
LWV Polk County

Minutes of Monthly Board

Meeting **Corrected**

Friday, October 22, 2021

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Attendees

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

Board members absent:

Others present: Karen Freedman

Notes

- Quorum was present and established
 - Meeting called to order at 12:03pm with Sandy presiding.
 - Minutes - motioned by Sandy to approve minutes, from September 24th, 2021, Andy said yes seconded by Katy. Passed Unanimously.
 - The Treasurer's Report, Terry - no report has been sent out
 - CPS (Terry's former employer) was giving the LWV free access to QuickBooks for the past five years.
 - LWV is going to have to become independent on how to support and sustain its finances.
 - One accessible way to do so is to subscribe to QuickBooks.
 - Terry will contribute the first year until she is able to get it in the budget next fiscal year.
 - It would be \$25/month (\$300/year)
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- Is there a way to reimburse Terry?
 - Terry said if there is a surplus at the end of the year then reimbursement can be discussed.
- \$18,113.28 Checking
 - We are in the black we are not running on a deficit (half way through the year, compared to budget we are ahead by \$3,638.77).
- \$250.71 Savings
- \$2,407.49 Ed Fund (will confirm with State if this is correct figures)
- Needs to meet up with Andy to sign some checks (Andy can stop the first of next week).
- Revenue is keeping pace with what we had anticipated.
- Motion by Terry that the League purchase the lowest level of QuickBooks Online for \$25 a month - Second by Andy.
 - Discussion: Natalie, when does it have to be purchased by? ASAP.
 - Passed Unanimously.
- Memorial - Todd picked out the Hong Kong Orchid tree.
- The City has plans to plant two and has picked the spot. They will be planted side by side almost across the street from their house.
- There is usually a ceremony and Todd and Sara are interested in participating. Whoever's idea it was to have a ceremony please help out to plan it. Also needs help writing the QR plaque.
 - Asking Family and Will for dates for the ceremony.
 - Andy can help plan it (press).
 - Stacey from the City said the first two weeks in November is fine to plant the trees.
 - Katy will help with any writing.
- Policy Review, Terry - For the policy review committee Charlene, Karen Andy and Terry had signed on for this.
- Initially there were one or two policies that have come out and as we have had more meetings there have been other things mentioned.
 - There have been at least eight to nine topics that have been mentioned.
 - Did meet with Sandy in September asking for a direction on where to start.
 - Going to state to see what they have. They have a book to look at these and will then put together the committee.
 - We should all agree on what policies the committee is looking at.

- There was a vote to look at the following:
 - Non-partisan policy.
 - And the policy of giving our funds to other organizations.
- Not sure if there has been any other votes on other topics.
- Next meeting we can regroup and have everyone agree on policies we all agree with.
- Vicki is also on the committee.
- We can also look at holding forums on municipal elections and have a policy on this.
 - We need to have a common ground with this.
- Race Equity Institute, training, Katy:
 - Great training about 38-39 people attended.
 - Had a fair amount of knowledge about racism thanks to the DEI book club.
 - There was diversity in the group.
 - The 80 page book was given out and will pass it on.
 - History of the last 400 years is on white affirmative action.
 - Motion to establish a 4-5 member standing DEI Task Force, co-chaired initially by Bobbie Boatwright Harris and Katy Pace Byrd.
 - Discussion: none
 - Passed unanimously.
- Climate Action, Charlene - We had discussed last time that we had made our book of presentation to the county commissioners with no response. About a month after that we sent a message to Bill Basely, asking about what was the reaction to the information sent, again with no response.
 - Our committee has discussed making individual approaches to the commissioners, if anyone is open to that.
 - Has some trepidation because Charlene's daughter is the long range planner director there and talks to people that often talk to the commissioners.
 - If the committee decides to approach the commissioners individually Charlene may keep her name out of it.
 - Board is fine with that
 - It could be that the commissioners are not open to what was presented to them.
- Climate Action, Karen - we did discuss sending a note to each of the commissioners to see if they have had time to review the notebooks that were sent.
 - That type of follow up is fine.

- Some of the committee members participated in the Nation Drive Electric Week events in Lake Wales and Winter Haven.
 - Made a connection with the Winter Haven mayor and he is very interested in sustainable living.
- We are also a part of the LWV FL Clean Energy and EV and they are having training on November 8th and the 16th. They will repeat the training in January.
- Andy, Comments - Cecile Scoon is doing a great job in bringing the League back into prominence. To honor her at the end of her term. We have the opportunity to give her something to thank her. She will be a speaker at our annual meeting.
- Report, Andy - there is a sub-committee of the voter registration committee that has been meeting the last couple of months trying to figure out how the LWV can help returning citizens register to vote.
 - The committee has already had interviews with the following people:
 - Clerk of Courts Polk, Stacy Butterfield
 - State Attorney Polk, Brian Haas
 - Public Defender Polk, Rex Dimming
 - Clemency Board for State of Florida, Sherrie Woody-Loud
 - CEO of New Life Outreach Ministry, Larry Mitchell
 - And President and CEO of CareerSource Polk, Stacy Dominick-Campbell
 - The reason the list is so long it is because the information is spread out everywhere. There is no one place to gather all the information needed to answer one question: to get my voting rights back, how much do I owe?
 - There are 67 clerks of courts, 67 different methods to find out how much you owe.
 - First question is what is the role of LWV Polk today and our voter registration efforts? What should our efforts be this year and next year since it is an election year?
 - Natalie is a big proponent of voter education and returning to the basics, where and how to register to vote, status issues, etc.
 - Education in terms of what is on the ballot and thoroughly explain all the issues so that voters are well informed or direct them to places to get more info to further explain all the issues.
 - Vicki - we are trying to get to people that are discouraged or on the fence. We need to be there where they are. We can sit in front of a supermarket and educate people.

- Andy - Should we try to educate people on the security, stability and safety of voting by mail?
 - Sandy - 1. It gets us out to do it 2. Be open to those who are naysayers and involve them and 3. Say we did it.
 - Does the board support a LWV representative to visit correctional facilities to educate them on restoration of rights (distribute approved information)?
 - Sandy - sure, will motion if you need it but by consensus...
 - Does the board support an active ongoing speaker bureau type event offered to civic groups concerned with returning citizens rights?
 - Sure
 - This could be used to motivate some of our membership to participate - agreed
 - Comments, Vicki - Linda and Vicki attend a workshop, the group that is working on the same thing, St. Pete League. All the things Andy has mentioned they have been doing the same thing. We can connect with them.
- Emily - we are going to be doing research for the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition - to restore felons rights to vote
- Jiwa - Basic message I wanted to convey today was in regard to register voters, in the executive board meeting we decided not to register voters (because of SB90). But we can still do voter education and voter outreach. In order to register voters under SB90 is through a third party entity, such as NAACP, LWV (when we are not in a lawsuit). One way to do this is through the SOE, Lori's office is able to provide an individual information on how to sign themselves up to register voters. In this case we can communicate with Lori Edwards' office. Cecile confirmed that you have to have to be a part of a third party voter registration organization, even if that is the SOE. The idea of registering voters is there, just not under the LWV.
 - Vicki - We have to figure out how we can afford what to do and how to get more funds.
- Vicki - who wants to do an Ad Hoc committee for fundraising, Ivette will help out, Jiwa will do it if her availability allows it. Vicki - when the time comes I will send a joint message to everyone and whoever wants to join is there.
- Motion to adjourned? Andy moves, Seconded by Vicki, unanimously passed, meeting adjourned at 1pm.
- Next meeting Friday, November 19th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivette Herrera-Singh, Secretary