

LWV OF CALVERT COUNTY

October 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: JC Hooker, Gladys White, Sandra Raviv, Norma Onley, Pat Pease, Sharron Bickel, Margaret Dunkle, Tricia Powell, Sue Bilek, guest

Absent: Maureen Hoffman, Jane Crawford

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda: President JC Hooker called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM; the group observed a moment of reflection on the attack against Kurdish allies by Turkey. JC announced we will try to keep reports to the Board to five minutes in order to get through a full agenda.

The agenda was approved with several brief additions. Sue Bilek introduced herself and requested League support regarding her ideas for promoting communication and understanding between Calvert neighbors with opposing political perspectives, especially in the area of climate change; she noted the state of our currently fractured and polarized community as reasons for grave concern in a democracy. Sharron Bickel is interested in working with Sue to develop her ideas and will report back to the Board; a work session at the end of the formal meeting to draft our priorities for submission to State League will discuss League involvement in Sue's project.

Minutes (Sandra Raviv): September Board meeting minutes were approved with provision that primary sponsors of items for vote be identified where feasible. Margaret Dunkle moved for an amended motion to approve minutes.

Treasurer Report (Tricia Powell) A budget for 2019-20 was presented giving projected revenues and expenses based upon 84 members at \$50 per person dues (and excluding WOW figures that are maintained separately). Tricia also distributed a list of members paid to date (55) and a bank reconciliation statement which she will provide monthly. After some discussion of need for a policy to address dues for mid-year enrollments of members, the Treasurer's report and budget were approved (Raviv moved).

Membership: Renita Alexander is no longer serving as chair and JC Hooker is filling in until a new Membership person can be appointed. She outlined several outreach activities to encourage new members, e.g, new member packets, letters to members who have not paid dues, etc.

Old Business

Finance Committee (Tricia Powell): Janet Bellizzi and committee will work on a resolution to the mid-year membership dues question.

Nominating Committee (Gladys White): Two additional Board members are needed; the Nominating Committee is tasked to propose two candidates.

Voter Services (Gladys White): Voter registration training was attended by 46 individuals from LWVCC and partner agencies held September 17th. Most Board of elections staff were there as well. The next training will be in January, 2020. While the press did not attend the training session, the Calvert Recorder ran an article on LWVCC voter service activities as well as two mentions in editorial columns. Krista Boughey also wrote a piece for the Bay Weekly.

Two voter registration sessions at CSM on September 24th and October 2 brought in 73 new voters. Next voter registration events will be Oct 15 at Patuxent H.S., Oct 21 at Northern H.S., Oct 30 at Calvert H.S., and Nov 6 at Huntingtown H.S.

Legislative Evening (Chris Banks, reported by Gladys White): All invited delegates have accepted except for Jack Bailey. Volunteers are in place for food and supplies, sign up table, moderator, announcements, time-keepers, student volunteer coordinator, and displays and set-up. There is a possibility for a speaker from the 2020 Census staff. Fourteen organizations have signed up to speak; outreach will continue to engage students, as well as additional organizations and individuals to speak.

Sponsorship and Partner Organizations: LWVCC has approved \$100 to NAACP in addition to several other donations we make annually to buy ads in printed programs of partners; these are included in the 2019 budget.

Overview of Goals and Objectives: tabled due to Maureen's absence.

History Fair (Margaret Dunkle): Flyer for the History Fair was distributed with current theme of Breaking Barriers in Voting. Margaret acknowledged the Board's commitment to provide \$250 for the award sponsorship.

Template for LWVCC Responses to Organizational requests: (Sandy Raviv)
The draft template was distributed and approved (Margaret Dunkle moved).

NationBuilder/Social Media (JC Hooker): Frank and Janet Bellizzi are assisting with transition from WIX to NationBuilder scheduled for October 31st. Sandy Raviv and Herb Wolff are currently training on NationBuilder to pick up webmaster duties after transition is completed. JC Hooker will provide backup. We still need someone to pick up the LWVCC FaceBook page.

Observation Team: (Sharron Bickel): The next Observer team meeting will be October 17th at 11 am at Dream Weaver Café.

Census 2020 (Gladys White): The Calvert Complete Count Committee of which League is a member will be October 16th at noon at Dream Weaver Café. The committee needs a chair or co-chairs, but at this point Gladys feels that LWVCC cannot provide the leadership and should remain a participating organization.

Social Media/Publicity: Chair position remains open.

State League (Pat Pease): Focus is currently on Kirwan Commission on Education; there is some concerns about Governor's routing of money to school buildings rather than teachers and staff. There was also a discussion on required civics or government classes for high schoolers. State Leagues in general are questioning the shift in National League from "consensus" to "concurrence" on policy decisions which appears to remove the opportunity for States to discuss and weigh in on decisions and issues.

WOW (Tricia Powell): The first organizational meeting took place with review of tasks. Tickets will be \$35 for the luncheon. The WOW celebration will be April 18th. Some discussed the opinion of keeping awards for individuals rather than groups or committees.

Events (Norma Onley): March 17th is designated for a fundraiser; Norma is exploring venues for this event. Other fund-raising ideas include a golf tournament, a gala event, a boat ride out of Solomons, a crab feast at White Sands or the Solomons boat ride.

Women's Suffrage (Sandy Raviv): Sandy will be assisting Grace Mary Brady with an exhibit dedicated to the 100-year celebration of women's suffrage and the outstanding ladies of Calvert who represent "firsts" in their fields. The Bayside History Museum will hold the exhibit in February, and then provide displays at the library based on the exhibit.

Other/announcements/topics:

The Holiday Social this year will be December 8th from 2-4 pm at the Bayside History Museum, 4025 4th St, North Beach, MD. JC Hooker suggested we make a donation to the Museum by way of thanks for accommodating us on several occasions and members agreed.

JC also suggested we have one of our Board meetings at Asbury Solomons so some of our members who live there can attend; it was agreed that our February meeting would be held there.

JC has been in touch with Calvert Board of Education to add LWVCC to their list of organizations where students can earn community service points. The BOE will get back to her. She mentioned the clean-up of Dowell House as one possible project for student volunteers.

Also discussed with the BOE was the idea of developing League chapters in the high schools; contacts have already been initiated at Huntingtown in line with BOE processes. Ms. Conti is the contact on the BOE.

On Friday, October 18, the Calvert Community Resource Fair will be held at St John Vianney Family Life Center from 11-2 with set-up from 9-10. The LWVCC is participating and will give out literature and register voters.

Sharron Bickel updated her phone number for Board/membership rosters.

State Board Legislative priorities: A review of last year's priorities and present choices was discussed. LWVCC listed 1. Making Democracy Work with emphasis on voter access 2. Redistricting, especially as affected by the 2020 Census and 3. Protecting the Environment: Climate Change. These encompass the ideas that Sue Bilek described at the beginning of the meeting and she and Sharron Bickel will meet to work on this project. The priorities will be sent to the general membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 pm (Raviv moved).

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Raviv, Secretary