

League of Women Voters of Delaware

Advocacy Corps Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 2020

10:01 a.m. via Zoom

Taking roll via the ‘participant’ list at the Zoom site. Call to order by Linda Barnett, LWVDE Advocacy Corps chair at 10:01 a.m. See listing at the end of these notes for those present. Also, new AC attendees were asked to introduce themselves using the chat box. The text of comments put into the chat box are provided below.

The October Shared Google Dive listed the following reports:

Legislative Priority issues: Elections, Justice Reform, Gov. Finance Tax, Social Policy, Reproductive Rights, Health Care, League Day Logistics Report, Environmental Committee Report, Introduction to Denise Davis, Network Delaware email, September minutes.

Welcome New members: Linda welcomed new members Carolyn Davidson and Denise Davis

Additions to the Agenda: There were no additions.

Minutes/Notes review/approval – October 14 minutes were accepted as presented.

Presentations/Discussions.

Network Delaware: Barnett - An action alert by Network Delaware regarding the Supreme Court nomination included the name of the LWV of Delaware, giving the impression that the Delaware League had asked Network Delaware to send it out. This was not the case; it was actually an alert from LWVUS. The group agreed that Linda should follow up with Network Delaware to explain that nothing should be sent out by them referencing the LWV DE unless an authorized League member had specifically asked them to do so.

League Day Logistics: Barnett explained that we need to identify the topics and, to save time, she asked that ideas be typed into the chat box;; also state if you are willing to help plan League Day. Later in the meeting the ideas will be discussed.

Action Network Next Steps: AC has approval setting up LWVDE on the system. Kyra Hoffman discussed setting up the system as soon as possible. A team was appointed: Hoffman, Barnett, Itzkowitz and Diswood. Also, the suggestion was made that when action alerts are developed, a person other than the committee chair should review it to make sure it is written for a broad audience and understood by people not that familiar with the topic, an idea that was well received. The system allows for more than one letter to be sent out on the same issue. The team working on this will be arranged by zoom.

Civil Unrest: Itzkowitz reported for Melody Taylor that a meeting has been set up with the NCC Chief of Police Vaughn Bond on Oct. 21 at 11 with the Election Committee. He will be inviting the chiefs of the Delaware and Wilmington police. Taylor’s main concern is whether there are plans to handle any unrest after the election and possible voter intimidation at the polls on election day, November 3.

Hoffman will share a document that Mitch Crane created that lists who is allowed inside the polling place and rules/regulations governing that process.

Redistricting/Fair Maps Project: Sandy Spence introduced Denise Davis who will be the Fair Maps Project coordinator, working with Spence. Davis was hired and approved by the selection committee: C. Jones, Spence, J. Young, and Barnett.

Davis/Spence explained that the contract with the LWVUS regarding this project is to do a Delaware Centrist Education program for the public. Grant awarded is \$3,000. Requirements are to do extensive outreach to the

public through acquiring a broad range of partners. Spence has a list of potential partners, and the list needs expanding. It was decided to create a separate folder on the AC Google shared drive for this project. A small committee of “worker bees” will be created to do pre-planning and strategize for the first phase of the project

A new film “Slay the Dragon” that focusses on redistricting was suggested to show and start a conversation. Spence will acquire it and review to see if appropriate to use in educating league members and the public.

Census: Spence and others discussed the cut off of census takers in the field and that supposedly Delaware’s count was 99.9% complete. However, Spence noted that the Western side of Delaware census takers were unable to do a complete count.

Public Education: Penny Deiner gave a summary of the lawsuit and will post the information on the AC Google shared drive. The particulars can be found there.

Kathleen Baker noted that the tax and school funding issues are not explicitly linked in this lawsuit, but they need to be thought of together. The Governor has to prepare legislation for passage in this next legislative session, by June 2021.

Barnett noted that the Education Committee needs a chair and encouraged anyone to step forward.

Follow up on DRBC/LNG issue: Coralie Pryde has a full report on the drive.

The Delaware Riverkeeper group has filed to intervene in the case because Delaware River Partners, the Gibbstown Developers, have filed a petition requesting that the project **not** be subject to oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). We oppose that petition and want to make sure that they **are** under FERC oversight

The Riverkeeper has invited other environmental groups to intervene separately. Roberta Winters (PA) asked LWVUS to act on this issue. The answer appears to be that they cannot commit legal personnel to this issue because of deep involvement in election issues. Coralie suggested we be an intervenor since a lawyer’s help may not be needed. This would give us access to information about the petition. **Coralie needs to get the request out by tomorrow to sign up as intervenor, and the AC gave approval. Linda will keep Carol Jones apprised.**

*****[Note after the meeting, Coralie learned that the LWVUS will not allow the Delaware League to be an intervenor. No reasons were given.]**

Coralie will contact the African American legislators in Wilmington and involve other members of the Environmental Committee, especially Pat Todd, and will also ask Network Delaware to cover the issue in one of their newsletters. The goal is to get 1000 signatures on a petition to urge Gov. Carney and the others on the DRB Commission to vote against the LNG proposal.

She still needs people to write letters to the editors in the News Journal as well as other newspapers. Pryde needs contacts in the environmental justice community, particularly in the underserved areas in Wilmington. She is concerned that people in Delaware are not as active on this issue as they should be, given its impact on our state.

League Day Planning: A full report of the logistics planning committee is on the drive. Barnett reported what was agreed upon and what needed to still be determined.

1. It was agreed to use Zoom and pay for extra numbers of attendees above the 100 that is allowed on Delaware’s current plan.
2. It was agreed to hold several sessions throughout the day or days.
3. Invitations will be sent out electronically. *[Note added by Letty: however, the state board may want to decide on this as well]*
4. TOPIC(S) ideas:
 - a. Session – fair maps/redistricting – Spence and Davis

- b. Session – voting and elections – Itzkowitz and committee
- c. Session - budget/financing – Young and Schultz
- d. Session - education – Baker and Deiner
- e. Session – introduction to new legislators – Hoffman, Davis, and Baker
- f. Session - criminal justice – policing – Spence, Marjorie Green
- g. Session – offshore wind power - Schultz

Proposed date for League Day: Wednesday, April 21, which also is the League’s National Day of Action.

Discussion about sessions proposed:

Logistics – one suggestion was to have two day sessions, plus a budget session before League Day. Focus of the latter should be on both the general budget process and the actual budget planning process for 2022.

The point was made that we need to decide what the purpose of League Day is.

Should we charge a fee? Some proposed that we not charge; others disagreed. It was pointed out that we should not pass an opportunity to raise some funds. There will be costs, even without lunch being served. But there is money in the state board’s budget for League Day. The idea that received most support is to offer the sessions at no cost but specify that donations would be welcome, to help cover costs. One way that donations could be encouraged is to suggest that the donation could be in someone’s honor.

Cosponsors: It was agreed to have cosponsors and charge them a fee. This will allow them to place their logo on the website and flyer. For larger donations, a little bit of time could be allowed for a short video about the organization or business. Co-sponsors are a key way to expand the event’s audience and get information about it widely circulated.

For next meeting, a small group will develop specific recommendations. The Portfolio chairs for the topic ideas listed above will be invited to participate, along with the original Logistics Planning Committee (Kathleen, Letty, Linda, & Marj).

Setting Priorities: This will be moved to the next meeting.

Adjourned 11:46 am.

Submitted by Letty Diswood

Advocacy Corp Scribe.

MEMBERS PRESENT –

First Name	Last Name	Email
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Marjorie	Green	marjoriebgreen@gmail.com

COMMENTS IN CHAT BOX / AC October 2020

- 10:10:18 From Letty Diswood : Letty will work on it what ever the topic and logistics
- 10:10:29 From Jill Itzkowitz : I can organize one on voting and elections
- 10:10:37 From Sandy Spence : Redistricting session / LDD
- 10:10:47 From Marjorie Green : I would be happy to be involved (not chair) a session on criminal justice reform
- 10:11:12 From Peggy Schultz : I'd be happy to organize a session on offshore wind power.
- 10:11:21 From Jack Young : League Day: 2021 Budget. Organize Panel
- 10:11:33 From Letty Diswood : Letty help action network.
- 10:12:27 From Carolyn Davidson : Hello, everyone. My name is Carolyn Davidson. I am new to the LWV: I joined last week. I am in New Castle County. I have a variety of interests: justice reform, voting rights, and education. My husband and I moved to Delaware with our 3 children about 4 years ago after retiring from federal service. My background: former police officer, military, and federal employee. I have 2 businesses in Delaware: a restaurant and a consulting company. I'm am very excited about participating in whatever way I can.
- 10:18:52 From Kathleen Baker : Carolyn, welcome to the League Advocacy Corps. The Education portfolio would like to have your perspective as a professional and a parent.
- 10:19:51 From Carolyn Davidson : Certainly!--regarding Education
- 10:23:09 From Marjorie Green : Jill, my contact info is marjoriebgreen@gmail.com and 213-399-5383.
- 10:24:05 From Carolyn Davidson : Yes, I would like to participate / Civil Unrest Project--cydavidson2326@gmail.com
- 10:34:28 From Letty Diswood : Penny please send me your report.
- 10:38:28 From Sandy Spence : I am having trouble putting Census info on chat. I will have something in writing to share. I am very concerned that the so-called 99.9 % response is based on some statistical fooling around.
- 10:38:35 From Marjorie Johnson : Perfect League Day Topic : Funding for Public School Education
- 10:39:12 From Marjorie Green : I'd really be interested in serving on Education efforts.
- 10:56:28 From Peggy Schultz : Isn't Pat Todd active in the Environmental Committee?
- 11:07:00 From Carolyn Davidson : I could participate in the criminal justice piece.
- 11:46:52 From Carolyn Davidson : Thanks everyone! This was a great introduction. Just to summarize: I'd like to participate in the Social Justice League, protecting the vote, and the civil unrest after (during) the election. Education is an interest, also, as I have kids in school right now.