrinska as our representative to the LWVPA state government policy committee. Peg expressed concern over the number of PA state constitution amendments being proposed rather than working toward legislation. She will attend the government policy committee meeting this evening.

Website: Laura Brown has kept our website up to date and will update voting information as soon as it becomes available.

Old Business:

Banners - Laura Brown reported that she had just received the specs from Bellefonte Borough yesterday. There will not be any new banners for the primary and the State College Borough will hang those we have in mid-April. This will all be revised for the fall election.

Postcards - Again this has been held up due to litigation. Jan will post information on social media to remind Independent and Unaffiliated voters that they must be a registered Democrat or Republican in order to vote for candidates in the primary election.

Legislative Interviews - Rachel Avila reported that the interview with Scott Conklin has been submitted to LWVPA. She continues to reach out to the following candidates: Stephanie Borowitz, Rich Irvin, Jake Corman and Kerry Benninghoff; she has had no response to date.

New Business:

Saturday, April 2, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm LWVCC has volunteered to staff phone lines for WPSU fundraiser. Four to five volunteers are needed.

Tour of the Philatelic Society - tabled

Change of Leadership structure - to include the LWVPSU representative. Will be presented at the annual membership meeting in June.

June meeting - Sue Werner has agreed to be Nominating Chair. She suggested having Chris Baxter or someone from the new Spotlight office in State College as speaker. There was discussion regarding meeting in person, virtually or hybrid mode. It was decided to poll membership for that and time of day.

Adjourn: Jan Koch adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 19 at noon, in person at Summit at Shiloh Clubhouse