

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS
MARCH10, 2018
HASTINGS COMMUNITY CENTER**

Present: Bria Judkins, Ruth Kotecha, Lynn Levine, Susan Maggiotto, Michele Noe, Jodie Reaver, Karen Schatzel, Char Weigel, Sue Weisfeld, Pat Rodriguez, Kathy Sundaram, Susan Schwarz, Walter Schwartz and Barbara Dannenbring.

Call to Order: 10:11 a.m.

Minutes of the February 2018 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

Lynn passed a get well card around for us to sign for Emma Lou, who is currently at Burke Hospital for rehab following hip surgery.

There will be a LWVNY Regional Training Meeting on March24 at the Mamaroneck Public Library. It will be from 10 – 3, and lunch will be provided. There is a \$20 charge. Workshops will be held on a number of topics, which may include moderator training, social media, fundraising, engaging youth, and voter service activities.

LWVNY will not be subscribing to Vote 411, and Ballot Ready will be taking over to provide race and candidate information online. Local leagues will not have to do anything for this program, but can provide questions for candidates if they want.

There will be lobby training on May 5 at the White Plains Library to lobby for Medicare for all.

Susan Schwarz told us that the State League is looking at the issue of composting food and animal waste. She has purchased the movie “Wasted” which deals with this issue that we can use as we see fit. We discussed having a Hot Topics Breakfast or a Movie Night with discussion. There is currently a program in place whereby food waste can be taken to Veteran’s Park or the Greenburgh Nature Center for composting.

Jodie passed out cards from the Westchester Social Justice Forum announcing a program called Building Community Resilience to be held at Pace Law School on April 22. We agreed we can put the info on facebook, but not on our website, which should include only league items.

Char reminded us to check out Vanessa Merton’s 2nd article on immigration in The Hudson Independent, and comment on it. Also, the Running and Winning program has 46 students from 23 schools, and she is still waiting to hear from Girls Inc. There

may be up to 50 girls participating. Some of the politicians have not committed yet, depending on scheduling. Susan Schwarz and Jodie are working on the politicians.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Maggiotto passed out and explained the report. Susan has learned we can access the Education Fund for the Hot Topics Breakfasts, so she will save the receipts and take the money from the fund at the end of the year. Sue Weisfeld has still not received payment for her election night reporting, in spite of her repeated attempts. Susan Maggiotto will follow up on this.

Since Jodie had to leave early, she gave her Voter Service report. There will be a voter service meeting on March 20 at 7pm at the Hastings Community Center. The meeting will focus on developing a plan for voter registration in the communities and the schools, and developing a strategy regarding partnering with other nonpartisan organizations for voter registration. We discussed going into the schools and speaking to staff and students. Student interns may be very helpful with this. Char brought up having a lesson plan to be used around election time. Other leagues do this. The student walk out was brought up, and since it's to be only 17 minutes long, and may be very emotional, it would not be an appropriate time to encourage or set up voter registration. Jodie encouraged all of us to attend the March 20th meeting.

The Hastings election this month is not contested. There will be a special election in April.

Walter gave his perspective on March vs. November elections in the villages, and also that the name League of Women Voters does not encourage men to join.

Since I had to leave at this point, Char finished recording the minutes, and they are attached.

Submitted by Pat Rodriguez

Discussion of Board Members and Non Partisan Policy

- Jodie reiterated that anyone participating in a League registration event must be a member of the League, and that we can partner only with organizations that are non-partisan and do not support political parties/candidates.
- There was a discussion about our existing non-partisan policy and the feedback from State that Board members must resign from partisan organizations. There was discussion of what it means to be an "off-board" member.
- A sub-group was formed to look at the non-partisan policy, including Susan Maggiotto, Jodie Reaver, and Susan Schwarz. Susan Maggiotto will convene the group in two weeks.

Hastings-On-Hudson Senior Alternatives Internship Program:

- One student has applied to work on the poverty study and/or a tutorial on how to run a voter registration drive. Lynn and Char will meet with the intern candidate on Sunday to discuss the projects in more detail.

Students Inside Albany (SIA)

- There is an opportunity for our League to fund a third student. The Board agreed that, since we are already sending two students, the Education Fund should be used for purposes with a broader reach. As such, we will only send the two students who had been originally selected.
- Lynn will invite the two students to speak at our June meeting.
- Char reported on the State LWV conference call on youth coordinators. Other leagues pick juniors for SIA to allow for participation in League activities during the senior year. There was also discussion of not picking the candidate with the longest “resume,” but rather seeking worthy students who might not otherwise have access to this type of experience.
- Lynn will pay for the train transportation for the two students and be reimbursed.

Hot Topics

- The presentation on “An Insider’s Look at a Political Campaign” will run from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. Sue Weisfeld has confirmed the date with David Tubiolo and Nicole Benjamin, and will confirm with Ruth Walter. Sue has told each speaker that they will have 15-17 minutes for opening remarks
- Location: The Hudson Valley Writer’s Center, 300 Riverside Drive in Sleepy Hollow.
- The room will hold up to 75. We need to arrive at 8:30 to set up the chairs. We will end promptly at 11 so we can take down the chairs and clean up. Michelle offered to come at 8:30 to help Char with set-up.
- Lynn and Susa Schwartz will put their League lawn signs on appropriate roads leading to the location.
- The program will focus on the process of running for office, not individual platforms or comments about past/future opponents (maintaining our non-partisan approach). Sue Weisfeld and Karen will establish guidelines to be shared in advance with each presenter and will co-moderate the session.
- We will bring coffee and muffins/doughnuts. There is a cold and hot water dispenser in the kitchenette so we don’t need to bring tea water. Will have donation jar rather than a specific suggested donation.

“Pray the Devil Back to Hell”

- Sue Weisfeld would like to hold a screening and discussion. Bria said the producer (Abigail Disney) spoke about the film at Hackley this week. Ossining and Hastings libraries are possible sites. Need to ensure that library has rights to show the film. Will plan for the fall.

- Barbara suggested also screening “I voted?” Susan Schwartz suggested “Wasted!”

Award to Dobbs Ferry Senior

- We agreed that we cannot make an award to each high school in the Rivertowns. As such, we will not fund an award for Dobbs Ferry High School.

Potential Advocacy Call on Terence Murphy.

- Michelle said that Moms Demand Action may be a good partner to visit if we decide to address gun legislation.

Nominating Committee

- Committee includes Karen, George and Jodie. Karen reported that Board members will receive a telephone call asking if they want to continue to serve or be replaced. Susan Maggiotto indicated that Pat would like to be replaced as Secretary. Susan Schwartz reminded us that Board members should have a portfolio.

Membership

- Ruth distributed membership renewal letters to those present. She is mailing the rest. Annual memberships start 4/1/18. There are 106 people in database. We will likely drop a bit in number given recent moves and losses.

Other News

- Michelle’s letter about League activities was published in *The Rivertowns Enterprise*.
- Will need a Board member to take on health care portfolio.
- Susan Maggiotto will need a few volunteers for budget committee/meeting.

Adjourned at 12:10PM