

Annual Meeting
Pierson Hall, Kent United Methodist Church
June 1 2019

Welcome and Announcements

President Stacy Yaniglos welcomed all attendees and called attention to the white cards for writing direction for the board. She also encouraged members to volunteer on the committee sign up sheets and reminded members that the annual dues is due to Treasurer Gail Pytel.

Amie Cajka announced the next all member meeting would be June 12 at 7 pm at Kent Social Services. She will present the For the People Act, which is important legislation for LWV. The bill offers a way to end purging, restore voting rights, bring transparency to campaign finance, and restore ethics. An advocacy session directed to Rob Portman will be included.

Sherry Rose welcomed new members. Women's Equality Day will be celebrated Aug 25 at 2 pm with the Akron Rubber Ducks. The Ducks have declared it Women's Equality Day at the Park. We are partnering with Akron, Hudson, and Northern Portage Leagues, Planned Parenthood, and the Girl Scouts. LVWO has partnered with Silver Bridge Coffee, which is a women-owned coffee shop using beans from women-owned farms. The company is accepting suggestions for the name of the woman next to Claudia on the Ballot Blend label. The Nutty Nineteenth is a pecan blend. Mugs with the Silver Bridge logo are also available. With the sale of each bag of coffee, \$3 comes back to the Kent League, and with the sale of each mug, \$2 comes back to us. These are available for order today. Sherry announced this was Stacy's birthday and led us in singing happy birthday.

Call to Order

President Yaniglos announced the presence of a quorum, which is 24 of our 157 members.

President Yaniglos called the meeting to order at 10:24 am. She asked attendees to refer to downloaded materials or the printed booklets available on each table.

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved by a committee of three: Deborah Austin-Sanders, Debbie Barber, and Janine Button. With approval of the members today, President Yaniglos appoints a committee of 3 to read, correct, and approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting: Diane Kurlich, Chris Schjeldahl, and Ruth Saltzman. Approval granted.

Bylaws Amendments

Roberta O'Keefe read the proposed amendments. A summary of each follows:

Article II is an edit.

Article III added students to membership.

Article IV is an edit.

Article V clarifies the practice of electing two vice-presidents and the practice of vice-president not assuming the office of president when a vacancy occurs.

Article VI clarifies that dues be paid by July 1. Because LWVUS and LWVO are no longer assessing PMP for student members, local leagues have flexibility in setting dues for student members.

Article VIII is a clarification that the nominating committee must maintain a majority of off-board members.

Article IX changes "Action at the Annual Meeting" to "Adoption of Program" to better reflect the content of the section.

Article XII is a clarification of the type of meeting (adding "general member" meeting).

Roberta moved to accept all amendments and Amie Cajka seconded. President Yaniglos asked if anyone wanted to remove a change to vote on separately. None were named. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget

Jen Kinney Debby Newberry, Gail Pytel, and Nena Hankins form the budget committee.

Jen Kinney highlighted two unique expenses: the Centennial celebration and election year. The line for the National Convention was also increased. We need to pull \$2500 from reserves to cover these anticipated expenses. Revenue-generating projects are Voter Girl and Member and Nonmember Contributions (Finance Drive). The organized potluck worked well and going forward this will save several hundred dollars. The budget also includes the fees for Constant Contact and our website. The revenue line will increase with an increase in membership. Increased donations will lessen the draw from reserves. The total in reserves is about \$10,000. Jen called for questions. Barbara Hipsman Springer asked how is dues allocated. With each \$60 membership, \$32 goes to LWVUS and \$25 to LWVO. Any sponsorships go to our local League. Another member asked if donations may be included with a membership fee in one check or if an additional check is needed. Treasurer Pytel said the membership form indicates donations and one check can be used. Only the Dix Scholarship needs a separate check. Barbara Hipsman Springer asked about the LWVO budget. As Development Director of LWVO, Sherry Rose stated LWVO is in a dire financial situation and explained that often the work from the state office is under-recognized (e.g., Fair Districts with the many petitions needing to be verified by LWVO that has only 3 employees.) Jen moved to approve the budget. The motion was seconded by Barbara Hipsman Springer. Motion passed.

Program

Each program item will be presented, moved to be retained, updated, or dropped, and seconded. Voting will occur after all have been presented.

Edi Grund moved to retain and Barb HS seconded Intergovernmental Cooperation and Regional Tax-Base Revenue Sharing. Motion passed.

Barb HS moved to retain and Roberta O'Keefe seconded Charter of Kent City. Motion passed.

Gail Pytel moved to retain and Debbie Barber seconded Kent City Finances. Motion passed.

Bonnie Hawk moved to retain and Ann Andrews seconded Portage County Justice System. Motion passed.

Ann Andrews moved to retain and Pat McCarter seconded Parks and Recreation. Motion passed.

Jane Krimmer moved to update and Barb Tittle seconded Land Use and Zoning. Motion passed.

A member asked for clarification of the meaning of "retain" and "update". Clarification was given. Another question was raised regarding what happens to these positions; for example, do we send them to relevant parties? President Yaniglos explained that they are posted to our website and available to the public. Further, we can take action on an issue as it arises if it is supported by one of our positions. We do not currently send them to stakeholders but that would be a good direction to the board.

Debbie Barber moved to retain and Janice Hutchison seconded Kent City Schools. Alfreda Brown would like to see this position strengthened by a commitment to diversity and inclusion. She believes the League has an opportunity to do this. One member asked for more information about what commitment to diversity might entail. Alfreda Brown answered. "How they think about diversity and inclusion. It's their values. Yes, we're thinking about it in hiring, in classroom environment, in teaching modes. Create a values statement first. Work it into the mission statement." Motion passed. President Yaniglos suggested the Education committee develop this idea and have something ready for our next program meeting. Alfreda thought we need a conversation. Judith Makens attends Kent City School Board meetings and has a relationship there. Maxine McGregor suggested the board also look into apprenticeship programs K-12. **Susan Lanning?** Kent City Schools may have something written about valuing diversity but it's good for LWV to have a statement within our position.

President Stacy Yaniglos called for any not recommended items. None were named.

National positions cannot be opposed by any state or local position. State positions cannot be opposed by a local position. We can be free to propose our own positions.

Stacy called for discussion on each position. No discussion. Stacy called for the vote on adoption of each position. All position motions passed.

Stacy reminded members that the white cards on each table were available for directions to the board. There was also a sheet for signing up for committees. Deborah Austin-Sanders would like Education to meet this summer. If interested, give her your name, phone, and email and she will contact you.

Stacy expressed her thanks to this year's board members: Penny Graves, Gail Pytel, DAS Debbie Barber, Jackie Peck, Deborah Austin-Sanders, Alfreda Brown, Amie Cajka, Alice Hurd, Jen Kinney, Fran Lantz, Kate Medicus, Jane Preston Rose, Lis Regula, Sherry Rose, Fay Ann Sebaly.

Nominations

Iris Meltzer presented the following nominations.

For a two-year term ending June 30, 2021

President: Stacy Yaniglos

Vice-President: Penny Graves

Secretary: Jackie Peck

Directors: Alfreda Brown, Deborah Austin-Sanders, Sherry Rose

For a one-year term ending June 30, 2020

Vice-President: Deborah Barber

Iris Meltzer moved to elect. President Yaniglos called for nominations from the floor. None were made. President Yaniglos announced nominations closed. Motion to cast one ballot for the slate: Jan Rusnack moved and Gail Pytel. Motion passed.

Penny Graves moved to accept the 2020 nominations. Motion seconded by Diane Kurlich.. Motion passed. President Yaniglos thanked all for their service.

Accomplishments

President Yaniglos recognized the high engagement of the board, committee members, volunteers, and members. She highlighted the following accomplishments during the past year:

Voter Girl is now copyrighted and 18 copies have been sold.

We conducted a mini-study regarding the Kent City Charter amendment.

We supported Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities levies.

We registered more than 300 voters, some in new venues.

We held a Face 2 Face with fall candidates and Ward 6 in the spring.

We partnered with Kent State Votes in July. Jane Preston Rose, Barbara Hipsman Springer, Kate Medicus, and Stacy Yaniglos registered student voters. We hope to continue into 2020

We participated with KSU in #Elect Her, which is a training program for women running for university office.

We engaged with students in a writing program about suffragettes.

We recruited 7 KSU student members.

We incorporated and have 501(c)3.

Our website offers new services (e.g., online dues payment).

Jane Preston Rose is heading our Centennial project.

Our WIPS speaker was Judge Carla Moore.

All Member Meetings averaged 30 in attendance each month.

We welcomed 32 new members this year.

Iris is President LWVO, Gail Pytel is Treasurer LWVO, and Sherry Rose is Development Director LWVO. Alfreda Brown recently retired from the LWVO board.

We received the Diversity and Inclusion INSPIRE award in May.

We received the Social Justice and Education award from the Portage NAACP in October.

We initiated an executive committee to address urgent issues and discuss critical issues to pass on to the board. The executive committee also acts as a program planning committee. This committee has been very useful as membership and activity has grown.

Thank you to each of you. A heartfelt thank you to the board. The table centerpieces are gifts for board members.

Adjournment

At 11:39 am Diane Kurlich moved to adjourn seconded by Roberta O'Keefe. Motion passed.

