

Bay Area League Board of Directors
Minutes
December 14, 2020
via ZOOM
Ninth Month of COVID-19 Stay-in-Place

1. **Call to Order** by VP Administration, Madeline Kronenberg-- Attendees: Secretary, Mary Ann Benson; Treasurer, Leslie Stewart; Board Members: Housing/Social Policy, Roma Dawson; Natural Resources, Eric Arens; Regional Government, Kathleen Cha; Transportation, Alex Starr; Voter Service, Veda Florez; At Large, Margo McGlone; Communications, vacant; Guests, *Monitor* Editor Alec MacDonald, Ken Bukowski
2. **Approval of Minutes** of November 9 -- Veda moved and Margo seconded, passed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Leslie had sent current balances and reported that there are still a few outstanding payments from local Leagues. Roma moved to accept and file, and seconded by Veda.
4. **League Day, March 6** -- Roma sent Draft this morning with new ideas. Committee included Alex, Madeline, Kathleen and Roma. Committee wanted to focus on Equity and implementing Equity (or as Veda mentioned Inclusion/Belonging). Goals for League Day; Inspire, Inform and a Call to Action. Roma suggested we are all suffering from “Zoom Fatigue” and requested input on timing. Suggestion for times: 9:30-12-30. We will need to limit panels. Roma suggests omitting Policing at this time. There is info on US web site: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Kathleen mentioned UN definition with slides available. Veda noted that Racism is structural. Alex suggested a glossary of terms and recommended reading. Do we want to acknowledge racism in the suffragist movement? Kathleen: Pictures available of early suffrage days. Speakers: Inspiration at beginning, Aspiration at end. Possible speakers: Deborah Turner, (President of LWVUS), Melissa Breach (COO California YIMBI) Therese McMillan (Metro Talks). Sunne McPeak? If we include healthcare, we should recognize Bay Area Regional Health Inequities (BARHII). Alec suggested looking beyond someone who would only give platitudes. Alec recalled a panel in years back that was cordial and substantive. Veda suggested considering a round table with a moderator. Alex: Transportation and Housing as a part of Plan Bay Area. Roma will refocus on economics and will need to time everything out. Veda: Diversity, Equity and Belonging. Madeline summarizes: 3 hours: speaker, panel, break, panel speaker. Committee feels good about input. Roma will invite Turner. Alec said to acknowledge exclusionary history of LWV. Stephanie Doute, LWC exec Director –Invite? Next committee meeting – to be set, will notify board when it is set.
5. **Monitor report** -- Alec told of phone call asking to get covers of current Monitor “Hoppy Holidays.” Alec sent out letter to sponsors to ask if they would continue to support if The Monitor is on line only as Monitor Notes. Cecily is hesitant to take on responsibility, concerned about funding. It will be easier to fund when it becomes an online version. Veda: cost? Currently \$100/issue. Cecily doesn't need to worry about lack of payment. Alec: It is a matter of increasing her rate. Leslie: we will need to make a decision. Leslie: Although we discussed it at last meeting, if Alec has more information next month, we should discuss it further. We need to talk to Cecily. Kathleen: Should we include Cecily on one of our calls, perhaps in February? Alec: Yes. Veda: Can Monitor feature League Day? Alec, yes, Leslie's article will be on equity. Madeline should add Monitor to February meeting.

6. **Gold Foundation**—Veda reported that in 2017 Steve Gold called BAL to ask about Voter Education after his 16 year old son did not receive background on voting. In 2017-18 Veda and Madeline worked with Jeff Pollock, a Civics Education Teacher in Contra Costa County, to develop a year-round election curriculum. We did student focus groups and an educators' survey to determine need and desire. The goal was an online portal for educators, youth driven. It was ended because of expense. Madeline and Veda attended US LWV conference, learned of an Alaska – student run web site. Gold said that the Alaska model wouldn't work for him but would like to give \$5000 to Pollock and \$5000 to LWVBA. Veda offered to make a short phone call to remind him of project. Margo: Was goal to come up with curriculum? Madeline there is a year-round civics curriculum. However, everything is different this year. Leslie this good summary should be made available to Sherry. What was the money for? Because we have already gone on in future, isn't two years a long time? Madeline: it is in the past. Veda: A phone call wouldn't hurt. Margo: Was it a one-year grant? Veda: no only a proposal. It deserves a phone call. Margo: Need to go through school board etc. Madeline on that school board at that time. Pollock does teach it. Kathleen: talking about a regional project. But a number of LWVs in Bay Area have history of providing voting information. Leslie: nothing new, an existing situation. Madeline: Veda should make phone call. We should close out what we did. Margo: Let it go, too many ifs. Why go there? Veda: Why NOT go there? Madeline: We should say a final goodbye. Perhaps in future we can work in this area and ask for sponsorship. Vote on call: Straw poll: Vote failed.
7. **Nominating Committee report:** Margo: Need to get more youth into the League with electronic background.
8. **LWVBA Website:** Communication Committee met and decided what we want to move to new site. The state will help with the move. Will take about 10 days to move over. Then up to us to make it look like we want to. Veda: I will send pages to LWVC. I only have 2 weeks in January to help transfer. Others will be available to help after Jan. 15. Leslie: Looking for someone with technology background.
9. **Community Dialogue on Regional Decisions Report** – Where to find video? On Facebook and YouTube. Madeline sent follow up to all attendees. 170 views, 125 signed up on day. Great interest in more community dialogues as a way to connect with the League. Kathleen will put out timeline and topics to keep conversation going. Kudos to Kathleen and Roma for work on this day.
10. **Communications Transition** – No report. Has been covered.
11. **Bay Area Council, May 1** – Kathleen: What business will need doing? May want to consider date and what will be the topics. Veda: this is a good way to promote LWVBA actions this year, website, Monitor, where we want to go. Sherry needs to have input on this.
12. **Nevada LWV** – A chance to review our situation in relation to this action by LWVUS. Many questions still exist. Supporting a candidate? Veda: Local LWV felt on the razor's edge concerning Proposition 15. Leslie: The two hats we wear, issue vs parties and candidates. We should review our Board Non-Partisanship statement. Alex might check on Board Policies used by local Leagues. Revisit at next meeting.
13. **Zoom team:** Recruiting members to help with future events. We are using Madeline's account, team members would monitor chat. Veda: I could help. Roma: Could someone else handle the Zoom with Madeline? Agenda for next meeting. Leslie, there was money for Zoom account in the budget. Cost \$15/month up to 100 people. Kathleen: we will be using it more in the future. Kathleen moves that we take on an expanded (100+ People for \$40/month) Zoom account, Veda seconds but notes that we can

then upgrade it for one month if signups reach 80. Vote on \$15 with option for \$40 if used by more than 100 people. Passed.

14. Regional Observers Reports -Veda will send notes for meetings she attends. Eric: Many South Bay cities are requiring electric in place of natural gas for all new construction. Possible topic for one of our events. See article in Monitor. Eric said the head of the Building Decarbonization Coalition reported that Southern Calif Gas is opposing but PG&E is for it.

15. Good of the Order – Ken Bukowski, asked about attending committee meetings. So many changes to Plan Bay Area. Staff took control and kept local entities out. So nothing could happen because they weren't listening to local level. So many changes, housing mandates, can't meet, leading to loss of local control. Veda: shall we invite Ken to Working Group Meetings? So far no Working Groups. Kathleen no PBA Working Group, but looking at how we as League need to be part of it. You can give your perspective.

Next meeting January 11, 2021, 10:00 am via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ann Benson
Secretary