

**Minutes**

**LWVCC Steering Committee Meeting**

**Via Zoom**

**15 November 2022**

Attending: Rachel Avila, Sara Bresler, Kathy Cox, Cindy Hahn, Jan Koch and Sue Sargo

Call to Order: 12:00 pm by Jan Koch

**Minutes:** October minutes **were sent with** the agenda **prior to** the meeting. **No questions or concerns were voiced. Sue Sargo made** a motion to **approve the** minutes **as submitted. Sara Bresler seconded the** motion. The minutes **were approved as submitted unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report:** **Sue** Floyd was absent. No questions or concerns **were** voiced regarding the **Treasurer's Report. Sue Sargo made** a motion to **accept** the report **as submitted.** Sara **Bresler** seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report **was** accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports:

**Membership** - Rachel Avila **reported one new** member, **Susan Chyczewski.** Rachel mentioned that she **has** not received **any new PSU-LWV members.** **Jan** requested that she **contact** Sydney **and** Giselle regarding new members.

**Voter's Guide** - Sara **Bresler was** pleased with **the CDT, Gazette and Lock Haven papers presentation. Jan** Koch mentioned that the timing **of the publications was excellent, with** the **Gazette** being **closer** to the election. The Voter's guide in the **Gazette was** printed in one lot, making it easier **for** distribution and **for voters to use.**

Candidates' Night - Sue **Werner** was absent. **Cindy Hahn discussed possible** changes to the Candidate **Guidelines for** Candidates' Night **for [ss1] discussion** at the **January 2023 meeting. Candidate** petitions **for 2023 will begin** in **February 2023. Municipal elections will** be held **in 2023** and there **will be many** more candidates and races on the **ballot than this year. In the** previous election there **was** interest in **our including** the Jury Commissioner's **race.** Cindy **suggested** the following changes: drop **coverage** of the **row** offices **at** Candidates' Night OR ask only the following **3 questions** and **allow 1 minute** for each candidate to **answer** each **question: job description/duties; candidate's qualifications; and their top priority should they win.** To better **allow us to decide** what **the cutoffs should** be (by municipality **size**) **for** the **Candidates' Nights** and Voter's Guide, Cindy **will** gather information on population numbers of all municipalities and the number of **seats** to be **filled** in each municipality for the January meeting. The

matter **was** tabled until January.

**Sara** noted **that** the email **addresses** had not been included on the petitions making it **difficult** to reach the **candidates**. **Sara will follow up with the Election Office** to **see if** this can be amended. **Sue Sargo will follow up with the LWVPA Voter Education committee** to **see if** there is a **state-wide fix**.

#### **Voter Education**

High School - **Sara Bresler** reported that the **SCAHS Key Club** **did** hold a **voter registration** drive but there **was minimal** student interest. Rachel Avila suggested trying to **establish a competition with Bellefonte HS** or **other high schools in the county for most registrations done**. **Sue Sargo** noted the **PA Governor's office already has a program like** that which might be **useful for** the schools. Sara **will** investigate the **suggestions** with Marion Sheridan.

LWV at PSU - Jenna Lugo **was absent**. Laura Brown **was absent** but **provided** the following update: *"Penn State has been recognized by the national ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge as a Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting for 2022. We are among 394 colleges and universities across the U.S. who have received this recognition. I believe the responsibility for making this happen lies with LWV at Penn State. Building on the foundation established for the fall 2022 election. Hopefully, efforts to increase student-voter engagement will continue through the work of LWV at Penn State and the (soon to be established) Advisory Committee working with PSU Votes— an arm of the Center for Character, Conscience, and Public Purpose. I will be meeting with Kate Hynes (adviser to LWV at Penn State) and hope to work out goals, priorities, and next steps."*

**Voter Registration and Education - Sue Sargo** reported that the state ACLU had **requested** the LWVPA to have members monitor the ballot canvass in all counties and that she had **volunteered for Centre County**. Canvass began 11/10 and is to continue until 11/15 when the unofficial results must be transmitted to the PA DOS. Final certification results must be **transmitted to PA DOS on 11/28/22**. **ACLU guidelines were** to monitor **for disruptions from election deniers, the objection to the inclusion of ballots, and objections based on fraud**. Sue reported that **multiple people spoke** during the public comments portion of the two meetings she **attended**. They reported **problems in Precinct 24** which is on **PSU campus at the HUB**. The complaint centered on Commissioner Michael Pipe assisting voters with provisional ballots. They read **multiple sections from the PA Election Code** that indicated **no government official could work at polling places**. They requested Pipe to **recuse himself**. The attorney for **Centre County Republicans and the PA GOP** requested a **full investigation**. Other complaints included **ballot shortages in Precinct 81, broken lock on the drop box at the HUB, voters having to vote provisionally because they were told that they had requested a mail ballot application, but the voter said they did not apply, multiple power outages causing delays and long lines**. During the Hearing portion of the meeting on 11/15 regarding three ballot challenges, two cases were referred to the **Centre County District Attorney for possible voter fraud**.

## Communication

**Website** - Laura Brown was absent but supplied the following: *The site is now updated (post-election).*

**Social Media** - Jan Koch reported **that** she had posted reminders for the public about the great **voter turnout** and **how more** votes **will** probably mean **a longer wait** for final **results**.

**Banners** - Laura Brown **was** absent **but** supplied the following: *Displays in State College looked good. It would be good to consider adding more of the banners produced this year that have the LWVCC URL and a QR code. The Bellefonte arrangements were complicated. It never looked good because it drooped in the center, and it was unreadable. The Borough tried to rehang it and relocate it but that didn't solve the problem. We'll need to re-evaluate banners that span streets.*

Cindy Hahn noted that the banners had been a subject of discussion at the Bellefonte Borough Council with a complaint that the Borough permitted a "left-leaning" organization to hang a banner.

## New Business

**December meeting** - Jan Koch has contacted Susan Gobreski, LWVPA Director of Government but has not yet had a reply.

Jan also reported on her interview with Chris Morelli, reporter for Town & Gown. The focus was the LWVCC and the contributions we have made to our community.

**Adjourn** - Jan Koch adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm

**Next Meeting** - TBD