

Minutes
Regular Meeting of Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
Monday, March 8, 2021, 10 AM
ZOOM Online

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by President Sherry Smith, at 10:08 AM

Introductions and Roll Call

Board Members Present: Eric Arens, Kathleen Cha, Danielle Crider – who was welcomed to her first meeting, Roma Dawson, Veda Florez, Janet Hagquist, Madeline Kronenberg, Sherry Smith, Alex Starr, Leslie Stewart

Guests: Ann Draper, Alec MacDonald, Ken Bukowski

Minutes - The minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting were accepted, without objection.

Treasurer's Report - Leslie Stewart reported that some income arrives through the Post Office, a process that takes a while. A clearer picture of donations can be seen on the year-to-date Income-Expense Report. Per Member Payment (PMP) checks have been received from all Local Leagues (LL) except Southwest Santa Clara Valley. Roma Dawson will try to trouble-shoot with Eleanor Yick. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Guest Comments: No comments were offered.

Nominating Committee - Ann Draper reported that the Nominating Committee will meet on Wednesday. Roma will be bringing forth the nomination of a candidate with deep experience in community organizations and DEI issues. The committee will also be considering two nominations for the communications team. Ann will send out a report after the meeting. Roma asked if Regional Observers need to be vetted by the Nominating Committee and approved by the board. There was general consensus that the appointment of observers should be coordinated with the appropriate director. Sherry suggested that the board should be apprised of observers when they are recruited.

Monitor Report –

- Alec MacDonald reported the Monitor Committee met in mid-February to discuss the move to a digital-only publication, the personnel transition, and funding.
- Alec called the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to inquire about their funding plans with respect to Monitor Notes (MN). He did not receive a definite response but feels confident that funding will continue.
- Michael Adamson was recommended as a possible candidate to take over the project manager position for MN. Alex has spoken with him, and, with the approval of the Monitor Committee, drafted and sent a letter of engagement to him for a trial period. Michael is already working on posting items to the website and will be using Google analytics to look at traffic patterns on the site. He will also be posting to Facebook. The agreement was for a two-month trial, and he will be paid a stipend of \$150 per month.

- There was discussion about exploring options for funding with MTC, as well as clarifying the changes to The Monitor with them. Alec agreed follow up with MTC on funding options, copying Sherry and Leslie, but stated it would be up to the board to engage directly with MTC.

Communications Team – Leslie reported she has been working on the new MyLO site. It is now live. She has updated the site with links for League Day. Roma asked if LWVC offers any training for MyLO. Leslie reported that she is nearing the point where additional training will be useful, and added there should be some discussion about who wants/needs training and the best way to accomplish that.

Bay Area League Day – Madeline Kronenberg reported that the problem with limiting attendance at the virtual League Day event couldn't be fixed without stopping and restarting the event on Zoom. In the future she recommends hosting any large event via webinar with streaming through Facebook or YouTube. One of the panelists asked for access to their panel, so Madeline will work on editing the recording to allow for that.

Bay Area League Council – May 1st. Kathleen Cha commented that she will have a more robust report next month. Her idea is to make this event all about League issues, issues which all of the LLs are dealing with: social/environmental justice, legislation, etc. She envisions asking for a report-out from all of the LLs on the issues they are working on, thereby allowing the LLs to learn from each other. There was some discussion about incorporating the topic of what it means to be non-partisan, but the general consensus was that topic is big enough to warrant its own community dialog event, and League Council should be the place for LL feedback. Veda Florez requested time at Council to discuss Voter Service. Madeline, Roma, Danielle and Veda volunteered to help coordinate the event. Kathleen reported that she will be in touch with all who have volunteered to help and come up with some information for Sherry to disseminate to the LLs.

Zoom Link – Madeline reported that, once she is set up as a partner on the LWVBA account, she can go in and set up a variety of different types of Zoom links. A decision has to be made on who will be the administrators. This will be discussed further at the April board meeting.

Regional Observers:

- One report was received.
- Kathleen commented that she is planning to attend the Regional Planning Committee meeting on the 11th, and will report back after attending.
- Roma reported that the San Jose/Santa Clara League is partnering with Catalyze Silicon Valley on a presentation on opportunity housing. She suggested it might be useful for LWVBA to coordinate short informational presentations on hot topics such as housing, and the Monitor Notes could be used to promote information about these presentations.
- Veda announced that the MTC Policy Advisory Council is trying to come up with a new name for Communities of Concern. If anyone has a suggestion, there is a link on the website.
- Veda reported that MTC will be voting on Plan Bay Area 2050 at their meeting in May. Any statement the Bay Area League (BAL) may wish to make should be voted on at the April meeting. She added that if BAL wishes to make a statement it should be shared with the LLs so they have time for input. After some discussion it was decided that Kathleen will

write the initial draft of a letter which will then be fine-tuned, with input from Roma, Veda and Danielle, and Shery will send it to the LLs for consideration and input.

Work Groups

- Community Dialog events – Sherry commented that time will be allotted at the next board meeting to discuss community dialogs.
- There were no other work group reports.

Comments

- Ken Bukowski shared his concerns about: Plan Bay Area, inequities in the tax system, the need for free public transit, and the fact that there is no mechanism for citizen-initiated regional ballot measures nor an ability to referend regional ballot measures.

Good of the Order

- Sherry thanked the board for a productive meeting and wished everyone a Happy Women's Day

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 PM.

Please note: These minutes have been edited for length and clarity.

Janet Hagquist, Secretary

Next meeting: April 12, 2021, 10 AM