

10/5/20 LWVMC Board Meeting

Board Members in Attendance: Barb Hykes, Ben Sullivan, Cheryl Roller, Lucy Hadley Buzzee, Bridget McDaniel, Ellen Rapkin, Katherine Brandt, Lindsey Kauffman, Mary Burkey, Sally Morgan, Mary Austin Palmer, Jacqueline Nielson

Not in Attendance: Beth Strohl, Catherine Logsdon

Staff in Attendance: Elizabeth Grieser

Also in Attendance: Diane Patterson

Treasurer's Report: Ben pointed out specific items: In income, \$500 grant for hosting Caroline from Youth Service America; \$1764.99 grant for mailing voting materials to 1600 incarcerated individuals; expecting a \$4000 grant for election protection work with Ohio Voter Rights Coalition; and expecting a \$6500 grant from Franklin County Auditor for ad on back of VIB. In expenses, \$750 paid to video editor and \$1650 paid for printing 500 copies of commemorative publication re: 100th anniversary; Per Member Payments significant due to increased membership.

Committee Reports

100th Anniversary: Cheryl reported that anyone who gave \$500 or more or bought a ticket to the original event will receive a complimentary copy of the commemorative program; about 100 copies have been set aside. Other copies will be used for fund-raising efforts, and the rest are available for sale @ \$30 or two for \$50. Part of the cost is a contribution to the League. We will be emailing everyone in our data base, and will also advertise the booklets in the eVoter. Cheryl plans to send out another message around the holidays, and may sell any remaining at a reduced rate at the next DIA event.

Elizabeth and Beth will put the two short videos focusing on the importance of voting on our web site and YouTube page. Members are encouraged to share those on social media.

Voter Service: Katherine reported that the Voter Information Bulletin is going out in the *Columbus Dispatch* and to libraries this week. Thanks to those who worked on the issue pros and cons. There is lots of engagement at the voter registration events. Volunteers have signed up for every event. We have done numerous speaking events. We will be switching our emphasis from registration to election protection. Shifts at early voting site are available and have been announced.

Candidate forums are going well. Technology for the virtual events has been great. There were lots of volunteers who stuffed envelopes to send to 1600 incarcerated individuals at the Franklin County Jail.

Re: poll observers, Common Cause has two people signed up for each time slot. At more contested precincts, there will be a Democratic and Republican observer; they will be allowed inside polling places as official observers. Katherine said we're not sure yet if all others will have to remain outside polling places. A meeting with the Board of Elections is scheduled for October 8. The League has been working with other voter rights groups through the coalition. Barb said the Directors of the BoEs have been talking to their county public safety officers; they may be on-site or on alert.

Education and Advocacy: Sally said the committee has been working on racial justice term definitions, which will be a reference for the League. Carla Hicks is leading the effort. The committee expects to have those ready for the November meeting. The next topic the committee will focus on is food deserts/food insecurity.

Sally and Jackie provided an update on the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge. Discussion sessions on four topics will be scheduled in November following the election. We expect to have 10-15 participants in the group. Lindsey asked if the committee had contacted the Kirwan Institute about facilitating. Sally has reached out but hasn't heard back. Bridget noted that we could use more in-house facilitators, who could lead the discussion on one of the four topics: voting, criminal justice, education, and public health.

Membership: September was membership month. Lucy reported that 285 renewal notices went out; we have heard back from about 100 to date. Current membership is 432, with 100 new members joining since May. She will reach out by email and put a reminder in the eVoter to renew membership.

Many new members have been placed with mentors. Lindsey said she has heard from two new members that they are not receiving emails. Elizabeth will check on that.

Operations Manager's Report: Elizabeth reported on the candidate forums and voter registration events. Barb was interviewed by the *Dispatch*. A reporter from Channel 4 is looking for an event to cover. The League received a \$4,000 grant from the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition to work on voter protection, i.e. poll monitors who will answer questions and report problems.

Beth Taggart let Elizabeth know there will not be an on-site phone bank at Channel 10 on election day due to safety measures re: the coronavirus. Instead, we could participate in a Command Hotline for poll monitors to contact.

Elizabeth thanked all who have been registering voters, doing presentations, and sending items to post on Facebook. Barb asked about our volunteers at the early voting center. They will have to be outside and maintain the required distance.

President's Report: Barb will be working with NBC Channel 4 on a voter story. She recommended some internet resources, e.g. National Institute for Civil Discourse. She reported that Secretary of State LaRose has issued a new position on ballot drop-boxes; counties must have one, and can have more than one, as long as they are on BoE property. Ed Leonard indicated on the news that Franklin County may add a drive-up drop box at the Franklin County site.

New Business: Cheryl and Mary reported on the second League book club event. The group read Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*. Eleven members were on the call; about half were also on the first call. There was a very good discussion. For the near term, the group will read shorter items. Barbara Beardsley will lead the November club meeting. The group will discuss an article by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Barb said the League had talked about having a book club for some time, and she thanked Cheryl and Mary for leading the effort.

Sally talked about the League's health study. Thirteen local Leagues in Ohio participated. They will be collating the information, and hope to have a report ready for the state board meeting on November 4. If the board adopts the resolution, the League will have a new position.

Mary B. asked about Elizabeth's compensation, and asked if we are paying her for all the extra time she has been putting in during the election season. Elizabeth explained how her compensation is calculated. Bridget recommended forming a personnel committee; Mary B. and Cheryl offered to serve. Barb approved the recommendation. Ben suggested looking at comp time.

Elizabeth reported on distribution of election protection yard sign in collaboration with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank.

Motion to adjourn. Passed.