

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



**Attending:** Patricia Jamison, President; Lorie Andersen-Petrie, Secretary; Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer; and board members Mary Campbell, Gina Crook, Jinny Guy, 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 6:37 p.m. Lorie Andersen-Petrie asked if anyone objected to having the meeting recorded. As there were no objections, the meeting was recorded.

**Minutes:** Barbara Sharkey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, seconded by Jinny Guy, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer, reported that as of March 8, 2021, the balance in the Education Fund was \$8,551.83, and the balance in the Operating Fund was \$6,995.00, for a total of \$15,546.83. This compares with \$13,170.47 on February 29, 2020. She noted that we have two new members (one paid member and one student member).

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Annual Meeting/Nominating Committee/By-Laws:**

**Annual Meeting:** In view of the continuing pandemic, the Board has decided that instead of holding an in-person annual meeting and dinner, we will send all the relevant materials to the members and ask them to vote by mail on the action items. Mary Campbell will oversee preparation of the packets, which will include the following:

1. Cover letter – Patricia Jamison. In the letter she will stress that, despite the pandemic, the LWVQAC has continued its work during the past year, holding candidate forums and voter registration events and producing a video commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League.
2. Proposed budget for the next year – Barbara Sharkey
3. Proposed slate of nominations – Nominating Committee
4. Amended By-Laws. Patricia has prepared a highlighted copy showing the revisions, and she will work with Barbara to provide explanations of the major changes for the membership.
5. Ballot – Mary Campbell. Members will be given approximately one month to return the ballots.

Patricia will send out an email in advance, alerting members to the fact that we are not holding an in-person meeting and they will be receiving the packets in the mail. Barbara will prepare the envelopes, including SASEs for returning the ballots. The goal is to have the materials ready by the time of the April meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee currently consists of Marion Grier, Chair, and Courtney Leigh. A third member is needed, and Patricia will ask Jean Moore if she is willing to serve on the Committee. Patricia will also touch base with Marion. The following positions will need to be filled: 1) President: Patricia Jamison expressed her willingness to continue as President; 2) Secretary; 3) three positions on the Board of Directors: Jinny Guy expressed her willingness to continue serving on the Board, and Patricia will contact the other Board members whose terms are expiring.

Board Approval of Amended By-Laws: Jinny Guy made a motion to approve the amended By-Laws as presented to the Board, Pat Sommers seconded, and the By-Laws were unanimously approved.

- **Database and Calendar:** Lorie Andersen-Petrie reported that at Barbara Sharkey’s suggestion, she has updated the mailing list to indicate those members who have volunteered to assist with LWVQAC projects and events. She believes this information will be useful in planning future activities, and she will be circulating the updated list to the Board following tonight’s meeting.
- **Social Media (Facebook and Webpage):** Barbara Sharkey reported that she is continuing to work on the webpage. Regarding Facebook, her efforts have been focused on adding Theresa Morgan as an administrator, which she feels will be particularly helpful in publicizing future LWVQAC events.
- **Debrief on League Membership Zoom Meeting:** Patricia Jamison noted that the meeting, which dealt with “Legislative Priorities for the 2021 MD General Assembly,” had been extremely informative, and she commended Theresa Morgan for her excellent work in organizing the event. Patricia expressed the view that we should continue to hold such meetings in the future, but that we should allow for longer lead-time so that we can publicize the events more widely and attract a larger audience. The Board discussed various ideas for reaching out to our membership and others, including: 1) announcements on Facebook; 2) phone calls; 3) inviting people from outside the LWVQAC, such as the local Democratic and Republican Clubs, the Sunday Supper Group, and the QAC Equity Committee; and 4) sending postcards to our members and other contacts with information about the upcoming event.
- **Committee Report on Logo Use:** Barbara Sharkey reported that the committee, consisting of herself, Mary Campbell and Jinny Guy, had held a Zoom meeting and reviewed the current different logos being used for various purposes, including Facebook, Website, Annual Meeting workbook, and mailings. Committee members reviewed the new logo requirements of the National LWV, issued for all local Leagues to adhere to.

After discussion, it was agreed that we should develop our own logo, using the guidelines from the National, but including Queen Anne’s Lace to personalize our logo. Mary offered to take some photos of Queen Anne’s Lace when it is in bloom, over the summer. It was suggested we use a blue background for the picture so it would go with the red, white and blue of the name of the league that is required by the national. It was also suggested we might develop a little contest for the best photo to use. The Committee had discussed how to then use the photo to develop artwork into a logo, then get the Board’s approval before it is put into use. Barbara asked if anyone has a good software program to be able to develop the logo.

- **Committee Report on Archiving/Consolidating Records/Materials:** Patricia Jamison reported that all members of the Committee (herself, Mary Campbell, Liz Hammond, Pat Sommers, Barbara Sharkey, Jinny Guy, and Elizabeth Morgan) had met virtually on Zoom on March 4, to review what records/materials exist and to discuss next steps. The records (notebooks of past secretaries) are stored at Patricia Jamison’s house. Mary Campbell also has copies of Newsletters from 2003-2006. The materials which relate to voter registration are located at Pat Sommer’s house. The committee decided that all records need to be reviewed, a determination made about what needs to be saved and extraneous material removed. Patricia Jamison will schedule a meeting of all members for early May to work on the records. Pat Sommers will schedule a meeting in early May with Jinny, Barbara and Patricia to review existing voter registration materials and determine what needs to be replaced. Archiving the written records was discussed and Elizabeth Morgan will follow-up with the state about this option.
- **Sunday Supper Group:** Gina Crook reported on a recent presentation by Clay Washington, President of the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center, who had shared information about seven local African American trailblazers and their accomplishments. Patricia Jamison noted that she has joined this group and

encouraged others to do the same. Gina also discussed the Equity Policy recently adopted by QAC Public Schools and the controversy surrounding it. At Patricia's request, Gina said she will send a link to all Board members.

- **Legislative Day:** Patricia Jamison, Barbara Sharkey, Liz Hammond, and Elizabeth Morgan attended this event. Elizabeth commented that she had been impressed by the large turnout, and everyone agreed that it had been a positive experience.
- **Case Method Institute Opportunity for Teachers:** LWVQAC recently nominated a teacher from Queen Anne's County to participate in a professional development program at the Case Method Institute at Harvard Business School. Gina Crook reported that, despite her initial enthusiasm, this teacher has not responded to repeated emails, so the decision has been made to keep her name on the list for next time. In the future we will be able to select more than one candidate, and Gina suggested that it would be a good idea to nominate several people in the hope that one or more will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.
- **Program Planning for 2021-2023 Due April 16, 2021:** The LWVMD has asked local leagues to complete a Program Planning form soliciting input on possible topics for 2021-2023. Barbara Sharkey remarked that the form is much longer and more complex than in previous years. Patricia Jamison has informed the State League that we do not have a response at this time. She will contact LWVMD Vice President Elaine Apter to request further information and clarification.
- **Student League:** Patricia Jamison will get in touch with Mark Berry, Director of Student Engagement and Development, to determine where things stand and discuss future steps, possibly for the fall. Barbara Sharkey remarked that, while the LWVQAC stands ready to help and support the college and students in their efforts, this is a student club and any initiatives should come from them. Patricia agreed, but noted that as a community college they have a responsibility to deal with these issues, and she expressed the hope that they will continue to be interested in doing so.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Collaboration Ideas for Program Planning:** Elizabeth Morgan, referring to an email she had sent earlier, proposed that in working to increase diversity and inclusion, we should begin by consulting established race and gender equity groups, such as the ACLU and Black Lives Matter, and asking whether they would be willing to collaborate with us on these issues. In the Program Planning area, she suggested focusing on specific issues of local interest, including broadband and transportation. In particular, she mentioned a little-known bill which has languished in the state legislature for years and which proposes constructing an underwater tunnel as a thruway, thereby alleviating traffic problems on Kent Island. Elizabeth suggested working to raise awareness of the bill and conducting a survey of local residents to gauge public opinion on this legislation. She will send the bill to Board members. Patricia Jamison expressed support for these ideas and recommended discussing them further at the June retreat when the Board decides on activities for the coming year.
- **Consensus on Initiatives and Referendums:** The LWVMD has provided a Fact Sheet and questionnaire on this issue and is seeking consensus from local leagues on whether to support a position for Maryland to allow citizen initiatives. At this point one member had left the meeting and there was no longer a quorum present to decide this issue. Therefore, Patricia Jamison said she would resend the document to the Board members and ask them to respond by email. Barbara Sharkey noted that in the past, consensus has referred to a consensus of the entire membership, not just the Board. She proposed sending the information out to the members and asking them to respond by a certain date. She noted that the Fact Sheet is lengthy and complex, and recommended asking the State League to provide a brief, one-page summary that can be circulated to the membership. Patricia agreed to contact Elaine Apter and request such a summary.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be an online meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Lorie Andersen-Petrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jinny Guy seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.