

**League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County
Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 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, Courtney Leigh, Theresa Morgan, Barbara Sharkey, and Pat Sommers

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President, Patricia Jamison, at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes: Liz Hammond moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting, seconded by Barbara Sharkey, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report, Audit and Obtaining Certificates of Insurance: Barbara Sharkey presented the Treasurer's Report. We have a balance of \$8,106.44 in the Education Fund, after payment to Midshore League for the Voters' Guide, and a balance of \$13,827.23 in the Operating Fund, after PMPs to the State and National Leagues. Barbara noted that we have received a reconciliation from LWVMD Treasurer Carolyn Hetterick for the Education Fund.

Courtney Leigh asked whether we do a year-over-year comparison of the two funds. Barbara responded that this had been done in the past and we can start doing it again. She suggested that a quarterly comparison to our budget might be useful and will present it at our October meeting.

Regarding the audit required by the LWVQAC By-Laws whenever a new Treasurer takes office, Barbara reported that Skip Moore has completed his review and everything is in order. Pat Sommers agreed to do a second review and is expected to complete her review shortly.

Regarding certificates of insurance, Barbara said that LWVQAC has insurance coverage through the LWVMD. If confirmation of insurance is needed, board members should send Barbara an email specifying the date, time, and venue for an event, as well as the number of people expected to participate. Barbara will then forward this information to Carolyn Hetterick, LWVMD Treasurer, who will provide the required certificate.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Database and Calendar:** Lorie Andersen-Petrie reported that she has consolidated various mailing lists into a single Data Base and will be forwarding it to board members for their review. She agreed to restart the Calendar, which has been suspended during the COVID crisis because all events were cancelled.
- **Social Media (Facebook and Webpage):** Courtney Leigh said that while she now has access to the website, she is not yet able to manipulate it. Barbara Sharkey offered to help resolve this problem. Courtney continues to promote LWVQAC on Facebook and asks Board members to send any ideas for social media postings. She will also post information on mail-in balloting.

- **Vote 411, Voters' Guide and Elected Officials Guide:** Liz Hammond provided the following report:
Voters' Guide: The VG will be printed by October 9 and might be ready as early as October 2 or 3. We have ordered 500 copies, the same number as last year. Liz noted that all local candidates have responded and will be included in the Guide.

Patricia Jamison pointed out that we need to decide how and where to distribute the copies. She suggested the library, post offices, pharmacies, and the Board of Elections. Liz Hammond will provide copies to the Board Members so that they can distribute them.

Vote 411: Vote 411 will “go live” on September 19 and all our local candidates will be included.

Elected Officials Guide: Liz will work on this after the election.

Liz also expressed her sincere appreciation to Marion Grier for her help during this process.

- **Voter Information/Registration:** Patricia Jamison stressed that we need to focus on voter information and education, not just registration. Pat Sommers reported on various possible venues on Kent Island:
 - food distribution points – Pat is waiting for a response from the Board of Education;
 - Kent Island Farmers' Market;
 - Thompson Creek Shopping Center – she has received permission to set up a table and just needs dates and insurance information;
 - the library – they are planning a voter information exhibit and have asked us to supply materials.

Pat noted that we need to find a venue in Centreville. Patricia Jamison offered to contact Walgreens and Edwards Pharmacy.

Regarding dates, Patricia asked Pat Sommers to put together a schedule, which she will distribute along with a request for volunteers. Barbara Sharkey made a motion that we should purchase a table to be used at these and other events. Pat Sommers seconded, and the motion was approved.

- **Member Renewal Letters:** Barbara Sharkey will send out reminder letters within the week.
- **By-Laws:** Liz Hammond reported that the Committee had met at her house on August 26, 2020, and had made a number of revisions, which will be circulated to the Board for review.
- **Member Recruitment by Encouraging Membership Participation:** Patricia Jamison noted that recently members have shown increasing interest in actively supporting the work of the LWVQAC. She circulated the list of Standing Committees to the membership, asking if anyone was interested in joining any of the committees. This elicited a good response, and she plans to send out the list again. She also noted that on Wednesday, September 16, Niecy Chambers of the LWVMD will be holding a Zoom meeting on encouraging member involvement.

Pat Sommers asked about the possibility of partnering with other organizations, such as the NAACP. Gina Crook is a member of the NAACP and offered to contact them. Gina also

mentioned the possibility of collaborating with the Queen Anne's County Equity Committee, a group working to make things more equitable for minorities and low-income groups.

- **Annual Meeting and Workbook:** Patricia Jamison thanked Courtney Leigh for volunteering to chair this event and Mary Campbell for offering to prepare the Workbook. She encouraged others to volunteer to help with this event. Mary said we need to think in terms of a virtual meeting and noted that the Annual Meeting makes decisions on issues of importance to the League.
- **Archiving Records:** Postponed until after the election.
- **Student League:** Patricia Jamison noted that we will continue to look at this initiative, but because of the situation with the coronavirus, nothing can be done at this time.
- **Holiday Meeting:** Liz Hammond has offered to host the event at her house, but a decision will be made at a later date.
- **Future 100th Anniversary Events:** Patricia noted that we should continue to publicize the video made earlier this year. She also mentioned the possibility of visiting the exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery, which will open again on September 18.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Legislative Priorities:** Patricia Jamison distributed a survey from the LWVMD, asking Board Members to rank various issues in terms of their priority for League action. Members completed the survey at the meeting.
- **Candidate Forums:** Mary Campbell reported on the three forums, as follows:
 1. Centreville Town Council: The forum will take place at 6 p.m. on September 24. It will be held at the QAC Board of Education Building, but it will be a virtual event and only the candidates, one tech person, the moderator (Barbara Sharkey), LWVQAC President (Patricia Jamison), and the timekeeper (Mary Campbell) will be present. The public will not be admitted but will be able to view the forum on QACTV/Facebook or QAC.org/live. Questions can be submitted live on QACTV/Facebook or by email no later than the evening before the event. Patricia Jamison and QACTV will vet the questions. Mary will send the draft press release to the Board following tonight's meeting and will issue the final press release very soon. She asked that it also be posted on the Facebook page and other social media.

Because all nine candidates have agreed to participate, there was some concern about the format for the discussion with so many participants. It was tentatively agreed that there will be an icebreaker question to all the candidates, followed by audience questions. If a question is addressed to a particular candidate, the other candidates will be given an opportunity to respond after that person answers.

2. District 1 House of Representatives: Mary Campbell contacted both the Mason and Harris campaigns. Mia Mason agreed to participate, but Representative Andy Harris' staff responded that they "cannot agree to appear in any forum with Mia Mason at this time until she files accurate reports with the FEC...." Thus, unless the situation changes, there will be no forum since the participation of both candidates is required.

3. QAC Board of Education: Members are being elected from Districts 2, 3 and 4.
- District 2: Dick Smith is running unopposed so no forum will be held;
 - District 3: there are 3 candidates – Helen Bennett, Buffy Cromwell, and Pamela Turner-Tingle. All have agreed to participate, and a forum will be held at 6 p.m. on October 20. The format will be the same as for the Centreville Town Council forum.
 - District 4: Of the 3 candidates running in District 4 – Mark Anderson, Nikki Kennedy, and Schif Schifanelli – only Nikki Kennedy has responded. Mary will contact the other two candidates again, but unless they agree to participate, no forum will be held. If a forum is held, it will take place immediately following the forum for District 3.

OTHER:

Patricia Jamison noted that the virtual LWVMD Fall Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 26. If any Board Members are interested, she will forward the link.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. All paid members of LWVQAC will be invited to participate.

Adjournment: Courtney Leigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pat Sommers seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.