



Minutes

LWVCC Steering Committee Meeting

Via Zoom

17 January 2022

Attending: Rachel Avila, Sara Bressler, Laura Brown, Sue Floyd, Cindy Hahn, Jan Koch, Jenna Lugo, Sylvia Neely, Sue Werner

Call to Order - 12:01 pm by Jan Koch

Minutes – Sue Werner moved to accept. Laura Brown seconded. The minutes as distributed were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Sue Floyd presented the monthly report. Sue Werner moved to accept. Laura Brown seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Membership - Cindy Hahn presented the monthly report. Currently there are 51 members, 3 additional, 3 lifetime, and 14 students for a total of 68 (that includes 1 new member and 1 new additional). This is the count to be submitted to LWV for their assessment of the per member payment (PMP). The number is low because the PMP is not in sync with member's automatic PayPal assessments. Our numbers will rise as those payments are made in February or later.

Voter's Guide - Sara Bresler shared that the state will handle collection of information for the Voter's Guide in 2022. She has not yet gotten information about training for VOTE411. Sue Sargo's letters to the editor in the CDT and Gazette were printed. Sara will check with other chapters to find out how they handle printing their guides. Cindy mentioned Printers.com as an economical printing company. Jenna shared that the best way to get information out to students is email and social media (Instagram). It's possible that non-print options are the most viable, although print will still be required for people without computer access (e.g., nursing homes).

Candidates Night - Sue Werner shared that for the primary it will be contested races only, by party. Thinking ahead to fall, it's not yet clear how to proceed. Cindy suggested moving to journalists' questions to ensure the questions are not perceived as partisan. With the goal of ensuring our questions are nonpartisan, Sue will reach out to Kris Eng (R) and Greg Stewart (D), to ask if they (or their designee) would be willing to help screen questions for the candidates.

Voter Education

High School –Sara - Still “Covid Times.” No action possible.

Campus – Laura Brown reported LWV PSU has been unfrozen and is now official. Strong leadership is in place for re-establishing LWV PSU. Their first meeting is scheduled for Jan 20. Laura had her first standing monthly meeting with Tim Balliett (director of The Center for Character, Conscious, and Public Purpose). PSU is moving forward on offering voter registration (and registration updates) to every student (system-wide) when they schedule their courses. PSU is revamping their PSU Votes webpage. In the coming weeks an advisory group will be meeting to consider voter engagement at Penn State. In addition, the PSU Votes roundtable will kick off to consider UP initiatives. Laura or a rep from LWV PSU will be included in both groups. In addition, The Center will be kicking off the Voting Ambassador program: students will be trained to go into classes and club meetings to share voter info. LWV PSU members will be invited to participate. Tim will be meeting with LWV PSU leadership to work on plans. Jenna announced that as of yesterday LWV PSU has an instagram account. She will share information with Laura so it can be added to LWVCC's homepage

Senior Outreach – Sue Sargo, no report

Voter Registration – Sue Sargo, no report

Website - Laura Brown shared STATS: Not surprisingly peaks in usage were right around both elections: roughly 1,100-1,300 visits during those peak times. Voters tools are now featured at the top of the homepage (in anticipation of advertising our site as the go to for voter info). Sylvia Neely suggested featuring Vote 411 in a box prior to elections. In addition, the site has been updated with Beth Lechman's presentation, Voting and Fair Districts are now moved closer to the top, the DOS site now offers spring-fall 22 elections calendar, and LWVUS Highlights are now posted along with a link to their monthly highlights

Old Business

Banners for 2022. Laura Brown has been asked to move forward with plans for State College (7 full-sized banners), Bellefonte (1 banner to span a main street), and a campus pop-up banner. Jan Koch and Jenna Lugo will ask for members of LWVCC and LWV PSU for volunteers to work on content. Lori Weider has agreed to work on the designs.

New Business:

Postcards - Laura Brown suggested a postcard campaign beginning ASAP to inform independent and unaffiliated voters that PA is a closed primary state: they must be D or R to have a voice in the primary. The idea got a thumbs up. Laura will work with the banner design team on the content and with Lori Wieder on the design.

Legislative Interviews - Rachel Avila will be conducting 5 interviews of representatives (Corman, Benninghoff, Irvin, Conklin, and Borowicz) using questions provided by the PA League on topics that include climate change, clean water, gun safety, and voting security. Interviews will be on Zoom or via email.

LWV Program Planning - Jan is considering replacing our scheduled February meeting in order to focus on program planning and make a report to the LWV. For now, the February meeting will remain on the schedule as Jan considers the best way to handle the requested report.

Sylvia Neeley – presentation on 3 dots idea (tabled)

Bonnie Goble – Member Gathering (tabled)

Sharon Hyde – presentation on fundraiser with Artist (tabled)

Alice Richardson (emailed offer from LWV - 10/27/21): Movie, “The Long Shadow” and facilitated conversation (tabled)

Adjourn: 1:18pm by Jan Koch

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2022