



Board Meeting Via Zoom

Friday, January 26, 2024 @ 12:00 PM (Zoom)

MINUTES

Voting members in attendance: Charlene Bennett, Kristen Carlson, Linda Donaldson, Carole Essy, Karen Freedman, Jessie Gomez, Ben Graffam, Bobbie Boatwright Harris, Ashley Lauretta, Lynn Parades-Manfredi, and Eileen Swiler.

Non-Voting members in attendance: Paula Mims, Trudy Rankin, and Jo Shim.

A Quorum was confirmed. The meeting was called to order at 12:02.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- According to Kristen Carlson, based on December 31, 2023, when the last bank statement was balanced, we have \$26,985.00. But given this is January 26, and other monies have been acquired, we have: \$27,644.00. Kristen added, as a review of function statement, that we use the Quicken program to balance our books, a program that costs us \$90.00 per month. Kristen believes we could, if we saw fit, shift to Wave, a free banking software, that would serve us just as well. Linda Donaldson assigned Charlene Bennett to “shadow” Kristen in the use of Wave so to get another set of eyes on its merits.

President's Report:

- Linda Donaldson reported that, in continuance of our seeking increased visibility of LWVPC, we participated in the Martin Luther King Jr Parade of January 20. We had a six person team at Lobby Days. We are getting there.

Committee Reports:

- *Returning Citizens Restoration of Rights*—Larry Rankin was not present
- *Communication*—Ashley's report was moved to later in the meeting (unfinished business)
- *Climate Action*—Karen Freedman reported that this group marched in the MLK Parade. There are many events on the horizon, including two electric vehicle events in April. In fact, April has become Drive Electric Vehicle Month. Contact Karen to volunteer for any or all of these events.
- *D,E,I*—Bobbie Boatwright Harris reported that this group continues to focus on memoirs that explore the diversity elements of D,E,I. February 13 is the last presentation of “The Black Experience.” Bobbie and Terry Coney will be at the Children's museum teaching about life during Jim Crow America. She is also going to join with Trudy Rankin for a series of educational classes on Post Traumatic Slave Disorder. Another talk she will give has to do with the failure of Black Women to receive franchise in the 1920 voting rights act. The series is at the Rath Center, beginning February 8; the talk is for the AAUW at 11:30 on February 27, at the Wales Point Restaurant in Lake Wales.

- Education—Carole Essy reported that this committee is still without an active chairperson, and that she and Charlene Bennett are still doing the work of staying up to date with the State Education Group.
- Gun Violence Prevention—Trudy Rankin reported that we gave out 130 gun locks at the MLK Parade. She has not heard on the grant her committed is seeking.
- Health Care—Paula Mims reported that this committee is supporting the Health Equity efforts of the state, as well as repositioning for this year. There are some restricted funds at the Education Fund (ours) with the state, and they would like to retrieve these.
- Repro Health and Justice—Jo Shim reported that this group feted the doctors and nurses at the Women’s Health Center in December. We also purchased lockers for the Health Center.
- Voter Services—Jo also reported on several events at registering voters and teaching about voting. Polk State, Florida Poly, and the Children’s Museum. Given that this is a year of two primaries, several municipal elections, and the national election in November, Jo hoped that everyone in the league sees themselves as a voter registerer. We will have many registration tables in the next several months, so please sign up.
- Speaker’s Bureau—Trudy Rankin reported that Sue Schultz presented at Cypress Lakes on issues of education. She also noted that Ben and Jo have a presentation scheduled at the same site for February 29.

Pro Tem Committees:

- Our nominating committee is now working to find candidates for our offices next year. Our budget committee is also at work. Trudy and Paula are on the committee right now.
- Budget Committee: Kristen Carlson, Sue Schultz, and Nancy Futch make up this committee. Should we involve new people? Kristen will seek input and willingness for this. Paula is willing to pitch in, if the scheduling works. Linda added that each committee needs to email Kristen about their particular monetary needs.
- Leadership Training Committee: This committee will become a program that consistently turns over, the leaders trained this year will run the committee next year.

Unfinished Business:

- We are in need of changing our password. Ashley reported that this was an easy maneuver, and Bobbie Boatwright Harris come up with a suitable offer. It will be used. The issue is how to distribute the new password to the membership. A site is available that we will use, and there will be a time slot for retrieving those passwords.
- Beacon Hill Fellowship is still looking for a copy of our insurance.

New Business:

- Ben moved to provide a \$50.00 gas card to each driver to Tallahassee’s Lobby Days. There were two drivers, Breezi Hicks and Beatty Raymond. Since this was already discussed, and since it is a committee motion, there not only needs no second, and so it should move forward.
- In the fall, we applied for four grants, received two (restoration of rights and voter services), were denied one (voter services), and are still waiting on one (gun violence).

- Our annual meeting, it was suggested, should not be held in the middle of the day, as that prevents some members from attending. We are going to seek a day and time, with an emphasis on later in the day. Vicky Lowe is the initial point person.
- Our Lobby Days Team received a marvelous donation of \$50.00 each for their trip to Tallahassee. We are in great appreciation of that gift. Many thanks to the anonymous donor.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, February 15**, which is Susan B Anthony's birthday!!

Our meeting was adjourned at 1:14.