

**League of Women Voters of Queen Anne's County
Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting
April 12, 2021**



Attending: Patricia Jamison, President; Liz Hammond, Vice President; Lorie Andersen-Petrie, Secretary; Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer; and board members Mary Campbell, Gina Crook (via Zoom), and Pat Sommers.

Location: Patricia Jamison's residence.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President, Patricia Jamison, at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes: Barbara Sharkey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting, seconded by Mary Campbell, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Sharkey, Treasurer, reported that as of March 31, 2021, the balance in the Education Fund was \$9,752.93, and the balance in the Operating Fund was \$5,853.90, for a total of \$15,606.83. This compares with \$14,892.85 on March 31, 2020. Barbara noted that there had been two more donations to the Annual Appeal, one for the Education Fund and one for the Operating Fund. As of March 31, 2021, there have been nineteen responses to the appeal, with donations totaling \$1640.00.

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

Prior to the meeting Barbara had sent the following documents to the Board: (1) Comparison of Actual to Budget for 2020/2021 and (2) the LWVQAC Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022).

Regarding the Comparison of Actual to Budget, Barbara noted that last year had been unusual, with lower expenditures due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, she feels it is useful to review these figures periodically to give the Board a clear picture of where we stand financially.

Barbara then reviewed the proposed budgets for next year, which will be included in the package of action items to be voted on by the membership. She explained that her figures are predicated on a more normal year than the pandemic year 2020. The opening and closing balances in the Education Fund are estimated at \$9,500 and \$8,800, respectively. The figures include expenditures for various events, publications, and miscellaneous expenses. For the Operating Fund, the opening and closing balances are estimated at \$5,500 and \$3,854, respectively. Barbara noted that she has based the PMPs to the State and National Leagues on a projected figure of 45 members. She also included a \$275 filing fee for converting the LWVQAC to a 501(c)(3) organization.

Mary Campbell made a motion to approve the LWVQAC Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, Liz Hammond seconded, and the Budgets were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Database and Calendar:** An error in the data base, which involved some members' telephone numbers, had been pointed out by Marion Grier and Jean Moore of the Nominating Committee. Lorie corrected the data base and a revised version of the list was circulated to the Board. Patricia suggested that at the retreat in June the Board discuss the question of resuming the Calendar, which has been suspended during the pandemic.

- **Social Media (Facebook and Webpage):** Patricia Jamison reported that Theresa Morgan is returning to graduate school and will be withdrawing from the Board. A replacement will have to be found to take over the Facebook page. Patricia expressed the hope that Courtney Leigh may be able to resume these duties in the near future.
- **General Assembly Legislative Update:** Gina Crook applauded the Maryland legislature for “taking the lead in police reform” and for overriding the Governor’s veto of the education bill.
- **Update on Archiving Records:** During a recent meeting of the Presidents of the local leagues, Patricia Jamison learned that in Frederick County the local library has assumed responsibility for archiving LWV records. Patricia contacted LWVQAC member Julie Ranelli, who works at the Kent Island Branch of the QAC Library, to request assistance in digitizing our records. She is awaiting a response. In answer to a question from Pat Sommers, Patricia said that the Archiving Committee still plans to hold two meetings in May to review and consolidate existing materials.
- **Another Update on By-Laws to Approve:** Patricia Jamison informed the Board that she has received another change to the LWVQAC By-Laws from Richard Willson of the LWVMD. The change, in Article II, Section 2, paragraph 2.2, is based on language required by the LWVUS and reads as follows: “2.2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The LWVQAC is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.” This change is incorporated in the text of the amended By-Laws to be sent to the membership.

Liz Hammond made a motion to approve the change, seconded by Gina Crook, and the change was unanimously approved.

- **LWV Baltimore Virtual Event:** Gina Crook reported on an event organized by the LWV of Baltimore County on the crisis in local journalism. In recent years many local newspapers have closed, leaving hundreds of communities with no local news outlet. Saving our local newspapers is an important issue, in particular, because they are an instrument for stopping the spread of misinformation. Gina expressed the view that we have a civic duty to support local news outlets.
- **Student League:** Patricia Jamison had nothing new to report on the Student League. She intends to contact Chesapeake College once classes resume face to face on campus to determine if help is needed with the student league from our league.
- **Update on Consensus on Initiatives and Referendums:** The LWVMD had requested consensus from the local leagues on this issue by April 15, 2021. At the last meeting, the Board decided that the materials provided by the State League were too voluminous to be distributed to the membership, and Patricia Jamison asked the LWVMD to provide a summary. Elaine Apter replied that this was not possible and, as a result, it was decided that the LWVQAC will not respond on this issue.
- **Update on Annual Meeting Mailing for Members: Letter; Proposed Slate; Proposed Budget; Revised By-Laws:** The following items will be included in the packet sent to the membership, along with a ballot:
 - (1) Letter: Patricia Jamison distributed copies of her draft cover letter, and the Board suggested several changes. Patricia will insert the changes and resend the corrected copy to the Board for final review.
 - (2) Proposed Slate: The Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of candidates (the year in parentheses indicates the term ending date): President – Patricia Jamison (2023); Vice President – Liz Hammond (2022); Treasurer – Barbara Sharkey (2022); Secretary – Patricia Sommers (2023); Board members – Carolyn Moorshead, Mary Campbell, and Courtney Leigh (all 2022), and Joyce Woodford,

Jinny Guy, and Lorie Andersen-Petrie (all 2023). A replacement is needed for Theresa Morgan, who is withdrawing from the Board. Various candidates were discussed. Patricia Jamison telephoned Marion Grier to ask whom the Committee had contacted. Marion said they have been in touch with several people and are awaiting a reply from one possible candidate. Patricia offered to mentor any younger candidates who may wish to take on leadership roles in the future.

- (3) Proposed Budget: see above under Treasurer's Report.
- (4) Revised By-Laws: Patricia Jamison noted that in the current format the amended By-Laws are many pages long, and she has discussed with Marion Grier the possibility of reformatting them into a booklet, like the one used for the current by-laws. Marion is currently working on this. Other technical issues related to formatting and mailing the materials (dates, envelope size, address labels, etc.) were also discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Letter to the Board on Violence Against Women:** Elizabeth Morgan sent an email to the Board requesting that the LWVQAC issue a statement on behalf of the local organization regarding violence against women in light of the slaughter of eight women in Atlanta, six of whom were of Asian descent. The LWVUS and LWVGA have already issued a joint statement condemning this heinous crime. Mary Campbell suggested that since the LWVUS speaks for all of us, we can simply endorse this statement. Patricia Jamison will follow up with Richard Willson on this issue.

Patricia then addressed the question of whether Elizabeth, who has moved to Washington, DC, can remain a member of the LWVQAC. Patricia asked Richard Willson for clarification of the State League's residence requirements. According to the State By-Laws, individuals who reside outside the area of a local league may join a local league or shall be LWVMD members-at-large. Patricia will notify Elizabeth that she is welcome to remain a member of LWVQAC.

OTHER:

- **Upcoming Events:** Patricia Jamison informed the Board that the LWVMD State Convention will be held (virtually) on Saturday, June 5. The National Capital Area LWV will hold its Convention on Saturday, May 1. The program will include a panel discussion on redistricting plans in Maryland and Virginia and an update on the status of statehood for DC.

Patricia noted that Nikki Tyree has replaced Ashley Oleson as LWVMD State Director. Nikki has been attending meetings of the local leagues, and Patricia suggested that we invite her to our August meeting.

- **Guide to Government Officials:** Liz Hammond mentioned that she had brought to the meeting copies of the latest Guide to Government Officials. It was decided that copies of the Guide would be included in the packets of materials sent to the membership.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be an in-person meeting at Patricia Jamison's residence on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Liz Hammond made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lorie Andersen-Petrie seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.