



## MINUTES OF THE LWV ROSEVILLE AREA BOARD MEETING, August 28, 2019

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

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m. by League President Sherry Hood.

**Attendance:** Present: Barb Anderson, Barb Barany, Joyce Briggs, Jim DeBenedet, Stephanie DeBenedet, Sherry Hood, Bonnie Koch, Karen Lake, Priscilla Morton, and Mary Peterson.

### I. Reports

#### A. Secretary's Report:

Barb A. moved and Bonnie seconded to accept June Board minutes. Motion passed.

#### B. Treasurer's Report:

Joyce reported on an updated Treasurer's report (**see attachment**). Jim asked what we could do with the excess money that we have. Could we spend some for a stated purpose, like Voting? How much excess money do we actually have? This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting. Stephanie moved for approval of the Treasurer's report and Karen seconded. Motion passed.

#### C. President's Report:

- LWVUS will be holding a webinar on September 4 to launch the People Powered Fair Maps Campaign. More information will be in the August 30, Friday email blast.
- Laura Helmer, LWV State President said the State Board is in need of a Voter Service chair.
- Celebrate Minnesota Women's Suffrage Day on Sunday, September 8, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the State Capitol.
- October 26 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at the Union Depot. Tickets will be available in September.
- Tool kits for 2020 Census and Primary election are available at the State.

#### D. Vice-president's Report:

See Ad Hoc Census Committee Report.

#### E. Communications Report:

Rachel, Sherry, and Barb A. are working on putting a video together about our League to show before program events and to link to YouTube.

1. Social Media: Created event in Facebook for the Legalizing Equality event on August 20; shared postings from LWVMN regarding the Women's Suffrage Day Celebration and other relevant issues presented by LWVMN.

2. Friday Email Blasts: Sent information on the Little Canada Canadian Days Parade; information from LWVMN regarding the Women's Suffrage Day Celebration; information from LWVUS about the virtual Town Hall meeting on Fair Maps campaign; invitations to participate in the Better Angels program and to attend the play Gloria: A Life; publicized the Voter Services committee meeting, the poster-making event sponsored by the White Bear Area League, and several events sponsored by the East Side Freedom Library.
3. Web page: Posted articles about the August program, the July/August Voter, and the Better Angels program.
4. The *Voter*: July/August issue was published and distributed.
5. PR: Sent information to newspapers about the August 20 Legalizing Equality event. This was published in the Roseville Review the day of, not the week before. It was published in the Pioneer Press.
6. Created and distributed an invitation in Evite to allow participants to register to attend the Better Angels program. Evite is free to use for free events, and allows one to track attendees and limit the number of registrations.

**F. Membership Report:**

- Membership roster is completed, with 125 members. There have been 11 new members since January 1, 2019.
- Membership has updated and completed the current directory and the official database.
- The first Spotlight article on a new member occurred last month in the August *Voter* with another Spotlight article planned for the September *Voter*.
- The State League has undertaken to develop a new service whereby it would centrally administer new member enrollment and subsequent billing of annual dues. New members would be billed at the time of joining and thereafter on the anniversary of their individual enrollment date, rather than the current system of universal calendar year billing. The chief challenge is assuring sufficient personal ties to our members and effective follow-up with delinquent dues payments to avoid unnecessary loss of members. Barb A. added that we would manage our membership through the new pilot project platform, and we would not have multiple lists that currently need to be synced. There will be one database that everyone on the committee can access. We would use that database, which also has email capability to notify members when their membership expires. The Dakota League is also under this pilot project.
- Stephanie asked when we have program events and she signs in members and nonmembers, what do we want to do with these numbers. After discussion it was decided that the numbers should be presented to the Board and included in the monthly Board minutes.
- Stephanie inquired about the possibility of having more social events like previously at the Little Venetian Inn by having dinner and then a program following. Bonnie noted that there will be opportunities this year to socialize at program events.

**G. Voter Services Report:**

- Cecilia Warner, Grace Gee, and Teresa Wernecke will coordinate the organizing of Fall Candidate Forums.
- ✓ A candidate forum will be held October 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Offices for candidates for city council and mayor. Linda McLoon will moderate.

- Rita Mills continues to serve to interface with White Bear Lake Area LWV to communicate via LWVRA channels the Forums sponsored by that League which serve the interest of candidates and citizens of cities where representation crosses boundaries.
- Citizenship Ceremonies in the future are going to be held in larger groups, for the most part, at the River Centre, St. Paul. Judy Stuthman is currently well-supplied with volunteers but will communicate any needs via LWVRA Friday email blast, website, and Facebook.
- Census – Barb B. updated on the work of the upcoming 2020 Census effort and distributed samples of information handouts designed by Ramsey County. Volunteers, in addition to the current core committee, will be needed later in 2019 and 2020.
- June Stewart, Barb B. and Abby Marier on August 6, National Night Out, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, staffed a voter registration table and conversed with and distributed Census information to attendees from the Summit-University area.
- High Schools:
  - ✓ Alana Howey – Roseville Area High School
  - ✓ Sherry Hood – Fairview Alternative School
  - ✓ Karen Lake – Mounds Park Academy, Hill Murray, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture
  - ✓ Cecilia Warner will check on a contact for Concordia Academy in Roseville.
- Registrations will continue to be offered at LWVRA programs, candidate forums and at other sites. Requests for LWVRA to offer voter registrations will be accommodated if at all possible.
- State Fair assistance with voter registration in the Secretary of State’s Office booth was communicated to all LWVRA members with sign-up instructions.
- Assistance with voter registrations and/or absentee ballot applications at Senior Residences was tabled for this year.
- Assisting with Community Colleges voter registrations will be considered per requests.
- Rita Mills suggested that an article be provided for the *Voter* after the November election that explains Minnesota moving to a Primary Election in 2020 and how that will work.
- The following is an overview provided to us on Vote411. *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.*
  - ✓ A local coordinator for the State LWV Vote411 effort will be needed, likely in early 2020.
  - ✓ Questions were raised for Sherry to address at the President’s conference call, including clarification of who will submit information, who will edit it, whether it will eliminate local publication of candidate’s information etc.
- Text reminders about voting and election dates will continue to be available from the State LWV. In the “TO” space enter 33222. In the “SUBJECT,” enter MNVOTE.

#### H. Program Report:

Rita Mills submitted the September program meeting information:

- ✓ The “Depolarizing Within – Better Angels workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, from 6:00– 9:00 p.m. at the Autumn Grove Park building. It is recommended that people come at 5:30 due to numbers and space.
- ✓ Moderators currently scheduled are Bill Doherty (founder) and Bruce McKenzie.
- ✓ Carol Marchel made contact with Better Angels to schedule this workshop and June Stewart scheduled Autumn Grove.
- ✓ Rita is working with Pat from Better Angels on materials for the workshop (about 4-6 pages) and will send pdf’s to Barb A. who will have them copied at ISD 623 copy center.
- ✓ Carol, Florence Sprague and Rita designed the ¼ cards that were distributed at Books and Brews and elsewhere.
- ✓ Barb A. created and linked Eventbrite.com registration form to track numbers.
- ✓ Florence and Rita worked on articles for the *Voter*.
- ✓ Some attendees will be from the State LWV office and State LWV Board and from ISD #623.

Bonnie reported on the October program meeting:

The October meeting was originally planned to address loneliness, a cross-generational health issue. Because an appropriate speaker could not be found the direction was kept in the health field but changed to the topic of affordable health care which is an ongoing discussion point by candidates running for office in 2020. Member Val Swenson has arranged for Rose Roach, Executive Director of the Minnesota Nurses Association, to speak on “Why We Can’t Afford to Not Have Healthcare for All.” It will be co-sponsored with Roseville Area Advocates for Minnesota Health Plan.

Member Georgeann Hall had spoken several times about not having a League member socializing option at meetings, so she is making arrangements for the October meeting to return to the Little Venetian with a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and speaker at 6:30 p.m.. We are also working with the Census Committee to show a short census video during the social hour to make attendees aware of the upcoming census. Please note that the meeting will be on October 8, one week before our usual meeting date.

**I. Advocacy Report:**

Priscilla reported that the action/advocacy committee will hold its information workshop on the observer corps on September 30 at the Lexington Park Building from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All League members (and others) are invited to attend. This has been posted in the *Voter*.

The committee is considering a change of process this year. Going forward they will ask interested League members to check agendas online for upcoming city council, commission, and board meetings, and then let the entire League know if there are agenda items that are of concern to the League. The agendas and supporting documents are normally posted on websites in advance of city council, commission, and board meetings. Sherry suggested that the committee ask a member from each city to monitor their community agendas and pull out topics of interest to the League. Bonnie noted that she and Mindy are monitoring our local area on affordable housing.



Environment subcommittee: (report from Donna Peterson)

- The environmental meeting in March will be a panel with officials from each of our five cities to address environmental successes and action plans.
- The tour next June will be to learn more about the Ramsey County Watershed District, some of their projects, with a site visit to one or two locations.
- A Sustainability Fair will be held on Saturday, September 7 at Falcon Heights Community Center. More information in the August 30 Friday email blast.
- The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day will be in 2020. This committee and Resilient Roseville will be looking for ways to be involved.
- There will be a major environmental “strike” on September 20, led by youth with a march to the State Capitol and other actions such as leaving school or work on that Friday afternoon.

**J. Ad Hoc Census Committee report:**

- Teresa Wernecke and Barb B. attended Ramsey County outreach training and learned that:

- ✓ “Informational” census forms are available on the US Census website and do not include the citizenship question.
- ✓ The postcard/letter requests to respond to the census will not include the information that a paper form will be sent later if you do not respond online.
- ✓ Once paper forms are sent out it will be possible for us to have paper forms on hand at outreach events.
- ✓ For both online and paper responses we can answer questions but we cannot fill out a form for someone else.
- ✓ The census training was combined with Ramsey County voter registration outreach, where a request was made for the volunteers to give Ramsey County information on why eligible citizens choose not to register to vote, or choose not to vote once registered. They are especially interested in neighborhoods with low voter participation rates.
- Complete Count Committee: Lisa Scribner, Teresa Wernecke and Barb B. attended the July quarterly meeting. The CCC has outreach materials (postcard/flyer) for distribution. Subcommittees are continuing planning.
- National Night Out – Mary Peterson and Rita Mills did census outreach in Little Canada neighborhoods, Lisa Scribner in Roseville. Census information and voter registration information was provided to House of Hope neighborhood event. Census outreach will be included with voter registration tables whenever possible.
- Cities:
  - ✓ Mary P. met with Little Canada. They are actively involved both with the CCC and their independent efforts.
  - ✓ Rachel Geiser met with Maplewood. They are not enthusiastic about the CCC.
  - ✓ There was no response from Lauderdale. We will keep trying and will include Lauderdale apartments with our off-campus University of Minnesota plans.



- ✓ Barb B. recruited one of the Falcon Heights city council candidates, who lives in graduate student housing, to help with the census after the election.
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC). This committee will meet with supervisory WIC staff at another time to plan how LWVRA can help with outreach.
- Barb A. asked - what about translators. Barb B. said that questions could be emailed in the person’s language and an answer received back in their language. Census workers with second language skills are needed.

**K. Ad Hoc Centennial report:**

Work group reports:

- December 12, 5:00 p.m. Dinner Theater at Gulden’s in Maplewood with entertainment by the TaTa Quartet, (cost of \$300) and a women’s suffrage presentation by Madeline Hansen entitled “From Seneca Falls to South St. Paul” (cost of \$300). Votes for Women balloons were ordered (Mindy has) to decorate along with historical materials from the archives. The Board approved up to \$300 for the Dinner Theater event, \$125 would be needed if 40 people attend and \$275 if

30 people attend. The dinner, at \$25 per plate and charging \$40 will help to cover most of the entertainment. We will cover five dinners for the quartet and speaker, \$125.

- April 21, 2020, Josie Johnson is confirmed and possibly her co-authors Carolyn Holbrook and Arleta Little (invited but not confirmed). Co-sponsoring with the Roseville Library. The library community room is reserved. Marquita Stephens will moderate. Chair, Mindy Greiling, members: Marquite Stephens and Teresa Wernecke.
- Suffragette lapel pins were ordered and Cathy Croghan has them.
- Little Canada and Roseville parades were a great success.
- Local supplementary exhibit work group (chair Mary Peterson, members: Cathy Croghan, Carrie Dickson, Rita Mills, Lisa Scribner, and Teresa Wernecke) have been working with local historical societies developing local display panels to complement the LWVMN traveling exhibit and creating posters to take to events. (See **Action Items**)

## II Discussion Items

- Vote411 – State and local primary candidate and election information would have to be set up by the corresponding state and local leagues. Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Director, and the person in charge of the State Vote411 project, does not know, as of yet, if the state is going to cover expenses incurred by the local leagues who participate in this project.
- Sherry asked if anyone was going to the State Capitol on Sunday, September 8 for Women’s Suffrage Day. It was assumed that people planning on attending would attend on their own.
- Next Board meeting, we will review the budget to discuss e.g. how much money is committed, not committed, etc.



## III Action Item

Barb A. motioned approval of up to \$500 for design, printing and purchase of a panel to complement the LWVMN traveling exhibit. Bonnie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Mary Peterson