

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, Nov. 21, 2019

Alameda Hospital, Room A

Board members present: Susan Hauser, presiding; Anne McKereghan, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, William (Bill) Smith, Karen Butter, Anna Crane, Sally Faulhaber, Laura Kinley, Kate Quick, Ken Werner. Absent: Doris Gee, Adina Singer, Keasha Martindill. **Other members present:** Marian Breitbart, Sheila Durkin.

Call to order: Susan Hauser called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda, consisting of Minutes of the Oct. 17 Board meeting and Action, Membership and Programs committee reports, was moved, seconded and adopted. There was no report from the Treasurer. [All committee reports are summarized below]

Board openings:

1. Adina Singer has resigned as Treasurer. A motion was made, seconded and approved to elect Anna Crane to this position, effective immediately. Marian Breitbart will assist. Anna and Marian both have authority to sign checks on LWVA's account at Bank of Marin.
2. Anna's former position as Chair of the Budget Committee is now open. Anne McKereghan has a possible candidate and will report back.
3. Anna's former At Large position on the Board is also now open. A motion was made, seconded and approved to elect Sheila Durkin, Chair of the Centennial Committee, to this position.

President's report:

1. *Holiday party:* Sun. Dec. 8th, 5-8 PM, at the home of Li Volin, 1506 Eastshore Drive. Susan, Sheila and Ruth will set up food, drinks, chairs, dishes, utensils, etc; Ruth to purchase supplies beyond what Susan has in storage. Keasha will send food/drinks signup sheet with Dec. 1st eBlast.
2. *Metrics:* Should we be measuring what we do (input, output) and how well we do it (impact)? If so, how? What is most meaningful to us? And to donors of grants requested by LWVA? After some discussion, Susan asked Ken to report back with proposals; Laura and Bill will assist.

Committee reports:

Action:

1. *Schools and Communities First:* Bill, Laura, Felice and Karen attended a training workshop at SEIU on mobilizing support for the *Schools and Communities First* Nov. 2020 ballot initiative. Tools are available for presentations, websites, social media, handouts, etc. "Closing the loophole" is the key message, NOT "Reforming Prop. 13." Voters need to know why we're collecting signatures again (revision). Karen and Bill have signature petition sheets, to be returned in December.
2. *City Council:* Susan requested that Council allow for earlier public comment at the Nov. 5 meeting prior to Closed Session on release of Keimach tape. This did not happen, but a redacted transcript of Keimach's conversation with Councilmembers Oddie and Vella was released Nov. 20.
3. *AUSD parcel tax:* ballot measure will appear on March 3 ballot to support teacher salaries, general and special programs, expected to raise over \$10 million annual for seven years. LWVA will write pros and cons, decide whether to take a position.

Centennial: The special fund appeal letter for 2020 (in lieu of MYPO fundraiser) prepared by Sheila has gone out by eBlast: it will reach nonmembers as well as members. Sheila is seeking a designer for Centennial street banners to be hung by the City from Jan. 14-28 on Park and Webster. She is also working on a draft of a City Proclamation and a venue for a film showing. LWVA will collaborate with other organizations such as Library Board (Women's History Month), Legacy House Tour (September), and the Oakland League on several activities and events.

Communications: Videos of the forums on Oct. 3rd (*Relieving the Housing Crisis*), Oct. 24th (*Schools and Communities First*), and Nov. 14th (*Census 2020: Alameda Counts*) are on the website. LWVAlameda.org has attracted over 7,100 unique visitors this past year. Facebook reaches ~2,800 people every two weeks, with 713 followers. Our eBlast audience has 519 subscribers, including current and former LWVA members, signups from forums, and others.

Membership: Welcome new members Jennie Courant and Joyce Salinas: total is now 170! Thanks to Linda Garvin and Susan for the referrals. Requests for 2020 renewals and contributions were mailed out on Nov. 18th: thanks to Marilyn Ng, Marian Breitbart, Sharon Shinker and Ruth.

Programs: The turnout at the Nov. 14th forum on the 2020 Census was disappointing. The City had asked LWVA to organize this forum. Lesson learned: offer to help other organizations, if asked, but not to use our resources. Bill is preparing Letters to the Editor from LWVA's President on Schools and Communities First and on the 2020 Census. He will present a summary of housing views and policies raised at our Oct. 3 forum to the Planning Board hearing on the City Charter Multifamily Housing Ban (1973 Measure A) on Dec. 9th. Possible topics for April-May forums are pharmaceutical pricing; proposed electrification of Alameda buildings and transit; addressing the stress of our political environment; gun safety and juvenile justice reform. Let Bill know by the Dec. 8th holiday party if you have other ideas (and are willing to contact speakers!)

Youth Outreach: Speech Tournament: The College of Alameda now requires 30 students to sign up (online) for the speech class 35A; otherwise it will not be offered. Laura emphasized the need to advertise the class in schools and to offer a compelling topic to attract more students to train for the LWVA/CoA April tournament. Susan has applied for a Rotary Club Grant for the 2020 tournament. [This has since been received: CONGRATULATIONS!] Laura and her team conducted a third trial run of *Civics Challenge* with six high school students at Girls Inc., with useful feedback. They have been invited to do a trial run at Palo Alto High School in December.

New Business: Ken raised the issue of "organic" succession planning and how to identify and mentor volunteers for Board positions and committee chairs. This is particularly relevant to the work of the *Nominations Committee* (Anne, Ruth, Dorie Guess Behrstock, Cynthia Sylva, Diane Rizzo), which should be meeting before the end of the year. As a first step, Anne will contact current Board members to see if they (we) are willing to continue.

Anne is also seeking advice on where to hold our First Friday dinners, beginning Jan. 3rd.

Meeting adjourned: 9:02 PM
Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Secretary