



Board Meeting Via Zoom

Friday, December 8, 2023 @ 12:00 PM (Zoom)

MINUTES

Voting members in attendance: Kristen Carlson, Linda Donaldson, Karen Freedman, Ben Graffam, Lynn Parades-Manfredi (connected during the meeting), and Eileen Swiler.

Non-Voting members in attendance: Trudy Rankin.

The meeting was called to order at 12:04.

A quorum was not attained so there was no voting at this meeting. Thus, many notes here will be acted upon later.

The minutes for October 27 were accepted.

Treasurers Report:

- Kristen Carlson reported that our assets are \$25,608.21 and that only a couple of signatures are needed to complete the transfer from Terry Lauretta to her for the duties of Treasurer.

President's Report:

- We still have not heard about our four pending grants—one for Gun Safety, one for Returning Citizens, and two for Voter Services.
- Both Superintendent Fredrick Heid and County Commissioner George Lindsay would appreciate opportunities to speak with our group.
- Our signature cards at MidFlorida Credit Union need updating connected to the transfer of Treasurers (see Kristen's note, above).

Committee Reports:

- Returning Citizens Restoration of Rights: Larry Rankin was not present at this meeting.
- Communication: Ashley Lauretta was not present at this meeting.
- Climate Action: Karen Freedman reported that the local Polk Clean Energy Alliance, which is paired with our Climate Action Committee, will have a presence at the Lakeland MLK parade on January 20. Karen not only is asking membership for volunteers, she also wanted permission to put our logo on the banner for that event.
- D,E,I: Katy Byrd and Bobbie Boatwright Harris were not present at this meeting.
- Education: Since we have no chair for this committee, Carole Essy normally reports. However, Carole was not present at this meeting.
- Gun Violence Prevention: Trudy Rankin reported that having discovered the "GoFundMe" grant requires an individual to register that process on their personal tax form, and since no one in the group wants to do that, that grant is no longer moving forward.
- Healthcare: Paula Mims was not present at this meeting.
- Reproductive Health and Justice: Jo Shim and Jen Cordova were not present at this meeting.
- Voter Services: Jo Shim was not present at this meeting.

- Membership: Linda Donaldson reported that we will be paying our Per Member Payment (PMP) when the bill comes in, probably by the end of January. We will probably have 102 members at that time. Also reported was that the local, state, and national dues for members of the LWV will rise, next year, to \$75.00. There will be “pay as you can” possibilities for these dues.
- Speaker’s Bureau: Jo Shim and Ben Graffam spoke at the membership meeting for our league on November 28.

Program:

- Linda Donaldson reported that our league will continue its pursuit of “informal coffee” meetings in the attempt to get more people together in the same place to discuss the league’s activities and goals. She also mentioned that we are getting T-shirts so to increase our visibility at our activities and tabling events.

Unfinished Business:

- The creation of a membership handbook has been shifted to the responsibility of the Membership Committee.
- We are still looking for a way to both increase and to make readily available our volunteer pool.

New Business:

- Ben Graffam agreed to become the person who will collect the mail from the Lakeland Post Office on a weekly basis. Linda Donaldson will provide him with the key.
- The Beacon Hill Fellowship would like a copy of our insurance since we are using their hall regularly for our membership meetings.
- We plan on providing a gas card (\$50.00) to all drivers to Lobby Days in January. Several members have expressed interest in attending.
- We will have a presence in two groups at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on January 20. Our Voter Services Committee has registered, and (mentioned above) the Climate Action Committee will join with the Polk Alliance of Clean Energy.
- We will seek to join the Vote:411 project since this is a presidential election year, though the cost is \$150.00 and had not been previously budgeted.
- Our newsletter is now a monthly publication, available at our website and delivered by email. The minutes of our monthly board meetings are also available at our website (password protected).

Our next meeting will be on Friday, January 26, at noon. We will try to make that an in-person meeting.