

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, July 20, 2023

Virtual Meeting Online via Zoom

**Board members present:** Anna Crane, presiding; Ashley Lorden, Keasha Martindill, Susan Hauser, Anne McKereghan, Jeff Cambra. **Other members present:** Irene Dieter, Mari Clark, Linda Bytof, Neil Rubenstein, Lianne Campodonico, Susan Gonzales, Allan Mann. **Others present:** Fiona Jackson.

**Call to Order:** Anna Crane called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Linda suggested that since committee chairs are no longer on the board, we start meetings with committee updates and Good of the Order to allow most to sign off before remaining agenda items. Anne moved, Susan H seconded, and we approved to accept the consent agenda and previous meeting minutes.

**President's Report:** We look forward to facilitate committee chairs doing the work of the league this year. The reduced board of 6 members introduced themselves.

**Open Floor:** Linda worked with the American Constitution Society to get constitutions to hand out at the parade; Anna will send them a thank-you note. We did not get a reserved table at the Alameda Art and Wine Fair, but have been informed that if we can send volunteers for the ticket booth, we can get to the top of the waitlist for the table. Susan and Anne may be able to volunteer.

**Advocacy Report:** We have changed the name from Action Committee, since so many other committees also take action! We are focused on campaign finance and ranked choice voting right now, but always remain flexible if issues arise.

**Campaign Finance Report:** Our focus until recently has been on transparency, creating graphics to convey information to the public. Now, we are looking at public financing of political campaigns, particularly with Oakland's introduction of Democracy Dollars. A subcommittee is considering if and how we might advocate for a similar solution in Alameda (we would need board approval and a relevant position before moving forward with anything). We'd like to host a forum on the topic to hear from the community also.

**Communications Report:** We support online and print publicity for events, and often work across several other committees. We are considering new software services to manage our website and texting tools to further engage members.

**Membership Report:** Our main purpose is to connect with potential members to encourage both passive membership and more active volunteering, with our goal to connect each person to a good fit for their skills and interests.

**Programs Report:** Our aim this year is to focus on programs related to local issues that align with the league's strengths. Please reach out to us to suggest forum topics as a way to emphasize and support our pursuits.

**Voter Service Report:** Susan completed training, connected with the Alameda Food Bank, and has a contact with the Alameda Housing Authority who can publish voter registration info to their tenants. Coordinating with Youth Outreach to distribute flyers with registration information.

**Youth Outreach Report:** Promote youth civic engagement through various methods, including our game VerifyIt! and Student Advisory Committee. The students want to put on a forum on housing and homelessness, and will be helping with a voter registration push at schools in September. We won't be conducting the speech contest we formerly hosted, but found out that a former winner will be returning to Alameda and joining the league. We are expanding VerifyIt and are almost ready to test a competitive pub trivia version of the game targeted at classrooms. We got data from the ROV on registered voters but need help to process it; Anna and Ashley could help with that.

**League Coach:** We serve as a link between the state league and local groups, aiming to provide support and advice. We provide training and resources useful for new and established members, and can help make connections wherever necessary.

**Communication Best Practices:** Since committee chairs now optionally attend board meetings, how can we keep quality communication flowing among the group beyond board members? Suggestions to send out a detailed agenda >48 hours ahead, and/or keep more opportunities for getting involved open after the meeting to engage those who can't attend. Keasha moves, Susan H seconds, and we approve making our next meeting on 9/21 in person; Keasha will check for available fun locations and we'll use Alameda Hospital as our backup site.

**Open Floor (II):** Ranked choice voting will have a training for signature gathering volunteers on 8/5 9:30-11 with the Mayor of Albany speaking. Please sign up at [voterchoicealameda.com](http://voterchoicealameda.com) if interested!

Anna adjourned the meeting at 8:09pm.