

Bay Chapter League of Women Voters

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order.** Chapter Chair Jane Blackie called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and introduced the new leadership team. Jane noted that flyers are available in the back with information on the census and what you can do to increase voter turnout. 13 members of the Bay Chapter were in attendance.
2. Outgoing Chair Claire Banaisiak was thanked for her years of service. The Chapter appreciates all the hard work she put in for the Bay Chapter and will be presenting her with a book about suffrage as a thank you.
3. **Karen Donnelly, Voter Service Report:**
 - a. There is a sign in sheet if you want to help with voter registration. Joan Cikra and Sarah Swanson are working in the Detroit-Fulton area to register voters, they could use additional volunteers. Contact Karen if you are interested.
 - b. Volunteers are needed this **Thurs., Dec. 5** to register new citizens at the Western Reserve Historical Society from 8-11 am. Contact is Patricia Carter at pchbound@gmail.com or sign up at this meeting.
 - c. We need another voter services event. Suggestions for voter registration events are appreciated.
 - i. It was suggested that in May they signed people up at Hooley in Kamms Corners.
 - ii. Bay Antique Show March 7-8, Cuyahoga and Lorain County.
 - iii. Going to areas where senior citizens have moved and they may not have re-registered.
 - iv. Walmart the day after Christmas (at your own risk).
 - v. Hospital cafeteria during lunchtime
4. **2020 Census Report.** Jane noted the importance of the census in ensuring we have accurate representation and support for programs serving the state. They are hiring in Cuyahoga County and positions have a flexible schedule. The League is recruiting speakers to talk about the census and go to libraries to help people register. It will come out in an electronic format and follow ups will be at home/public places as needed. The League is focusing on hard-to-count communities. Contact is Sue Dean Dyke at sdyke@lwvgreatercleveland.org or 216-272-2208.
5. **Centennial Celebration** – 2020 is the 100 year anniversary of the League's founding and passage of the 19th Amendment. Cleveland has a strong history of suffrage activities. Maryanne Barnes is chairing a celebration committee, Linda Mayer is making suffragette outfits that will be accessible for Bay Days in adjustable sizes. We will be wearing them and putting on a program with Mary from the Lakewood Chapter at the Bay Library and hopefully schools. If you're interested in volunteering contact Jane.

6. **Lauren Orrico -Voter Girl Committee Report.** The Voter Girl Project allows Girl Scouts of each age group to earn a citizenship badge by completing activities focused on advocacy, voting, government, and civic engagement. The girl scouts will get ballots and we will simulate casting the vote, finding out the results, and changing public opinion about an issue. We have a curriculum and are seeking a core committee of volunteers to work on the event. Volunteers will help to secure a venue, reach out to the Girl Scout Counsel and Board of elections, and work on event logistics. Contact Lauren at lorrico@lwvgreatercleveland.org if you're interested in volunteering.
7. **Adoption of 2020 Budget** – A proposed budget was sent out and an amendment to add \$1,000 for the Voter Girl Project was proposed. Lauren moved to adopt the 2020 budget as amended, Joan Cikra seconded the motion. Budget adopted by a unanimous vote.
8. **Speakers**
 - a. **Sarah Swanson, LWVGC Advocacy Director** – Sarah talked about the advocacy opportunities in Greater Cleveland and how Bay Chapter members can get involved. Contact Sarah if you're interested in volunteering.
 - i. News and Brews – a group of younger league members who hold short forums in bars to attract a younger demographic. Past forums included gun violence at the Happy Dog and reproductive rights at the Bottlehouse Brewery. **The next event is Feb 12th at Happy Dog on LGBTQ rights,** check the LWVGC's website for more information. Any person who feels young is eligible to join and please attend events.
 - ii. All Communities Vote - a project to try to help people in Ward 14 with one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the city. The League studied why people don't vote and found that people feel they don't know enough or simply don't talk about it. They are having fun events with food to open a dialogue about voting and how government affects their lives and bring in speakers/register voters.
 - iii. Gun violence committee - League has 4 state lobbyists who are highly knowledgeable on this issue. League members have been talking to state legislators about this issue. Sarah is planning a get together in January to go over DeWine's plan to address this issue.
 - iv. Seeking to start a committee to work on environmental issues, possibly focusing on Lake Erie and renewable energy.
 - v. Sarah will also begin working on dark money in politics and informing voters who is financing political ads/campaigns.
 - b. **Eric Tuck-Macalla, Building Director, City of Bay Village** – Bay Village has started to implement the master plan. A zoning plan called "Stay in Bay" seeks to identify development needs that aren't currently addressed in the zoning code. The city is working with a consultant, Jason Russell, to address some of these issues including helping seniors seeking different types of housing, office space for small business owners, and working with developers. The plan will develop a set of rules to preserve the character of the community but give developers more opportunities. Make the city more walkable, bike friendly, better transportation, more places to

hang-out. The city does not have a specific project in mind, the plan is more of a toolbox to facilitate opportunities as they arise. The first community meeting is December 12th at the Dwyer Center and another will be held in January. Any proposed projects that comply with the guidelines will go to a referendum.

9. Other business – We are seeking a volunteer to keep up the Bay Village web page and observe public meetings. Reports will be written up and can be submitted to the Observer newspaper. Forum on opioid addiction.
10. **Next Meeting: January 6th, 6:00 pm. Bay Village Library meeting room.**