



Minutes

LWVCC Steering Committee Meeting

25 May 2021

Attending: Sara Bresler, Laura Brown, Susan Floyd, Cindy Hahn, Jan Koch, Sue Sargo

Call to Order – Jan Koch called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Minutes - The minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting were unavailable as the recording was deleted from the cloud prior to transcription.

Treasurer's Report – Sue F. shared that we received a donation from a member who asked if we had a fund for financial assistance with dues. Jan K. explained that we have proposed a scholarship for those who need financial assistance in our annual plan for the coming year. During discussion of the monthly budget, Jan K. asked whether our bonds would be able to continue collecting interest after maturity. Sue F. will research that and report back. Jan requested to move the funding for the proposed internship program to the regular budget from the educational fund. Sue F. also introduced the Annual Budget. Jan requested that postage costs be moved to the education fund. Sue F. will make those changes and reissue both updated budgets. Cindy H. moved that the budgets be approved with the changes discussed. Sue W. seconded the motion and the budgets were approved.

Committee Reports

Membership: Cindy H. reported: Voting members paid for 2021: 65; Associate members 2; Lifetime members 3; Student members 14. Eight new members joined in 2021. Cindy and Jan reported receiving an email from a Centre County registered voter who resides in Germany and belongs to a group called "Democrats Abroad". The voter requested information about registering eligible voters and partnering with LWVCC in providing non-partisan voter information abroad. Jan will discuss with the Centre County Elections Office and report back.

Voter's Guide – Sara B. reported that one candidate had requested to have her answers in the Voter's Guide updated because she did not provide them. However, Sara had a record of all contact with the candidate, including the answers submitted by the candidate and explained that in writing to the candidate. Extensive discussion was held about expanding the number of eligible contests to be

included in the Voter's Guide. A final decision was not made at this time. A major problem with adding more contests is that obtaining email addresses for the candidates is extremely difficult and time consuming. Currently, that information is not collected from the petitions that candidates must provide to the PA Dept. of State. Jan K will discuss this obstacle with LWVPA to see if they can assist in adding that requirement to the petition form. We will review our policy and discuss further in July 2021.

Candidates' Night – Sue W. reported issues during our Zoom Candidates' Night of April 29, 2021: 1) started late due to technical issues; 2) the timer process was not effective and several participants went over their allotted time; and 3) due to the timing issue, upcoming candidates were held in the waiting room and their presentation start was pushed back, without receiving updates, causing them frustration. Suggestions were discussed to address these issues. If this event must continue virtually, the timer and the waiting room monitors should be stand-alone positions and be persons not already tasked with any other function. The timer will be tasked with clearly announcing the time to the candidates and ensuring they wrap up their answers on time. The waiting room monitor will be tasked with updating those in the waiting room of any delays or changes in the evening and admitting them when appropriate.

Voter Education –

High School – Sara B. reported that she and Marion Sheridan will distribute voter registration forms to area high schools.

Campus – Laura B. reported that due to the effects and mitigation by the University during the pandemic, voter registration and education has stalled but is hopeful that it will be revived again in the fall. The campus student league has also stalled. Laura will reach out to Sarabeth Bowmaster and other university contacts over the summer.

Senior Outreach – Sue S. reported that our Voter Deadline flyer and applications for absentee and mail-in ballots were sent virtually to all but four facilities who did not respond to a request for an email address. Sue will visit those facilities over the summer to request that information. We hope to provide in-person registration and information sessions this fall to all senior facilities.

Equity Team - Don Hahn resigned from this state committee. The committee has requested a replacement. Several names were suggested and Jan K. or Laura B. will contact those people to discuss this position.

Website – Laura B. continues to update our website.

Old Business:

Primary Election efforts

Banners/Postcards – Jan reported that volunteers wrote and sent over 3,000 postcards to independent and non-affiliated voters to inform them that although PA is a "closed primary state"

they were still eligible to vote on the state constitutional amendments in the primary. No statistics are available at this time to evaluate the effectiveness of the postcard campaign. This will be discussed at future meetings. Laura B. reported that the add-on banners have been removed and she will collect them from the borough. The banners will be used again in the fall.

Internship - Tabled until our July meeting.

PA LWV Conference - June 18-19, 2021 via Zoom. Jan K. will attend.

New Business:

Communications Policy – Jan K, Deanna Behring and Laura B. formulated a communications policy. Current communication outlets were discussed. The website has high traffic prior to an election. Our twitter account has 117 followers with 70% of those within Centre County. Our Instagram account has 272 followers with the majority of those outside the county. Our Facebook account has 415 followers. A monthly newsletter is sent to our membership. All of these outlets will be updated to align with the new policy.

Annual Meeting (Zoom) - June 15, 2021 with guest speaker Christopher Baxter. The general public will be invited for the speaker portion which will be recorded and posted to our website. During the business portion of the meeting, only members will be permitted. Sue Werner volunteered to admit all who RSVP to the speaker portion of the meeting and to allow only members for the business portion of the meeting. Cindy Hahn volunteered to monitor the chat box and to vet questions for the speaker.

3 Dots Grant - Laura B. and Laura Leites of CWLC of the Community Diversity Group submitted a grant application for the development of videos to encourage all eligible voters, especially people of color, to vote and become involved with their local government.

The grant proposal was not successful this month but Laura B. and Laura L. were strongly encouraged by the director of 3 Dots to apply again with more information.

Student Fellow (CEEP) - Jan K. and Laura B. received a request from CEEP asking LWVCC to provide \$500 to sponsor a university fellow. The fellow would produce civic engagement activities on their campus for the semester. There was discussion about whether we could combine the fellow and internship funds for this project. The steering committee agreed to support a fellow with 2 caveats: the fellow would be a University Park campus student only; and LWVCC must be able to coordinate with the fellow. Sara B. made a motion to adopt this position and Cindy H. seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jan K. and Laura B. will follow-up with CEEP on these concerns and report back.

Adjourn - Jan K. adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at noon via Zoom. Annual Meeting with a guest Speaker.