

MINUTES

Board Meeting: 1 to 3 PM, Wednesday, July 7, 2021

via Zoom

Lead by Evelyn Murphy of LWVSMC for Barbara Chaudhery of LWVGRBA who will lead the September meeting

ATTENDING: Carole Beyer, Elizabeth Bond, Peggy Dellinger, Vanessa Merhi, Evelyn Murphy, Annette Scott, Susan Sferas, Sharon Steinhorn, Louise Usechak

Standing business:

- Confirmed that Peggy will take notes for our Board meetings on a regular basis.
- Reviewed the 2020-2021 Year-End Treasurer's Report: \$1,142.97 income against the budget of \$1685. YTD expenses of \$1,149.06 (Including 20 Handbooks for the ILO) Reviewed July Treasurer's Report: Income \$225 for fiscal year to date, and no expenses. \$5327.83 in available funds. \$427.15 in the Education Fund (held by LWVNJ for us).
- Minutes of May accepted.

ILO Convention Debrief

- Held at the Township of Ocean Historical Museum; 25 members attended.
- Reviewed the direction to the Board. The direction included:
 - The Board was asked to look over the bylaws to remove all gender-specific pronouns. Susan Sferas agreed to make changes.
 - A member asked about the status of the Observer Corps at the Freeholder meetings and emphasized its value. It was explained that the ILO is working to resurrect Observer Corps. It offered a workshop and has currently Observers at municipal level in Ocean Township and an Observer in Ocean County.
 - A member urged the ILO to get on board to fight gerrymandering and voter suppression. Sharon pointed out that LWVNJ has focused effort on fair redistricting.
 - NJ DEP requiring every municipality to address sea level rise in the master plan. Takes effect when master plan is do for updating (now every ten years).
 - We're offering Facts & Issues to local cable outlets (we've added Asbury Park)—check to see if local outlets are interested.

Make-up of the Board, including Appointed Directors

- Appointed as directors Vanessa Merhi, Annette Scott, and Peggy Dellinger (who vacated the ILO Leadership Team when her term as LWVSMC presidents ended 6/17).
- Confirmed Evelyn Murphy is a member of the ILO Leadership Team by virtual of her election at the LWVSMC Annual Meeting after the ILO Annual Meeting.

Review of Nonpartisan Policy

- Last year's discussion of the Nonpartisan Policy was never ratified officially adopted by the ILO Board.
- Board reviewed a draft of the Nonpartisan Policy as proposed, but not adopted last year, plus comments from Louise.
- Decisions:
 - DEFEATED Preamble: Add old mission statement "informed participation of ..." at start
 - APPROVED Change "government" to "governmental" in "issues on which it has a position ..."
 - APPROVED Add "and objective" to "study of the facts"
 - APPROVED Add "County Government Program Director" to list of ILO Board members who cannot hold nonpartisan office

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- APPROVED Add “This appointment is subjected to Board approval” to “accept position as a representative of the LWV. (3b)
 - APPROVED Removal of gender-specific pronouns.
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Next Hot Topic—LWVWM Lead

Agreed on a virtual presentation, 3 PM, Sunday, September 19, for next Hot Topic. Topic will be **Wind Energy**. Need speakers that reflect the full complexity of the issue.

Voters Service

- Candidate Forums
 - **COUNTY RACES:** Sharon has been in contact with the Library Headquarters, who is unable to make a commitment, for in-person forum. Agreed to Wednesday, September 29, via Zoom. County Commissioners and Surrogate seats are in contention.
 - **Pricing:** Agreed to maintain price schedule from last year, which is consistent with the LWVNJ guidelines.
 - **Organizing:** We have a Forum Management Workshop scheduled for August 24. Discussed value of having an earlier session for “Organizers.” Vanessa offered to send out an appeal for Organizers to the members of the LWVGRBA. Susan Sferas, Janice McGowan, and Carol Beyer are possible organizers.
 - **Platform Hosting:** May need to subscribe to webinar to train platform hosts. Susan expressed an interest in this role.
 - **Voter Education:** State team has been working on Voter Education PowerPoint modules that we can adapt to webinar training on the general election.
 - **Reimbursement:** LWVNJ will reimburse local Leagues and the ILO \$350 for voter service expenses.
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Voting Machine Issues and Input

- Peggy agreed to follow up with Terri O’Connor (County Administer) on status of the county’s replacement of voting machines.
 - Evelyn will reach out to get the list of at-large LWV members from Jesse to send email to our Ocean County members and at-large members to ask if interested in researching voting machine replacement in Ocean County.
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Old/New Business

- **VOTE411 Workshop** August 17—Anne Torre scheduled to lead. Peggy will check with Nancy Clarke to ask if she is able and willing to co-chair.
 - Agreed unanimously to adopt **DEI Policy** as stated in the two paragraphs of LWVUS DEI policy.
 - **ILO Positions:** Louise reviewed ILO policy positions as adapted at 2015 Annual Convention.
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Close- Next Meeting 1 p.m., Wednesday, September 1 (LWVGRBA lead)
