



Board Meeting Via Zoom

Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm

**In attendance:** Jessie Gomez, Mary Dwight, Emily Crain, Linda Donaldson, Trudy Rankin, Bobbie Boat-Wright, Katy Pace-Byrd, Vicki Lowe, Charlene Bennette, Blair Allen, Sandy Sheets, Eileen Swiler, Ben Graffam, Karen Freeman

**President report:** vote to approve past minutes - passed

**Treasurer Report:** Terry is overwhelmed at work at the moment but when things settle a report will be sent out for review

**Constitution Day** – (Jessie Gomez and Andy Crossfield) – a proposal was sent out for two ideas: 1) to participate in two Friday events one in Lakeland (First Friday, Friday, Sept. 2nd) and the other in Bartow (Friday Fest – Friday Sept. 16th) and at these events we would make voter registration available and hand out pocket sized Constitutions with a book mark in side advertising the League; 2) was to reserve a room for Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at a restaurant and have a League gathering discussing the constitution and generally communing with each other. – Discussion commenced about “celebrating” the Constitution in light of DEI studies about how racism is so embedded in U.S. history and our Constitution. The focus being on educating the public about the history of the Constitution in lieu of “celebrating” it. After much discussion it was decided to have a breakout committee to discuss what was to be done for Constitution Day.

Motion brought up to have a break out session; Motion made to edit Constitution Day events (made by Sandy Sheets and Seconded by Trudy Rankin);

Sandy Sheets Moved to delegate the decision to executive committee on whether to have constitution day or to make adjustments to the ideas proposed after further discussion amongst breakout committee. Trudy made a motion to create a breakout meeting which consist of Trudy, Jessie, Charlene, Mary, Bobbie). The breakout committee will stay on the Zoom call after the board meeting to discuss further and make a decision and report back to Emily Crain) - motion passed

**DEI Committee - (Katy Pace Byrd)** discussed briefly about the books they have been reading (20 books over a two year period) and how they highlight in detail the discrimination that the U.S. was founded on and is perpetuated in our Constitution; Fall readings 1619 Project; On Thursday Sept. 1 the DEI committee will be going on a tour of the L.B. Brown House in Bartow which was built by L.B. BROWN, who was born a slave but was freed and stayed in Bartow and became a business man, subsequently built the L.B. Brown House.

**Natural Resources – (Karen Freedman):** new electric car event on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Munn Park, a link was sent out if people want to attend and get more information; also school board approved to allocate money to purchase electric school buses, \$95k per bus but they didn’t tell Karen how many buses were going to be ordered;

**Voter Services – (Linda Donaldson):** Larry Rankin forwarded an email from the SOE (Lori Edwards) pleading for more Poll Workers. There is a shortage and Mrs. Edwards requested that Leaguers help recruit workers. Positions are paid. Also, Voter Services Zoom Sunday at 5pm.

New member sitting in and observing – Ben Graffam

**Closing The Gap - (Trudy Rankin)** – asked the three League members who ran for office to come and talk about what it was like to run for office at the next Closing the Gap; last year leaguers saw that the annual booklet’s description / position on various topics were not inline to what has been worked on over the past couple of years, changes were made

but without approval from State and/or board. Discussion on how to change positions was briefly discussed and was clarified that a board consensus had to be made in order to make the changes. To address how to go about making changes Trudy will arrange to have a speaker discuss this during October's Closing the Gap.

**Jessie Gomez (Redistricting Grant)** – wanted to get Board discussion on how to handle the Grant; we have left over gas / grocery gift cards together with T-Shirts; Discussion about holding an event at THE WEL, a small event so that we can hand out the gift cards and other merchandise; Vicki Lowe moved to extend the deadline for submitting Grant summary – Eileen Swiler seconded motion; Jessie Gomez, Motion to use money and merchandise at second event and seconded by Eileen Swiler. Jessie Gomez and Emily Crain will be emailing/calling LWV State to request an extension.

## **END OF BOARD MEETING**

**Next Meeting:** Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 12pm via Zoom

Breakout Committee met after: (Jessie, Mary, Katy, Trudy, Bobbie, Charlene, Eileen, Ben) Education vs. Celebrating – Social Gathering vs. Friday Events: the idea of DID YOU KNOW inserts in the Constitution everyone agreed this a good educating tool; Vote was made – Education vs. Celebration -decided for EDUCATION no on celebration; Vote was made about Social Gathering vs. Friday Events – decided to have a social event after the November election and to have Education event on First Friday and Friday Fest – both votes Passed

To summarize: We will apply to attend Lakeland's First Friday on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Bartow's Friday Fest on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Constitutions will be handed out, but will have Did You Know inserts giving readers historical insight to the Constitution. Any social gatherings will be done after the November election.