



MINUTES OF THE LWV ROSEVILLE AREA BOARD MEETING, June 26, 2019

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.

Attendance: Present: Barb Anderson, Barb Barany, Joyce Briggs, Jim DeBenedet, Stephanie DeBenedet, Grace Gee, Wayne Groff, Sherry Hood, Karen Lake, Priscilla Morton, Rachel Geiser, Mary Peterson, and Beth Reinhart.

Others Attending: Michelle Witte, LWVMN Executive Director

I. Reports

A. Secretary's Report:

Barb A. moved and Karen seconded to accept April Board minutes. Motion passed.

Barb A. moved and Joyce seconded to accept May Annual Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

B. Treasurer's Report:

Joyce reported on an undated Treasurer's report (**see attachment**). Grace moved for approval of the Treasurer's report and Barb B. seconded. Motioned passed.

C. President's Report:

Sherry is looking at a possible power-point/video in the near future on the Roseville Area League. No President's call this month.

D. Vice-president's Report:

Barb B. is working on the Board meeting dates schedule for next year and is planning on continuing to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month with a few exceptions.

E. Communications Report:

Barb A. reported that Tara Jebens-Singh will serve as backup for email and website postings.

1. Social Media: Posted Beers and Book Reviews, and shares of other related postings, such as information provided by LWVMN.
2. Friday Email Blasts: Sent information on the Roseville Housing Network and action by the Roseville City Council regarding CommonBond development, reminders about the Sustainability Tour at Macalester College, the CMAL Annual Meeting, solicitation for election judges, events sponsored by other local organizations, and Save the Dates for the July and August programs. Also, sent out information about the Rosefest Parade.
3. Web page: Posted articles about the CMAL Annual Meeting, July and August programs, and Rosefest parade.

4. The *Voter*: May-June issue was published and distributed.

F. Membership Report:

- Membership roster is currently in process as this committee continues to strive for renewal confirmations. Reminder emails went out in late May and a final letter will be sent out on July 1. There have been four new members since January 1.
- Membership meeting was held in late May addressing: renewal follow-up; database review and update; new member packet review; membership brochure updating and assessment; informal new member gathering later this summer; and new member integration.
- Spotlight on a new member (or members) is planned for July/August *Voter*.

G. Program Report:

The Board was presented with a proposed summary of program events planned for the 2019-2020 year. It was noted that the September workshop will have limited participation - up to 50 League members, and will be opened to area Leagues once Roseville Area members have registered. Program committee has requested up to \$100 to provide for a "light" supper for League participants prior to this workshop. (see **Action Item E**)

H. Voter Services Report:

1. Sherry Hood, Grace Gee, and Karen Lake met on June 12 with Emily Hunt, a Ramsey County Elections official working with civic engagement activities. This is a newer position for Ramsey County Elections office. Information from this meeting is as follows:
 - There was discussion around Ramsey County wanting to partner with and expand their presence in suburban communities. When possible, they would like to staff a voter registration/information table at local candidate forums. Karen L contacted Nick Harper, LWVMN Civic Engagement Manager and he approved such an effort.
 - Emily Hunt requested that voter registrations at new citizenship services be stamped NC (naturalization ceremony) on the form. This has been approved by the Secretary of State office to authenticate that the registration has been completed by a naturalized citizen, alleviating delays for some new citizens needing to be validated through ISIS before actually being allowed to vote. Judy Stuthman agreed with this addition.
 - Ramsey County is involved in the Census effort and will likely be working with Barb B. in some activities.
 - Emily and staff at the Ramsey County Elections office have designed an excellent *Voter Guide* that will be available on the Ramsey County website. This guide will provide complete information and answers to most any, if not every, question related to government, elections, voting, and other civic issues.
2. Organized by June Stewart, LWVRA members participated in the Rosefest parade on Monday, June 24.
3. Mary Peterson is organizing LWVRA participation in the Little Canada Canadian Days parade on Sunday, August 4, with a parade start of Noon.
4. Voter Services committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Shoreview Library to plan for Fall 2019 activities.

I. Advocacy Report:

- No observer reports this month.
- Preparing for the annual observer workshop in the Fall and will try to recruit people from each of our cities. Priscilla will have a notice in the July/August *Voter*.
- Lead by Mindy Greiling and Bonnie Koch, LWVRA members attended the Roseville Planning Commission and City Council meeting to support the CommonBond Senior Affordable Housing proposal, which passed.
- Several LWVRA members attended the June 17 Roseville City Council meeting to support reduction of fees from \$1,800 to \$150 for churches providing temporary homeless shelter. This proposal (initiated by Wayne Groff) is being further reviewed and seems likely to pass in July.

Environment subcommittee:

- Many LWVRA members attended the Macalester tour of their LEED Platinum building and heard the results of Macalester's decade-long efforts on emissions reduction. An article detailing this tour will be in the July/August *Voter*.
- Four LWVRA members attended the Alliance for Sustainability workshop and met local government leaders, resource providers of clean energy, activists, and community members from all over the metro area and from the Chicago area. Also in attendance were Roseville City Council councilman Wayne Groff, the environment engineer, three PWET commission members, the Green Steps state director and many other local and regional staff and representatives. The keynote speaker described a 100-city common effort in the Chicago area to gain knowledge, make individual goals, and have accountability across a region for meeting those goals. This was an opportunity to learn about efforts being made by others and to network with other communities to leverage our experiences.

Resilient Roseville:

- Working on creating a mission statement.
- Prioritizing its efforts.
- Interested in solar for schools and hoping to obtain permission to present options from solar vendors to the school board. There was also an interest in the local building codes and their possible impact on business solar.

J. Ad Hoc Census Committee:

This committee met on May 28, co-chaired by Barb Barany and Tara Jebens-Singh. Much of the following was discussed and/or proposed.

- **Falcon Heights, Roseville and Maplewood** are all participating with the Ramsey-St. Paul Complete Count Committee (CCC), as is this committee. Barb B. has met separately with Falcon Heights representatives. They have begun distributing materials supplied by the CCC at community events. This committee has offered volunteer support, discussed presentations at Falconeers (seniors) meetings, coordination with Roseville Area Schools and U of MN off-campus housing issues, especially concerning international students and families. Lisa Scribner and Tara Jebens-Singh have communicated with Roseville. Carolyn Curti has been very helpful. Roseville will focus summer outreach at the August National Night Out event. Materials will come from the CCC. Roseville has been held up as a model for their online and print 2020 census information. Census was planned as part of our marching display at the Rosefest parade.
- **Little Canada** has established its own CCC and is not participating with Ramsey-St Paul CCC. Mary Peterson will reach out to Little Canada.
- Barb B. will communicate with **Lauderdale**, since the low count issues there appear to mirror those in Falcon Heights.
- Barb B. determined that **Roseville Area Schools** communications director, Josh Collins, will help with electronic and print communications as well as connect us with the individual schools for presence at events. Barb also met with Director of Community Education, Karen Schaub. Karen is enthusiastic about our helping with outreach at Early Childhood Family

Education (ECFE), senior programs and Adult Basic Education (ABE), where she proposes including a census unit. We may provide on-site census response assistance for seniors.

- Elizabeth Hansel discussed census with the Roseville Area High School government head teacher. She will prepare census information slides for presentation to government classes during the next school year. We can show the slides before many of our LWVRA programs this year and community education ABE may also make use of the slides.
- Barb B. has been in email communication with Kendre Turonie, off-campus housing director at the University of Minnesota. Kendre is part of the Minneapolis CCC and intends to convene a group to work on census for both Twin Cities campuses. The group will include representatives from the international students' office.
- Sue Gehrz, LWVRA member and a Roseville Area Community Fund director, made the excellent suggestions to provide outreach at the suburban Ramsey County WIC office and Ramsey County library pre-school programs.

Ramsey County-St. Paul CCC

- Lisa Scribner and Teresa Wernecke represented us at the April CCC meeting. The next meeting is July 18. Currently they are only seeking additional members from low count communities.
- Barb B. prepared elementary school attendance area low count summaries for each of the suburban Ramsey County school districts - Roseville Area, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale and Mounds View Schools

Grant Proposal

This committee prepared a census outreach funding request for the Roseville Area Community Fund (RACF) and received positive feedback. The request includes funds for liaison honorariums and facility use fees as well as funds for Roseville Area-specific translations, flyers and posters that we cannot otherwise obtain. The liaisons are to be recruited from members of immigrant and other low count communities.

K. Ad Hoc Centennial Committee:

Work group reports:

- December 12, Dinner Theater Centennial Celebration at Gulden's in Maplewood. Music by Ta-Ta Quartet during the cocktail hour followed by a buffet dinner and one-act play "From Seneca Falls to South St. Paul" women's suffrage presentation by Madeline Hansen after dinner. Chair of this event is June Stewart; members are Shirley Bradway, Mindy Greiling, and Diana Menanteau.
- April 21, LWVRA will co-sponsor with the Roseville Library, a discussion with civil rights activist Josie Johnson and her co-authors, Carolyn Holbrook and Arleta Little, about their book, *Hope in the Struggle: A Memoir*. Marquita Stephens will moderate. Chair of this event is Mindy Greiling; members are Marquita Stephens and Teresa Wernecke.
- Local supplementary exhibit: Working with the Roseville, Maplewood, and Little Canada Historical Societies to develop local League display panels to be shown with the State traveling exhibit at Roseville and Maplewood Libraries in April. We will also highlight Centennial news bits on social media. Chair of this event is Mary Peterson; members are Cathy Croghan, Carrie Dickson, Rita Mills, Lisa Scribner, and Teresa Wernecke.
- Souvenirs: Mindy Greiling and Cathy Croghan recommended purchasing 100 suffragette lapel pins to be given as a centennial commemorative gift to parade participants and attendees of the December Dinner Theater (on a first come, first served basis). (see **Action Item D**)

II Discussion Items: None

III Action Items

- A. Jim motioned approval of \$200 for honorarium for Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Joyce motioned approving the organization of the Ad Hoc Centennial Committee. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Barb A. motioned approval of up to \$300 for dinner theater event for LWVRA Centennial celebration. Wayne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Jim motioned approval of \$150 for Centennial pins. Stephanie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Wayne motioned approval of \$100 for Better Angels Workshop food in September. Barb B. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Mary Peterson

Michelle Witte, LWVMN Executive Director was present at the beginning of our Board meeting.

Michelle shared with us that the State Board and a half dozen local league members (a couple who are from our League – Mindy Greiling and Judy Stuthman) are working with the History Center gathering information for the LWV Centennial that will be featured in a special exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, being planned for a September 2020 opening. This exhibit will feature a local League each week.

Michelle asked if the Board had any questions or concerns.

Sherry asked about the President's Call as there has not been a call for a while.

Michelle responded that with the new Board just starting they are a bit behind. There will be a new way of accessing the President's call if you are not able to participate at the scheduled time. Members at times find it difficult to participate in the President's call at the scheduled time. If you are not able to participate at the time of the call you will be able to go online for notes or listen to a podcast of the meeting at your convenience.

Karen L. asked if the guidelines for candidate forums will be looked at by the State League. For example, can a candidate have notes, no notes, at a candidate forum? Michelle responded that Nick Harper has 34 recommendations for Voter Services for the Board to address. We will all never agree, but Michelle's job is to protect the League image. She gave the example of Steve Simon, Secretary of State, coming to our League for an event when he was running for office. In-person training is still important because not all people go to the available websites for information. The State League would like to do training for candidate forum organizers to ensure that all candidates receive the same set of rules and the volunteers are well prepared. Members are always encouraged to call with questions. It's hard to believe, but absentee voting begins in January, 2020 for the March primary.

Sherry asked: What about Vote411?

The Board approved membership for two years. The electronic voter guide system will have good, quality, non-partisan information on candidates running for office. The State League is hoping to do some beta testing this year as they want this to be a trusted site. The State League does not want to duplicate information and wants information organized. Michelle recommends that we create a specific committee within Voter Services to work on this. She thinks this will attract new membership.

Michelle stated that there are six communities asking to form Leagues. Wow!

Beth asked: Will the new member handbook be online? Michelle responded yes, go to the website for the newest version.

Beth also asked if membership dues will be administered through the State. Michelle responded no, not at this time. It would be a big change.

Michelle reminded us of Women's Suffrage Day at the State Capitol on September 8 and the State League 100th Anniversary Gala at the Union Depot on October 26.

All Board members introduced themselves to Michelle.