

Bay Chapter League of Women Voters

Tuesday February 3, 2020

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order.** The Chapter Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. **Guest Speaker, Mrs. Jodie Hausmann, Superintendent Bay Schools:** Mrs. Hausmann addressed several important topics:
  - a. School safety – School administrators recently attended a session with the local police to learn from the Parkland school shooting. Bay has focused on looking at safety through multiple lenses: student mental health, safe facilities, and safe practices. They have engaged in mindfulness training for students, and rather than focusing on punitive measures, are teaching students what expectations are and why they are important. They have also enacted a threat assessment protocol developed by a Virginia Tech professor to evaluate threats and the appropriate response. The school has done active shooter and other safety drills. All staff members wear badges and engage those who are in the building without badges; guests must enter through vestibules. Tip 411 software allows a child or parent to send an anonymous message & the school can respond. Technology & security have also been updated. Two grants were obtained for mindfulness training and one for active shooter training. Teachers will not be armed.
  - b. Strategic Planning: The school has regularly used focus groups to identify goals and strategies for improvement. The groups meet three times to allow group members to feel more comfortable and work together more effectively. A handout outlines the timeline for moving forward and the process.
  - c. Operation Keepsake/Sexual Education: The schools are now teaching about dating violence, healthy relationships, STI's, and related topics. These topics are required to be taught by the Ohio Revised Code. Ohio is the only state that does not have any standards for health curriculum. The state school board determines curriculum and is currently working on developing standards which may impact local programming. It is no longer abstinence only education.
  - d. Citizenship & Ed Choice: Bay Village has not yet been impacted by changes in ed choice policies but is expecting that it may be soon. They are watching the state legislature's actions closely. The schools support the House's version of the bill if the poverty level stays at the current level, if it goes to 400% or higher vouchers would be too easy to obtain. The school "report card" is problematic because standards keep being raised and are not indicative of actual school performance. Legislatures should understand that making public schools appealing is good for Ohio economically because it will help us encourage talented individuals to move their families here; it's also good for property values.

3. **Meeting Minutes.** The January meeting minutes were presented. One change was noted, and the minutes were unanimously adopted as amended.
4. **Volunteer Opportunities:**
  - a. Vote Signs: Cynthia & Kari took on the substantial job of putting up and taking down vote signs and the chapter is grateful.
  - b. Communications – Someone is needed to spend about 1 hour/month to update Bay’s page with events. Andrew will take on these updates.
  - c. Census – See link in agenda on volunteer opportunities.
  - d. Cleveland Teacher’s Union fundraiser on March 13 – several of our members have signed up.
5. **Karen Donnelly, Voter Service Report:** The planned forum fell through because the candidates could not agree on a format. We will focus on a forum before the general election. Karen will contact the candidates right after the election. There is a voter service conference call every third Thursday. Joe has taken that on and reported back. On March 19<sup>th</sup> we should have someone from 3:45 to 7:30 at the Fulton library because they are expecting big crowds and it will be a good opportunity to register voters.
6. **Sarah Swanson, Voucher Letters:** The vast majority of vouchers are being used for kids who are already attending religious schools and essentially want a rebate for the private education they were already paying for. Schools are also having to put large levies on the ballot which is draining community funds. Vouchers are putting public education in jeopardy. Suzie Kaiser has developed a letter to send to state legislators which she will be delivering in person.

A committee to diversify league membership is meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Las Villas, 3612 West 41<sup>st</sup> St. Email Sarah if you plan to attend and she will send materials.

7. **Upcoming Events:**
  - a. Antique Show – **March 7 & 8**, we already have volunteers to attend
  - b. Alice Paul program - **Sat., March 28**, Bay Library, 2 pm
  - c. Statehouse Day – April 16, Columbus. We can pay for members’ registration and organize carpools.
  - d. Forum– “The Addiction Disease and What We Can Do About It?” - **Thursday, April 23, 7 pm**, Bay Library
8. **Conda Boyd, Bay Days Report:** Cynthia set up sign-up genius to use for volunteers.
9. **Other business** – We are working on getting a proclamation for the LWV in April.

**Next Meeting: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm. Bay Village Library meeting room.**

**The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:13 pm.**