

League of Women Voters of Delaware Council Meeting

Saturday, May 30, 1:15 to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Minutes (draft)

1. **Call to Order** by Carol Jones and Sue Claire Harper, Co-Presidents, at 1:20 p.m.

Board Members Present: **Sandy Spence**, 1st Vice President; **Linda Barnett**, 2nd Vice-President; **Kathleen Baker**, Secretary; **Jill Itzkowitz**, Treasurer; Directors **Mary Ann Coe**, **Beverly Jackson**, **Coralie Pryde**, **Christine Stillson**, **Lester Stillson**, **Ellen Wasfi**, **Jack Young**; **Marjorie Johnson**, President, LWV of New Castle County; **Mary Kay Eggers**, President, LWV of Kent County; **Gwendolyn Miller**, President, LWV of Sussex County; **Letty Diswood**, Office Manager, LWV of New Castle County, LWV DE, *ex officio*.

LWVDE Members Present: **Charlotte King**, SC; **Chandra Owens**, KC; **Martha Redmond**, SC; **Kim Wells**, NCC.

Guests: **Elizabeth Foster-Owens**, LWV MA Board Member; **Vedna Heywood**, LWVMA Board Member; **Tania Paiva Nuschese**, LWV DC DEI Chair; **Alex Southerst**, Intern; **Toni Zimmer**, LWVUS Liaison to Delaware.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 2018 Council.** A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Minutes of the 2018 Council.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Ms. Itzkowitz presented "League of Women Voters of Delaware Financial Review for May 2020 Council," together with April 2020 Statements. She noted that incomes are greater than expected, and expenses are less than expected. The Treasurer's reports will be filed for audit.
4. **Introduction of Toni Zimmer, LWVUS Liaison to Delaware, and guests.** The Delaware Board and Council attendees welcomed our guests from The District, Massachusetts, and the LWV of the United States. Ms. Zimmer described the National League's commitment to and Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: "LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.
There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity." Ms. Zimmer recommended the DEI resources available on the LWVUS League Management Site.
5. **Introduction of Kim Wells, reporting on the status of VOTE411 program.**

Ms. Wells showed the vote411.org website, and talked about promotional efforts completed and underway. The Committee is focusing on public awareness of absentee ballots in addition to candidate information this year. Interested League members are referred to the [VOTE411 Media Kit - Delaware Spring 2020](#) as well as the [LWVDE VOTE411 Team YouTube Channel](#). Coming up in mid-summer, the team is planning for Letters To the Editor and radio Public Service Announcements prior to the July elections. Volunteers are needed to write LTE's, particularly for the July 21 school board elections and June 9 Christina District Referendum. Contact: Kim at kimwells19702@gmail.com or 302-650-6897 for more information.

6. Introduction of Sandy Spence, reporting on Redistricting Project.

Ms. Spence described the People Powered Fair Maps and Redistricting Projects and timeline. June-September, 2020: Goals are to establish a knowledge base among Delawareans, include the significance and process of redistricting, and expose how gerrymandering can negatively affect our political system. Activities include recruiting members and partners (at least 20 per county) from communities of interest; presenting educational briefings on the history of redistricting, legal requirements, case law, and best practices; and building a resource library and archive.

September 2020 forward: Goals are to undertake a replicable demonstration project, learn and practice mapping, and advocate for Fair Maps. Activities include work by County-based teams to learn the relevant software application, develop criteria and maps by County, and compare those to current districts.

July, 2021 forward will involve developing maps for redistricting the Delaware House and Senate as soon as 2020 Census date is available and focus on presentations to legislators and public education.

7. LWVDE Support for Minnesota League of Women Voters Resolution regarding the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Ms. Jones referred to the tragic death of an unarmed citizen at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. In response, the Minnesota League of Women Voters adopted this resolution: "Statement on the Death of George Floyd: The League of Women Voters of Minnesota stands in solidarity with our fellow Minnesotans who grieve the loss of George Floyd and condemn the horrendous circumstances of his death. We call on our law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for him, his family, and his community. And we stand ready to work with our government officials and the community to pass meaningful reforms that will address systemic racism, the heart of these tragic killings that disproportionately target Black people. Elected officials must be responsive to the calls for change that have gone unheard."

Ms. Miller offered the following motion to the LWVDE State Board in support of our sister state's resolution: **Racial justice demands our attention. Daily events in our country remind us that the work of achieving justice requires awareness of how pervasive injustice is, resolve to amend it, and clear thinking about how one can do so. We cannot be silent. Silence means being complicit to systemic racism prevalent in our country. We will not be silent. I move we resolve to publicly support the League of Women Voters of Minnesota's "Statement on the Death of George Floyd" and redouble our own efforts to achieve the same goals.** The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Chair called for a motion of support of the LWVDE Board's motion by the 2020 Council. A motion to support was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

8. Introduction of Gwendolyn Miller, DEI Chair, presenting a Demonstration of the Delaware LWV Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Awareness Program with technical assistance from Mary Ann Coe, Webmaster.

Ms. Miller described her educational preparation, work experience, commitment and achievements in

the fields of Applied Psychology and Human Development, Racial Microaggression, Unconscious Bias, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Ms. Miller holds a Master of Science in Applied Psychology and Human Development from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Miller guided 2020 LWVDE Council attendees through elements of the DEI Awareness program she developed for the League. The complete program consists of three four-hour sessions and is designed to increase self-awareness and prepare League and community members to work effectively together to create diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organizations and communities.

Council members viewed and participated in a guided, illustrated presentation of slides, videos, exercises, polls and discussion questions selected from the full program. Attentive engagement and robust contribution to the discussions characterized the session. A Question-and-Answer session followed, with discussion of in-person and virtual modes of presentation.

Concluding her presentation, Ms. Miller stated, “I hope I’ve earned the privilege of your time.” All present replied, decisively, in the affirmative.

- 9. Closing Comments by the chair.** Ms. Jones thanked the guests for joining the Council meeting and sharing their work with the Delaware League, and Ms. Miller for sharing the DEI Awareness Program, encouraging all to exemplify awareness and lead by that example.

- 10. Adjournment.** At 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Baker, Secretary

Next LWVDE Board Meeting:

Wednesday, June 17, time and mode to be arranged.