



Date: 3/20/2023

Attending: Rachel Avila, Laura Brown, Kathy Cox by phone, Bonnie Goble, Jan Koch, Sue Sargo, Sue Werner

Call to Order: Jan Koch called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm

Minutes: February minutes were sent with the agenda prior to the meeting. Jan Koch suggested corrections to the minutes as follows: The January 9, 2023 Zoom meeting minutes by Laura Brown were presented at the February meeting. Sue Werner made a motion to approve the minutes and Bonnie Goble seconded the motion. Subsequent to the January meeting, a series of discussions and decisions were made via email as included in the February minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Floyd was absent but had submitted the monthly report to Jan previously. Jan reviewed the report and hearing no objections, Laura Brown made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Sue Werner seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Rachel Avila reported 50 voting members, 13 student members and 3 lifetime members. Rachel had followed up again with those not renewing their membership and received no responses.

Voter's Guide: Sara Bresler was absent but had reported to Jan Koch that the Guide would be published by the CDT on 4/2/23 and by the Gazette on 4/6/23.

Candidates' Night: Sue Werner reported that only 4/25/23 starting at 6:30 pm would be needed for Candidates' Night as there are only 5 contested races, 22 candidates and some will not attend. Laura Brown suggested that Democrat and Republican party members be encouraged to insist that their party's candidates participate. Sue W. replied that while she is in favor of that, it will be more impactful in the fall. Sue W. expressed gratitude to Cindy Hahn for her assistance in obtaining the candidates names and contact information. Several email addresses were missing. Sue Sargo reported that Latisha Stefanko at the Office of Elections said that emails are requested on the petitions but are not required. Sue S. also reported that according to the PALWV, a LWVCC member can view the petitions at the Office of Elections to obtain whatever emails are available. Sue W. will contact the office before mailing the invitations to those without emails. Sue W. also reported that she had emailed the three Halfmoon Township candidates to inquire if they wanted to be included in Candidates' Night but



has received no response. Questions submitted from our website must be received by 4/18/23. Laura Brown has added that to our website. Volunteers for this year: Jennifer Nicholas, moderator; Lydia Vandenberg, Sara Bresler and Marion Sheridan, screeners;; Bonnie Goble, opening remarks; Sue Werner, timer; Laura Brown and Sue Sargo, runners. Jan K. will contact the State College police chief regarding security for the evening.

Voter Education

High School: Sara B. was absent.

LWV at PSU: Laura Brown reported PSU students will not be here for the Primary Election on 5/9/23. She is working with LWV-PSU advisor, Kate Hynes, regarding making better use of the HUB polling place. There are over 8K student voters registered and the HUB precinct 24 is the largest in the state but with a very low turnout percentage. Laura and Kate are working with the Office of Elections to streamline operations, specifically the use of electronic poll books is being considered for that precinct to vastly speed up the process. Laura reported that LWV-PSU may become an affiliate of VotePSU. Giselle Concepcion, current co-president of LWV-PSU, is running for UPUA President and if elected would have to step down from LWV-PSU.

Voter Registration and Education: Sue Sargo reported three senior facility workshops: Graystone, The Village at Penn State and The Oaks at Pleasant Gap have been done. Jan K. asked about Foxdale Village. Sue reported that internet access is needed and Foxdale has difficulty with internet access. Jan volunteered to work with Sue on using a phone as a hop spot allowing access on a tablet or laptop. Sue reported that Spring deadlines flyers have been distributed to senior facilities, post offices and community partners. Sue also reported that a letter-to-the-Editor was published this week by the CDT. LTE is planned regarding GOTV for mid-April. Sue reported that the list of Centre County Festivals has been sent to voter registration volunteers.

Laura Brown reported that we cannot not place a booth on PSU campus for 3 years as they have all been reserved. Sue Werner mentioned that AAUW has a booth at Allen St and College Ave. Sue W. will discuss with AAUW leadership whether we can share that space. Laura Brown agreed and will work on volunteers for that event.

Sue S. reported on the LWVPA Voter Services Committee. They are planning a postcard with QR code initiative for rural women aged 18-30 years old in the fall. Postcards would be free but we would have to pay postage. State Sen. Chris Dush has proposed SB99 - the elimination of satellite offices (such as the Bryce Jordan Center) and the elimination of ballot drop boxes. The LWVPA opposes this conspiracy support type of bill. The committee also discussed ERIC (the Electronic Registration Information Center). PA is a member of ERIC. Florida and Virginia have



moved to withdraw from ERIC as the Republican party says it favors Democrats. There was a discussion about the “empty chair” issue in Primary Election candidate forums. LWVPA continues to recommend following FEC rules to disallow only one candidate in a contested race to appear.

Legislative Update: Peg Dobrinska was absent.

Communications:

Website: Laura Brown reported our website is up to date with Primary Election info.

Social media: Jan Koch reported she will start posting election info soon.

New Business: Laura Brown reported we have 18 banner add-ons with our QR codes and she has applied to State College Borough to have them hung. Additional banners would cost \$20/each and will need to discuss further for fall use. There are also 2 large banners: one is 65'x4' and the second is 35'x4'. The large banner did not work well as an across-the-street sign but either would look good displayed on a building. Suggestions for such buildings included: Schlow Library Beaver side, The Center sports complex or the Philipsburg YMCA. Sue Sargo will contact Mel Curtis at the Philipsburg YMCA.

Laura B. also reported that Lori Weider, our graphic designer, will not be in school this summer and has volunteered to help with two projects: colorful posters that can be used in store windows and postcards for realtors to distribute to new residents. The steering committee is in agreement with proceeding with those projects. Laura will assemble a team to help with design.

Old Business: Bonnie Goble will attend the LWVPA Convention as a delegate.

Adjourn: Jan Koch adjourned the meeting at 1:12 pm

Next meeting: Monday, April 17, 2023 at noon via Zoom