

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA MAY 19, 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: Marian Breitbart, Mari Clark, Georgia Gates Derr, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Alice Fried, Ted Frey, Dorothy Kerwin, , Keasha Martindill, Anne McKereghan, Kate Quick, Anne Spanier, Gayle Thomas

Board Members Absent: Juelle-Ann Boyer, Shubha Fansa, Robby Kiley, Deborah Wright, Lisa Yap

Other Member(s) in Attendance: Karen Butter, Karen Scanlon, Sally Fallhauber

Guest Attendee: None

Call to Order – Anne Spanier– 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: April minutes accepted and filed for audit.

Treasurer’s Report accepted and filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee – Georgia Gates Derr presented communications survey for membership requesting submission with Annual Kit. *A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to include the communication survey in the annual meeting kit and notify membership of survey in eblast.*

A telephone conference was established with Jennifer Wagner from LWVCA regarding updating the League Easy Web (LEW - website platform); implementation of an upgraded platform was to occur earlier this year but was place on hold due to a funding/partnership issue bewtwee LWVC and LWVUS. Expecting more information from LWVC after the National convention in June. LWVC is surveying local chapters on technical needs and financial capabilities. The Chair notified the board there will likely be a need to upgrade our website platform next year. After lengthy discussion it was determined once the information becomes more clear from LWVC, the communications committee will present website options to the board and their recommendation.

Voter - starting with the July-August edition the Voter Newsletter will be published six times during the program year. Issues will include: July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June. Deadlines for submission are the 25th of the previous month.

Eblast (MailChimp) will continue to sent on the 1st and 15th of every month.

Membership – Ruth Dixon Mueller reported we have reached 132 members with 3 new members since last meeting. Membership continues to meet with prospective members and hold orientation coffees.

Budget – Ted Frey presented the 2016/17 draft budget for presentation at the annual members meeting. After discussion, *A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to accept the budget as presented.* The board thanks Ted and his committee for their work.

Health Care Committee – Karen Butter reported the committee met to determine what direction they would like to take. The committee has recommended LWVA present a State of the Hospital next year which would also address the existing hospital parcel tax and the state of health in Alameda. Jim Meyers, Hospital Board Member noted there is a nation wide movement to address improving health and the Hospital will be holding seminars during the year. They are also having discussions on disaster preparedness, health insurance and the Affordable Health Care Act. Next meeting is scheduled for June 8.

Voter Service – Dorothy Kerwin thanked members for support during recent forums. It was noted a member of the City of Alameda Democratic Club was video taping the event. Due to the ease of recording with current technology, a discussion about policy on video taping during forums ensued and it was determined a review of policy should be considered including LWVC guidelines Dorothy will contact the CADC to ensure the recording is used appropriately.

A discussion about how to address situations when all candidates are not in attendance. Dorothy will research and update board.

A discussion about including judges in future forums ensued. Concerns about limiting questions because of possible future rulings will be researched. In addition, it was discussed how to provide information to voters on County Central Committee positions. It was determined links to the Alameda County site would be provided in the future.

Dorothy also reminded board of the League’s non-partisan policy requiring the President, Action Director and Voter Service Chair not take a public or active role in elections or recalls of candidates.

Youth Voting Project – Anne Spanier reported we have reached almost all charter schools; St Joseph’s was cancelled and will be rescheduled in the future. The League has been unable to make headway with Encinal or Alameda this year. As it is not part of the curriculum, each year we have to start at the beginning educating why this presentation is of value. We will continue to attempt to set up something in the fall. It was also suggested to meet with the head of curriculum and see if this can be added into student curriculum.

Action – Karen Butter reported she submitted Letters to the Editor to both the Sun and Journal encouraging voters to support Prop 55. There currently is no activity in the Money in Politics, expect to see more in the fall. She also reported some leagues are holding forums on what it takes to run for local office and it may be a program we would consider in the future.

Program VP – Gayle Thomas reported their events are winding up. Alameda in the Making, co-sponsored with Alameda Home Team and Alameda Association of Realtors is scheduled for June 3rd 9:30-2, including the bus tour of the development area. Gayle called for volunteers on the day of the event. Georgia Gates Derr noted Communications team is waiting on input from AHT for ads LWVA is developing. It was confirmed LWVA is not responsible for paying for the ads, only providing artwork.

Board Organizational Matters

Convention Registration and Delegates – Anne Spanier reported she and Alice would attend and use 2 of the 3 delegate votes available to LWVA, The third was distributed to a local chapter. LWVA will be manning an information table providing information on our Youth Scholarship and Outreach programs.

Annual Meeting Organization Volunteers for table, Parliamentarian and Board Motions, etc.- Ruth Dixon-Mueller requested volunteers for mailing annual kits to members. Need to be mailed by Tuesday at the latest to meet bylaws requirement. Discussion of reviewing bylaws on distribution of annual kit ensued.

Youth Scholarship Program Report – Alice reported 3 schools are scheduled for next year’s event and the College of Alameda will once again host.

LWVBA report on Convention – Sally Fallhauber reported the new President is Madilyn Kurlender for West Contra Costa County. Luna Craig provided detail on regional betterment. A discussion of the merger between Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Committee was also discussed. Sally also provided a recent article from the Chronicle describing issues around merging the entities staff and organization. An additional meeting is scheduled for the next day. Sally will attend and submit summary for the June.

LWVC calls for Leagues to promote Voter’s Edge– Anne Spanier reported the state is requesting local chapters promote the Voter’s Edge to their communities

Board retreat - – Anne Spanier suggested using the First Congregational Church again for this year’s annual retreat, Saturday August 6 9-2. Anne McKereghan will reserve location

Ongoing Business

Report on Book Group Monday May 23 - Think Like a Freak Leavitt & Dubner

First Friday night –Jeff Cambra June 3, Café Jolie

New Business

Gayle Thomas presented a letter from Heinrich Albert about the Friends of the River’s attempt to promote a resolution from the City Council, and requested an opportunity to present to our board for support. Kate Quick noted this was a statewide issue and we would need to defer to state for support or position. An offer to have him present to the board for informational purposes was extended. Ruth Dixon-Mueller presented Deborah Wright’s request for an entry in the Mayors Annual 4th of July event. It was determined there was interest and an entry will be submitted

Adjourned 8:59