

**League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County
Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2020**



Location: Patricia Jamison's residence, 118 Harmony Way, Centreville, MD 21617

Attending: Patricia Jamison, Lorie Andersen-Petrie, Mary Campbell, Gina Crook, Jinny Guy, Liz Hammond, Carolyn Moorshead, Barbara Sharkey, and Pat Sommers

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President, Patricia Jamison, at 9:08 a.m.

LWVMD Update: Patricia Jamison noted that Niecy Chambers will no longer be serving as the State Board Liaison to LWVQAC. As yet no replacement has been named.

Minutes: Barbara Sharkey moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting, seconded by Mary Campbell, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Sharkey presented the Treasurer's Report. As of August 10, 2020, the Education Fund has a balance of \$9,309.54, and the Operating Fund has a balance of \$6,437.31, for a total fund balance of \$15,746.85.

In response to a question from Jinny Guy, Barbara provided an explanation of the PMP (per member payments) to the National and State Leagues. She noted that even after these payments are made, LWVQAC will be well-funded.

Barbara reported that she had been discussing with LWVMD Treasurer Carolyn Hetterich the question of changing the status of our league to 501(c)(3), which will greatly simplify her work. She is awaiting reconciliation of the education fund and an audit is needed now that a new Treasurer has taken office. Patricia Jamison confirmed that an audit will be performed and thanked Barbara for all her efforts. Pat Sommers offered to assist Barbara, and her offer was accepted.

Jinny Guy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for audit, seconded by Liz Hammond, and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

RETREAT FOLLOW-UP:

• **Vote 411, Voters' Guide and Elected Officials Guide:**

Liz Hammond noted that this is a big job and she has greatly appreciated the assistance of Marion Grier and Barbara Crain of LWVMD Voter Services. She is inputting information for QAC into Vote 411 and has contacted all the people involved. For the Elected Officials Guide she will contact the various towns following the election. She summed up by saying that everything is "on track."

In response to a question from Mary Campbell, Liz noted that the deadline for candidate responses for the Voters' Guide is September 4 and she will be getting the information out during the second week of September. In response to a question from Jinny Guy, Barbara

Sharkey explained the term “lead league” as it applies to the Voters’ Guide. Barbara then asked how many copies of the Voters’ Guide should be printed, since many locations are currently closed due to Covid-19. A decision is needed by the time of the next Board meeting. Various possible locations for placing the guides were suggested, including the Library, which is now open on a limited basis, and drugstores. Pat Sommers noted that with mail-in voting, we may not need as many printed copies since people can check the information online as they vote. Liz Hammond said that she would discuss this question with Jean Halperin of LWV Mid-Shore. Jinny Guy noted that many seniors still do not use computers and we must make certain that they are not excluded.

- **Voter Registration:**

Patricia Jamison reported on her contacts with Cathy Quesenberry and applauded the voter registration efforts currently being made by African-American churches.

Gina Crook offered to participate in voter registration efforts and said she had already received the appropriate training.

Pat Sommers reported on her outreach to local businesses. LWVQAC has been offered space for a voter registration table in a local shopping center. Pat will also contact the Board of Education about the possibility of using food distribution points at local schools for voter registration efforts. Other possible venues include post offices and the Kent Island Farmers’ Market. Pat asked how often we should hold these events. Barbara Sharkey suggested that we hold one event per venue to determine the effectiveness of efforts in each location. She also suggested including flyers with food distributed at the various distribution points.

Liz Hammond asked whether we have any flyers explaining why it is important to vote. Barbara Sharkey said there is a brochure that can be updated. Pat Sommers pointed out that it would be useful to provide information on where and how to vote. Patricia Jamison will contact Cathy Quesenberry for the relevant information. Jinny Guy noted that LWVQAC has a good supply of mail-in voter registration forms which can also be distributed.

Following up on a question from Pat Sommers at the retreat, Patricia Jamison said that she has discussed with Cathy Quesenberry the possibility of obtaining information on voter registration in QAC, with a view to determining if there are areas that are under-represented and then focusing our efforts in those areas.

Other suggestions: Liz Hammond noted that the State and National websites have voter registration “toolkits” that might be useful. Carolyn Moorshead mentioned “Kent and Queen Anne’s Indivisible,” an organization that has been working with Washington College in this area. Patricia Jamison will contact them and report back to Jinny Guy.

- **Annual Meeting and Holiday Meeting:**

Patricia Jamison noted that the Annual Dinner will not be held this year due to the Covid-19 virus, and it is too early for any decisions on the Holiday Meeting and next year’s Annual Meeting/Dinner.

- **Archiving Records:**

It was decided that further efforts in this area will be postponed until the virus situation has eased.

- **Member Renewal Letters:**

Barbara Sharkey reported that LWVQAC currently has 50 regular members and 2 student members. She sent out 36 renewal letters (some were for family memberships) on July 16, 2020. Thus far she has received 22 responses, including \$272 in donations to the Education Fund. In September she will send a reminder to those members that have not responded.

- **Member Recruitment:**

It was noted that some members and one non-member have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the League's efforts. Patricia Jamison agreed to reach out to these people and determine where they might be of assistance.

- **Student League:**

All efforts, including Voter Registration Day, are on hold due to the situation with Covid-19.

- **Calendar and Database:**

Liz Hammond noted that there is currently nothing on the calendar – everything has been cancelled due to the virus. However, Liz and Lorie Andersen-Petrie will compile a calendar of election events once that has been finalized.

- **Revise By-Laws:**

A committee consisting of Patricia Jamison, Lorie Andersen-Petrie, Jinny Guy, Barbara Sharkey and Pat Sommers was formed at the retreat. Liz Hammond will set up a meeting of the Committee.

Patricia Jamison reported on her correspondence with Richard Willson of LWVMD regarding the State League's membership dues policy.

Barbara Sharkey suggested that we should have standing committees and that we compile a list of all LWVQAC Committees and their members. Patricia Jamison agreed to compile the list. She will send it to all members and encourage their participation.

- **Women's Museum:**

Patricia Jamison reported on her contacts with Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin. There has been a disappointing development in that the County Commissioners are no longer supporting Mary Margaret's efforts. However, she is moving ahead and is holding an outdoor event at 5 p.m. on August 11. Several LWVQAC members will attend.

- **Future 100th Anniversary Events:**

It was noted that the video produced by LWVQAC was posted on the State League's website this week. It can also be viewed on LWVQAC.org, QACTV and YouTube.

Lorie Andersen-Petrie mentioned that Washington County LWV is sponsoring a Zoom event devoted to suffragist Lucy Stone on Sunday afternoon, September 13, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. Patricia Jamison will forward information to members.

- **Candidate Forums:**

There was a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion of this topic. Mary Campbell and Patricia Jamison reported on their meeting with George Harvey of QACTV. Mary Campbell will prepare the press releases for all forums and will send invitations to all the candidates. It was decided that there will be three forums, as follows:

Centreville Town Council (Election date - October 5, 2020):

1. Proposed Date/Time: Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 6 p.m.

Notes: This date will allow enough time for issuing press releases and for newspapers to report on the event prior to the election. Mary Campbell will confirm with George Harvey before any public announcement is made.

2. Participants: There are currently 9 candidates and, while the certification process is not yet complete, it is assumed that all will be certified and will be invited to participate in the forum. There will be a moderator and timekeepers present. The forum will be broadcast on QACTV and Facebook, but the public will not be admitted.

Notes: Mary Campbell suggested Barbara Sharkey as moderator. Barbara will check her calendar and respond later.

3. Location: If more than 5 candidates agree to participate, the event will be held in the Town Planning Commission Meeting Room. Otherwise, it will be held in the County Commissioners' space.

Note: There is no possibility for candidates to participate via Zoom.

4. Format: Each candidate will have 1 minute for an introductory statement. This will be followed by a question-and-answer period. All candidates may answer each question if they so desire. Answers will not exceed 1½ minutes.

5. Questions: Questions will be submitted via email and Facebook. Barbara Sharkey will coordinate with Mary Campbell to set up an email address for the public to submit questions. QACTV will vet questions from Facebook and forward to the moderator.

Note: Information on how to submit questions will be included in the press release.

House of Representatives (General Election - November 3, 2020):

1. Proposed Date/Time: October 6, 2020, at 6 p.m.

Notes: Early voting starts on October 22, 2020, so this date allows time for press coverage of the forum results. If one candidate cannot be available on this date, we will consider moving the event to October 8, but the hope is to hold this forum on the 6th and the forum for the QAC Board of Education on the 8th. Mary Campbell has reached out to Mid-Shore and Kent County, but has not received a response.

2. Participants/Location: Participants will be in the QACTV Studio. Since there are only two candidates, they will be able to participate via Zoom, if necessary. There will be a moderator and timekeepers present. The event will be broadcast on QACTV and on Facebook, but the public will not be present.

Note: It was suggested that, since this is a multi-county event, a moderator from Kent County should be invited.

3. Format: There will be introductory statements by the candidates, to be followed by a question-and-answer period. No decision has yet been made on the time to be allotted for opening statements or answers to questions.

4. Questions: The procedure will be the same as for the Town Council forum, i.e. questions will be submitted by email or on Facebook.

Note: Mary Campbell will write up the procedure for submitting questions and confirm with George Harvey, and this information will then be included in the press release. Tentatively,

LWVQAC will sort and vet questions submitted by email, and QACTV will sort and vet questions submitted on Facebook.

QAC Board of Education (General Election – November 3, 2020):

1. Proposed Date/Time: October 8, 2020, at 6 p.m.

Note: This forum has not yet been discussed with QACTV.

2. Participants: There are currently four candidates, all of whom are write-in candidates. All will be invited to participate in the forum.

Notes: There was an extensive discussion of which names will appear on the ballot and which candidates should be invited. The QAC Board of Elections, consulted by telephone, said that all the candidates are write-ins and thus their names will not appear on the ballot, but, depending on the decision of the State BOE, will probably be posted in polling places. Carolyn Moorshead noted that an explanation of the write-in procedure is needed, and Liz Hammond indicated that this information will be included in the Voters' Guide.

3. No decision was made on the procedure for submitting questions, the designation of a moderator or timekeepers, or the format for the forum.

Gina Crook joined Patricia Jamison, Mary Campbell and Courtney Leigh as a member of the Forum Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

OTHER:

Liz Hammond transmitted a request from the Corsica River Conservancy that the LWVQAC take a position in support of mail-in voting. It was noted that LWVMD has already done so.

Adjournment: Barbara Sharkey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Pat Sommers seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on September 14, 2020, at Patricia Jamison's house.