

**League of Women Voters of Kent (LWVK)**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**06.06.2020**

**Welcome and Meeting Instructions**

President Stacy Yaniglos welcomed all participants to the first virtual annual meeting of LWVK. She affirmed we are celebrating the 19th amendment and the work of all the suffragists. President Yaniglos then reviewed the meeting instructions.

Renee Ruchotzke introduced recent new members:

Al Barber  
Alberta Bowman  
Carol Chapin  
Michelle Chapman  
Kathleen Endres  
Luanne Kiefer  
Marianne Martens  
Lucy Ribelin  
Mary Sartain  
Marilyn Sessions  
Barb Schneider  
Beverly Timmons

President Yaniglos introduced guests: April Secura (President, Northern Portage League) and Shelly Lewis (Co-President, Geauga League).

President Yaniglos then read from the screen the LWVK Non-Partisanship Policy and Vision Statement for Diversity. She shared a link to the LWVUS “Standing in Solidarity With the Black Community” statement. President Yaniglos then called for a moment of silence for George Floyd and others and their families and friends, and also victims of COVID 19.

President Yaniglos highlighted upcoming events:

June 10, 6pm	Alfreda Brown Farewell
June 16, 6-7:15	LWVO Celebration of the 100th year and Commemoration of the 19th Amendment
June 17, 6:30-8:30	Health Equity Study Consensus
June 25-27	LWVUS National Convention
July 20, 7pm	July All Member Meeting—The Good, Bad, Ugly in 2020 Primaries (Terrie Nielsen, Deputy Director, Portage County Board of Elections)

Michelle Chapman announced Barb Hipsman Springer won the Audio Technica speakers. Her name was drawn from those of participants who completed the Health Equity Survey.

LWVUS convention registration is now open to non-delegates.

Please watch for LWVO advocacy alerts regarding HB 680.

### **Call to Order**

President Yaniglos called the meeting to order at 9:45am. She introduced parliamentarian, Renee Ruchotzke, and she said the use of league procedures would be monitored by Jane Preston Rose.

Minutes of the 2019 annual meeting were approved by Chris Schjeldahl, Ruth Saltzman, and Diane Kurlich. President Yaniglos will appoint a committee of three to review the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes. As no objections were voiced, she identified Chris Schjeldahl, and Margaret Shaw, with one other member (to be determined) will conduct the 2020 review.

### **Approval of Bylaws Changes**

Jane Preston Rose presented the bylaws changes. Change 1) Clarification that changes “formal” meeting to “in person” meeting. Committee moved to approve. Motion passed. Change 2) Proposed addition to include an executive committee. Committee moved to approve. Carol Redmond questioned if the executive committee would make recommendations to the Board or take action? Jane described that in the past year the executive committee took no formal action. Carol asked if records were kept and shared with members. Jane replied that they were. Carol explained her concern was one of transparency. Motion passed. Change 3) Provision for electronic and phone delivery for any membership or annual meeting. Committee moved to approve. Motion passed.

### **Adoption and Approval of 2020-2021 Budget**

Nena Hankins presented the budget and Gail Pytel was available to answer questions. Nena highlighted revenue from dues, member donations, community donations, Voter Girl, coffee sales and Peace, Love, Bling jewelry sales. She also highlighted expenses for the production of the online newsletter (Voter), finance drive mailing costs, and the amount of dues we pay LWVUS and LWVO. Due to the use of virtual formats, the travel and meeting expenses were budgeted lower for at least part of the coming year. The committee moved adoption.

Terrie Nielsen asked if the \$1000 Helen Dix Scholarship for adult students is still being given. Jane Preston Rose has extended a call for members of the selection committee. She explained the funds are kept in an account with the Portage Foundation. League members continue to make donations to this fund. Terrie Nielsen volunteered to serve

on the committee. Carol Redmond asked what amount was collected beyond dues (to help cover the “pay what you can” memberships). Gail reported we received about \$127 above the expected total dues for current memberships. Amie asked Stacy to explain the dues system and why there is extra money in that line. Stacy outlined the dues schedule (\$60 individual, \$90 for household, \$5 for student; we also give members the option of paying what they can.) Others pay more than the dues and it’s been effective in offsetting those who pay less. Nena Hankins reminded the membership that dues paid between January 31 and June 30—were not budgeted in PMP (the amount we pay out to LWVUS and LWVO). We also have a number of life members (members for more than 50 years) who are not required to pay dues. Question was called. Motion passed. President Yaniglos thanked Nena Hankins and her committee members (Treasurer Gail Pytel, Jen Kinney, Deb Newberry).

### **Action on Positions to Retain, Update, or Delete**

Debbie Barber clarified the consent agenda process that presented all positions to be considered in one vote. Any member present was able to request any or all positions be removed from the consent agenda to be considered and discussed separately. No requests were heard. Debbie then presented each position with the following in-part summaries and recommended actions:

#### Intergovernmental Cooperation and Regional Tax-Base Revenue Sharing

The League of Women Voters of Kent supports voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies and maintain service standards. We also support regional tax base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of participating communities. **The recommendation is Retain.**

#### Charter of Kent City

LWVK supports a charter form of government for the city of Kent; local self-government; continuation of the council-manager form of government; the present system of electing council both from wards and at-large; the election of Mayor and council members via non-partisan elections; the power of electors to remove from office by recall election any officer of the City; and the review of the Charter occurring on even number years as needed, but not to exceed 10 years between reviews. **The recommendation is Retain.**

#### Kent City Finances

we believe that the primary responsibility of city government is to provide basic services including fire protection, police protection, water and sewer, street upkeep and emergency medical service. Municipal facilities supporting basic services shall be supported through property tax, income tax and general fund revenue, government funding, private grants and user fees as appropriate. We also believe that the city should improve its street construction, maintenance and reconstruction and long-range planning; find ways to enhance the city’s economic base; and continually promote good working relations among the public, the city administration and Kent State University. **The recommendation is Retain**

### Portage County Justice System

LWVK supports an integrated approach to solving jail-related problems through cooperation among the county's judicial, executive and law enforcement branches; financing for the jail from government funds and private grants; the use of alternative sentencing for nonviolent offenders, including the expansion of both the mental health and drug courts; transparency in the use of seized funds; the collection of local demographic data with respect to trends in the justice system and provision of such data to national data bases; comprehensive health care for those detained by the justice system; and a well-trained police force reflective of the community served. This position was updated in 2018. **The recommendation is Retain.**

### Parks and Recreation

LWVK supports adequate park facilities in Kent and Portage County; continued cooperation between the Kent Parks and Recreation Department the Kent City School System; the use of federal/state funds and programs to develop and maintain both city and county parks and programs; the establishment of a broad based source of revenue for the Portage Park District; and active planning and collaborative efforts among regional government units to enhance the conservation and protection of the natural heritage of Portage County. **The recommendation is Retain.**

### Land Use and Zoning

This position currently states, in part, support for development of a countywide comprehensive plan; an update of the county's subdivision regulations; adoption by governmental subdivisions of zoning ordinances which are based on the country's comprehensive plan; implementation of the Portage County Farmland Preservation Plan; development of a transportation system throughout the county that is intermodal in nature; and meaningful public involvement of stakeholders and citizens. **The recommendation is Update.**

### Kent City Schools

LWVK supports ongoing citizen participation in the planning, development and review of all areas of Kent education programs; a recommendation that bond issues be considered for capital projects and major improvement projects; public input on policy and planning issues; the continued focus on increased instructional time for all students; opportunities for individual creativity in writing and a continuing emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills; a well-integrated reading and language arts program that incorporates strategies designed to meet individual learning styles and abilities; and the continuing availability and expansion of technology for students and staff. **The recommendation is Retain.**

Debbie Barber asked for requests to remove any position from the consent agenda. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adopt. Penny Graves moved adoption and Terrie Nielsen seconded. Motion passed.

Debbie Barber invited members to use the Zoom chat function to give any direction to the Board for consideration at their next meeting.

## Election of Officers and Directors

President Yaniglos expressed thanks to the 2019-2020 Board whose photos appeared on the zoom screen: Stacy Yaniglos, President; Penny Graves, Vice President; Debbie Barber, Vice President; Gail Pytel, Treasurer; Jackie Peck, Secretary; Alfreda Brown, Director; Sherry Rose, Director; Deborah Austin-Sanders, Director; Jen Kinney, Director; Fran Lantz, Director; Alice Hurd, Director.

Iris Meltzer, Chair of the Nominating Committee (Deborah Austin-Sanders, Penny Graves, Mary Myers, Chris Schjeldahl) presented the slate:

[1-year term ending 6.30.2021]	President: Debbie Barber (unexpired term-Stacy Yaniglos)
[2-year term ending 6.30.2022]	Vice President: Janice Hutchison Treasurer: Gail Pytel Directors: Amie Cajka, Jennifer Kinney, Renee Ruchotzke, Sally Saltzman
[1-year term ending 6.30.2021]	Director: Jill Hazelton (unexpired term-Alfreda Brown)
[Continuing Board Members]	Vice President: Penny Graves Secretary: Jackie Peck Directors: Deborah Austin-Sanders, Sherry Rose
[2020-2021 Nominating Committee]	Iris Meltzer, Chair; Mary Myers, Chris Schjeldahl

Iris thanked the Board for supporting use of the application process. The committee moved acceptance of the slate. A call for nominations from the floor yielded none. Nena Hankins moved nominations be closed; Jane Rose seconded. Motion passed. Sherry Rose moved the secretary cast one ballot for the slate; Amie Cajka seconded. Motion passed. President Yaniglos thanked those who agreed to accept offices and Board positions.

Comments, Qs, Direction to the Board (other than about positions). Anne Andrews volunteered to serve on the land use committee. Amie asked members to think about how to help the Voter Service committee with outreach (e.g., the drop box at BOE; legislation such as HB 680). Terrie Nielsen said she would like a more engaged partnership with the league; she is a willing election and voting resource. Barb Hipsman Springer encouraged people to start submitting absentee ballot requests. Stacy Yaniglos affirmed this and offered kudos to Jen Kinney and Terrie Nielsen for their work with voting. Jen Kinney encouraged creativity in getting people to register and submit absentee ballot requests; she referenced vote.gov and the Portage BOE website for absentee ballot requests. Sherry Rose suggested members take voter registration forms to any marches they attend. Terrie Nielsen also said to encourage people to be a poll worker. Janice Hutchison encouraged consideration of the next generation of league members in the 30-40 year old age range. Renee Ruchotzke encouraged participation in the march beginning at the Big Rock on campus (organized by Black United Students) at 2pm today. Guidance from LWVUS okays wearing league logos. Jackie Peck suggested gifting

younger people with League memberships as a way to inform and engage the next generation.

President Yaniglos expressed huge thanks to today's tech team—Jen Kinney, Sherry Rose, Renee Ruchotzke!

### **Speaker: Iris Meltzer on “Who We Are and Why We Matter”**

President Yaniglos asked Penny Graves to introduce the speaker, LWVO President Iris Meltzer. Iris commented on the number of LWV statements on the Black Lives Matter protests and that the League was the first to contact committees. She discussed what the League is doing to help with the upcoming election, such as fair map drawing, completing the Census, and updating voter rolls. She reminded us that the League is available for consulting. She then commented on the plans for the 100-year celebration of the League, mentioning that Ohio membership is almost 3,000 members strong. She then asked for questions.

Amie Cajka: June 16 event has ticket price of \$10. Will discussion be recorded and membership provided a link to view later? Sherry Rose: This was to be our largest fund raiser. Speakers need to be paid. So no, it will not be recorded. Some complementary tickets are still available.

Stacy Yaniglos recognized these LWV Kent members who are currently or have been LWVO leaders — Gail Pytel, Treasurer; Sherry Rose, Development Director; Iris Meltzer, Board member and now President, Nena Hankins has been Budget Committee Chair, Alfreda Brown has been a Board member, and Terrie Nielsen also has recently served on the Board. Stacy Yaniglos announced that the Kent League presented Iris with a gavel to use as she convenes the 2021 LWVO Convention.

### **Stacy Yaniglos: The League's Year in Review**

President Yaniglos emphasized the success of the Kent League is because of its members. She reiterated LWVK accomplishments such as registering voters and verifying registrations; July 4th march in Aurora with the Northern Portage League. A slide show of league events and engagement was shared. President Yaniglos led the membership in thanking Amie Cajka for the photos!

President Yaniglos then thanked all members for their patience with virtual meetings and attendance today.

### **Debbie Barber: The League's Year Ahead**

President Barber forecast a daunting year ahead with an election in November, maybe the most important in a lifetime. She encouraged a visit to our website and highlighted “A Place for You in League” that lists committees and offers ways to sign up. Note that advocacy and social justice are new committees.

## **Adjournment**

President Barber called for a motion to adjourn. Renee Ruchotzke moved; Gail Pytel seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Peck