
LWV Polk County

Minutes of Monthly Board

Meeting **Corrected**

Friday, November 19, 2021

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Attendees

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

Board members absent: Emily Crain, Jiwa Farrell

Others present: Linda Donaldson

Notes

- Quorum was present and established
 - Meeting called to order at 12pm with Sandy presiding.
 - Minutes - motioned by Andy to approve minutes, from October 22, 2021, with Karen's name being changed from others present to Board members present, seconded by Terry. Passed Unanimously.
 - The Treasurer's Report, Terry - no report has been sent out
 - QuickBooks Online has been purchased, first three months are discounted at 12.50 then the following months go back to \$25 will kick in after.
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- In the process of rebuilding the books from the beginning of the fiscal year, this is the best way to do this. Verbal report again:
 - Checking - \$18,233.28
 - Savings - \$250.71
 - Ed Fund - \$2,407.49
 - **Total Cash - \$20,891.48**
- The only change to report since the last meeting, we got two more memberships.
 - We are \$60 ahead of what was projected from memberships.
 - We are still in the black.
- There is one check that was picked up in the mail that has to be deposited.
- Any questions about the money? - No.
- Memorial, Terry - Andy's speech was amazing and Katy's wording for the memorial digital plaque was wonderful. Katy is planning to put it on the newsletter. Covered well by Lakeland Now and the Ledger.
- Andy moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Katy. No discussion, passed unanimously.
- In person meetings, Andy - What do you think?
 - Ivette - the convenience of being able to schedule things around the meeting time, driving expenses (not working), COVID concerns regarding the family, and meetings being recorded.
 - How about a compromise and resuming Hot Topic in person?
 - Charlene asked about the idea of having hybrid meetings. It was mentioned that it depended on the equipment.
 - Linda - the fellowship meeting hall that Jerry had gone to has the capabilities of holding a hybrid meeting. It was doable at this hall, Beacon Hill Fellowship in Lakeland.
 - Sandy - Gray and Robinson also have the capabilities to host hybrid meetings.

- Also, people find Zoom very convenient regardless of COVID and being a county wide League it is a way to include everyone. Trudy is doing a great job with this in her board meetings.
- Vicki suggested that Andy or someone else do research on this and start with Hot Topic in person? See how many people attend or want to come.
- Andy suggested kicking off in person meetings with a social event but finding a place to host it became an issue (where would it be hosted?)
 - Because of the current situation, it is hard to find people that would open their homes to such events. Alternative would be open, public spaces.
 - Patio 850 in Lakeland is an outdoors restaurant
- Terry advised for the annual meeting to be held in person and make that the kick off event for in person meetings.
- Andy proposes to choose a volunteer to work with him to pick a location for the annual meeting based on Cecile's availability and look into what event would be the kick off event for in person meetings. Everyone ok with that? Yes, seconded by Ivette, passed unanimously.
- Vicki - Cecile will be going to all the leagues and has a set of requirements met:
 - Larger meeting with several people (annual meeting).
 - Smaller meeting with committee chairs and leaders.
 - Can be piggybacked
 - Third one is to meeting with partnering organizations
 - She wants to know who we will be working with in the upcoming elections.
 - She wants us to plan and work together with those organizations.
- **Kathy Ables** is someone who Sandy knows that could possibly host us for the annual meeting, stay tuned.

- Membership, Linda - Out state chair, Felicia Jett, has a report that shows membership at 146 on 11/02/2021. That does not tally up with Linda's list which is 109.
 - Sent out a personal reminder to those that did not renew their dues via email this year. Doing a purge before the deadline of January 31st, 2022 to have an accurate number.
 - Is there a method to purging members who have not renewed?
 - Yes, if they have not renewed their dues since March 31st of previous year then they are purged.
 - The info is also available with Terry, she knows where the money comes from.
- DEI, Katy - First state wide DEI committee meeting Monday, November 15th and they gave out a tool to make an assessment of the league.
 - The meeting was useful to make other connections with people like Susan Sprag, Co-chair of DEI Task Force LWV Broward County.
 - Terry Coney, NAACP Lakeland president, invited Bobbie and Katy to attend a second planning meeting of this new project, led by Norm Cotton and Ray Allen.
 - This project under Equal Justice Initiative Brayn Stevenson of Just Mercy has founded this initiative in Montgomery, AL.
 - <https://eji.org/reports/lynching-in-america/>
 - The goal has multiple goals and one of them is to have historical markers where people have been lynched.
 - Would like to have Norm Cotton and Ray Allen speak at CTG to explain what they are committed to.
 - Charlene recommended for this to be a Hot Topic in January, February, or March instead of a CTG. Can be a hybrid meeting.
 - Vicki if we added to Cecile's visit this could serve as part of the core of the meeting with partnering organizations, to inspire activities for these organizations. Check out their website to see their sculptures that represent the people that were lynched.

- Katy moves the board to approve in principle LWV Polk's sponsorship and participation in these events in order to allow planning and coordination, recruitment of other organizations who would spread the word, and planning for a panel event in February. Katy anticipates no need for any expenditures by LWV Polk.
 - Sandy suggested to collaborate with the **National Bar Association**
 - Bobbie is also in contact with one person from one of the Black sororities
 - What is a community read? Several of us attended a panel from Orange County, NC. Their idea is for everyone to read the book within the organization then have a panel about it. We would read the book in our book club and have a panel at the end. It was an awareness type of thing.
 - Andy moves and Sany seconds, further discussion? None, passed Unanimously
- Climate, Karen - Polk County has been selected as one of the five counties in florida to be a targeted community to promote EV and meeting with coordinator on the 30th to plan our strategies to approach different governmental entities.
- Policy Review Committee, Terry - at last meeting we said that in this meeting we would regroup to review with everyone regarding policy. Will be done for the next meeting.
- Motion to adjourned? Andy moves, Seconded by Vicki, unanimously passed, meeting adjourned at 1pm.
- Next meeting Friday, December 10th, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ivette Herrera-Singh, Secretary