

---

# LWV Polk County

## Minutes of Monthly Board

### Meeting **Corrected**

Friday, September 24, 2021

—

#### Attendees

Sandy Sheets, Vicki Lowe, Ivette Herrera-Singh, Natalie Alexich, Larry Rankin, Karen Freedman, Jiwa Farrell, Katy Pace Byrd, Bobbie Harris, Jerry Weeks, Andy Crossfield, Emily Crain, Jean Baker, Paula Mims

**Absent:** Terry Lauretta, Linda Donaldson, Charlene Bennett, Eileen Swiler

#### Notes

- Meeting called to order at 12:04pm with Sandy presiding.
  - Quorum was present and established
  - Minutes - motioned by Sandy to approve minutes, pending correction, from August 24th, 2021, Andy said yes seconded by Katy.
  - The Treasurer's Summary was sent out.
  - Executive Committee Report:
    - There is a new training sponsored by the state League, held by Racial Equity Institute and Katy will be representing us.
    - Held on 10/16 & 17.
  - New Business
    - Vicki sent out the State Priorities to Blake.
      - Thanks to Andy for compiling.
      - Six people submitted.
-

- Technology, Jerry:
  - New Members only page - only visible to our members and it is password protected.
    - [lwvpolk.org/members\\_only](http://lwvpolk.org/members_only)
    - Not writing the password in minutes.
    - Jessie Gomez worked hard on the page with Jerry.
    - We have CTG videos.
  - We have storage on Google - 15 GB for free.
  - We are going to need more space:
    - Zoom Storage plan is \$480/yr for 100GB.
    - Google Basic Storage plan is \$20/yr for 100GB.
  - When we re-signed with Zoom we saved 20% which came out to \$45, we can pay for two years of Google with this.
  - Vicki asked if there is another way to save space like zipping the video files but that doesn't do much for saving space for video files.
  - Where to put the annual meeting and DEI recordings?
  - Mentioned from Jerry to spend on more storage for the next two years with the Google Basic Storage Plan, Vicki seconded, passed unanimously.
- HealthCare Action Team, Paula - presentation on Moms with Monitors
  - Reminders of goals from a committee standpoint for advocating for our State Legislative Priorities, reducing maternal and infant disparities, study and act to improve mental health in Polk County and support the Reproductive Health and Justice Committee.
  - The Plan:
    - Distribute blood pressure cuffs to high risk pregnant women in Polk County.
    - Train women to take blood pressure (bp) twice a day and report back to the provider every Friday.
    - Providers will prescribe if needed the following: bed rest, medication, etc.
    - Providers will report to T. Leroy Jefferson (TLJ) Medical Association every three months for data analysis.
- This position is under expanding healthcare access in Florida
- There are other leagues also concentrating on maternal and infant healthcare disparities.

- We have spoken to March of Dimes and others in our studies.
- We met with Nancy Gau who is chair of the healthcare committee in LWVPBC, has this very same project going in Palm Beach in partnership with Dr. Brown-Graham who is an active OB-GYN. Dr. Brown-Graham is on the TLJ Medical Association and National Medical Association Boards.
- Funding for the project in PBC:
  - Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies - \$3,000
  - League and personal money - \$500
  - TLJ - \$1,250
  - HMHB bought the initial 50 cuffs
  - Still have \$1,750 for more cuffs
- March of Dimes has signed on as a Collaborative Partner.
- TLJ has accepted us as a Pilot Study participants
- Mothers will have training materials
- Action Plan:
  - Board approval
  - Funding
  - Provider acceptance
  - Define MOD participation - nutrition, mental health, etc.
  - Purchase of cuffs (wholesale, donation?)
  - Get Started
- Budget: the budget is for 100 cuffs but would start at 50 first
  - Expenses:
    - $\$45/\text{cuff} \times 100 = \$4,500$
    - Materials  $\$6/\text{mom} \times 100 = \$600$
    - One time contribution for TLJ = \$250
    - Total = \$5,300
  - Income:
    - Corporate Sponsorship/Grant = \$2,500
    - LWV Polk Educational Fund = \$500 (please consider \$750 or higher)
    - Fundraising efforts \$2,300
    - Total = \$5,300

- Motions for today on behalf of the Healthcare Action Team Paula motions for the following:
  - That we approve Moms for Monitors as a project of the LWV Polk County, giving permission to the Committee to fundraise, obtain grants, and participate with collaborative partners.
  - That we approve \$500 from the LWV Polk County Education Fund through LWV FL to be applied to Moms with Monitors.
  - Remember that the funding amount can be amended and where it comes from.
- What are we obligated to do if we approve this project? Who will collect all data, make sure the cuffs get returned?
  - In PBC, Healthy Moms Healthy Babies buys the cuffs.
  - Provider is giving the cuffs and training materials.
    - Anticipate buying the cuffs at wholesale.
- There are some concerns like staying with the cuffs (like storage):
  - We would buy small then get more if needed.
  - This would not be a storage issue.
- The major concerns are does this fall within the League priorities and the taking of the funds.
- When we apply for money from the Ed fund, we have to spell out what it is going to be used for
  - The money would go mostly to purchasing more cuffs
  - What would be spent on education
  - With every cuff comes with an educational packet
- Agreed to meet with Sandy to address some concerns.
  - Also bring in Nancy Gau to discuss the project with the Board.
  - Maybe also fund it through the Department of Health, get in touch with the Minority Health liaison.
  - This will be revisited and Paula will get with Sandy.
- Public Forums/Lakeland Local Elections, Andy:
  - Barry Friedman's (editor and publisher of the *Lakeland Now*) group will be holding this candidate forum but for future consideration the League should participate in such forums whether they are county wide or not.
  - Suggested that the public forums should be addressed on a case by case basis regardless if they are countywide or not.

- Is there a motion? Yes, motion is that in the future we throw out the [notion] that it has to be a countywide race and council each one of these [races] to perform the, what I consider the duty [of the League] and hold candidate forum. All in favor? Anyone second? Vicki seconds.
      - Any Discussion: Katy - We have to see our volunteer resources and the case by case basis approach makes sense.
    - Call for a vote? All in favor “AYE”, any oppose? No one replied
- Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm
- **After Adjournment:** Vicki presiding
  - Voter Services, Jiwa:
    - Larry is asking for a stand sign that are much taller
      - This is for when we go out to voter registration education
      - Prices range from \$70 - \$120 from different vendors.
    - How to expand the budget for the Voter Services team - there was no actual budget when Jiwa took over.
      - Larry used to get all the materials from the SOE but because of the SB90 lawsuit we can no longer take materials from the SOE.
      - The budget is inclusive of Voter Education, Voter Outreach, and Voter Registration.
        - Would be used for voter registration educational materials, like postcards, etc.
          - How much should be asked for?
          - It is really creating a budget from where there was none.
      - We can use State League materials or materials we print out ourselves.
      - If we do anything locally it has to be approved by Cecile and state lawyers all due to the lawsuit.
        - Do we take a voter registration form?
        - We can but we may not want to
          - We should be printing this ourselves.
          - If we pick it from the SOE with our number on it we will be accountable for it and because of the lawsuit, we don't want to do that.
        - Can we list the asks and send it via email?
          - Everyone reads and votes?

- Approving postcards through Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) via the USPS.
  - We want to clear the photos being used.
  - Linda has offered \$600 from Outreach to Voters Services for this purpose.
  - [www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm](http://www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm)
- There is a Veterans Fair engagement event, we need approval.
- Jerry and Ann wrote an updated letter to the Editor that required Board approval.
- We are allowed to partner with the NAACP as our bandwidth allows for candidate forums
  - Is it all or nothing? We are waiting for final confirmation.
- Sandy and Vicki can approve the images
- Sandy and Vicki can approve letter
- Extension of funds for Voter Services
- Team up with the Veterans' group for fair on October 22nd at the Dream Center - could be what Larry needs for the stands for, need approval to spend the money (\$70 - \$120)
- Please send a simplified list for the group and send it Vicki
- The whole Board can vote by email
- Also an Executive Committee meeting will be meeting soon!
- Next meeting Friday, October 22nd, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivette Herrera-Singh, Secretary