
LWV Polk County

Minutes of Monthly Board

Meeting **Corrected**

Friday, January 28, 2022

Attendees

Board members present: Sandy Sheets, Vicki Lowe, Terry Laurretta, Ivette Herrera-Singh, Natalie Alexich, Jiwa Farrell, Katy Pace Byrd, Bobbie Harris, Andy Crossfield, Charlene Bennett, Karen Freedman, Emily Crain

Board members absent:

Others present: Linda Donaldson, Marcia Boyce, Paula Mims, Trudy Rankin

Notes

- Quorum was present and established
 - Meeting called to order at 12pm with Vicki briefly presiding (Sandy joined in after the start of the meeting).
 - Minutes - motioned by Andy to approve minutes, as amended (minor changes from Linda), from November 19, 2021, seconded by Charlene. Passed Unanimously.
 - The Treasurer's Report, Terry
 - Holding steady at \$20,950.40 between all accounts.
 - Two people pre-paid dues:
 - Charlene has a credit, no need to pay for this year (2022).
 - Jo Shim paid late in December, credited for this year (2022).
 - \$95 of the funds donated for the Edie Yates memorial trees remains unspent; can be used for flags when doing in person events.
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- We are ahead of what we budgeted for.
- \$3,777.69 is not the final number:
 - Have to pay State affiliation dues. \$1,300 left to pay.
 - Have not been getting quarterly invoices, need to follow up.
 - Not yet billed for liability insurance - when it comes in that will be \$500.
- We are in the black.
- To answer Linda's question - requesting funds for the renewals, there's still \$303 left in membership. If already approved, no need to bring it to the board. If you have that money to spend, then no for re-approve.
 - Katy will include a membership dues reminder in the newsletter
 - Trudy can also get it on a slide in Closing the Gap.
- Membership ends March 31, 2022, new membership starts April 1, 2022.
- Andy moves to accept the treasurer's report, second by Karen, passed unanimously.
- Executive Committee Report, Marcia Boyce - has nothing to report at the moment but will have in February.
- New Business, Andy
 - Annual meeting is on Friday, April 8, 2022
 - LWV Florida President Cecile Scoon had asked to meet with committee members of our chapter along with the groups we partner with locally. Andy has asked Larry Rankin for help putting the events together for this visit. He is involved with NAACP. Cecile will give the keynote address on April 8th.
 - After that, committee chairs and board members meet at Grasslands with Cecile.
 - Later in the evening, invite the board, Cecile, leaders of NAACP, Puerto Rican Chambers of Commerce, LULAC with their spouses, have a social and have Cecile talk about what the League is doing about voter disenfranchisement that is going on here in Florida. This will be of importance to all groups present. There are some details that need to be ironed out with Cecile.
 - This is to be held at Patio 850
 - This will be on our dime but Vicki has mentioned to Andy that the League has money available for outreach for the community. If not we can do a donor drive in the community.
 - Saturday morning, Andy had Larry working with Terry Coney, President of the NAACP, to invite their members to the Colman-Bush building along with members of Puerto Rican Chambers of Commerce and LULAC to talk about disenfranchisement.

- About Friday afternoon, Andy would like to ask the board if he can reach out to representatives of the coalition of women organizations the League had worked with in the past and invite them to meet with Cecile and hear her talk.
- Read the agenda that went out and so many of us work so hard and our members aren't even aware of what is being done in this League. Emailing our members' committees' reports.
 - Vicki - some information may not be privy for our members.
 - Jiwa - how much of the annual meeting will be accessible virtually? It will be available on Zoom.
 - Natalie - agrees with Andy because so many of us are doing a lot and our members need to know about it.
- Healthcare Action Team update, Paula -Moms with Monitors
 - T. Leroy Jefferson (TLJ) said they would take us in August but would need to pay \$3,000 for an intern to collect/analyze the data.
 - Florida Department of Health (DOH) - Joy Jackson, Taylor Freeman and Jenna are completely interested in this program.
 - They have plenty of information regarding the importance of maintaining healthy blood pressure.
 - Funding or helping to write grants - we cannot do that. We can look for grants.
 - Want to meet at the end of February to go over this.
 - Bringing this to the board because we will not be working with TLJ and shifting the BP monitors with Florida DOH.
 - Do not like to move forward without letting the board know of the new information.
 - It's less money working with Florida DOH than working with TLJ.
 - Still in authority of motion that was passed.
- Outreach, Linda
 - Linda reported everyone on the board should have received the status report on the postcards that explains there is a big difference between the original quote versus where the project stands now. The estimate to print and mail the postcards using Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) was originally based on 500 cards. That quote was \$379.81. Linda also mentioned she understood money left over from Edie Yates Memorial fund could be used for the postcard if its cost went over the original amount.
 - Updates: the size of the card went up, it now must be 6.25" x 9" per the printer
 - Quantity of cards must increase. Using Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM), we cannot designate the number to be delivered. **The number of addresses on the chosen route is**

the quantity that must be printed and delivered. The 500 postcard quantity is not applicable.

- The postal route #33805-C054
- Already spent \$26.40 on the photography.
- Printing is \$552.53
- Linda also suggested LWVPC donate a book of stamps to Larry L. Jackson Library for anyone needing to send any requested registration forms.
- Move to approve the cost of the photo and the printing and mailing of 724 postcards \$578.93.
- Move to offer to place stamps Larry L. Jackson Library at the cost of \$11.60.
 - Any discussion? Linda asked Terry: Since we had in voters services \$600, can this be used for these postcards? This will come from Outreach.
 - Terry - Can this fall under voter education? Yes, it can.
 - Andy, can you put a plea in the renewal letter to let people know specifically what we do and how the money helps?
 - Andy asked if the photo was copyrighted.
 - Linda - Photo purchase cost of \$26.40 included the copyright.
 - Andy was asked if it be further explained in the membership renewal letter how exactly this money is being used?
 - Move to approve the printing and mailing of 724 postcards \$578.93. to be funded by unencumbered funds. (When expensed it will come from Voter Education).
 - Andy seconds, all in agreement, passed unanimously
 - Move to offer to place stamps Larry L. Jackson Library at the cost of \$11.60.
 - Andy volunteered to pay for the book of stamps
- Speaker's bureau, Trudy
 - Closing the Gap (CtG) has now had 80 - 85 episodes in the course of the last two years and would like to make a suggestion for the board to consider: taking the month of March as preparation for the Annual meeting with Cecile. Andy, can you take three weeks in March or the whole month? It would be a way to promote the annual meeting.
 - Also suggest someone taking over the speaker's bureau during the summer and doing personal meetings and/or Hot Topics and Trudy would resume Closing the Gap again in the fall. Does not want to compete with in person gatherings and Hot Topics for fear of people choosing Closing the Gap over the others. Trudy will not be available in March.
 - Following schedule for February :
 - Dory Larsen and Karen Freedman speak about clean energy, Feb. 2nd.
 - Eileen Swiler and Ginger Munday, Reproduction Rights and Justice, Feb. 9th.

- Break for Feb. 16th.
 - Tom Palmer is available on Feb. 23rd to speak about recycling.
 - Andrew Learner available at the end of March (he is tentative)
 - Vicki - understood it as CtG and Hot Topics as separate entities. Trudy, yes but would like for CtG and Hot Topics not to compete and if Hot Topics is in person would like to have people come in.
 - Andy is Available for the month of March and will think of ways to promote the annual meeting and come up with interesting topics for CtG.
- Voter Services, Jiwa
 - Sent an email in mid-January asking what route voter services members wanted to take given our continuing unknown situation with our current COVID situation. How we can stay effective. Here were three ways that were discussed:
 - Returning Citizens , providing direction for legal services
 - Postcards
 - Vote 411, talked about as an effective tool for some counties not others, but State is willing to help us out.
 - Most members of voter services did not want to engage in returning citizens campaign because they would like to work on things to register/educate voters, the main thing was educating voters.
 - Vote 411, if in fact this is something we should ask the State to come in and help this League with this.
 - Terry - was Vote 411 something that was labor intensive and produced few returns?
 - Katy - Jessie had done this prior and she said it was labor intensive and not worth it at the time. One of the major problems was that whoever was running would not respond to her questions.
 - Terry - have to speak to everyone who is running. It also costs to participate.
 - Jiwa - go back to Marisol who is the State voter Services chair and Vice Chair at the State League and get more info on it.
 - Terry - see if anything has changed.
 - Vicki - make sure they understand what we did in the past
 - Action - Jiwa will explain to State what was experienced in the past and will reach out to Jessie
- Grants, Jiwa

- Leah reached out to Jiwa to inform her about three separate grants that are available having to do with redistricting that we can apply for, deadline of March 31st:
 - Grassroots redistricting education pass-through grant for training trusted messengers
 - Grassroots redistricting education pass-through grant for public incentive
 - Presentations
- Leah told Jiwa these grants are for local Leagues and to please apply.
 - Vicki - could be a good time to get Kristen Carlson to participate in this if she has any public speaking engagements this would help out.
- Terry - a budget needs to be decided on (there is no specific dollar amount on these grants). Which of the activities you want to do and how much it will cost (say what you will spend the money).
 - Does it need to go to the board? It may
- Katy - maybe educating on redistricting after the fact because of the deadline to apply.
- Terry - any idea on how this money would be spent?
 - Yes, Vote Riders created by Selena Gomez, she helps people in affected states understand what they need to do to have proper voter identification at the polls. It is an education process and they are nonpartisan. They align with other groups in states like Florida. Something that we can initiate with NAACP, LULAC and other civil rights organizations. Vote Riders would work with us in collaboration with NAACP and others.
- Terry - suggestion to Linda you can have a small QR code on your postcards detailing what you need in order to vote.
- Climate Action Committee, Karen
 - EV awareness campaign we met twice with Dory Larsen in November and January.
 - Will be on CtG on Feb. 2, 2022 at noon.
 - Community outreach: Karen, EV 101 virtual presentation to Ancient Island Sierra Club on Feb. 10, 2022 at 7pm.
 - A HOA from Lake Wales reached out to do a presentation there in March.
 - Looking for more outreach opportunities for virtual events.
 - In person/outdoors events - in Oct. we did an in person event (not with the League) and we had a couple of people there in two events, Lake Wales and Winter Haven. Owners had their EV there and spoke to people. Good turnouts.
 - Drive Electric Earth Day (DEED) April 2022
 - National free EV events organized locally by volunteers.

- Similar to National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) held each October
- Polk NDEW events in Lake Wales and Winter Haven on 9/24/21 were very successful.
- National nonprofit organizers (Plug In America & Electric Vehicle Association) provide free:
 - Interactive website for each event.
 - Online toolkits & resource materials.
 - Literature & “swag” to give to event attendees.
 - <https://driveelectricearthday.org/>
- Possible events & dates:
 - Three tentative events: Lake Wales, Winter Haven and Lakeland and/or Bartow.
 - CAC is researching Polk area Earth Day celebrations, to coordinate .
- LWV-Polk Sponsorship request for Polk DEED events.
 - LWV-FL supports participation in DEED.
- Committee is requesting \$100 to cover copying fees and to buy cleaning supplies to clean the car people sit in.
 - Terry - Climate has another \$94 to spend
 - Keep in mind that with copying, the committee can come to Terry or Sandy.
 - Next meeting is on Tuesday Feb. 1st at 3pm.
 - The Polk County Commission appreciated the notebooks. Trying to get on their schedule.
- Katy/Terry - put on the newsletter for committees to put in the request for budgets.
- Linda - New member orientation Feb. 20th at 2:30pm, at Beacon Hill Fellowship.
- Motion to adjourn? Katy moves, seconded by Ivette, unanimously passed, meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.
- Next meeting, Friday, February 25, 2022 at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivette Herrera-Singh, Secretary