

Board Meeting Minutes
LWV Pullman
December 3, 2019, 10:00 am, Daily Grind, Back Room

Attending: Helen Catanese, Susan Daniels, Anne Lewis, Deb Olson, Bobbie Ryder, Alice Schroeder, Paul Spencer, Judy Stone, Libby Walker.

Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order by President, Bobbie Ryder, at 10:03 am. Bobbie reminded the group of the League's non-partisan policy.

Routine Business: The October Board Meeting minutes were approved without further correction. The next board meeting will be January 28th at 10:00am at the Daily Grind.

Old business and Updates:

Town hall meeting: Nov. 1, 2019. President, Bobbie Ryder, attended the town hall meeting organized by Brandon Chapman. There were many topics of interest to the League. Most important, the Planning Dept. is now enforcing the requirements for sidewalks in new developments, several groups are working on the downtown including the traffic elements, traffic calming measures are being developed for several streets and Maintenance and Operations Superintendent, Art Garro, is working on more public outreach.

Action Workshop: Nov. 2, 2019. Six Pullman members attended the workshop in Spokane. The workshop was very helpful, especially for information on the upcoming National Concurrence on Election Methods. The Presentations of Andy Billig, Senate Majority Leader, and Shelly Short, Senate Republican Floor Leader, showed how legislators can work together. Both stressed the need for citizens to participate.

Rob Curley: In collaboration with the Murrow College of Communication at WSU, LWV Pullman sponsored a presentation by Rob Curley, Spokesman Review Editor on the current state of Newspapers. His presentation was fast but fascinating, stressing the need for papers to make the news local and to find new funding if they are to stay alive. He also stressed that newspapers are very important in making a community successful and its citizens engaged. Attendance was about 50 people. The timing at 6:00pm and immediately after another presentation were possibly not the best. There was no time to take him to dinner so Libby and Bobbie sent him Cougar Gold as a thank you.

Food Security: Ashley Vaughn from the Community Action Center spoke on Food Security at the Nov. 19 Brown Bag. The CAC has made many positive changes in order to provide food in a dignified way and help people use the foods available. They have a grant to start a mobile food bank for outlying communities. Unfortunately, the story in the Moscow/Pullman Daily News did not mention the League. Libby Walker will contact the reporter. Deb Olson noted that the WSU Center for Civic Engagement is working on food security for students and she has told them that the League can help.

Poverty Awareness Task Force: Judy Stone, our representative to the Task Force, reported that the League received thankyou's for our letter to the editor requesting contributions to the Community Relief Fund. The fund went from \$240 to \$2440 in the following month. Homeless issues have

increased this year with at least six chronically homeless people interacting with the police frequently. The Pullman Police Force has been very good at making these interactions positive and trying to get services for these people. The Task Force meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Hospital.

Pullman School District Information Forum: Diane Hodge, PSD Finance Manager explained the upcoming request for two levies and one bond issue. The Enhancement Levy of \$5,300,000 will replace the current Maintenance and Operations levy. The Technology Levy will replace the current levy at \$200,000 per year to maintain and replace equipment. The \$15,000,000 bond will take effect as the old Lincoln Middle School bond is retired. It will add eight classrooms and other space to Lincoln Middle school to accommodate students now in the grade schools. It will also replace the Lincoln Middle School roof and provide air-conditioning to the grade schools. The tax per \$1000 assessed value of property should be the same or slightly lower than the current taxes, as taxable property has increased substantially in the district. The board felt the informational approach was much better than the debate approach used for the Hospital Bond and should be used for this type of issue. Alice pointed out that informational forums can always be used for issues, especially when the League has a position concerning the issue, such as general support for schools. The board asked Sue Hinz and Bobbie to draft a letter in support of the levy and bond request.

Immigrant Rights: The WSU Common Reading Program is featuring the book, Refuge, by A. Betts and P. Collier. The LWVUS has strong positions on immigration policy so the Board asked Libby to contact Karen Weathermon about co-sponsoring an event. They are inviting Luis Cortes Romero in late February or early March and would like us to co-sponsor. Romero is a recent graduate of the UI Law School and his DACA case has gone to the Supreme Court. The Board approved \$250 towards an honorarium. Catherine Cummings is scheduled for a presentation on the evening of March 5. Libby will request that the two presentations not conflict.

Election Methods Tool Kit: An educational kit is being prepared by LWVWA. The first draft is ready. Deb Olson will send it to anyone interested.

New Business: The Thursday evening, Dec. 5, program will be at the Community Congregational Church. The cookie exchange and social begins at 6:30pm. The program is at 7:00pm and will feature Shaun Darveshi, RTPO and Jerry Compton, WSDOT on regional transportation issues.

Reports:

Membership: Several members have not paid. Board members will call them.

Treasurer: Treasurer Paul Spencer reported that we have \$6930.97 in checking and \$3,152.54 in the Ed. Fund for a total of \$10,083.51 with the LWVWA PMP still to be paid. This is about \$2000 more than at this time last year.

Voter Services: Deb Olson, chair of Voter services reported the committee is on hiatus but she is thinking about ways to inform the public about the Presidential Primary changes. She will also contact the Civics teacher at Pullman High in January about presentations on voting. Finally, she will scan on the Neill Library scanner the civics materials that she uses and will send materials from our presentation

to Beverly Austin, LWVWA director and representative for Voter Education. Bobbie asked Deb to cc her also so that she has the files electronically.

MASC Project and Centennial time line:

Judy Stone reported that her committee has gone through the old President's files. Three boxes are ready for archiving with the WSU Library and some materials for the timeline display were found. Mary Collins is arranging for Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections (MASC) to pick up the materials. Deb Olson still has 5 boxes of materials from Dorothy Swanson which need sorting.

Nominating Committee: Mary Collins has agreed to chair. Current officers and chairs have all volunteered to continue. However, several would be glad to give up their positions so, please contact Mary if you feel you could take on one of these jobs. Mary will be asked to send out a request for volunteers.

Action Chair: Susan Daniels requested we talk about what this position should entail at the next board meeting.

Website: Paul Spencer reported that the candidate forum videos had 59 (Colfax) and 57 (Pullman) views averaging 34 min. each, in the weeks before the election. This service is clearly useful to many. Also, several members have chosen to pay dues via the new website pay button and a few donations have been received via the website.

There was no new material to report for the other topics listed in the Agenda.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 17, 2019: The brown bag is at noon in the Hecht room. The two winners of the City Council contested races will be invited to give their vision for the City Council's work.

Jan. 9, 2020: The LWVUS planning meeting will be at 9:00am at Zeppos. It will be chaired by Paul Spencer and Anne Lewis. This is our chance to influence the next two years of the National League's program. Particularly important will be our input on Alternative Election Systems as a concurrence is proposed to establish national positions. Helen Catanese, Alice Schroeder and Susan Daniels offered to help with presenting this material.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schroeder, Secretary