

League of Women Voters of Delaware
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes (*accepted 15 April 2020*)

1. Call to Order by Carol Jones and Sue Claire Harper, Co-Presidents, at 5:05 p.m.

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*.

2. Changes/additions to agenda. Note Council date as 30 May; Add Finance Committee report.

3. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2020 meeting. As corrected. **Unanimously accepted.**

4. Treasurer's Report. Ms. Itzkowitz reports: on the Statement of Financial Position, Vanguard was negative last month; overall the yield has been 12.33%. On Statement of Activities, note receipt of \$10,000 donation from Roberta Ray. Discussion revolved around presentation of program amounts for activities occurring over time. The Treasurer's Report as amended will be filed for audit.

5. Office Manager's Report. Ms. Diswood reports for Vote411 school board elections. Kim Wells has conducted Zoom meetings with volunteers in NCC and SC to plan follow up calls to school board candidates, to make sure they received and will follow up to complete the questionnaire posted on Vote411.

6. Presidents' Reports.

a) Comments re: cancellations and postponements of activities.

Cancellations: Trip to Seneca Falls, May 1-3, as per guidelines of Governor Carney. There are no financial commitments in Seneca Falls. The bus company has a deposit of \$750.00; Ms. Jones will follow up. Discussion as to cancellation vs. postponement and the invocation of "force majeure."

Cancellations: The Council Meeting of May 30 will likely need to be cancelled. Ms. Jones will investigate the possibility of alternative media and the affordability/availability factors.

Ms. Jones noted the need for LWV planning for future emergencies and situations such as the present pandemic. Ms. Spence noted the work of state agencies to support organizations with alternative media options.

b) Comments re: documenting League activities with photographs and publications.

Ms. Jones has spoken with Chris Rausch of Coast Press regarding consent by subject, and photographic credit for publication of photographs, whether the photos are already published by the press, or taken by an in-house photographer. Public events will not likely, in practice, require written consent, as they are "open to the public," according to Mr. Rausch. Discussion centered on the value of notifying persons registering for a League event that documentary photos will be taken,

and an individual may opt out of the photography.

- c) Comments on holding meetings during the current pandemic.

Ms. Jones noted that members of the board of directors or any committee may participate in meetings by means of electronic equipment, and they shall be considered present in person at that meeting. Discussion centered on e-mail voting of “aye” or “nay” to an email for a specific decision. ~~Mr. Young suggested revisiting the By Laws to make sure the LWVDE is compliant with Section 8.~~

- d) Program for Council meeting in May (or as scheduled).

Ms. Jones proposes that the next Council meeting focus on DEI, and future meetings focus on financial planning, going forward. Ms. Miller, Chair of DEI, would like to see a meeting on DEI allotted three to four hours in order to respect and benefit from the content of DEI, and suggested that a smaller attendance of organization leaders could result in an effective meeting. The Council date may be kept, with an introduction to the DEI program occurring by Zoom, with an in-person attendance for the

- 7. **Web Master Report.** Ms. Coe reports that she has been posting arrangements for the Seneca Falls trip and the cancellations of League activities throughout the State. Ms. Coe has created a new page on the LWVDE website titled, “Just In Case You Are Bored,” containing information for members and families to use during the present health crisis. Ms. Coe and Ms. Barnett are bringing Advocacy Corps information up to date on the website.

8. Committee Reports

- A. **Advocacy.** Ms. Barnett notes that the General Assembly is postponing its work indefinitely. Ms. Pryde discussed the effort by the Public Service Commission to exert authority over DNREC, to be addressed by Legislation as soon as possible.
- B. **Land Use and Transportation.** Request from LWVDE Board/Land Use/Transportation Portfolio requesting an appeal that our Land Use/Transportation lobbyists be permitted to advocate for HR 763. While there is not a national LWV position on HR 763, the State position is fully in synch with the national League position on land use/transportation issues. **Motion to send a letter to the National LWV as noted in the Pre-Board report was seconded and unanimously approved. The letter on the Hercules golf course property has been accepted by email vote by the LWVDE Board and will be forwarded.**
- C. **DEI.** Ms. Miller is preparing the DEI program for Delaware based on the specific needs of the three county Leagues.
- D. **VOTE 411.** Ms. Diswood reports that the Committee is following up with questions to School Board Candidates. Information should be up on April 6. Discussion centered around voting machines’ availability for presentation to the public during the present health emergency. Please see LWVDE website for more information on the new voting machines.
- E. **Finance.** Mr. Stillson reports that the LWVDE Finance Committee convened on March 10 to recommend distribution of the \$10,000 bequest from Roberta Ray as follows: Each local League to receive \$1000, the state League to receive \$4000 and \$3000 be deposited into the Endowment Fund. We also suggest that when funds are distributed that the board documents Roberta's passion for and commitment to the League’s educational programs and activities as guidance on how the funds are utilized. **It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation.**
- F. **2020 Activities.** Census activities planned in Sussex and Kent Counties are centered in public institutions such as libraries, which are now closed; the League is looking into alternative media for public education.

9. Local League Reports.

Kent County. Ms. Eggers reports that most activities are postponed.

New Castle County. Ms. Johnson reports that many activities are cancelled. Teams in high schools have been involved in a civics program which will be affected by school closures. The New Castle League is revising its membership form. Each County's membership form may be found on the State League website.

Sussex County. Ms. Miller reports the advent of a new program called "Lunch and Learn," focused on the nine high schools in Sussex County and the importance of voting.

10. Old Business. Mr. Stillson reports that the YES! Youth Environmental Summit held on February 28, 2020 at DelTech was well attended, with Kim Wells present and focusing on introducing Vote 411; students were engaged and enthusiastic about voting. The Stillsons and Ms. Wells supported a table for LWV, presented information, and engaged students at the Summit. "There were 240 attendees and probably 75 dropped by our table. Plus, I was provided an opportunity to address the whole Summit on behalf of the LWVDE to encourage everyone to vote and be informed voters. It was a great day! Other speakers included Senator Tom Carper, the Governor and former DNREC Secretary Colin O'Mara."

11. New Business. Ms. Harper reports that our insurance broker, Rob Cannon at Gorges and Co., has agreed to submit our new application for Directors' and Officers' liability insurance out to bid in the hope that we might realize a premium reduction. This bidding process does not obligate us in any way to change our current policy-- Mr. Young advised attention to the 'tail coverage' to assure there would be no gap in the event of changing insurers.

Ms. Spence noted that it appears the pandemic could be quite long-lived. How can we keep the League active and before the public eye? Ms. Jones, concurring, encouraged creative thinking. Mr. Young noted the Census Pod (link available in the Voter newsletter) has had 2000 hits.

12. Adjournment. At 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Baker, Secretary

Next LWVDE Board Meeting:

Wednesday, April 15 at 3:00 p.m., location/arrangements/time TBA (likely, by Zoom.)