

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS
APRIL 14, 2018
HASTINGS COMMUNITY CENTER**

Present: Ruth Kotecha, Lynn Levine, Michele Noe, Jodie Reaver, Char Weigel, Sue Weisfeld, Pat Rodriguez, Susan Schwarz, Walter Schwartz, George Calvi, Adele DiGeorgi, Herb Rosenberg, Susan Butterick, Jean Howell and Monica Getz

Call to Order: 10:05 AM

Minutes of the March 2018 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

April 24 is League Lobby Day in Albany.

There is a special Lobby Day for the NYS Health Act "Medicare for All" on Tuesday, June 5 at NYS Capitol, Albany. A lobby training session will be held on Saturday, May 5th from 10am to 1 pm at the White Plains Library. Information on both events was passed out.

Susan Schwarz shared her notes on several more announcements – her notes are attached.

Treasurer's Report

Passed out by Lynn in Susan Maggiotto's absence. Pat Rodriguez and George Calvi volunteered to be on Susan's budget committee.

Work Items

Hastings High School Senior Alternatives Program:

Char reported we have an intern, Ry Cullen, who will work on the poverty study for 20 hours a week, for 3 weeks beginning May 21. Char will screen the movie "Hungry in America" at her house on May 22 to kick off the program. Meetings will be held at the league office on Taxter Road. Ry will be speaking to officials and food pantry managers in Hastings. Michele suggested he contact Family to Family also.

Hot Topics Breakfast: Our next event is "An Insider's Look at a Political Campaign" on April 21, 9 – 11am at the Hudson Valley Writer's Center in Sleepy Hollow. Char sent postcards about the event to all our schools, and put them in all the packets for "Running and Winning". She encouraged all of us to put flyers out in our communities if we haven't done so already.

Students Inside Albany: Following the good response we had from students to the SIA program, Char reached out to students who were not chosen. Also, she and Ruth Walters will speak to Susan Stern's 9th grade history class at Dobbs Ferry HS.

Movie Event: Discussion was deferred due to time constraints. Susan Schwarz reminded us she has the movie "Wasted", and we had previously discussed "Pray the Devil Back to Hell".

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Deferred in Karen's absence, however she and her committee have been working on it.

Membership: Renewal forms were sent out a month ago, and about half renewed. We currently have 106 members. Ruth will update the database and export to excel. LWVUS has eliminated dues for students. They will require quarterly updates from us, and a student membership survey. We'll need a committee to deal with student memberships.

Advocacy: George reported that Tom Abinante said he is working on clarifying the issue of underage candidates running for office. He is also trying to set up an appointment to lobby Terrence Murphy in May. Michele wondered about having demonstrators outside the office while the meeting was being held inside. After a discussion it was decided that we bring up 3 topics at most (definitely including early voting), and do the research on his position on each topic. No demonstration planned at this time.

Bulletin: Jean asked that members email her content to be included. Jodie and her kids will do the mailing again. Emma Lou is recovering at home (not fast enough for her!)

Voter Service: Jodie read her report, which is attached. Walter is going to Moderator's Training.

Speaker: Allegra Dengler spoke to us about Election Security. She brought up alarming flaws in our election system, including but not limited to the following. Even with paper ballots, scanners and central tabulators can be hacked. All ballots are not counted – 3% are, and 97% are not. Cyber security is a major problem, with a tremendous amount of money being spent on it, but she feels it cannot be protected enough. Also, there needs to be a better audit system. At present it is almost impossible to get an audit. A candidate should have the right to have a recount without suing. There should be risk limiting audits and close vote automatic audits. She brought up a case in Detroit where 75,000 votes were not counted at all because a scanner broke. The candidate was denied a recount because it was felt he didn't have a chance of winning.

As far as what we can do, Lynn and Susan Schwarz will work on bringing this issue to State and County LWV, to get it on their radar and see if more can be accomplished. We also discussed having an event on Voter Security – possibly at the Greenburgh Library. We'll put it on our agenda to explore further.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:30 pm.

Submitted by Pat Rodriguez