

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**LWV Pullman  
March 24, 2020, 10:00 am, Via Zoom**

**Attending:** Helen Catanese, Susan Daniels, Karyn Hardy, Carolyn Joswig-Jones, Anne Lewis, Deb Olson, Paul Spencer, Bobbie Ryder, Alice Schroeder, Libby Walker, Lennis Watts

**Call to Order and Welcome:** This meeting was held virtually on computers and phones via the Zoom application because of the statewide order to stay at home due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The LWVWA has a Zoom license that local Leagues can use. The meeting was called to order by President Bobbie Ryder at 10:00 am. Bobbie reminded the group of the League's non-partisan policy.

**Routine Business:** The February Board Meeting minutes were approved. The next board meeting will be April 28, 2020, at 10:00am. We expect it to also be a virtual meeting using Zoom.

### **Old Business and Updates:**

**Luis Cortes Romero:** Mr. Romero made two presentations partnering with the Foley Institute. Several League members attended the noon event. It was well attended and quite interesting to listen to the story of an undocumented child immigrant who is now a lawyer and has argued the DACA case before the Supreme Court. Libby, who organized this event, strongly urged us to continue working with the Foley Institute. The Board agreed that announcements of all Foley events should be sent to LWV members.

**Eleanor Roosevelt re-enactment by Catherine Cummings:** Ms. Cummings gave performances at Lincoln Middle School and Colfax High School and a performance for the general public at Neill Public Library. All were well attended. Bobbie Ryder attended the Lincoln Middle School performance for the 200+ 7<sup>th</sup> graders and was impressed with how engaged the students were. We have enough money in the budget to bring in a speaker each year. It was suggested that we try to have speakers who are appropriate for school programs.

**Politics of the Possible, Alison McCaffree:** Alison McCaffree is chair of the LWVWA Redistricting and Census group. This program was planned for April 6 at noon while a second program was planned with the Foley Institute. The in-person meetings are cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions. Ms. McCaffree has offered to either reschedule for fall or do a Zoom presentation. The Board liked the Zoom meeting at the original time. Libby will work with her to arrange this.

**March 17 brown bag with Judge Libey:** This meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled for fall.

**Upcoming Census:** Bobbie reported that our letter to the editor encouraging people to fill the census out on line was published. Paul asked how WSU is handling mail to make sure all students receive their forms. Bobbie will check with the registrar's office. She will also ask at the next League Presidents' meeting what else Leagues can do.

### **New Business:**

**Letter writing committee:** National League standards require that the Board approve all action letters and the President or someone she designates sign them to make sure that letters support League positions and the League "speaks with one voice". Since we are a "Board of the Whole" and only meet

once a month, time constraints often make waiting to approve letters at Board meetings impractical. We have been asking committees and individuals to write letters but have no clear instructions for approving them, other than having the President send them out. Alice Schroeder and Karen Kiessling propose we have a committee of the elected officers-- the executive officers (president, vice president or co-presidents), the treasurer and the secretary-- plus at least two additional members with some familiarity with League positions to read, edit and approve all action letters. At least three members, besides the president, would need to approve the letter before it is sent out. Alice also reminded the Board that it is very important that letters are factual, not opinion, that they do not go against our positions and in general are excellent examples of civil discourse. This committee was approved by the board. Libby Walker and Lennis Watts volunteered to be members at large. Alice will ask Karen Kiessling to also be a member.

League Presidents' call: Bobbie Ryder reported that the call was quite informative. The subjects included using Survey Monkey to allow the membership to vote on a slate of officers, the possibility of on-line candidate forums, and how to continue voter registration efforts without traditional drives. The LWVUS has guidelines for supporting voter registration on-line including helping teachers contact students in online classes and partnering with libraries to put voter information and links on library web sites. For example, some Civics Education teachers are assigning essays on voting. Lennis Watts and Anne Lewis suggested contacting Pullman Public Schools about putting information on Peach Tree, an application used by the schools to interact with students' parents. There is a fee. Anne will investigate this. The call also included the information that the National Convention is on hold, Leagues are encouraged to use Zoom for meetings, including Annual Meetings, and Leagues are encouraged to increase use of social media to attract and engage members.

Annual Meeting Planning: Alice Schroeder, chair of the Budget Committee (Alice Schroeder, Paul Spencer, Libby Walker, and Shelley Jones), presented the proposed budget for 2020-2021. It was unanimously approved and will be sent to all members in the April short Voter. The Nominating Slate had been approved in February. It includes two changes from the current officers and chairs: 1) Helen Catanese is nominated as Vice President, 2) Karl Johanson is nominated to be Legislative Action Chair. The Board decided to hold the Annual Meeting Thursday, May 7 as planned. If quarantine restrictions are lifted, it will be, as originally planned, at Karen Kiessling's home with dinner at 6:00pm and Business and Program starting at 7:00pm. If quarantine is still needed, it will be by Zoom at 10:00 to noon on May 7. Bobbie proposed putting together a power point presentation on our League activities of the past year for the program, which will make it easy to go with either format.

Harvard Case Study: This program is on hold for now.

Social Media: Carolyn Joswig-Jones and Bobbie Ryder will work on ways to get voter information messages and links on Facebook and Twitter.

League of Education Voters: With no information on this group we will drop it for now.

### **Reports:**

Treasurer: Treasurer, Paul Spencer, reported that we have \$5201.78 in checking after receiving income of \$1140 from the fund drive and two memberships, and paying the LWVWA per member payment (i.e. dues) of \$1800 and some speaker and convention expenses. The Education Fund total of \$3152.54 has not changed. The fund drive has been quite successful with Members contributing \$550 to the general

fund and \$800 to the education fund, while non-member supporters have contributed \$605 to the general fund and \$235 to the education fund for a total of \$2190. We expect more donations through September. Note that not all fund drive checks have been deposited. Libby explained the fund drive process and Paul explained that the non-member donor lists were alphabetized this year and will be updated next year so we are not mailing to people who have not supported us for 3 or more years. This year we included a calendar of upcoming events in fund drive request letters. Bobbie suggested we should plan to use this mailing for advertising our events each year.

MELD: Paul was on the MELD call. There were seven participants from the four Leagues. They discussed current activities in each League, the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Survey and Fund raising. They also put out a call for new coaches for MELD. If you are interested in being a MELD coach please contact Paul.

Community Outreach: Libby Walker continues to send information on events to members, non-members who have signed up at events to get the information, and 7 different media outlets. She noted that the Evergreen had a good article with pictures on the Eleanor re-enactment event at Neill Public Library. Carolyn Joswig-Jones emailed a copy of the article to the board members. Contact her if you would like a copy.

Social Media: Pictures of the re-enactment are also on social media.

Voter Services: Deb Olson reported that the spring Civics classes were finished before the quarantine. She is keeping up with the possibility of doing the primary forums on Zoom if needed. One can record Zoom meetings so they could easily be put on our website. We will not know if primary forums are needed until after the Washington State candidate filing deadline in June.

Observer Corps: Bobbie reported that we have 3 new observers, 2 for the Port Commission and one for the Airport Board. Although Judy Stone, chair of the Observer Corps, was not present, several observers were. They reported that meetings are now switching to online.

Community Update: Susan Daniels noted that the next League page will be in September with a deadline of August 15 for submission. Suggested inclusions were: list candidate information resources, spotlight a new member and include our 20-21 calendar of events.

Voter: Anne will send out a short Voter with the Annual Meeting information: proposed 20-21 budget, nomination slate, meeting agenda and date. She will also include information on the place and time for the Alison McCaffree presentations, if we have that in time.

Upcoming Events: All in person events are cancelled or on hold. However, we will probably welcome Alison McCaffree; "Politics of the Possible" on Zoom at noon on Monday, April 6, and hold the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 7, either on Zoom at 10:00am or in person at 6:00pm at Karen Kiessling's home. Watch for email announcements.

#### Announcements:

Anne Lewis congratulated the schools on doing a wonderful job adapting, including education packets, on line offerings, providing grab and go breakfasts and lunches to be picked up at school or on three bus routes and providing a drop off for games and puzzles.

Bobbie Ryder noted that all but the first performance of Beauty and the Beast by the High School had to be cancelled. This is a 60-student participant activity and quite accomplished performance. They are hoping to reschedule for fall. However, the cost to have the performance was \$16,000. The High School theater program would greatly appreciate donations. Please send them to ASB Theater Program, Pullman School District, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schroeder, Secretary