



ANNUAL MEETING, June 20, 2020
Via Zoom

A prepared packet containing the agenda and supporting information was emailed to members prior to meeting.

The Annual Business Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Kent County was called to order at 1:10 PM by Mary K Eggers, President LWVKC

Minutes of the last annual meeting: With 1 change on page 3, Jesse Green made a motion, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as published in the packet. The motion was seconded by Ellen Wasfi, voted on and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Beverly Jackson a brief report of the period ending March 31st. The Report was filed for audit review.

Proposed Budget for 2020-2021: Beverly Jackson, Finance Committee, presented the budget, having been part of the email sent prior to meeting. Few changes were made from the prior year, and members were reminded to acknowledge and record their in-kind donations so that the actual costs of League business can be illustrated. A motion was made by Christine Stillson to approve the budget, seconded by Les Stillson, and voted on. The motion carried.

Membership Report: Peggy Swygert introduced 2 new members: Katy Goff and Stephanie Johnson.

Recommended Bylaw, Policy and Program changes: Christine Stillson noted the recommended changes are found in the previously emailed Annual Meeting Packet.

As recommended at the Annual Bylaws/Policy/Program Review, the following changes were proposed, motions made, seconded, and a discussion followed, a vote taken, and approved:

An annual Meeting is needed, and because of the circumstances of the Pandemic precluding the physical presence of persons in large numbers, the originally planned date was impossible. Extending the date to June 30th still keeps the meeting date within the Fiscal Year ending June 30th.

*Under Article VII (meetings) Section 2: “Annual Meeting: “An Annual meeting shall be held between **April 15 and June 1st**, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors.”*

*The suggested change is to extend the June date from “**June 1**” to “**June 30.**”*

*The new wording change would read: “An Annual meeting shall be held between **April 15 and June 30**, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors.”*

Report of the Nominating Committee: Phyllis Edamatsu announced the Slate of Officers prepared by the Nominating Committee: Phyllis Edamatsu, Chair, Beverly Jackson, Peggy Swygert, and Ellen Wasfi

2nd Vice President: Chandra Owens

Secretary: Vacant

Director: Les Stillson

Director Crystal Hamilton

Director: Peggy Swygert

Mary K Eggers thanked the new officers for accepting their new positions.

Annual Report of the President: Mary K Eggers, President.

“It continues to be an unprecedented year. Not only is it the hundred-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment allowing women to vote, the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters but also the 100th anniversary of the last pandemic. It is the coronavirus that has forced us to reschedule activities several times until we were resorted to “we have no idea.””

“Thanks to Christine and Les Stillson and their strategically located home and big shade tree right on the parade route, we were able to start our year with the voter registration and information table at the Wyoming Peach Festival the first Sat. in August. Several of us attended the registration training classes but several of our members have really committed time to this important mission of our League. Donna Reed and Julie Price represented us at Hispanic Heritage Day. Donna arranged several sites for National Voter registration Day and were assisted by Jessie Green, Beverly Jackson, Peggy Swygert, Mary Ann Coe, Sharon Morgan and me. Jessie Green and Donna Reed repeatedly reached out to the Dover Homeless Shelter. Christine and Les Stillson represented us in the Youth Environment Summit in June. We also arranged a very well attended voting machine demonstration at the Barclay Farms Clubhouse.”

“Our programming intent for the 2019-2020 year was to have a program the third Wednesday of each month recognizing the 19th Amendment and women’s voting rights at least through the founding of the League of Women Voters. Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, we did accomplish a several scheduled activities and programs. Our September “Kick off” was a very, very well attended potluck at St Paul’s Episcopal Church in Camden. Thanks to Beverly Jackson’s connections, we were able to have a lively Vote for women program, in costume, was presented by the First State Heritage Society. The potluck food was really good and abundant. The fantastic attendance may have been due Chandra Owens beautiful program flyers and for bringing several of her friends.”

“Amidst a really nasty wind and rain storm which limited attendance, Mary Ann Coe presented a program at the Barclay Farms Clubhouse on navigating our new website. It had been years since Kent County has had a functioning website. Fortunately, Mary Ann is an expert in the area of using computers and designed our new website for “free”. Her presentation was so impressive that we decided to ask her to do some of it again this afternoon. Hopefully, you will be able to stay to watch it.”

“Again, thanks to Beverly’s connections in November we had a fantastic program about the First Women of Delaware for our wine and cheese party at the lovely home of Gwen Elliott. A Lenape Chief and a woman archeologist, who was involved in the evacuation of a Dover burial mound, conducted a wonderful and truly enlightening program.”

“Plans for the tri-county holiday party had to be totally revamped last minute when Peggy Swygert was informed that her arrangements to have the party in the buffet area of Dover Downs was no longer affordable! Peggy was forced to check out several other places was able to secure The Green Turtle. Christine

and Les Stillson got home in time to help with the final arrangements. Thank you all.”

“The Dover Library approached us to co-sponsor a showing of the movie “The Public”. In preparation for this potential, our January meeting was a viewing of the movie at the Library. Thank you, Christine and Jeanine Kleimo for organizing this. Unfortunately, plans for cosponsoring the movie with other organizations has been put on hold.”

“Alternate voting methods” was presented by Kim Wells and Jill Itzkowitz at the Green Turtle in February. They did an impressive job explaining alternate and probably better ways for our elected officials to represent the majority of the voters.”

“Chris Asay was scheduled to introduce us to “Money and Politics” in March at the Green Turtle. Amistyque Church and he were ready, but so was coronavirus. Unfortunately, on Friday March 13 Delaware instituted a stay at home policy. Chris is still ready but we are not sure when or how.”

“Fran Riddle and I had a fun evening sponsoring a Civics Trivial Pursuit game at Wesley College. Those young people were impressive. It might be fun to see if our membership could do so well.”

“We have had some issue getting our quarterly newsletter out but thanks to Christine and Les Stillson we did have one out with the set up and print help of a non-member. This year is looking better for the newsletters because Chandra Owens has consented to being the editor. So, if you have articles that you would like in the next newsletter, contact Chandra.”

“Planning for the coming year is like trying to stand on shifting sand. There are few suggestions, however. For example, using Ted programs with zoom type discussions. Mary Ann was going to see if we could adapt Chris Asay’s Money and Politics to an interactive media format. Ellen Wasfi, Chandra Owens and Mary Ann Coe are evaluating other options for the October candidate debates if the usual meetings aren’t allowed. Outdoor picnics are being held with masks and social distancing, is this something we want to do? Other Suggestion?”

Announcements: The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in reference to the murder of George Floyd.

"The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

"We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America's pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be—indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

"As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

"The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government.

"We join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family, and his community.

"Finally, we echo the call of our partners at the NAACP: we must all vote in November – the road to change lies at the ballot box."

The LWVDE has approved this resolution, a resolution was made for the LWVKC to approve this resolution, as well. After some discussion, the resolution was passed. It was decided to have it posted on the LWVKC website.

Mary K thanked all for coming and for their passion in working in the League.

A motion to Adjourn was made and seconded. and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Mary Ann Coe presented a program on navigating our new website.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Coe, Secretary