

MINUTES
LWV RIVERTOWNS ANNUAL RETREAT
AUGUST 14, 2018
Dobbs Ferry Historical Society

Attendees

Susan Butterick (guest), Adelaide DiGiorgi, Bria Judkins, Lynn Levine, Susan Maggiotto, Kathy Meany (guest), Michele Noe, Emma Lou Louis, Jodie Reaver, Pat Rodriguez, Karen Schatzel, Susan Schwarz, Sue Weisfeld

Brainstorming Exercise

Michele led us through a brainstorming process to identify priorities for the upcoming year. The focus for September and October will be voter registration and getting out the vote. The exercise helped us identify our post-“Election season” priorities.

We thought about where we could make measurable progress (move the needle), while recognizing our limited time and capacity (can’t prioritize everything). We also wanted to use these priorities to involve the broader membership, including activities that could be done from home if someone is interested but not able to make meetings or registration drives.

As we talked, we realized that some ideas were topical/advocacy priorities (e.g., affordable housing) and others were activities that we do on an ongoing basis that require time and attention (e.g., voter registration, recruiting new members). We narrowed the focus list to the following. We may be able to take action on other items, but will use this list to prioritize work this year:

- Elections and Voting Focus
 - Examples of topics: Voting security, voter protection, voting/registration accessibility, innovative ways to get out the vote, other ideas to increase access and protect the right to vote for all eligible citizens.
 - Will form a committee interested in brainstorming priorities/actions based on pending legislation and League positions.
- Advocacy Priorities
 - Support of the above Elections and Voting Committee priorities

- Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Hudson River
- Immigration Issues
 - Jodie reported on the National League's new statement on immigration. The following is a cut/paste of the National League statement: "Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution of humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, provide provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the county to earn legal status."
- Michele is interested in working with George on advocacy planning
- School outreach
 - Lesson plan(s) on voting history and guest speaker program
 - Supporting student (high school and college) registration drives
 - Running & Winning, Students Inside Albany, Internship
 - Kathy Meany asked to be involved in this work
- Ongoing activities
 - Voter Service
 - Membership (push to increase membership and increase diversity)
 - Hot Topics (can be in support of advocacy priorities)
 - Candidate Forums
 - Need to dedicate some time to solve videotaping problem
 - Communications
 - Have some work to sort out here – future of The Bulletin (online?), support for email blasts
 - Work on internal communications as well as how to reach out to interested non-members
 - Will have a meeting to sort out plans including Jodie, George, Sue, Lynn, Adelaide, Ruth, Bria, Char
- Other ideas for future consideration: reproductive rights, local traffic/Broadway planning, 2020 Census

Additional Discussion

- Jodie said that State wants data on the number of voters we register. Please be sure to email her the total count after every drive. She will also create guidelines on how to work a registration table in case we don't have a seasoned volunteer at a given drive.
- Sue Weisfeld reported that Sarah Lawrence College will have a student fair on September 7 at which we can have a registration table. Jodie will send out a sign-up invitation for this and other upcoming registration events (Irvington Farmer's Market, National Voter Registration Day, others). Jodie will reach out to Ry Cullen (our intern) re: the 9/7 Sarah Lawrence event.
- Susan Schwarz reported on the upcoming forum on "Food Waste and Insecurity in Westchester," including a showing of *Wasted*, at the White Plains Library on Saturday, September 8 (10 am). We will move the date of our September Rivertowns League meeting to Saturday, September 15.
- The New Castle League is having a Candidate's Night for the District 40 Democratic Primary with Peter Harckham and Robert Kesten on September 5 at the Chappaqua Library (7:00 pm). We have been approached about holding a similar forum. Jodie will follow up as appropriate.
- Lynn has seven "Vote!" lawn signs and Sue Weisfeld has one. Lynn also has a 3 x 6 "Rivertowns League of Women Voters" standing sign. Contact them if you want to use the signs for an event.
- We discussed the possibility of participating in a Get Out the Vote event in Greenburgh, but it is being sponsored by at least one partisan organization. We will pass because of our non-partisan guidelines.
- Char said we will have a Hot Topics on the proposed storm water barriers on the Hudson on 9/13 (Primary Day) at the Jazz Forum Club in Tarrytown. Also talking to Shelley Mayer about a forum on "Green Light Bill" (use of alternative ID to get a driver's license). Dan Convissor of Route 9 Active Transportation and the Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee has also agreed to speak on the plans for improved transportation and access along Broadway.
- 26 members have not renewed. Several attendees took names to call.
- We reviewed some of the "portfolios" and areas of interest for the year.
 - Advocacy - George. Michele would also like to work on this.
 - Voter Service - Jodie

- Environment – Emma Lou
- Healthcare - Susan Butterick would like to work on this. Adelaide will also talk to a new member who is nurse.
- Affordable Housing – Karen
- Membership – Ruth and Adelaide
- Poverty – Sue Weisfeld
- Meetings and Hospitality: Pat
- Students – Lynn, Sue Weisfeld, Kathy Meaney, Char
- Nominating Committee – Karen and Barbara will continue. Karen will coordinate with Monica and/or others.
- Communications – Per above, a group of those involved will meet to sort out our approach (George, Sue, Lynn, Adelaide, Ruth, Bria, Char)
- Leadership Training – Susan Schwartz and Kathy Meany will connect

Handouts (attached)

- Schedule of meetings for the year
- Annotated list of Board members
- Information on Sept. 5 Food Insecurity Forum

Next Meeting

10:00 am, September 15, 2018 at Hastings Community Center