



## **Minutes**

### **LWVCC Steering Committee Meeting**

#### **Via Zoom**

Date: 17 April 2023

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

Call to Order: Jan Koch called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm

Candidates' Night: Sue Werner requested to be moved up on the agenda due to bad weather and possible power outage. Sue reported that plans and staffing are complete and the lineup has been posted on our website. Sue reported that the 2 candidates for Benner Township board of supervisors did not respond to her multiple invitations and follow up emails or USPS mail delivery. Sue reported that both Bellefonte and State College school board candidates are cross filed and may possibly have meeting conflicts as several will not be attending. Sara Bresler, Lydia Vandenberg and Marion Sheridan will serve as question screeners and will meet on April 19 to screen the large number of online questions received. Laura Brown will update our website to note that question submission has closed but in person attendance will allow for additional questions. Discussion was held regarding school board races issues, specifically parental concern regarding curriculum content. There are at least 2 meetings sponsored by the Republican party regarding "getting to know (only) the Republican candidates" and a training session for candidates regarding library books and curriculums.

Minutes: The March minutes were sent with the agenda prior to the meeting. Rachel Avila requested a correction: there are 50 voting members, not 51. No further questions or concerns were voiced. Sue Werner made a motion to accept the March minutes as corrected and Bonnie Goble seconded the motion. The corrected minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Floyd reviewed the Treasurer's Report submitted with the agenda and asked for questions or concerns. Hearing none, Sue Sargo made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Sara Bresler seconded it. The report was approved unanimously. Jan Koch requested that Sue Floyd prepare the Annual Budget for the May meeting.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Rachel Avila reported 50 voting members, 13 students and 3 lifetime members. There was one new member since the last meeting, Colleen Kennedy.

Voter's Guide - Sara Bresler reported that the Voter's Guide is up on Vote411 and will be published by the CDT on April 30, in print and online. Publication by the Gazette and Lock Haven papers will follow shortly. Sara reported that of 69 candidates, 50 responded. There is a glitch in the new Vote411 software that LWVUS is working to correct: no notice is sent to her if the email provided is not valid. Therefore, she sent USPS letters to all candidates who did not respond to emails to make sure that no one was inadvertently omitted. Sara expressed gratitude for the help provided by Megan Brown. Sara would like to send a personalized thank you card and a \$25 Visa gift card. Sue Sargo will provide both for Sara to use. Sara reported that the Gazette will provide 500 extra copies of both editions with the Guide. Sue Sargo will distribute around the county.

Voter Education:

High Schools - Sara Bresler reported that all high schools have voter registration forms. She also reported that the Key Clubs at the high schools will provide voter registration opportunities at the schools.

LWV at PSU - Laura Brown reported that Damon Sims is no longer at PSU and that Tim Baillet had canceled multiple meetings due to health issues. Laura has a meeting next week with Hate Hynes. Laura expects student voting to be low as students will be gone by the primary election date. Laura reported that Beth Lechman, Director of Elections expects ballots to be mailed out this week.

Voter Registration and Education - Sue Sargo reported that the list of Centre County festivals has been sent out to all who have volunteered for registration with only 2 volunteers responding. Jan Koch requested the list and will send out reminders to the general membership. Sue reported on PA LWV Voter Services meetings. Peg Dobrinska requested contact information which Sue will provide. Sue shared information on the Vote Riders organization which holds Voter ID Clinics and offers assistance in obtaining/completing applications for ID including payment and free transportation to SSA or MVA. Sue reported that she and Jan Koch will apply for the pass through \$1,000 grant from PA LWV after today's meeting. The grant would be used to offset the price of printing flyers, tabling fees, a shade canopy or possibly postage for the fall postcard campaign depending on how much we might be awarded on May 8. Funds may be used retroactively for primary election costs as well as for fall general election costs. Sue also reported that she has 3 boxes ready for PSU Archives and will deliver in early May. 2 boxes prepared by Jackie Esposito at Louise Tukey's home and 1 prepared by Sue Sargo with materials from Candace Dannaker.

Communication:

Website - Laura reported that she has updated the website with the most current information available on voting and candidates. Candidates' Night will be uploaded when available and the Vote411 link is on the home page.

Social Media - Jan Koch reported that she has increased posting as we near the election and has noticed an uptick in views.

Banners - Laura Brown reported that the 2 large banners are being kept at Sharon Manno's home now. Laura will give the Vote411 banner to Sue Sargo for storage. Laura and Lori will meet soon to discuss ½ sheet deadline flyers for food bank distribution, realtor cards and store front posters. Add-on banners have been given to the State College Borough for hanging. The current number is 18. Cost for add-ons is \$20 from Sign Stop and Laura recommended buying 12 more to make 30 in total.

New Business:

Annual meeting - Jan reported that the meeting will be Monday June 19 at noon via Zoom. Jan called for suggestions as to a speaker. Laura Brown suggested Sara Rafaetz, SpotlightPA's State College chief or Amber Concepcion, newly appointed County Commissioner filling Michael Pipe's term. It was decided that Peg Dobrinska would contact Sara R. for speaker and wait to invite Amber C. for the December meeting. Jan Koch announced that she is stepping down from the position of Presiding Officer and will not be running again. Sue Werner, Nomination committee chair, is working on potential candidates for officer positions..

Adjourn: Jan Koch adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm

Next meeting: Annual Meeting, May 16, 12 noon, via Zoom