



Minutes

Regular Meeting of Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
Monday, January 11, 2021, 10 AM
ZOOM Online

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Sherry Smith, president, at 10:02 AM

Introductions and Roll Call -

Board Members Present: Eric Arens, Kathleen Cha, Roma Dawson, Veda Florez, Janet Hagquist, Madeline Kronenberg, Margo McGlone, Sherry Smith, Alex Starr, Leslie Stewart
Guests: Mary Ann Benson, Ken Bukowski, Danielle Crider, Alec MacDonald

Sherry introduced Janet Hagquist as the new secretary, taking over for Mary Ann Benson, and Danielle Crider who is considering joining the board.

Minutes - The minutes of December 14, 2020 meeting were accepted without objection.

Mary Ann Benson brought up the question of where/how archives are stored. There was general consensus that a procedure is needed. Sherry suggested that once the Communications work Group is organized they can take on this project. All agreed that both hard copy and digital files should be maintained for Minutes as well as the Treasurer's documents.

Treasurer's Report - Leslie Stewart reported that she was able to put the budget into QuickBooks, which is why the report looks different. From this point forward, she will be able to quickly run comparisons and create reports without having to create a spreadsheet. Because income and expenses are not occurring as planned, the budget will need to be adjusted. She will give an updated budget-to-actuals and proposed adjustment sometime in late April or early May. There was a question about funding from Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to which Leslie responded that we don't know what the funding will be for next year, and won't know for the next few months, especially if we present them with a different business model. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

League Day (March 6, 2021, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM) – Roma Dawson reported the committee has put together a rough outline for the day and come up with a list of speakers that have been and could be invited.

- Communications - The topic for the day is EQUITY. Roma asked for input on a title. Any ideas can be emailed to her. The title and a summary paragraph will be provided to local Leagues (LLs) for inclusion in their Voter. BAL members will be asked to reach out to the LLs in their area. Madeline Kronenberg will post onto the FaceBook pages of the LLs. Alec MacDonald will put an announcement in the Monitor.
 - Program - The time allotted to the program can be adjusted if necessary. There was general agreement that a history of the League's own inclusion/exclusion policies should be included. Roma asked for additional ideas for panelists and assured everyone that the committee is definitely considering geographic representation on the panels.
 - Roma suggested that, since the topic of equity cuts across many issues, the BAL should hold a series of programs on equity that cover such topics as equity in healthcare and housing. She
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also requested Sherry agendaize the topic of representation in a future meeting so these topics can be discussed further.

Monitor – Alec MacDonald reported that he and Leslie had a discussion and are developing ideas for how the Monitor project looks going forward. The current model is unsustainable and even more so now that MTC will be scaling back on their funding. Current funding allows for three more print editions and means that he will be leaving the organization at the end of the fiscal year. It also means finding someone to run Monitor Notes (MN), which is a much more sustainable and usable product. Funding for MN is being explored. He was hoping that Cecily O'Connor would take over MN, however, after discussing this with her, he isn't totally convinced she will stay. If she doesn't, the board will be tasked with finding someone to take over. In any case, if the project is to continue, the board will need to figure out a way to financially support it. For months he has been mentioning in a low-key way that funding is tight. With the February issue he plans to make the need known in a prominent way, probably putting it on the cover. Leslie commented that with Alec leaving this will become a board project. Cecily, if she were to stay, would be the publisher, and all the other responsibilities would fall to the board. She suggested creating a Monitor fundraising committee which might evolve into a Monitor oversight committee. Sherry proposed forming a committee comprising Alec, Leslie, herself, Cecily and whomever else is interested, to meet virtually and come back to the board with a recommendation in February. Kathleen Cha volunteered to serve, and suggested that Sherry put in her President's Notes a request that LL members sign up for MN.

Community Dialogue Events – Kathleen Cha asked to put this off until February, but commented that there is a lot of interest.

Nominating Committee – Ann Draper was not present. Sherry reported that the committee is still working on finding a communications director, plus other members to serve on a work group to support various communications topics. Margo McGlone reported the committee did not meet in December, as there had been no progress, and that no meetings are currently scheduled. She did say that she contacted Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Napa Leagues and has had no luck. She is finding that the LLs are having their own trouble filling positions for communications. Her Solano League now has a committee for communications. One idea she plans to bring to the nominating committee is to have a communications committee made up of members of the League, but perhaps headed by a non-League person who has expertise in technology. Leslie suggested asking Voters Edge coordinators if any of their volunteers might be interested. Veda Florez asked about finding an Administrative VP who could help with fund raising. Sherry said she will put it on the agenda for February, and Margo agreed to pass the request on to the Nominating Committee.

LWVBA Website – Veda Florez & Leslie Stewart – Veda reported that she recently received an email from LWVC that the MyLO site will be up and ready to work on by Friday. It will remain private until all of the information is transferred to it by the end of January. She asked if any on the board were interested in being part of the webmaster team so she can set up passwords. Madeline asked to be included.

Zoom Team – Sherry commented that setting up Zoom meetings should be the responsibility of the communications director, once one is found. In the meantime, she suggested that Madeline take on that responsibility and Madeline agreed. Veda agreed to be Madeline's

backup. As it was generally agreed that committee chairs should have access to Zoom in order to hold virtual committee meetings, Roma and Kathleen requested access as well.

Bay Area League Council (May 1, 2021) – A few ideas for how to organize the meeting were discussed, with how to serve/support LLs in their work being of particular interest to the board members. Sherry asked that members send their ideas to her for inclusion on the agenda for February's meeting.

National League's decertification of the Nevada State League – Sherry reported that she has looked for non-partisan policies/statements on the Bay Area League website, but wasn't able to find any. Veda commented that those pages were removed from the website because the information was inaccurate. Leslie added that the information was available at some point and perhaps Linda Craig knows more about it. Alex Starr reported that she contacted LLs about their policies/statements and found that some have extensive policies while others have nothing. Alex will organize the information she has collected from the LLs and contact Linda to find out what she knows/has, and report back at the February meeting. Later in the discussion Veda discovered she had found the non-partisan policy statement from 2015 on her hard drive; she will forward it to other board members. Sherry commented that this topic could be discussed at the League Council meeting. A possible theme might be, "Do we know what it means to be non-partisan?" On the topic of decertification of a League, no clarification has been forthcoming from LWVUS. Leslie speculated that the Community Call at the end of the month, which will focus on the topic of non-partisanship, may answer some of our questions.

Legislative Interviews – Veda asked Sherry, in her President's Notes, to query LLs about their plans to interview legislators and if they need any help from BAL. Sherry responded, with the consensus of the other board members, that the responsibility to help LLs with legislative interviews resides with LWVC.

Regional Observers - Kathleen reported that she has attended a series of webinars. She will send a link from the one on Plan Bay Area, which has a lot of information on housing and equity. The other webinar was hosted by NEED (National Economic Education Delegation) and covered the economy and equity of housing. She will send the Power Point from that presentation. The Plan Bay Area website is a great resource on housing.

Work Groups – There was nothing to discuss on this topic, but, at Kathleen's request, Sherry will leave it on the agenda for next month as there will be work groups for upcoming Community Dialog events.

Good of the Order – Ken Bukowski commented that he would like to take a more active part in the discussion of some of the agenda items. Sherry responded that the business part of the board meeting will be limited to board members. Community members may make comments at the end of the meeting. Veda asked Sherry to agendize this topic for next meeting, arguing that, in the interest of inclusion, community members shouldn't have to wait until the end of the meeting. Sherry will add "public input" to the agenda for next month's meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM

Sherry reminded everyone to stay tuned for the upcoming inauguration and shared a reference to scripture made by senator-elect Warnock from GA. Psalm 30:15, which says in part: weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Please note: These minutes have been edited in the interest of length and clarity.

Janet Hagquist, Secretary

Next meeting: February 8, 2021, 10 am