

Draft Minutes
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Retreat
July 2, 2020
Via Zoom

1. Call to order by President Sherry Smith
2. Attendees: President Sherry Smith, Madeline Kronenberg, Mary Ann Benson, Leslie Stewart, Eric Arens, Roma Dawson, Kathleen Cha, Alex Starr, Veda Flores, Ann Draper, Ken Werner, Alec McDonald, Margo McGlone.
3. Discussion of meeting date and time. Agreed on second Monday at 10 am. Next Meeting July 13. Will be on Zoom until things open up. Sherry reported death of Gail Steele, 18 years on the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County. She had a big heart on equity issues. From EBTimes: "In the early 1970s, she joined the League of Women Voters and her life changed."
4. Monitor Report. Alec reported that we are in a financial bind. Some funders have dropped out or reduced amount. Alec will continue to seek funding. He also agreed to take a cut in salary although it was expressed that the balancing the Monitor should not ride on Alec's back. The e-mail newsletter has 1500+ subscribers. Who is actually reading? Mail Chimp doesn't provide details. Perhaps the Monitor could set up discussions/interviews on line. The target audience is elected officials. We need to remind local Leagues that it is a good source of information for their newsletters. What percentage of local Leagues are signed up? Consider expanding Monitor Notes to Local Leagues. A suggestion was made to provide the Monitor history on the web site. Alec will do an historical summary for the web site. We remembered Yvonne Koshland's generous donation of \$50,000 which helped in recent years. Some agencies are still considering Monitor requests for funding at this time.
5. Directory - Madeline will continue to prepare directory. She needs information from local leagues, some will be available on line in their convention kits.
6. Discussion of Climate Change and Natural Resources positions. Eric Arens is willing to change the position to Natural Resources/ Climate Change. Perhaps this is an ongoing project for the Nominating Committee - How to relate to Local Leagues to discover areas of interest and find people to work with LWVBA,
7. Roma shared a request that we endorse Dr. Khalid Kadir who is running for the State Water Board. Because the League has a history of not endorsing candidates we declined to endorse although recognizing that the candidate appears to be very qualified.
8. Discussion of Working Group vs. Committee. Working Group not as specific and maybe not as much of a commitment. Committee seems more focused and permanent. The board chose to use the term Working Group.

9. How can BAL accommodate local leagues? Invite to attend meetings by Zoom. BAL members reach out to Local Leagues - easy to do on line and by e-mail. Be on the lookout for local leaguers who might serve on BAL board. Margo suggested attending local League meetings to get top priorities, join together to share ideas - Housing? Homeless? Easier face to face. She also recommended reaching out to Black and Latinx communities. Kathleen: Zoom helps large region, recommend bring reps from all leagues for regional briefing and to hear local concerns. Ann: There are often questions about convention or Zoom meetings, they should be set up so they can hear but not speak, use chat for questions. Veda: Need to allow input so we can hear what Local Leagues are interested in. Needs to be more outreach, identify someone to be part of Inter League network, need to unite North and South Leagues.
10. Observers at Regional Agencies. Could be accompanied by HS (or College) students who might get community service hours. Good opportunity to mentor HS or College students. Kathleen: Regional issues may not have as much interest as local entities. Madeline: Students may be interested in School Board. Kathleen: Who are observing our Regional Agencies?
11. Voter Service. Veda wants to switch from Communications to Voter Service. Kathleen: Moved to appoint Veda as Voter Service Director and work to solve communications parameters at next meeting. Madeline Seconded. Motion passed. The Nominating Committee was tasked with finding a Communications team to continue outreach to local leagues. Veda agreed to continue to do Communications tasks until they are taken over by others.
12. Begin thinking about Bay Area League Council in April or May of 2021.
13. Action Plan: tentative calendar of dates and tasks? What does the Board want to achieve with Working Groups/Committees? League day planning should begin in July or August - Committee, Date/Location. The committee should expand beyond LWVBA board members. These items will be on the agenda for our next meeting - July 13, 2020.
14. Topics to consider: Veda - Policing. Ann - Strategies for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI). Roma - How to operationalize Equity. Veda - Dates, Council, League Day. Alex- transportation funding and financials. Roma - Transportation agencies will “fall off a cliff.” Kathleen - Our political Agenda. Margo: What are local Leagues doing?
15. Adjourn to Monday, July 13, 10 am, Zoom meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ann Benson
Secretary