



MINUTES OF THE LWV ROSEVILLE AREA BOARD MEETING, March 25, 2020

This Board meeting was conducted online and by phone using Google Hangouts

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

Present: Present: Barb Anderson, Barb Barany, Jim DeBenedet, Stephanie DeBenedet, Grace Gee, Rachel Geiser, Wayne Groff, Jessica Holz, Sherry Hood, Bonnie Koch, Karen Lake, Priscilla Morton, Mary Peterson, Beth Reinhart, and Karen Schaffer

Absent: None

1. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2020 meeting.

Mary reported a correction – Under **d. Program**, paragraph 1 should be reported under **Membership**. The rest of the information was reported by Bonnie Koch. The minutes were then approved, as amended.

2. Financial/Treasurer's Report

Jessica Holz provided the treasurer's report for the period ending February 29, 2020. We accepted the treasurer's report (**see attachment**).

3. Reports of Officers:

a. President

- Sherry talked to Michelle Witte, LWVMN Executive Director and asked what we can do right now. Michelle said that the State Board and staff will be emailing updates and putting out Webinars on a weekly basis to members. If you go to lwvmn.org, at the top is a red banner that we can click to learn about the League's updates on COVID-19.
- For the current future, absentee ballots without cause are available to anyone at the Secretary of State's Office.
- Capitol Chat, which will give League members an opportunity to hear from LWVMN staff on what is happening at the Capitol, is happening this evening from 7:00-8:30. See the March 13 email from LWV Minnesota for more information.
- State Council 2020, to be held on April 25 in Golden Valley, is canceled but will possibly be changed to a virtual meeting. See lwvmn.org - News and Events - for updates.
- LWV Roseville is allowed 8 delegates for Council 2020, if there is a virtual meeting. Sherry asked for volunteers to be a delegate. Barb Anderson, Barb Barany, Karen Schaffer and Sherry Hood all committed to being a delegate.
- LWV Minneapolis at our virtual Council 2020 meeting will be requesting that delegates concur with a two-part position on medical aid in dying.

- b. Vice-President - None
- c. Secretary - None

4. Reports of Committees:

a. Action Advocacy

- Statewide conference call was held on March 20. At the State – restore the vote is considered dead; redistricting is still a possibility.
- Action alert is the passing of voter privacy in the House of Representatives – HF3068 that relates to the passing of a voter’s party affiliation to the respective parties. This House file is now in the Senate.
- Earth Day events have moved online.
- Changes to events calendar – talk to Grace Riley at the State 651 424-4601.
- Vivian suggested that an annual review be done of the new member guide.

Observer Corps

- Continues with weekly agenda postings. Roseville City Council is still allowing people at meetings and Wayne has requested of the Roseville City Council that anything controversial be removed from the agenda for the April 13 meeting. Rachel saw on Facebook that Maplewood is doing virtual meetings. Most council and commission meetings are now closed to the public.
- Day at the Capitol was canceled due to concerns about COVID-19.

Environmental Subcommittee

- The Mayor’s Forum, to be held on March 24, was canceled and may be rescheduled for sometime this fall.
- Earth Day events have been canceled statewide or rescheduled online.

b. Communications

1. Social Media: Removed March programs from social media accounts.
2. Friday Email Blasts: Sent information about March and April events, the Women’s Expo and the Presidential primary. Also sent out information canceling events, both local and statewide.
3. Website: Posted list of events canceled.
4. *Voter*: March issue was published and distributed.
5. Updated our calendar to show that events had been canceled.

c. Membership

- No changes in membership since last month. 130 active members.
- The first membership renewal email went out March 1 with 26 responses. A second reminder went out March 15. A reminder note will be in the *Voter*.
- Spotlight article this month will focus on one of our long-time members, Carolyn Cushing.
- Treasurer Jessica Holz had a member who paid for two years of membership and that will be noted on the member’s account.

d. Program

1. The February program, co-hosted by the Roseville Library, on the Electoral College had 60+ in attendance representing both League members and many from the local community. Speaker and League member Karen Schaffer made the presentation from an educational perspective, not as advocacy. An informational video played on the screen

while attendees were gathering. Conceived by Sherry Hood and developed by Barb Anderson, the video highlighted the “Empowering Voters; Defending Democracy” activities of the Roseville Area League.

2. On March 10, a presentation, Civic Literacy 101 – Part III: The Judiciary was held at the Roseville Library. Guest speaker, Second Judicial District Chief Judge John Guthmann spoke on the framework of the judiciary in Minnesota. The presentation was organized by Sherry Hood and co-hosted by Do Good Roseville and the Ramsey County Library, Roseville.
3. Attendance at the March panel featuring local mayors speaking on environmental action at the city level, the Minnesota History Theater’s “Not for Sale,” and the April League Centennial presentation featuring author Josie Johnson were/have been canceled because of the Coronavirus outbreak. Note - Josie Johnson is rescheduled for September 16 at the Roseville Library.
4. An entry was made in the March *Voter* asking for suggestions for possible local League studies next year and program ideas for the 2020-2021 year. None have been received.
5. A summary of LWV Roseville Area programs impacting the *Campaign for Making Democracy Work* in the last biennial was submitted to the LWVUS as it plans for the 2020 National Convention.

e. Voter Services

1. On March 2, Teresa Wernecke and Marcia Cheney supported a MNVOICE canvassing effort in East St. Paul to GOTV for the Primary election.
2. The March 28 LWVMN Moderator and Event Planning training has been canceled due to the COVID-19 emergency, but is expected to be rescheduled.
3. Volunteers had been scheduled to offer voter registrations at Rosedale Center during the Women’s Expo on March 28-29, but that event has been canceled.
4. The Voter Services committee meeting slated for March 30 to determine election year priorities and responsible persons for activities has been canceled and rescheduled for May 14.

f. Ad Hoc Census Report

- Ramsey County – St. Paul Joint Complete Count Committee March meeting was canceled.
- US Census field work has been put on hold for two weeks. Door knocking for residences that have not responded has been postponed to the end of May (so far). US Census has said that they will not adhere to a strict end-date for completing census data collection.
- There is a day-to-day response rate update at: <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>. This can be viewed at the national, state, county, city, census tract, or congressional district level.
- Kindergarten enrollment night, on February 20 had census outreach tables at Central Park (Megan Gunnar and Teresa Wernecke), Edgerton (Marcia Cheney and Mary Peterson), and Little Canada (Barb Barany, Barb Christl and Alma Graf) elementary schools, with unattended literature tables at the other Roseville Area elementary schools. All Roseville Area Schools programs and activities have been closed since the beginning of Spring Break (March 9 through March 27) for planning. It is expected that there will be an effort at online census outreach when programs resume.
- North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale and Mounds View school districts: Marcia Cheney met with officials in each district, supplying census outreach materials and an offer of assistance.

- University of Minnesota Family Housing (Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative on the Saint Paul Campus): As a result of joint planning, Justin Markon of the City of Falcon Heights and Barb B. drafted census information that was emailed to all CTC residents (464 apartments), and provided to rental building managers in the rest of Falcon Heights. Yakasah Wehyee, Falcon Heights City Council Member and CTC resident recorded a video message that was also sent to CTC residents.
- Little Canada outreach to seniors previously arranged by Mary Peterson has been canceled.
- We will not do Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) outreach or in-person outreach at WIC offices. WIC staff has been telling clients about census at every appointment since October.

g. Ad Hoc Centennial Report

With Roseville and Maplewood Libraries closed (and we are not sure for how long) it was decided to cancel the Traveling Exhibit of *A Century of Civic Engagement: The League of Women Voters Minnesota* along with the LWVRA panel. This exhibit was going to be at the libraries the month of April but has been rescheduled for April 5-30, 2021.

5. Budget Committee Report

Barb A. presented the proposed budget for 2020-2021 and answered questions that the Board had.

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. New Business

- Sherry polled all of us regarding the LWVRA Annual Meeting scheduled for May 5. Discussion followed. (**see Action item A**)
- Rachel asked when the Annual Report needs to be done. Discussion followed. (**see Action item B**)
- Sherry asked about continuance of the present Board. Discussion followed and it was decided that the present Board members will continue indefinitely. If a Board member is not able to or does not want to continue they must contact Sherry.

8. Action items

- A. Jim motioned to postpone the May 5 LWVRA Annual Meeting to a later date to be determined by the Board. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Grace motioned that all committee reports for the Annual Report be submitted to Rachel by April 15 and out to members in May sometime. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Mary Peterson