

**League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County
Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021**



Attending: Patricia Jamison, President; Liz Hammond, Vice President; Lorie Andersen-Petrie, Secretary; Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer; and board members Mary Campbell, Gina Crook, Jinny Guy, Theresa Morgan, and Pat Sommers. LWVQAC member Elizabeth Morgan also participated.

Call to Order: The Zoom online meeting was called to order by the President, Patricia Jamison, at 6:36 p.m.

Minutes: Barbara Sharkey made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Liz Hammond, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Membership/Annual Appeal – Updates: Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer, reported that as of January 31, 2021, the balance in the Education Fund was \$8,551.83, and the balance in the Operating Fund was \$6,944.81, for a total of \$15,496.64. This compares with \$13,884.47 on January 31, 2020. The balance in the Education Fund was reconciled with the State as of January 31, 2020.

The LWVQAC currently has 46 members (2 student members, 33 primary members, and 11 household members). Regarding the Annual Appeal, Barbara reported that as of January 31, 2021, seventeen donations had been received, totaling \$1,580.00.

Lorie Andersen-Petrie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for audit, seconded by Jinny Guy, and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved for audit.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Elected Officials Guide:** Liz Hammond reported that 100 copies of the guide have been printed. If needed, the guide will be updated every three months and additional copies will be printed. The Board discussed how the guide should be distributed. Patricia Jamison offered take copies to the Centreville Library and County Commissioners' office. Anyone else who is willing to distribute copies should contact Liz.
- **Archiving/Consolidating Records/Materials; Storage Cost:** Liz Hammond looked into the possibility of renting a small storage unit so that these materials can be kept in a central location. However, the Board felt that a storage cost of between \$65.00 and \$95.00 dollars per month was prohibitive. Barbara Sharkey recommended reviewing and consolidating all the materials before making a decision on storage. Patricia Jamison will schedule a Zoom meeting with the Archiving Records committee to review storage needs. The Board will revisit the storage issue after this process has been completed.
- **Database and Calendar:** Lorie Andersen-Petrie noted that she sent a copy of the database to all the Board members in January. She asked that members review it and let her know of any changes.

- **Social Media (Webpage):** Barbara Sharkey has posted the latest Minutes and the new Elected Officials Guide on the website.
- **Finding a Consistent Logo to Use:** Prior to the meeting Barbara Sharkey had sent the Board members information on the three different logos our League is currently using for different purposes. She noted that LWVUS has developed and is requiring local leagues use standardized LWV logo in all new materials to recognize that all LWV leagues are part of the overall LWVUS organization. A committee consisting of Barbara, Jinny Guy, and Mary Campbell was formed to consider the various options. Barbara will arrange a virtual meeting, and the committee will report back to the Board with recommendations for a single logo to be used on all LWVQAC materials.
- **Annual Meeting:** In view of the continuing pandemic, Patricia Jamison proposed following the same procedure as last year, that is, instead of holding an in-person annual meeting and dinner, we would send all the relevant materials to the members and ask them to vote by mail on items such as the Treasurer's Report and the amended By-Laws, which require action by the membership. It was agreed that Patricia will discuss the annual meeting with Mary Campbell, committee chair, to review last year's arrangements, and a decision will be made about the meeting at the next Board meeting.
- **Sunday Supper Group:** Gina Crook described the work of this organization, whose goal is to bring people together to have a conversation about race and equity, thereby fostering greater racial understanding and respect. Noting that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are currently a major focus of both LWVMD and our League, Patricia Jamison said she intends to join this group and encouraged others to do the same. Gina will send a link to all Board members.
- **Student League:** Patricia Jamison has accepted an invitation from Chesapeake College (CC) to give an online presentation on the subject of special education and will continue contact with CC. Activities related to the Student League continue to be on hold due to the pandemic.
- **LWVMD Winter Workshop:** Patricia Jamison reported on the LWVMD Winter Workshop, which dealt with two topics: 1) citizen initiatives and referenda: a study of whether Marylanders should be able to put issues on the ballot through a petition process. The State League is seeking consensus on whether to proceed with such a study. Patricia will send materials to the Board members so that the Board can discuss this issue at the next meeting and report back to the State; and 2) police reform: proposed legislative changes.
- **Proposed League Membership Zoom Meeting: "Legislative Priorities for 2021 MD General Assembly":** Theresa Morgan has been in touch with the LWVMD team of Roy Appletree and Nancy Soreng about a planned virtual advocacy day with state delegates and senators in early March. Nancy is willing to meet with our membership in advance to discuss legislative priorities, and Theresa feels this would be very helpful. It was agreed that the meeting would be held on February 25 at 6 p.m. Patricia Jamison will work with Theresa and Lorie Andersen-Petrie to email information out to the membership.
- **MD General Assembly Legislative Update:** Theresa noted that the LWVMD has taken a position on approximately 30 different bills currently before the General Assembly. Given the breadth of topics, she proposes to develop a monthly calendar and address two areas each month. In March she will focus on Police Reform and Education.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Case Method Institute Opportunity for Teachers:** Gina Crook reported on a recent opportunity for LWVQAC to nominate a high-school history teacher to participate in a highly acclaimed professional development program sponsored by the Case Method Institute at Harvard Business School. With Gina's help, LWVQAC has selected Marisa McAndrews of QACPS.
- **Zoom Workshop: Race in Pre K-12 Classrooms:** Gina Crook attended this workshop, which emphasized the importance of having a conversation about race in pre-K-12 classrooms. Maryland schools do not currently have such a curriculum and the meeting dealt with ways to have this conversation and strategies for teachers to address this issue.
- **Revised By-Laws: Next Steps:** The amended By-Laws have been sent to the Board members for review. Patricia Jamison pointed out some of the major changes, including the change in status to a 501(c)(3) organization; the addition of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statement; and the inclusion of a provision allowing the Board to hold meetings by video conference. Once the By-Laws are finalized and approved by the Board, they will be presented to all league members for their approval.
- **Program Planning for 2021-2023 Due February 26, 2021:** Patricia Jamison noted that the LWVQAC is asked, along with other leagues, to complete a program planning checklist for the State League by February 26. In general, she feels there is a need to focus greater attention on this area at future meetings. There was a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion of various possible programs and issues. Theresa Morgan suggested that perhaps we could take a more educational approach and focus on less partisan issues throughout the year. Mary Campbell noted that in the past the LWVQAC has held informational forums for the public. Elizabeth Morgan advocated focusing on practical issues of immediate concern to local residents, such as the availability of broadband, transportation, and the Bay Bridge. Theresa agreed that identifying specific Eastern Shore issues is of key importance and expressed the view that we should not simply present what is being done at the State level. Everyone agreed on the need to reach out to the community, determine what issues are important to residents, and let people know that we are listening to their voice.

OTHER:

- **Comments:** Mary Campbell reminded the Board that QAC is currently engaged in the comprehensive planning process. She encouraged members to visit the county website and participate in virtual meetings. Theresa raised the possibility of joining with other groups to hold an informational forum on this issue.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be an online meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Mary Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barbara Sharkey seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.