



## **MINUTES OF THE LWV ROSEVILLE AREA BOARD MEETING April 22, 2020**

**This Board meeting was conducted online and by phone**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by League President Sherry Hood.

**Present:** Barb Anderson, Barb Barany, Jim DeBenedet, Stephanie DeBenedet, Grace Gee, Rachel Geiser, Sherry Hood, Bonnie Koch, Karen Lake, Mary Peterson, Beth Reinhart, and Karen Schaffer

**Absent:** Wayne Groff, Jessica Holz, and Priscilla Morton

### **1. Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2020 meeting.**

Seeing no corrections, the minutes were approved.

### **2. Financial/Treasurer's Report**

Sherry reported that Jessica Holz provided the Treasurer's Report ending March 31, 2020 and the Nonprofit LLC Annual Financial Report due April 27, 2020. (**see attachment**).

### **3. Report of Officers:**

#### **a. President**

- State Council 2020 is canceled. The proposed concurrence on medical aid in dying will be voted on at State Convention 2021.

#### **President's call**

- Voter education – looking into possibility of having a speaker online
- May hold Candidate Forums with only candidates and moderator and filmed by CTV. Favoring no audience, and social distancing of candidates. Our local league would compose questions and the State League would critique before questions are sent to candidates
- Vote411 and MPR will be working together
- Michelle Witte, LWVMN State Executive Director, will come out with more definitive information once known

#### **b. Vice-President - None**

#### **c. Secretary - None**

#### 4. Reports of Committees:

##### a. Action Advocacy

- State-wide action/advocacy conference call was held on Friday, April 17.
- Discussion of remote meeting tools – webinars are located at:  
<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/guides/technology-communications-webinar-recordings>.
- Large number of guidance notices on various aspects including voter services, advocacy, governance, etc. <https://www.lwv.org/covidguidance>
- Need for continued transparency while governance is handled via zoom and other electronic meetings: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-guidance-virtual-transparency-government-bodies>
- Is there a formal welcoming process for new members, and the various definitions of “program?”
- There is a need to engage members during the COVID-19 as social isolation and loneliness are serious health issues.
  - ✓ Form a committee to coordinate reaching out to members who live alone or in senior housing.
  - ✓ Create a list of community and faith-based organizations that people can contact if lacking access to information, health care services, support or resources.
  - ✓ Schedule phone calls, video conferences, texts, emails, and cards to help compensate for a lack of in-person contact.

##### Observer Corps

- Continuing with weekly agenda postings. Most commission meetings are not being held, but Council meetings are held virtually with public access.
- Will meet during May to recap the year and define direction for 2021.

##### Environmental Subcommittee

- March 24, Mayor’s Forum which was canceled due to COVID-19 will be planned for February 2021.
- All in-person Earth Day events are canceled. Virtual events include:
  - <https://www.earthdaylive2020.org/>
  - <https://mnearthday.org/>
  - <https://earthrise2020.org/>
- Watershed district tour is still scheduled for later in June.

##### b. Communications

Most of the information included in emails and the website comes from information submitted by other people, including Board members. Please keep them coming. Now especially (since we have no events scheduled) it is important to be able to provide meaningful information to our members to keep them engaged!

1. Social Media: Shared posts from LWVMN and the Census and posted information about Earth Day on NextDoor.
2. Friday Email Blasts: Sent information about LWVMN events, Earth Day, membership renewals, Census completion webinar, Better Angels name change to

Braver Angels, information about collection of face masks from North Suburban Family Collaborative and the MN Supreme Court ruling on privacy of certain voter data.

3. Website: Posted information about Earth Day.
4. *Voter*: April issue was published and distributed.

**c. Membership**

- Two new members have been added. Active membership number is 132.
- Focusing on the renewal of all memberships (except those who joined in 2019) using the new databank system. Two notices have gone out with additional reminders in the *Voter* and Eblast. About half of the membership has renewed.
- Spotlight article this month is focused on Carolyn Cushing.
- An article featuring Judith Stuthman, who has achieved the 50-year lifetime membership status, is being created by Mindy Greiling. A certificate has been requested from National.

**d. Program**

- Most LWV Roseville Area programs have been canceled or postponed. The canceled March program featuring city mayors addressing environmental programs in their communities will be rescheduled in the 2020-2021 program. The April program featuring Josie Johnson has been moved to September 15 and, currently, the Roseville library will co-host this program in the library community room. The field trip to the Ramsey County Watershed headquarters is still scheduled for June 23, depending on the ability to meet in a small group or with social distancing.
- Refunds have been issued for members who had purchased tickets to “Not for Sale” at the Minnesota History Theater in March.
- The possibility of a local League study will be presented at the annual meeting. If one is adopted, it will be open to all members for participation and can begin proceeding immediately using online resources.
- Program dovetails with the Voter Services and Membership teams in multiple ways. Presenters educate members on current topics assisting them to become well informed voters. Program quality brings in the public who are potential League members. Team leaders and members will need to identify program options for the 2020-2021 program. The schedule for the year is usually set in late May or early June. There will probably need to be flexibility in options and mode of presentation. Bonnie Koch will meet with Team leaders and the incoming president in May to review past program considerations.

**e. Voter Services**

- Rita Mills, Alana Howey, and Karen Lake continue to meet via Zoom with the MNVoice Civic Engagement Network. A summary article written by Rita will be in the May/June *Voter*.

- The Webinar offered by the National LWV on April 9 and accessed by several Voter Services committee members was found to be informational, thorough and helpful. There is considerable focus on technology platforms to facilitate League meetings/activities during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Shoreview library canceled a scheduled Voter Services committee meeting on May 14. A meeting using Zoom will be scheduled.
- Vote411 will be funded and managed mostly by the State LWV. Local League input will be sought to develop questions for local election candidates. MPR is partnering with Vote411.
- Candidate Forums will need to take place without audiences. Venues with recording capacity should be secured as soon as possible keeping in mind social distancing of candidates and moderators.
- According to State LWV data, the main reason why people do not vote isn't that they are not registered, but that they don't know enough about the candidates. Last year, one-fifth of all LWV Candidate Forums nationwide were conducted in Minnesota.
- Moderator training to update current moderators will occur via Webinar in May or June. Decision to be made on training for new moderators.
- Martin Brown grant money will be available for such things as: updated logo kits (LWVUS has a new logo), hand sanitizer, pens, banners with new logo, and miscellaneous Forum supplies. Application forms are forthcoming.
- The goal of LWVMN is to have online voter registrations facilitated, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, in all Minnesota high schools. Resources for teachers will become available soon.
- According to LWVMN Executive Director Michelle Witte, support for Action Alerts is at a very low percentage. A difference could be made with more members responding by contacting their legislators concerning League policies presented in Action Alerts. Suggestion was made to consider a phone tree to encourage participation by local members.

**f. Ad Hoc Census Report**

- Ramsey-St. Paul CCC met via Zoom on April 21.
- The Census Bureau is delaying the start of "nonresponse follow-up" operations until August 11. All counting operations are now scheduled to be completed by October 31.
- This committee will work on electronic outreach for self-response with our school districts and city partners later this spring and during the summer. A difficulty is that many of the people that this committee is most interested in reaching are least likely to view the electronic messages and may be most in need of assistance in supplying information. Need ideas – create telephone chains, starting with community center participants as Community Ed is closed.
- Minnesota currently leads the nation in self-response statistics. Most census tracts response rates are behind comparable rates in 2010 and "plateauing." An

exception is the Falcon Heights tract dominated by Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative, where this committee helped with outreach.

**g. Ad Hoc Centennial Report – None**

**5. Unfinished Business: None**

**6. New Business**

- Discussion was held regarding our options for holding a remote Annual Meeting (**see attachment**).
- Board approval is needed for the monthly cost of Zoom, a cloud-based video conferencing tool where you can host calls with other people (**see Action Item B**).
- A proposed date for the Annual Meeting was discussed (**see Action Item A**).
- Board acceptance is needed for the proposed criteria to conduct meetings online (**see Action item C**).
- Board approval is needed for the recommendation of addendum to the Bylaws. (**see attachment and Action Item D**).
- Board recommendation to conduct a League Study – where are our five cities at following and implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (**see Action Item E**).
- A cover letter explaining how the Annual Meeting will be conducted will be sent with the Annual Meeting Agenda and Annual Meeting booklet and mailed out on May 8.
- Barb A. and Rachel will be the hosts for the Annual Meeting.

**7. Action Items**

- A.** Bonnie motion that the Annual Meeting be held on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.
- B.** Bonnie motioned approval of a monthly membership to Zoom. Motion passed unanimously.
- C.** Karen S. motioned acceptance of the proposed criteria to conduct LWV meetings online. Motion passed unanimously.
- D.** Karen L. motioned that the Board recommendation of the addendum to the Bylaws be approved. Motion passed unanimously.
- E.** Bonnie motioned that the Board recommendation to conduct a League Study, on where our five cities are at following and implementing the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Announcements:**

There will be no Board meeting on May 27. There will be online practice for the Annual Meeting that day. An email will be sent out. Mindy Greiling will be invited to the online practice.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Peterson