

Advocacy Corps Report for LWVDE Board Meeting of Feb. 19, 2020 #3

League of Women Voters of Delaware Advocacy Corps Meeting, Wednesday, January 8, 2020

House Majority Caucus Room
Legislative Hall, 411 Legislative Avenue, Dover DE 19901

Minutes (Accepted 14 Feb 2020)

Lobbyists Present: Linda Barnett, Mitch Crane, Letty Diswood, Charlie Garlow, Joann Hasse, Jill Itzkowitz, Charlotte King, Julie Price, Peggy Schultz, Sandy Spence, Jack Young

Committee Present: Kathleen Baker, Shelly Cohen, Marie Fletcher, Jack Guerin, Kyra Hoffner, Marj Johnson, Donna Reed, Kim Wells

LWV Members Present: Sharon Kwiatkowski (New Castle County)

1. **Call to Order:** 9:30 a.m. by Ms. Barnett, Chair
2. **Introductions.** All introduced themselves with county membership and portfolio association(s).
3. **Minutes of Dec 11, 2019. Unanimously accepted** as amended.
4. **Recording AC deliberations and preparing and sharing AC documents.**

Document preparation and sharing: It was moved, seconded and **unanimously accepted** that the policy of the Advocacy Corps is not to share written documents of the AC, except by permission of the document's author. Authors of documents and reports should identify themselves, the date, and the following language on the document: "NOTE: This document is work product of the League of Women Voters of Delaware Advocacy Corps and is not to be shared with anyone outside the AC or with any other organization." Substantive testimony presented to a legislative body should be sent to the AC Chair.

Recording AC deliberations: Minutes of AC meetings will provide content, and not authorship, of motions made at the meetings. Written reports from Portfolio Chairs will not be reproduced in the minutes of AC meetings. Portfolio Chairs will send bill information to Ms. Izkowitz for addition to the ongoing Legislative List. Synopses of updates to the ongoing Legislative List, offered as Portfolio Reports, will be recorded in the monthly AC minutes thus: Bill ID / topical reference / position decision by AC. Draft meeting minutes will be forwarded to AC members by the Chair or the Scribe and will be reviewed and revised as needed, prior to acceptance during the next AC meeting. AC meeting minutes will be forwarded to LWVDE President(s) following their acceptance by the AC membership.

5. Advocacy Consortium proposal.

Ms. Spence will work with Mr. Guerin to develop guidelines for the sharing of documents within the Consortium; when prepared, the guidelines will be discussed by the Advocacy Corps. If approved by the AC, the guidelines will be presented to the LWVDE Board for approval.

6. League Day Update.

League Day 2020 with position papers, speaker presentations, panel responses, and issue papers, followed by a luncheon, is Thursday, March 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Dover Downs, preceded on Wednesday, March 25 with an LWV information/outreach presence (table) in Legislative Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Ms. Reed is organizer for the March 25 event; Ms. Diswood is managing the March 26 event.

Keynote Speaker, Governor Carney, has been invited and is expected to attend. Panelists and issue speakers confirmed include Rep. Briggs-King (37), Rep. Johnson (8), Ed Ratledge, Rick Geisenberger, and Daniel Rich.

At the next AC meeting, members will refine the information to go out to attendees. Attendees could receive a list of bills or issues, along with position papers, in advance, with the recommendation that they set up a meeting with their legislator(s) to advocate on those issues. The suggestion proposed is that attendees coordinate with others from their District to have group meetings. The logistics of this are yet to be worked out. The League Day general invitation letter will go out the end of February; cost of registration will be \$35.

7. Portfolio/Legislation Reports:

Campaign Finance. Ms. Kwiatkowski and Ms. Wells referred to *A Resolution in Support of a Constitutional Amendment that Enables Regulation on the Solicitation and Spending of Money in Elections*. Senator Townsend and Rep. Bentz will present this "ready to ratify" Resolution in the Delaware legislature in support of HJR 2 and SJR 51 (or similar Constitutional Amendment proposals) in the United States Congress. Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and **unanimously accepted** that the AC recommends support of the said Resolution in the Delaware legislature by the LWVDE Board of Directors, pending a determination that the LWVUS supports such a concept. Ms. Wells agreed to research this.

Census/Redistricting. Ms. Spence described collaborative work in all three counties to encourage participation in the upcoming Census, with emphasis on hard-to-reach communities. More information about the Census and the need for enumerators can be found at 2020Census.gov.

Education. Written update distributed by Ms. Baker.

Environment. Mr. Garlow referred to his draft advocacy letter of Jan. 7, citing SS1 for SB 181 from Sen. McDowell to increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard. He asked

that the League sign off on the letter. Since the Environmental Committee has not given its approval, the AC referred the issue to them. Pending that feedback, a decision will be made.

Government. Mr. Young recommended Support of House Bill 135, Legislative “Crossover Day”, **which received unanimous acceptance** by AC.

Health. Ms. Hasse is resigning from the Patient Advisory and Consumer Committee of the Delaware Center for Health Innovation. Ms. Barnett described a meeting on HB 140 (End of Life Options) convened by the Compassionate Choices group. Advocacy on this is ongoing including support for Ms Wells’ Letter to the Editor to be submitted to a downstate newspaper.

Housing. Ms. Schultz volunteers to work with Ms. Miserendino.

Justice. AC will ask LWVDE Board to approve Mr. Guerin as Registered Lobbyist. Ms. King and Ms. Spence anticipate three upcoming bills re: Solitary Confinement; Racial Profiling; Banning employment disqualification of felons.

Land Use/Transportation. Ms. Schultz invites AC to portfolio mtg 13 Jan 2 p.m.

Reproductive Choice. No report.

Social Policy. No report.

Voting/Elections. Ms. Itzkowitz reports 12 participants, 3 new members. Sen. Cloutier advocating for no-excuse absentee ballots. Portfolio deciding on level of support for HB 175, Vote by Mail; possibly will recommend that bill be restricted to school board elections due to cost of broader implementation.

8. Announcements.

Governor’s address and release of 2021 budget scheduled for January 30.

Joint Finance Committee hearings begin February 3. Portfolio chairs are urged to attend and testify, as appropriate. Once presented, the testimony should be forwarded to the AC chair for placement on the State League website.

Legiscan.com is an on-line resource for following bills; find “Delaware” in drop-down box.

9. Adjournment at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Baker, AC Scribe

Next AC Meeting: Wednesday, 12 February 2020, 9:30 a.m. at Tatnall Hall