



Minutes

LWVCC Steering Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

January 9, 2023

Attending: Rachel Avila, Sara Bresler, Laura Brown, Kathy Cox, Mary Eagleton, Sue Floyd, Bonnie Goble, Cindy Hahn, Jan Koch, Alice Richardson, Sue Werner

Call to Order: 12:03 p.m. by Jan Koch

Minutes: November minutes were sent prior to the meeting. No questions or concerns were voiced. Sue W. made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Bonnie Goble seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Floyd presented the report. It was Sara moved to accept the report, Sue W. seconded. The report was unanimously approved

Savings Bonds are now mature.now mature (value: \$6220.80). Sue F. got rates from 6 banks/organizations to compare to make and investment. Sue W suggested looking into Citizens Bank for a Money Market.

Jan suggested Sue F find the best rate at a bank (not brokerage firm) and invest the entire amount. Before making the investment Sue F will check on the Money Market account. Because of the fluctuating bond market, Alice recommended we not don't tie the money up for more than 18 months.

Generous contributions have been made to the Education fund: \$500 donation locally and a \$1,500 anonymous donation.

Committee Reports:

Membership

Rachel: 15 renewed memberships. She has been sending emails to invite former members to consider renewal. People are taking advantage of using credit card payment.

Changes to the Voter Guidelines: Municipality data/races to be covered

Cindy: There are two concerns with the existing guidelines, one is population standards and the other is the races that are covered. Jan will work from Cindy's recommendations to markup guidelines and send them out for comments. A final version will be shared with the steering committee for an email vote.

Voter's Guide

Sara: New system is getting set up for VOTE411. Sara is on top of it and will get it done. Fee info will be sent to Sue F.

Candidates' Night

Sue W: For the upcoming primary, we need to decide which races should be covered. According to guidelines, only contested races are covered.

The question of candidate coverage based on the existing population threshold has been raised. Cindy suggested changing our guidelines to reduce the population of a township to 4000 from 5000. The change would include Harris Township. There was general agreement. Jan will send a draft of changes for input.

If one person requests that a race that is not within our guidelines be included in Candidates' Night we would invite those Candidates to participate.

There was also a discussion about the Row Officer races, who should be included? It is difficult to solicit questions for Row races. In addition, including all Row Officers might take too much time. To ensure questions get asked and to allow for all candidates in a doable time frame, Jan suggested framing specific questions and eliminating closing statements. Jan is drafting guidelines that reflect the ideas discussed.

Possible dates for candidates night: 25, 26 (not live or live-stream), 27. The format has not been determined (candidates with or without live audience). Cindy pointed out that without a live audience, although it's easier to control it's much less of an event. Security must be considered if there is a live audience. Discussion will continue at our next meeting.

Voter Education

High School

Sara Bresler and Marion are doing everything they can do and are looking at more innovations in the future

LWV at PSU

Laura Brown reported that the energy of students in LWV at PSU was totally drained after the election and the group. Jenna Lugo, the liaison between the student group and LWVCC will be on Study Abroad spring semester. No word yet on her replacement. Attempted contact with Kate Hynes, Jenna Lugo, Giselle Concepcion.

Voter Registration and Education: Future meeting will be planned to assess materials

Communication

Laura said the website is updated, post election. Today's CDT article on finding representatives is now featured. She is waiting for the county to update their site to complete a post-election overhaul. If anyone has a suggested posting, send it her way.

New Business

Jan shared The Constitution Day organization's interest in merging with the LWVCC. The organization shared a 5 point proposal for partnership. They are a 501(c)3 organization and LWVCC is a 501(c)4 organization. Although there is interest in supporting initiatives, there are not enough volunteers to help with events. Jan will draft a response to their request and send it to the committee for input.

Old Business:

Status of Banners (Bellefonte/State College) Laura reported

BELLEFONTE— The 2 banners (65' x 4' and 35' x 4') have been returned to us. There never was a satisfactory solution to hanging the banner so that it was pulled tight enough to read. The Borough is working on the problem by repositioning the poles. We'll need to consider how to make best use of the banners. PSU? Lemont? Schlow?

STATE COLLEGE- The "add-on" banners have also been returned (with a few missing). We now have 8 VOTE 411, 5 old-style LWV and 5 new-style LWV with QR code (2 disappeared).

New Business

It was proposed that meetings be changed to the 3rd Monday of each month at noon. No objections.

Jan shared information about the annual LWV PA state meeting. It will be held on June 16-18, Friday night through Sunday, in Crown Plaza Harrisburg. Typically 2 representatives from LWVCC can attend. Any member interested in attending should let

Adjourn

Jan Koch adjourned the meeting at 1:26p.m.

Calendar

Next meeting: Monday, February 20, 2023

Candidate information will not be available until after March 7.

Possible dates for Candidates' Night: April 25, 26 (not live or live-stream), 27

PA Primary on May 16.