



Minutes from Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Peggy Dellinger, Evelyn Murphy, Marie Curtis, Nancy Sabino, Annette Scott, Sol Hara, Lois Kiely, Wilma Pfeffer, Dallas & Robert Grove, Susan Sferas, Jayne Mackta, **Guest:** Emmy Montgomery

Standing business:

- Robert Grove, Treasurer's Report: latest membership count is 107 members with 71 paid, he will contact those who have not yet paid. Strategies to encourage renewals will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Rules governing \$500 LWWUS prize are still being explored, Robert will follow up – he has a name from the national league to contact. The League has received a \$50 speaker fee from Annette, fees for joint league ventures will be received; the State League will reimburse us for expenses related to COVID safety registration.
- The current bank balance is \$7553.26 of which \$1890 is restricted to specific activities; \$7345 in Education funds was deposited with LWV NJ. Voter Service activities resulted in revenue of \$630. Full report will be available on LWVSMC website.
- Ven-mo is being considered as a method of transferring funds from one bank account to another to support electronic payment to the LWVSMC.
- The Treasurer's Report was accepted and filed.
- Motion to accept the minutes of September meeting was carried.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

The League's DEI policy statement was read by Susan and Evelyn asked for members to list their activities which reflected the DEI philosophy:

- Dallas reported that Rosemary V. translated a league article for a Latino newspaper
- Wilma & Rosemary registered Spanish speaking citizens at the Food Bank in Asbury Pk.
- Annette visited ten parole facilities to deliver information about voting rights to those who are paroled (first time in 176 years they are able to vote)
- Peggy, Nancy, Dallas and other leaguers assisted Asbury Towers' seniors in filling out ballots
- Peggy attended an Asbury fair where she provided information on voting by mail
- Annette and Peggy attended an event in Newark to promote voting to underserved populations
- League supported the Asbury Park LBQ march.

Evelyn said the list reflected our positive efforts to support the DEI policy

VOTE411- *Peggy reported in Nancy Clark's absence (more details at next meeting from Nancy)*

- Status: Published (making races visible to the public) 58 races; invited 213 candidates; 72 have responded (34%); 34 races at least one candidate has responded (59%)
- Candidate Forum videos are posted on VOTE411

Voter Service

Candidate Forums:

- Evelyn reported that 18 leaguers have been actively involved in the forums.
- Marie and Susan have moderated two forums; Evelyn moderated her first forum and is

scheduled to do a second one.

- Completed: 9/23 Bradley Beach Mayor (291/155)*; 9/30 Monmouth Beach Municipal (258/188); 10/1 Neptune BoE (111/63); 10/6 Asbury Park BoE (51/28); 10/7 Belmar Council (104/76); 10/8 CD4 (107/61); 10/12 Little Silver Council (62/43).
- ILO agreed to pay \$450 to give the league access to ZOOM Forum
- On Oct.20 the league's subscription will run out and the Concerned Scientist Grant is not usable for this purpose
- Upcoming: 10/14 Freeholder/Clerk; 10/15, Ocean Twp. BoE; 10/20 Middletown Municipal; 10/21 Brick BoE; 10/22 Asbury Park Municipal.
- Decision: Extend Zoom Webinar platform for one month.
- Evelyn asked how much money we have earned doing forums – the answer was \$600.- she suggested that we raise our fees.

Voter Service Events

- Nancy and Annette attended voter drives in Asbury and Ocean Grove
- Evelyn procured posters, banners and “swag” and distributed early voter stickers.
- Nancy explained the collaboration between the LWVUS & Lyft services; the league has 50 “tickets” worth up to \$15 each that can be distributed with the use of a special code and will be used to bring voters to drop off their votes in person (a smart phone is necessary to utilize these tickets).
- Wilma and Bob purchased and donated a table (\$60) to be used for registering voters; they will store it at their home.
- Nancy and Annette registered voters in Asbury Park; LWVSMC had a voter service/registration table at the Ocean Grove Fall Festival.

PR

- Dallas has developed a partnership with the *Coaster and writes a weekly* column devoted to voter registration and related voter information.
- Social media – Rosemary Vinter and Nancy Sabino have posted League activities on Facebook and tapped into Patch Network which includes 18 towns.
- Tom Rue of Ocean T.V. has posted league forums.

General Election Webinar

- Completed: Manalapan Dems; Central Jersey Club 9/28; Greenbriar, Manalapan 9/30; Neptune Township 9/29; Central Jersey Club 9/29; Unitarian Congregation, Lincroft 10/6.
- Neptune and Spring Lake posted the “How to Use a Vote-by-Mail Ballot” on their municipal websites
- Peggy participated in a Bradley Beach Library Program on voting

Reenter-Register-Vote Update:

- Extension through Parole Board to half-way houses—those on parole, probation, and awaiting trial
- NJReentry—Registration Day 10/6.
- Annette has been invited to speak an LWVNJ-sponsored rally honoring Ruth Bader Ginsberg in Plainfield.
- Annette was interviewed for Katie Couric's podcast. Also interviewed by an author writing a book on distinguished African American women of NJ.

- LWVSMC members involved in R-R-V—Lorraine Pearlman, Valerie Brett.

Energizing New Voters

- 9/29 -Pat Supplee and Peggy Dellinger presented to the NJ Education Association and NJPSA to create an awareness of voter materials available to them, including “**Fighting for the Vote.**”
- All educational materials are stored on the Google Cloud for easy access.
- Partnering with Rutgers University 555 voting project (Rutgers’ students working with high school students to register eligible students).
- Partnering with “Vote by Design” - a Stanford University project.
- 9/21 - Delivered Student Advocate Toolkit to Central Jersey Youth Club; Ten Red Bank Regional High School Dreamers will present the Voter Tool Kit to students. They hope to reach 300 students by the end of the month.

Membership

- Wilma is sending information to new members while Diane is recuperating.

Old Business

- LWVNJ Gala-9/16 – Susan reported that the gala was a success, however, financial goals were not quite reached - \$66,000 was raised and more donations may still be coming in. A Centennial Campaign Committee is in place to raise one million dollars to support League work (e.g. costs of distribution materials on voting, etc.). Annual giving letters will be coming out soon to encourage members to pledge funds to support League initiatives. Susan is serving on the Centennial Campaign Committee. A goal was set to raise \$500,000 by Election Day.
- Hot Topics: “The Truth about Vote by Mail” --7:30, Sept. 22—Ricardo Ramirez of the Brennan Center and Robin Major, Administrator of the Monmouth Co. Board of Elections had 87 participants on Zoom.
- Facts & Issues – new programs will be developed after the election using ZOOM as a platform – a discussion was held about the capabilities and potential of on line interviews (e.g. alleviates need for seeking a venue, speakers’ availability, etc.).
- Susan was thanked by Congregation Torat-El for her presentation on mail in ballots.

New Business

- New program items will be developed after the election

Close- Next Board meeting: 2 p.m., Wed., November 11,2020 via Zoom