
LWV Polk County

Minutes of Monthly Board

Meeting **Corrected**

Friday, June 25th, 2021

Attendees

Sandy Sheets, Vicki Lowe, Ivette Herrera-Singh, Andy Crossfield, Natalie Alexich, Larry Rankin, Linda Donaldson, Karen Freedman, Jiwa Farrell, Katy Pace Byrd, Eileen Swiler, Bobbie Harris, Jerry Weeks, Emily Crain, Charlene Bennett

Absent: Terry Laurette

Notes

- Meeting called to order at 12:02pm with Vicki presiding, briefly.
 - Vicki reported quorum was present and established.
 - Minutes - Andy moved, second by Vicki, to approve minutes from May 21st, 2021, passed unanimously.
 - Presidents' Report, Vicki - some fundraising ideas since in person fundraisers are not an option, offer a signed, limited edition fine art print of "United We Stand". This is an actual print of the postcard Sandy and Vicki sent to thank the board and committee members after the Annual Meeting. More to come in the next newsletter.
 - LWVF Convention Report
 - There were moments of frustration but overall it was an interesting convention. There were moments of inspiration and situations that were handled very democratically.
 - Juneteenth Status Updates: Jiwa - Juneteenth in Winter Haven was led by Linda Donaldson. At Lakeland, it was from 3-5pm with Bobbie, Larry who are certified to register voters and Natalie
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was there to educate on voting and the LWV. Monday there will be a meeting to decompress on the Winter Haven and Lakeland events, what was good, what could be done better, etc...

- The League has 12 people that are certified to register voters
- There were activities for the kids that were a hit
- For Winter Haven there had blowups for kids, food trucks, lots of nonprofit vendors
 - It was a city wide event for Winter Haven
- Sponsorship of **Red, White and Kaboom** - Paula said we are good to go! It is one event on July 3rd from 6-9pm at Lake Mirror Promenade
 - Bring non perishables for VISTE's food pantry.
 - If you can't bring non perishables you can donate online/text.
 - lakelandgov.net/departments/communications/red-white-kaboom/
 - Text 50155 with the amount you would like to donate.
- As a result of Cecile Scoon's report a few weeks ago, a working group on the Returning Citizen's issue (Amendment 4) is meeting Thursday at noon on Zoom.
 - Composed of Andy Crossfield, Trudy Rankin, Jean Baker, Cindy Phoa and Breezi Hicks.
 - Seeking to offer returning citizens a service that can help them track down their outstanding fees and introduce them to various pro bono legal services In Polk County.
 - The other option is to petition the Clerk of Courts to reduce, waive the fees or have someone else pay for them.
 - We also realized there is no formal communication between the Supervisor of Elections office and the County Clerk's office, so we are also working to facilitate that communication by enlisting the help of Lori Edwards and Stacy Butterfield.
 - All this can help reintroduce these citizens to society and register to vote.
- Climate Action Committee Report, Charlene
 - Pleased to announce that the climate action is now number two on the state LWV's list of priorities. Karen and Charlene have been attending the state Natural Resources Committee meetings and participating in developing a new state LWV resolution to be issued soon.
 - The Climate Action Committee is preparing to follow up on our previous meeting with the county manager . We are working on a presentation for the county commission which will be a shortened version of what was presented to manager Beasley and are shooting for a time slot in September at a county commission meeting.
 - Also hoping to develop a Hot Topic on a climate issue and will be brainstorming this in a future meeting. Tentative date would be in October.

- **New Business:**

- Linda wants to know when we can discuss face to face meetings for members.
 - Would have three meetings in person throughout the year (not counting Constitution Day and Christmas Party, they are social events).
 - To discuss in the next Membership meeting we have: Linda, Natalie, Charlene, Andy, Jerry, Emily and Terry.
 - Discussed in the next Membership meeting: having in person meetings, hybrid meetings, Hot Topics.
- Linda - ways to help people join when they cannot afford the \$60 annual fee
 - Thought of a sponsorship - a sponsor would pay a certain amount that would help others join.
 - Those who are sponsored would have to pay \$10 and also do volunteer work.
 - Sandy motioned to have the Membership committee to analyze the prospect of scholarships for membership and create a proposal.
 - Moved by Vicki, seconded by Katy, unanimously passed.
- DEI Book Club - Katy announce that Dr. Ethelene Jones, a retired physician, chair of the LWV FL's Speakers Bureau and co-author of LWV FL's DEI work plan for Florida's local leagues, will speak to us and answer questions on Monday, August 30th - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
- Andy suggested putting up the Board Minutes on a members only page.
 - Don't put up until approved in a meeting.
 - Jesse Gomez and Jerry Weeks started working on a members only page.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm.
- Next Meeting, July 16th, 2021 at noon via Zoom.
- It was discussed and we would like these meetings to be recorded - friendly reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivette Herrera-Singh, Secretary