

**League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County
Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2020**



Attending: Patricia Jamison, President; Liz Hammond, Vice President; Lorie Andersen-Petrie, Secretary; Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer; and board members Mary Campbell, Gina Crook, Courtney Leigh, Theresa Morgan, and Pat Sommers. Niecy Chambers from LWVMD set up the online meeting and was present for the first portion of the meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President, Patricia Jamison, at 6:37 p.m.

Minutes: Liz Hammond made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting, seconded by Courtney Leigh, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Sharkey reported that as of November 9, 2020, the Education Fund had a balance of \$8,231.44, including two donations totaling \$125.00. The Operating Fund had a balance of \$5,878.62, including deposits of \$156.00 for two membership renewals, and expenditures of \$110.00 for stamps used in sending out the annual appeal letters. The total balance was \$14,110.06, which compares to \$13,646.09 as of October 30, 2019.

Barbara also reported that IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) was filed in August.

Pat Sommers asked what should be done with a donation received at one of the voter information events. It was agreed that she would deliver it to Barbara, who would deposit the donation.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Database and Calendar:** Lorie Andersen-Petrie reported that she has been updating the Mailing List as needed. She will not be circulating each new updated list, but if Board members need a copy, they should contact her to obtain the latest version. She asked Board members to provide her with any updates to the Calendar.
- **Social Media (Facebook and Webpage):** Courtney Leigh noted that she needs to update the website. On Facebook she will be focusing on membership efforts and the annual appeal. She is looking for other nonpartisan posts and asked for input from the Board. Mary Campbell suggested that the election of the first woman Vice President would be a good subject. Patricia Jamison noted that Kamala Harris had been elected in the anniversary year of the 19th Amendment and had mentioned this fact in her acceptance speech. Gina Crook pointed out that more women had been elected this year than ever before. Courtney will follow up on all these points in her Facebook posts.
- **Vote 411, Voters' Guide (Cost and Mid-Shore Request):** Liz Hammond reported that we have received the bill for the Voter's Guides from Jeanne Halpin of LWV Mid-Shore. Out of a

total cost of \$1,783.42, LWVQAC will pay \$359.61 for inserts in the *Bay Times* and *Record Observer*. In addition, there is the question of copies of the *Star Democrat* that went to Queen Anne's County. Since the *Star Democrat* is unable to provide a breakdown by county, Barbara Sharkey proposed that, as in the past, LWVQAC donate \$250.00 to LWV Mid-Shore to help cover these costs. Liz Hammond moved that we make such a donation, seconded by Courtney Leigh, and the motion was carried.

- **Elected Officials Guide:** Liz Hammond said she plans to provide an updated draft in February. The possibility of issuing the guide earlier was raised. Liz pointed out that it would be inappropriate to publish the names of officials until they have actually taken office, and it was decided to wait until next year, as originally planned.
- **Final Summary: Voter Information/Registration Events:** Pat Sommers noted that she had provided a report to the Board on these events. The members discussed the possibility of taking a break until the spring, but the consensus was that these efforts should be ongoing. Possible venues were discussed, including the Kent Island Farmers' Market, post offices, and the Centreville town square. Patricia Jamison agreed to contact the Centreville Post Office, and Pat Sommers will follow up on the other suggestions.
- **Annual Appeal Letter:** Barbara Sharkey reported that over 100 letters were mailed last Friday and she will be collecting the donations as they come in. Patricia Jamison thanked Carolyn Moorshead, who prepared the letter, and Doris Pullman, who helped in this effort.
- **Membership:** Barbara Sharkey reported that there are currently 41 paid members. She raised a question concerning family memberships where the family consists of more than two people, a situation which arose recently in connection with a membership renewal. Following a discussion of PMP requirements and related issues, it was agreed that this matter requires further study.

There was an extensive and wide-ranging discussion on the need to intensify efforts to reach out to members. Ideas included contacting new members personally to welcome them and holding get-togethers for new members. Courtney Leigh suggested holding quarterly Zoom meetings on specific issues of interest to the membership. She offered to organize such meetings, and Theresa Morgan agreed to help. Various possible topics were considered, including the legislative priorities put forward by the State league. Courtney will contact LWVMD State Director Ashley Oleson, and Courtney and Theresa will make plans for an online forum to be held at the end of January. They will provide a proposed agenda to the Board at the meeting on January 11, 2021.

- **Revised By-Laws:** Barbara Sharkey discussed the changes resulting from LWVQAC's change in status to a 501(c)(3) organization. This change will greatly simplify our accounting procedures, but it requires that specific language be included in the by-laws. Barbara has provided a draft of this wording, and the By-Laws Committee, chaired by Patricia Jamison, will meet to resolve any questions. Liz Hammond will schedule a committee meeting. The revised by-laws will then go to the Board for review and will ultimately have to be approved by the general membership at the annual meeting.
- **Annual Meeting and Workbook:** Discussion of this issue has been postponed until after the New Year.

- **Archiving Records:** Discussion of this issue has been postponed until after the New Year.
- **Student League:** Patricia Jamison reported that she had been contacted by Maxwell Fairweather, Trio/STEM Associate Director at Chesapeake College, who had invited her to an online conference on voting issues. She feels that Mr. Fairweather is an important contact, and she will continue to be in touch with him.
- **Board of Education Forum:** Patricia Jamison noted that the forum had been very successful and had been viewed by more than 1600 people. She thanked Mary Campbell and Barbara Sharkey for their hard work in organizing and conducting this event.

Mary Campbell mentioned that she had received a call from candidate Mark Anderson, objecting to the inclusion of Sean Foley in the forum. Mr. Anderson claimed that Mr. Foley had not met one of the deadlines for write-in candidates. It was agreed that this matter requires further investigation, and Mary will follow up with the Board of Elections.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **LWVMD Diversity Survey:** Patricia Jamison reported that she had received a Diversity Survey from Richard Wilson of the LWVMD, requesting information on the number of white, non-white and male Board members. Patricia will forward the survey to Board members.
- **December Meeting:** Liz Hammond moved that the December meeting be cancelled. Mary Campbell seconded, and the motion was carried.
- **Other:** Patricia Jamison reported that she has been in contact with Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin regarding the Women’s History Museum. Mary Margaret is recovering from her broken hip and plans to be back at work on the project very soon.
- **Comments/Ideas:** Courtney Leigh suggested that LWVQAC needs more effective “tabling” at events because the current system is very inconvenient. Courtney and Liz Hammond proposed the following purchases: 1) a tent with our logo on it; 2) a tablecloth with our logo on it; and 3) a cart to transport items at events. Patricia Jamison suggested that Courtney and Liz obtain cost information and report back to the Board. Barbara Sharkey noted that the State League has certain requirements for the logo and offered to research this question. It was agreed that the Board would revisit this issue in January.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be an online meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Lorie Andersen-Petrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barbara Sharkey seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.