

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS
BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2018 10:00AM
COMMUNITY CENTER 44 MAIN ST. HASTINGS**

MINUTES

Present: George Calvi, Adelaide DiGiorgi, Monica Getz, Matt Gonzales. Bria Judkins, Ruth Kotecha, Lynn Levine, Susan Maggiotto, Kathy Meany, Karen Schatzel, Kathy Sundaram, Sue Weisfeld, Char Weigel

Call to order: 10:10 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Maggiotto reported that all our major bills are paid for the year, and we are in good financial shape. Our largest expenditure was for the website subscription to LWV California MyLO (\$400.00). State LWV reports our Ed Fund balance as lower than what we calculated (State reported at \$4,622.11). For example, we reported receiving \$1,000 in donations in memory of Jean Howell, but State was reported donations at \$970. It appears that the difference is the surcharge to donate online. We will use the fund tally reported by State going forward. Our ending balance, including the Ed Fund and general fund, is \$7,643.28. See attachment.

Approval of Minutes

- September minutes were approved as presented.
- There was not a quorum at the September meeting. As such, the August Retreat minutes were approved as presented in this meeting.
- We will send approved minutes out to the general membership in the Announcement emails. This means there will be a lag of distribution of minutes to general membership in order to permit approval by the Board.

Work Items

- Lynn encouraged everyone to sign up for the webinar *Advancing the League's Goal to Increase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion through Action* (see attachment) on Tuesday, October 30, 2:00PM - 3:30pm. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6304674833382783491>

- Bria led a discussion of updates to the website (LWV-rivertowns.org). She re-worked the front page to make it less text-heavy. General information about LWVR is now in the “About” section. The front page will focus on current, topical information and links (e.g., voting deadlines). She can pull items from the calendar through to the front page, and invited the Board to email her about notices or events they would like to highlight. She also asked that we send in pictures from events.

The calendar includes minutes and agendas. Viewers can go into past events to view those items and other information. Bria will add instructions in the “About” section to tell users how to find the minutes and/or may create a new page for minutes. She will update us once she re-works this access. She will also add a list of Board members to the “About” section.

The State League is adopting the same platform we use which will make it easy to cross-share materials. Bria will be able to add their events without having to recreate. Only League events will appear on the calendar.

- Monica asked that we include, on the website, the upcoming Judicial Forum on 10/28 at her house. There was some discussion about this Forum relative to the League judicial forum rules. Monica will connect with Jodie on the rules as they would pertain to this type of forum.
- In follow-up to the August Retreat, we had a discussion of communication management:
 - Several members mentioned the impressive online bulletins produced by a number of Leagues including New Rochelle. The writing, editing and production of a bulletin is very time-consuming, but results in a valuable tool that we do not want to lose with the cessation of the paper LWVR Bulletin. Lynn will reach out to Barbara McNear and Joan Rose, who have volunteered to get involved in LWVR activities, to see if either or both would be willing to edit an online Bulletin.
 - Sue Weisfeld expressed concern that not all members will read the Bulletin online. The group consensus was that the cost to print and mail a paper Bulletin is overwhelming. We will encourage those who don’t want to read online to print it out.
 - Susan Maggiotto pointed out the importance of the President’s Message that used to be delivered a few times a year via the Bulletin. Until we have a solution for a new Bulletin, Lynn will prepare a President’s Message to periodically include in the Announcements email.

- Ruth led a discussion of the Members and Friends databases.
 - We discussed the cost/benefit of a database of elected officials. The consensus was to not create one unless Jodie, who was unable to attend this meeting, needed it.
 - Ruth inherited the database in Access, but few have that program on their computers. Ruth will switch to Excel to make the database more accessible. Ruth will maintain a Members Excel sheet that will be available via Dropbox, and Adelaide will be responsible for the Friends (communication-only) Excel sheet. They will move people who renew or do not renew between each sheet, and include any non-member who asks to receive our communications in the Friends sheet. The Dropbox Excel sheets will always be the most current lists.
 - Sue Weisfeld will reach out to everyone who “likes” our Facebook page to ask if they would like to receive our communications (i.e., be part of the Friends sheet).
 - There are codes to identify primary members (vs. second members of households or students) to use for mailing labels. The Friends sheet includes the date entered, so we can cull it from time to time, and a field identifying how we obtained the contact information (e.g., Hot Topics sign in sheet).
 - Ruth reported that we have 97 members in good standing (84 primary, 8 additional family members, 2 students and 3 life members). Nineteen members from last year have not renewed despite several reminders.
 - We will send a once-a-year invitation to the Friends list to become members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Voter Service
 - Jodie could not attend, but sent an email report. She suggested that we register for a table at the Dobbs Ferry Festa next year to maintain visibility for our League.
 - Volunteers staffed 20 events/locations to register voters between 7/7/18 and 10/6/18, Volunteers completed 110 registration forms, distributed 77 registration forms for later registration, and distributed 25 absentee voter forms.
- Registration Activities

- There will be a get-out-the vote table at the Tarrytown Sleepy Hollow Farmers' Market Saturday, 10/20. We have the first shift filled but still need two volunteers for the second shift.
- Jodie asked for another volunteer for the Ossining Forum 10/25. Monica volunteered.
- Forums
 - There will be a County Budget Study and Consensus Forum on Friday, 11/16 at the White Plains Library from 2-4 pm.
 - There will be a forum on the "Green Light Bill" in January (<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2017/s8680>)
 - The next Hot Topics in November (date tbd) will be with Dan Convissor on the plans for Route 9 traffic management.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sue Weisfeld mentioned an upcoming forum at Sarah Lawrence College that is not a League function. The League will not be mentioned.
- Lynn distributed "Go Vote" lawn signs, asking that they be put out one week ahead of the election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sue Weisfeld highlighted the Rivertowns Family-to-Family program to adopt a family in need of food and groceries for \$20/month. Contact Sue if you are interested.
- George expressed concern about restoration of voting rights to people who had committed a felony for sex offenses and would therefore be allowed on school properties to vote. George will follow up with the State League to see if there is a State position that allows local league advocacy.
- Karen reported that County legislators are considering a ban-the-box for Westchester County jobs so applicants are not required to identify past felony convictions on an initial job application.
- The meeting was adjourned in memory of long-time member Christine Verber. Many members shared memories of Christine. George commented on how impressed he was to learn that she and her husband had built their house on their own. Christine's service and dedication to the League was honored. George will send an email with the mailing address of Christine's family for condolence cards.

Adjourned: 12:06 p.m.

Submitted by Char Weigel

FOR WORK ITEM: Discussion of Webinar: *Advancing the League's Goal to Increase*

From: League of Women Voters <membership@lww.org>

Subject: Webinar: Advancing the League's Goal to Increase Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through Action

Date: September 14, 2018 at 11:50:49 AM EDT

To: <marylougreen14@gmail.com>

When: Tuesday, October 30, 2:00PM - 3:30PM ET

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6304674833382783491>

This session will put DEI principles into action to increase the League's social impact work in communities across the nation. During this webinar, you will learn about State and Local Leagues' activities that are expanding their reach into more diverse communities. Speakers will discuss the ways individual leaders are overcoming discomfort with communicating across dimensions of difference. This session builds on content offered at the June LWW Convention in Chicago that covered communicating across dimensions of difference through active listening, asking powerful questions, and noticing and mitigating bias.

We encourage your participation in this webinar as a specific League activity in order to share collective ideas and strategies that would be helpful in the near term and in advance of the election cycle. We invite all League members to participate individually or in teams. It is not necessary to have attended the Chicago training to participate in this webinar.

The discussion will be facilitated by Diversity Dimensions Consulting, LLC—a Washington, D.C. based company that provides effective solutions to individuals and organizations seeking to harness the power of diversity and inclusion. Diversity Dimensions focuses on the intersection of culture, identity, and traditional leadership competencies and customizes strategic solutions to ensure business and career success.