



**MINUTES OF THE LWV ROSEVILLE AREA BOARD MEETING January 22, 2020**

**Fireside Room, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Victoria and Co. Rd. D, Roseville, MN**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by League President Sherry Hood.

**Present:** Present: Barb Anderson, Jim DeBenedet, Stephanie DeBenedet, Wayne Groff, Sherry Hood, Bonnie Koch, Karen Lake, Priscilla Morton, and Mary Peterson

**Absent:** Barb Barany, Grace Gee, Rachel Geiser, Jessica Holz, Beth Reinhart, and Karen Schaffer

**Guests:** None

**1. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2019 meeting and December 3, 2019 meeting conducted by email.**

Seeing no corrections, the minutes were approved.

**2. Financial/Treasurer's Report**

Sherry reported that Jessica Holz provided the treasurer's reports for the period ending 11/30/2019 and 12/31/2019. We accepted the treasurer's reports (**see attachments**).

**3. Reports of Officers:**

a. President

- February 11, the Legislature convenes.
- February 14, Day of Action will be held at the State Capitol, highlighting the People Powered Fair Maps campaign. LWVMN is encouraging members to attend. Contact Lisa Scribner with questions.
- State Lobby/Observer Corp – contact Nick Harper if interested in lobbying. Can apply and be trained online.
- Kitty Gogins who is connected to the International Institute asked for help from League members to assist refugees in filling out applications for citizenship at the Institute.

b. Vice-President: None

c. Secretary: None

**4. Reports of Committees:**

a. **Action Advocacy**

- The Observer Corps continues to post agendas weekly for all Commission, City Council, and School Board meetings.
- A monthly conference call to all action/advocacy groups in the state to share information will be organized by the State LWV action/advocacy chair and will begin on January 31.

- With redistricting reform anticipated this Spring at the State level, this committee will coordinate with Vivian Tannehill or Nick Harper at State League to announce actions.
- PWET meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 p.m. Roseville City Hall.

#### Environmental Subcommittee

- Barb Luck provided information about the planning for Earth Day (April 22) events happening at the State level. This is being led by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership.
- An Environmental Forum program is planned for March 24. The five city mayors have been invited to be members of a panel discussion. Co-sponsoring with Roseville Library.
- Reviewed findings on contacting other cities regarding organized trash collection, leaving open the possibility of pursuing this with Falcon Heights should the council members be interested.
- Will work on a monthly corner of the *Voter* with “Did you know?” and “What can you do?”

#### **b. Communications**

1. Social Media: Posted and boosted event in Facebook for the January 16 Conversations with Constituents event Fair Housing program; posted same on Patch and Nextdoor, also shared postings from LWVMN on Facebook.
2. Friday Email Blasts: Sent information about the January Conversations With Constituents and CMAL events in several mailings; a save-the-date notice about upcoming LWVMN activities; a notice about the History Theatre; information about precinct caucuses, and shared an event sponsored by LWV New Brighton.
3. Website: Posted an article about the Precinct Caucuses, an article about and link to the January *Voter*, weekly updates to the Local Meetings schedule, and a notice about the History Theatre play “Not for Sale.”
4. The *Voter*: January issue was published and distributed.
5. Public Relations: Shared information with Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and Roseville about the Conversations with Constituents January event. All five cities carried articles about the event in their communications. Roseville also publicized it on their electronic sign. St. Paul and Minneapolis papers did not print the notice.
6. Created an event on the DataBank software to allow members to register for the History Theatre play and pay online. So far eight have registered.
7. Sent out the updated member directory.

#### **c. Membership**

- We had 129 active members in 2019 (15 new members, with 2 joining in December) and one new member who joined in January 2020, bringing the total active members to 130.
- The League brochure has been updated with the new Treasurer’s information. Please discard any old versions you may have. In the future, this brochure will be printed at the State League for minimal charge. The best aspect of this arrangement is that it can be easily modified.
- New members are coming through the new database, which keeps it up to date and accurate. Members prior to 2019 have an April 1 renewal date. Members joining in 2019 will be due on the anniversary date of their joining. An email notice to renew will come out March 1 with a reminder in mid-late March. Notice and information about this new system will be placed in the February and March *Voter*.

- Jessica Holz will be the subject of the latest Spotlight article. A suggestion has been made to interview Carolyn Cushing for an article in April to coincide with the historical focus of the League that month.
- Stephanie reported 34 members and 12 guests attended Conversations with Constituents.

#### d. Program

1. The November Board program report was filed before the November event, so it didn't cover our "Place for Everyone" panel on November 19 with State Representative Alice Hausman, Cathy ten Broecke and Maria Wetherall speaking on fair housing. Co-hosting with six other organizations contributed to a very successful presentation to an extremely large audience of over 70.
2. The December Dinner Theater Centennial Celebration was also well attended by League members, improved member attendance being one of our goals.
3. Attendance at the January Conversation with Constituents was down from previous years. It is definitely a challenge to get out the word on meetings without a local newspaper.
4. Consider signing up to attend the play "Not for Sale" on the topic of redlining on March 26 at the Minnesota History Theater. Attendees need to pay for their ticket when registering.
5. Our February 18 meeting will be on the Electoral College. Abolishing the Electoral College is a League position, with a National Popular Vote being one of the options to replace it. At the 2018 LWVUS National Convention, our League supported a proposal put forth by the LWV of Illinois that abolishing the Electoral College be included in the Campaign for Making Democracy Work making it a major focus. It was approved. Because of changes in protocol, local Leagues now need permission from LWVUS and LWVMN before contacting legislators on advocacy issues. **LWV Illinois is asking local Leagues to include a request on the Program Planning Survey Response due in early March and for support on the floor of the 2020 LWVUS National Convention to give permission to local Leagues to advocate for legislation abolishing the Electoral College. (see Action item C).**

#### e. Voter Services

- Dates have been announced for LWVMN Candidate Forum and Event Planning Training. Registration is not open yet and specific locations have not been chosen. The dates are: Saturday, March 21, Tuesday, April 14, Saturday May 16, and Thursday, June 11.
- Early Presidential Primary voting began on January 17 and continues. In-person voting will take place on Tuesday, March 3, known as "Super Tuesday." View sample ballots on the Secretary of State's web site mnvotes.org. 2020 Precinct Caucuses, meetings to set goals and priorities (party platform) and choose delegates, will be held on Tuesday, February 25.
- Each Fall of the even years, the Secretary of State's office holds Mock Elections in high schools statewide. Among the LWVRA area schools that participated in 2018 were:
  - Academy for Science and Agriculture
  - Fairview Alternative School
  - Hill Murray High School
  - Mounds Park Academy
  - North St. Paul High School
  - Roseville Area High School
  - Tartan High School

The Secretary of State has now merged its Mock Election effort with the other statewide mock election, Kids Voting, which aims to be in elementary as well as high schools to promote civics education and voting. Support from LWVRA members for this endeavor is expected to be needed in the form of volunteers to make follow-up contacts with school principals and organize and provide other assistance. Contact Karen Lake to volunteer for this project.

- Vote411 is a LWV effort to provide an Electronic Voter Guide System for Candidate Information. Local Leagues would solicit input from candidates and organize and update the information into the mobile friendly format to be designed by the State or National LWV. One or two volunteers are needed to undertake further researching the effort and manage the implementation and maintenance of it for LWVRA,
- One additional person is needed to work closely with/learn from Teresa Wernecke as to how to organize Candidate Forums.

**f. AdHoc Census Report**

- Recruiting Census Takers: There is a statewide push for getting more applicants for census takers before the Feb. 1 deadline. The Ramsey County pay rate now starts at \$22/hour. In addition to our previous outreach for census takers at Fairview Alternative High School and the Bhutanese Community, materials have been sent to Fairview Community Center and Roseville Area High School and requested posting on community boards at grocery stores and at the U of MN Commonwealth Terrace Housing Cooperative.
- Ramsey County-St. Paul Joint Complete Count Committee: The December and January meetings both focused on recruiting census takers for Ramsey County. The state demographer's office will be supplying census bookmarks to K-12 students in projected "low count" areas of Minnesota. Barb B. is helping to identify target districts in suburban Ramsey County. All of our five LWVRA cities include low count census tracts.
- Census Outreach: Marcia Cheney is working on planning for outreach to those with limited English proficiency. She has multiple ties to the English Language Learner communities.
- Census Questionnaire Assistance Centers: The MN state demographer's office has announced a process for organizations, including nonprofits, to act as sites for providing access to technology and internet, and assistance as required, for residents to respond to the census online in March and April. Barb B. is determining whether the approach we had previously discussed with Roseville Area Schools Community Education (at Fairview Community Center) will work as a QAC.
- Paper Census Forms: The good news is that the draft form of the initial US Census letter, which goes out to residences in mid-March and invites households to respond to the census online, will include the information that a paper form will be sent in April to residences that have not yet responded online. We have also learned however, that since paper forms will be residence specific, we will not be able to supply paper forms to people who request help with responding to the census but are hesitant to respond online.

**g. Ad Hoc Centennial Report**

The subcommittee that worked on the League banner is also preparing for the State Traveling exhibit to be displayed at the Roseville and Maplewood libraries in April.

## 5. Unfinished Business: None

## 6. New Business

- Physically distributing the *Voter* – Could we get a new member to pick up and mail the *Voter* and bring to libraries and senior centers? Are there other locations we might drop at? Jim will write an article for the *Voter* for member interest.
- A request was made to extend Conversations with Constituents to two hours. For example: 6:00-6:30 p.m. socializing/snacks. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. program. (see **Action item A**)
- Amend the Email Vote to approve \$300 for QuickBooks software. (see **Action item B**)
- Please see the fifth paragraph under Program – Reports of Committees. (see **Action item C**)
- National Convention will be held June 25 to 28 in Washington DC.
- LWVMN 2020 Council meeting will be hosted by LWV of Golden Valley on April 25.
- Wayne gave us a heads up on moving forward with sustainability to reduce carbon emissions.

## 7. Action items

- A. Jim moved to increase the time for Conversations with Constituents to two hours. Motion carried.
- B. Wayne motioned to amend the Email Vote to approve \$300 for the purchase of QuickBooks software. Motion carried.
- C. Bonnie motioned to include a request on the Program Planning Survey Response due in early March and for support on the floor of the 2020 LWVUS National Convention to give permission to local Leagues to advocate for legislation abolishing the Electoral College through a major focus in the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Mary Peterson