



Board Meeting Via Zoom

Saturday, May 20, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

## **MINUTES**

**Voting members in attendance:** Charlene Bennett, Linda Donaldson, Carole Essy, Jessie Gomez, Ben Graffam, Bobbie Boatwright Harris (Zoom), Breezi Hicks, and Eileen Swiler (Zoom).

**Non-Voting members in attendance:** Katy Byrd, Trudy Rankin, and Karen Freedman

Motion made to approve both March and April minutes; motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report:** None.

**Treasurer's Report** will be presented at next meeting. Regarding the numbers on the financial report, nothing has changed since the report delivered at the Annual Meeting in April.

**Standing Committee Reports:** Karen Freedman presented a recent overview of the Climate Action Committee, including some upcoming events.

**New Business:** Jessie Gomez moved to approve the appointments of two board members, Karen Freedman and Ashley Lauretta. Carole Essy seconded. Motion passed unanimously. A suggestion was made to consider Lynne Paredes to fill the third slot of appointed board members, but this was tabled for the next meeting.

The Gun Safety Committee, as reported by Trudy Rankin, will be working with Gene Wilder of the Lakeland Police Department, staffing a table on June 6 at the Masonic Lodge at 3933 1st Street in Lakeland.

It was discussed briefly that perhaps a change in language might be helpful, changing the label of "Committee" to "Action Team." Decisions were tabled until later, but it was suggested that we think about this change in light of what we do and how we want to be perceived. Action team sounds more functional, more empowering.

Eileen Swiler presented information she received from Jo Shim that Amy Weintraub, Co-Chair Reproductive Rights Action Team, LWV, St. Petersburg, wanted local Leagues of Woman Voters to join the Floridans Protecting Freedom group as a sign of advocacy. No donation is required, just the name of our organization and our address. Charlene Bennett moved to proceed with this process, and Carole Essy seconded; motion passed unanimously. Eileen Swiler will be the point person on this.

Karen Freedman queried about possible funding for upcoming events for her Climate Action Committee. It was agreed that she should investigate these possibilities.

Our next three meetings will be June 23, July 28, and August 25. These meetings will be at noon and on Zoom. This keeps us working with the fourth Friday of the month schedule for our board meetings.

Breezi Hicks reminded us that National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 19. We always take part in that day with some action.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:15

### **The Board Development Meeting**

Both after and before the meeting, the members present discussed several ideas that might serve as working targets for the coming year. Included in these discussions were:

1. Exploring other Leagues' use of Program, to see if what is being done elsewhere might serve us well.
2. Framing each Committee's/Action Team's year under a set of goals so to see if we have accomplished what we had hoped for.
3. Developing opportunities for building leaders and coaching protocols, using the strengths of League members with great experience to show newer members some of what's been done over time.
4. Creating a members' handbook, similar perhaps to the Directors and Officers Handbook Katy Byrd assembled. A model of St. Pete's Members' Handbook was presented.
5. Exploring the possibility of making it a regular situation to have both a president and a president elect, so that the latter will have a year to observe and get a feel for the office.
6. Considering whether we should have occasional Board Development Meetings.
7. Considering how we could have more of a year-round presence in the area, creating more visibility for our League.

All Board Members were encouraged to visit this website:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/league-fundamentals/training-series-building-effective-board-directors>

to check out information on Board Member Responsibility: Operations & Governance.

Addendum:

Board Meeting Via Zoom  
Thursday, June 1, 2023 @ 6 PM

### **MINUTES**

**Voting members in attendance:** Linda Donaldson, Carole Essy, Jessie Gomez, Ben Graffam, and Eileen Swiler (all on Zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 PM.

Given that this is a meeting of the executive board, a quorum was met.

Jessie Gomez moved to approve the allocation of \$250.00 to the Gun Safety Committee for the printing of Education Materials, especially for a tabling event on June 17, Juneteenth. Ben Graffam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Donaldson will email the Gun Safety Committee to inform them of our vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM