

Rivertowns League of Women Voters
Board Meeting
Minutes, February 9, 2019
Hastings Community Center – 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Allegra Dengler, Marcia Brewster, Susan Butterick, George Calvi, Nicola Coddington, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Ruth DeFord, Pam Epstein, Marjorie Hsu, Bria Judkins, Lynn Levine, Susan Maggiotto, Jodie Reaver, Pat Rodriguez, Karen Schatzel, Susan Schwarz, Kathy Sundaram, Mary VanHoomissen, Ruth Walter, Char Weigel, Sue Weisfeld

- **Call to Order:** 10:00 am
- **Executive Session** to elect new board members
 - Approved the December 2018 meetings with the January clarification/change to the Treasurer's report as supplied by Susan Maggiotto.
 - There was not a quorum at the January meeting. The notes from the meeting have been circulated but they are not official minutes and do not need approval.
 - Elected to the board:
 - Susan Butterick
 - Kathy Meany
 - Heidi Ward
- **Treasurer's Report:** Susan Maggiotto presented the treasurer's report (attached). We are a lobbying organization, rather than a 501(c)3, in our membership status. Our Educational Fund is a 501(c)3 because it is non-partisan. The financial statement is based on funds in the bank. The second page showing the individual contributions displays the actual amounts donated. There is a slight discrepancy between the sum of those donations and the bank account because PayPal takes a % processing fee from the donations. We received \$440 in response to Lynn's fund raising letter. Several members praised the letter as a good summary of 2018 accomplishments.
- **Committee Reports**
 - Voter Services Committee Report - No registration or candidate forums have been held since the last meeting.
 - Advocacy
 - George sent letters to Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Senator David Carlucci, Assemblyperson Tom Abinanti, Senator Peter Harckham, Assemblyperson J. Gary Pretlow and Assemblyperson Sandy Galef to alert them that the League will be meeting with them this spring about several advocacy positions.
 - There was a large turnout at the NYS Budget hearing on 2/8/2019. Some topics raised in the comments were single payer healthcare, need to not take money away from municipalities, request to strengthen Bee Line public transportation, and feedback on potential legalization of marijuana.
 - The Westchester Woman's Agenda (WWA) meeting was well attended by elected officials and the public. WWA's advocacy list is similar to LWV NYS.
 - Stephen Cohen of the White Plains League attended the County Board of Legislators Voting Reform Working Group.

- whether a voter id would be required for electronic poll books and the risk of hacking of such poll books. We agreed to ask State for response.
- Jodie will look for a concise summary of what has passed.
 - *Good Government* (Susan Maggiotto)
 - Statements are sufficiently broad to give us the flexibility to move with the times and react appropriately to bills in any given year. They allow us to keep the focus on improving transparency and support bills addressing ethics.
 - We noted that reproductive rights are citizen's rather than women's rights. We believe it is very important to monitor this topic.
 - We discussed the question of whether consolidation of government/shared services might be too prescriptive, but then focused on the rest of the position that states "when it promotes effective and efficient operation of government." We may want to have further discussion of this position in a future meeting.
 - *Health Care* (Susan Butterick and Char)
 - Policy positions edits underlined:
 - Support of measures for all residents to assure a basic level of quality, evidence-based physical, ~~and~~ mental health and substance abuse care, including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective, alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective ~~citizen~~ participation in health policy decisions.
 - Support of measures that educate, enable and encourage individuals to assume responsibility ~~for~~ in their own health and to participate in decisions, including extraordinary life-extending procedures.
 - Support for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing with single payer concept as ~~an acceptable a~~ strongly supported approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment.
 - We recommend a study on single payer health care including the financing of this program. The Statement of Position on Financing Health Care appears to be from the 1990s.
 - *Judicial* (Monica)
 - Lynn will follow up to see if Monica can submit her analysis.
 - *Natural Resources* (Pat)
 - The language generally supports our positions.
 - Given the specificity of positions on the Erie/Barge Canal and the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence seaway, we recommend adding a position to "Monitor rising sea levels on the Atlantic coast and Hudson River including proposals by the US Army Corp of Engineers to install storm surge barriers."
 - We also recommend "Monitor the upgrade of the water infrastructure per the Governor's increased budget." And "Monitor and support educational programs on Food Waste Management."
 - *Social Policy* (Lynn)
 - We are concerned that the public transit system in the Rivertowns area does not meet the needs of many residents. We suggest adding "energy-efficient and environmentally sound public transit that meets the needs of all residents" to the first position.
 - *State Finances* (Bria)
 - We would like more clarity on the charter schools position, believing the position

to clarify whether facilitators must be members of the League. She will send out the link to the schedule.

- **Reminder** - next Board Meeting is March 9, Hastings Community Center, at 10:00 am. Please send agenda items to Char.
- **Adjournment:** 12:31 pm