

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS
FEBRUARY 10, 2018
HASTINGS COMMUNITY CENTER

Present: George Calvi, Lisa Cohen, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Jean Howell, Bria Judkins, Ruth Kotecha, Lynn Levine, Emma Lou Louis, Susan Maggiotto, Michele Noe, Jodie Reaver, Karen Schatzel, Char Weigel, Sue Weisfeld, Pat Rodriguez, Kathy Sundaram, Susan Schwarz, Marjorie Hsu, Ruth Walter, Walter Schwartz and a short visit from George Latimer.

Call to Order: 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved.

Announcements:

Walter said a few introductory words about himself and his interest in the league.

Some inspiration for us: Sue Weisfeld shared with us a 1st issue of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton postage stamp/picture envelope. Susan Maggiotto has a Carrie Chapman Catt doll, which she will bring to our next meeting.

Adelaide told us about the LWVW Champagne Fundraiser, celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote, which will be held on March 4 from 1PM – 4PM at 65 Church Lane, Scarsdale. A flyer containing all the details was passed around.

Emma Lou reported that she had been contacted by Dobbs Ferry HS about our league presenting an award to a graduating high school senior. We did this in the past, when our league covered fewer school districts. We'll discuss this again at the next meeting.

Lynn announced that State League has asked us to schedule pre-budget lobby meetings with our state legislators between February 14th and 28th. Our main focus should be on passing early voting, and funding it in the 2018-19 budget. Lobbying Packets were made available to members who want to participate. The packets contain information and a report which should be returned to State by mail, fax or email. We will lobby Andrea Stewart Cousins and Tom Abinanti, and try to set up an appointment with Terrence Murphy, who has not been amenable to our requests in the past. Marjorie, Jodie, Char and Lynn agreed to lobby him. Visits will need to be coordinated by email.

Marjorie told us Tom Abinanti is having a meeting with Indivisible Rivertowns at the Sleepy Hollow Senior Center – tentative date is March 4.

We had a surprise visit from George Latimer, who spoke about the transition phase as he takes over as County Executive, including the difficult task of addressing needed

capital projects related to inherited fiscal issues. Members voiced some of their concerns, which include leakage around Westchester County Airport, early voting legislation, and the closing of Indian Point. He is scheduled to attend a meeting on March 22 on Indian Point. He feels the basic issues to be dealt with are: employment; tax loss on economic development and schools; repurposing of land and replacement of energy. Sue Weisfeld inquired about the Free NY program, which deals with helping people who are unable to raise bail. She asked if the District Attorney was planning to abolish bail for misdemeanors. Walter pointed out that the DA can request bail or not, but the decision is the judge's. Mr. Latimer encouraged us to continue to have a dialogue with him through letters and email, so he can focus on issues of importance to the league and report back to us.

Karen will share an email with us, sent by Andrea Stewart Cousins regarding voting rights issues.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Maggiotto passed out and explained the report. Our bills are paid up to date and we are in good shape financially. The County League sent us a thank you for our \$100 contribution. We are still waiting for our check for Sue Weisfeld's election night reporting.

Work Items

Hastings High School Senior Alternatives Program:

This is an internship for seniors who participate for 20 hours a week during May and June. After some discussion, we decided we would like to have interns work on two projects – 1. Research on poverty in the Hastings on Hudson area; 2. Design and development of a video tutorial on running a voter registration drive, and participating in a voter registration drive. Char will work on a proposal to submit to the school, and send it us to review.

Hot Topics Breakfast: The next scheduled event is Monday, February 12 at 8:30 at Cooper's Mill Restaurant. Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Wacha of the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services will present on "Disaster Management in Westchester." Char has received only 12 RSVPs, but others have expressed interest. The next one will be on An Insider's Look at a Political Campaign. Sue Weisfeld has asked Nicole Benjamin, Ruth Walter and David Tubiolo to speak on the experience of running for office. Sue and Char will work on getting a date. The group felt that sticking to Cooper's Mill Restaurant is best. Cost was also brought up again. We agreed to charge \$10 and make up the remainder from the Education Fund. Follow up on our Immigration Breakfast: The Hudson Independent will publish a second immigration article, worked on by Char and Vanessa!

Students Inside Albany: 13 students responded! Applications will be reviewed by Char and Lynn. Only 1 can be selected. Follow up letters to all students and counselors will be sent. Char will interview students who aren't chosen for an article

in the Hudson Independent. Maybe they can be invited to the Hot Topics Breakfast on running for office.

LWVW Program for 2018-19: We were asked by the County League to review the 2017-18 Program with a view toward suggestions for the upcoming year. Members received the current program in advance of the meeting.

Under VOTER SERVICE, #4 and #5 need to be revised to address the new system from LWVNY.

Under COUNTY GOVERNMENT B. Executive and Legislative Branches, #1 We added we need more County League involvement with the Board of Elections (which historically has been very difficult). We also added a #9 – Formal meetings annually with the BOE. During our discussion, frustration about who oversees the BOE, and to whom they are answerable was expressed. Jodie agreed to work on the wording of our suggestions

Under ENVIRONMENT, #4 We added Water Quality.

There were no suggestions for change to the rest of the Program.

Michele Noe offered to write a letter for the Enterprise and our Bulletin, expressing what occurred at our meeting today, and what can be done in the future.

Partnering for voter registration while maintaining nonpartisanship: Jodie read notes that she took on her conversation with Judie Gorenstein – League State Board Voter Services. In the interest of time, she will share her notes, which we will review along with our own nonpartisan policy and have a discussion at the next meeting on revising our nonpartisan policy for better clarity. Susan Maggiotto reminded us that all board members need to evaluate their own involvement.

Movie Event: We brought up Sue Weisfeld's idea of showing the movie **Pray the Devil Back to Hell**, and everyone thought would be a very worthwhile event. Several suggestions were made for venue, time, and partnering with other organizations. Everyone was encouraged to think about it, and we'll plan it at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Karen is beginning work on next year's slate of officers. Currently her committee consists of Monica and Barbara. George agreed to serve on the committee, and Sue Weisfeld and Jodie offered to help if needed. Pat provided last year's nominating committee report.

Environmental: Emma Lou updated us on local issues – the fireboat in Tarrytown and composting in Scarsdale. The committee continues to address the general issues – climate change, fracking, national parks, pipelines and recycling. The next meeting will be April 12.

Health Care: We have no Chair yet, since Chris left. There will be a presentation sponsored by LWVW, **The Good Cents of “Medicare For All” The New York State Health Act**, March 1, 7-9pm, White Plains Public Library.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:30 pm.

Submitted by Pat Rodriguez