

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA  
BOARD RETREAT MINUTES  
AUGUST 5, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Alice Fried, Marian Breitbart, Mari Clark, Georgia Gates Derr, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Shubha Fanse, Keasha Martindill, Marilyn Ng, Kate Quick, Felice Zensius, Karen Butter, Doris Gee, Sally Faulhaber, Cynthia Silva, Karen Wellman, Dorie Guess Behrstock, Kathryn Saenz Duke, Patricia Young, Adina Singer and Ken Werner.

**Call to Order - 9:30 a.m.**

**Introductions:** The new board, new members and guest Lianne Campodonic, LWVC Management Training Advisor, MTA. Lianne talked of multiple resources available to us and will offer a training workshop in the next couple of months.

**Review LWVA Policies and Procedures: Georgia Gates Derr**

A review of what is taking place nationally, state and in the Bay Area. LWVUS Focus: Money in Politics, Voting Rights & Voter Protection. LWVC Issues for Emphasis for 2017-2019; Making Democracy Work in California, Natural Resources, including climate change, water, land use/CEQA. Response to changing federal policies and budget actions that have an impact on California such as health care, immigration, the environment and tax reform.

Georgia emphasized that we need to sign up for the Action Alerts. We make good use of our E-blasts, the website and the Voter issued six times a year.

**LWCA's non-partisan, diversity, and co-sponsorship policies:** A preliminary review was made and some changes suggested (Handout). Changes will be considered and voted on at September board meeting.

**Bay Area Issues:** Sally Faulhaber

Discussed the merger of the ABAB and MTC. No State legislation at the regional level. It is to create an umbrella agency that represents not either one agency.

**Committee Reports:**

**Programs:** Patricia Young provided a handout for posting event dates. She can always use more help at organizing and working at the events.

**Membership:** **Doris Gee** announced that we have 172 members. The increase in membership is due to the visibility in the community and the presidential election. Doris continues to hold meetings at the local coffeehouses and a booth at the weekly Farmers Market. A membership booklet is being developed and will be available on-line. Committee will also include members of Alameda City boards and commissions to join LWVA. The goal is to increase the diversity. Take the LWVA booklets and brochures to meetings. Spread the word.

**Finances:** **Marina Breitbart** encouraged board members and committee chairs to look at your individual items and provide accurate information for the next annual budget.

**Local Action:** **Karen Butter & Felice Zensius** reviewed various state bills: SB54, AB668, AB705, Make It Fair as well as local campaign finance. The committee is gathering data on expenditures for the last three local elections.

**Communications:** **Keasha Martindill** announced that Facebook presence has increased. Interns from CofA will work with the communications team. Rachel Wellman's mother, Karen Wellman took notes for her daughter during the retreat. Rachel is the new editor of The Voter.

**Voter Service:** Continuation of spring candidates and ballot measure forums and youth voter registration.

**Voter's Edge (formerly known as SmartVoter):** The service provides more extensive information than 411.org, does not drill down deep enough.

**MYPO:** **Ruth Dixon-Mueller** noted that the committee is looking for a larger venue to make it easier for attendees to meet with more public officials.

**Youth Outreach:** **Alice Fried** passed out a handout covering the Mission of the committee, the 2017-2018 Goals, the LWVA/COA Civics Scholarship Program, and the LWVA/COA Communications *Internship Program and fundraising goals*.

**Healthcare:** **Shubha Fpanse** discussed August 30 forum at Alameda Hospital and her plans for the upcoming year.

**President's Goals:** **Georgia Gates-Derr** reviewed the goals, upcoming tasks and activities for her term as president. She is focusing on teamwork, board training, mentoring, and engaging our members.

**Directions to Board from Annual Meeting:** none.

**Draft and Event Schedule for 2016-2017:** distributed and discussed.

**2018-2019 Nominating Committee:** Board members Kate Quick and Ruth Dixon-Mueller were appointed to the committee of three non-board members elected at 2017 Annual Meeting. Adina Springer was appointed Budget Chair.

**Open Discussion and suggestions:**

1. Book Club should be added to the Event Schedule and the COA event TBA.
2. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary kit has been received. We need to start planning the activities for the 2020 event now.
3. Members should be encouraged organize informal discussion groups at their homes on special topics, to be announced in e-blasts.
4. Board meeting agendas should be added to the website.
5. Should we have a Fall Membership Meeting? Previous attendance very low.
6. The board position descriptions need to be reviewed. Karen Butter moved to review the various job positions for 2018-2019; Doris Gee seconded. MSP.
7. Our diversity, nonpartisan and co-sponsorship policies should be formally reviewed at September board meeting.
8. Marilyn Ng moved to form an Executive Committee to review letters, correspondence and by-laws; seconded by Karen Butter. MSP
9. The Executive committee members will be determined at the Sept. meeting.

**Handouts:**

Agenda

Principles & Vision

LWVA Policy of Co-Sponsorship (Program Committee)

Nonpartisan Policy

Communications Update

Attendance List

Draft Event Schedule

**Adjourned - 2:20pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia Silva, Recording Secretary