

LWVGP BOARD MINUTES

March 11, 2019

Peoria Public Library Downtown Branch
Library Conference Room A

Present: Mollye Bright, Cheryl Budzinski, Mary Jane Crowell, Jan Deissler, Terry Bibo Knight, Terry Kohlbus, Terry Matthews, Rob Parks, Kathie Raiborn, Connie Romanus, Gary Stella, and Sandy Stemler. **Absent:** Katherine Coyle, Farrell Davies and Elaine Hopkins.

Call to order: In Farrell Davies' absence, the meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Terry Matthews at 12:30 pm.

I. Minutes from February 11, 2019, Board Meeting were approved. (Gary Stella/Jan Deissler)

II. Board Resignation - A motion was made to accept Katherine Coyle's resignation with regrets (Rob Parks/Connie Romans). It passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Terry Kohlbus presented the Feb. 27, 2019, Cefcu statement along with the updated 2018/2019 Fiscal Year Monthly Report. A motion was made to pay \$90.25 for forum printing (Connie Romanus/Gary Stella). It passed unanimously. Terry also reported that he sent a check for the remaining PMP payment to LWVUS. The treasurer's report was approved to file. (Rob Parks/Gary Stella)

IV. Annual Budget - Terry Kohlbus then presented the annual budget and received the following suggestions.

- Increase the Website expense to \$900 (\$300 for the website yearly cost plus up to \$600 to pay someone to update it.)
- Increase Voter Services to \$300.
- Increase Membership Recruiting to \$600, which includes up to \$300 for a new banner.
- Add a new expense line of \$2,000 for the spring fundraiser. Discussion also centered on reserving author Elaine Weiss for 2020.
- There was then a motion to table further discussion to give Terry time to rework the budget for a board conference call to take place at 1 pm on March 25 to approve the changes for the budget publication in the April Voter (Terry Kohlbus/Rob Parks). It passed unanimously.

V. Annual Program 2019-2020 - Connie presented the agenda for the May 2, 2019, annual meeting as a handout.

VI. Program - Connie also presented a draft of the local LWVGP programs for 2019-2020 with their dates. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the following annual program recommendations (Connie Romanus/Terry Kohlbus). It passed unanimously.

- Sept. 5 - Electoral College
- Oct. 3 - Importance of the U.S. Census

- Feb. 6 - Sharing Government Services
- Mar. 5 - Democracy

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Voter Service** received a request to hold a forum for the ten candidates running for four Dunlap School Board seats. The forum will be held March 21 at 6 pm in the Hickory Grove School with Rob moderating. Mary Jane reported that she has received enough volunteers to register the new citizens after the Naturalization Ceremony on March 22. Sterling Towers has asked the League to run their board's election but say they do not have the needed \$50. It was discussed not to waive the \$50, to see if PHA could pay it and to consider holding the Sterling Towers election after the Consolidated General Election on April 2.
- B. Membership** now has 111 members. There will be a membership meeting at Jan Deissler's home on March 18 at 9:30 am. Jan has found a place that will publish the brochures for the membership renewal event on July 17 for free, but there may be a cost for the layout. Jan also mentioned that once the membership invitations are ready for mailing other League material could also be included.
- C. Drinks & Dialogue** - The March 20 topic will be on the opioid crisis presented by Christopher Schnaffner at W. E. Sullivan's Irish Pub. Connie will facilitate. The April 17 topic is under consideration, and the May 15 topic will be "Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) at the Lariat Steakhouse.
- D. LOGO** - The LOGO reports are in the March 2019 *The Voter*.
- E. Fundraising** - The spring dinner fundraising event will take place on May 9 at 5:30 pm at Childers Catering facility on Dries Lane. Dr. Craig Curtis, a Bradley professor of political science, will speak on the impact of social media on politics. Tickets will be \$50 each.
- F. Affordable Housing Committee** - No report at this time.

VIII. Old Business

A. The Annual Meeting will be on May 2, 2019, in Schnuck's Community Room with a social from 5:30 - 6 pm and the meeting at 6 pm. Jan Deissler and Kathie Raiborn are in charge of refreshments.

IX. New Business

A. LWVIL Issues Report - Connie Romanus and Mollye Bright attended the issues briefing in Chicago on March 2. Connie reported from the 2020 census briefing that Illinois stands to lose at least \$1,800/year for each person uncounted, that businesses use the census data for planning where to locate, and that renters and children under five years are among the hard-to-count populations. Mollye reported from the affordable housing briefing that affordable housing is when tenants/homeowners pay no more than 30% of their income on housing costs and that it is a myth that affordable housing in a community lowers property values.

B. Election Assistance Request is the Sterling Towers request discussed under Voter Services.

C. Township Meeting - Frank Abdnour, Peoria Township Supervisor, spoke with Ryan Hidden, Connie Romanus, Elaine Hopkins, Shelley Epstein, and Cheryl Budzinski about his idea to remove Township from the City Council's "plate" and have four trustees elected to the Township Board. Cheryl expressed that some of Frank's ideas support the League's positions and some do not.

D. Lobby Day - LWVIL's Lobby Day is Wed., April 10, at 10:30 am in Springfield. The fee is \$10/person with lunch provided. Cheryl is going and would welcome company. She will also contact other nearby Leagues about the event.

X. Voter articles due no later than March 28, 2019

XI. Adjournment - Gary Stella made the motion to adjourn, and Jan Deissler seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Stemler