

Minutes
LWV-TLC Combined Board Meeting
June 19, 2006
Sue Nichol's Home

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Bonnie Bishop at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present were: Bonnie Bishop, Peg Hull Smith, Mary Karazim, Sue Nichols, Diane Mieczkowski, Meg Murphy, Nancy Watts, Rose Mary Alloy, Sharon Friedman, Nina Sabrack, Yvette Thompson, Terry Mills [7:15 P.M.] and Ann Payne [7:25 P.M.].
Member Absent was Anita Levin.

Announcements

Bonnie Bishop indicated the need to begin work on the Bequest Policy. There seem to be many ideas on how to handle this. It will be a main topic at the retreat. At the retreat we will break into groups. Financial will probably be the committee to handle this. In the meantime, do some creative thinking.

Minutes

Mary Karazim presented the minutes for the May 22, 2006, Board Meeting. She also distributed draft copies of the Annual Meeting Minutes. The proper spelling of Robert Grim was the only correction.

Motion: It was moved by Diane Mieczkowski and seconded by Peg Hull Smith that the minutes be accepted with the correction. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Sue Nichols reported that a glitch with a bounced check has kept her from developing a final report. The fiscal year ends on June 30, 2006. To date [June 19] the Fifth/Third checking account has \$2,085.44, the Ohio Ed Fund has \$5651.79, and the Fifth/Third Savings account has \$4,140.95, for a total of \$11,887.18. The two endowment monies, totaling \$10,250.00 have been placed in a Fifth/Third CD.

Sue also reminded the Board members that the checks coming in for 2006-2007 dues have been placed in savings, but are not yet recorded. This money will be transferred and recorded in the checking account on July 1, 2006.

The Board members asked that whenever financial reports are given the Treasurer begin a practice of more thoroughly explaining the accounts and how they are operated
Sue explained the PMP requirements of both LWVUS and LWV Ohio. She also stated that some money is used for operating and general functioning such as meetings, advocacy, etc. The Ed Fund can only be used for anything we do to educate voters and for voter services. Any money we receive for Community Shares must go into the Ed Fund. This fund is a 501 3C fund and must be carefully monitored. The Treasurer must be very careful to know which fund is used for a specific item/event.

Yvette Thompson brought news from the National Convention that the delegates voted for an increase in national PMPs. Sue Nichols was unsure of the exact amounts for LWVUs and LWVOhio PMP amounts. She will investigate before the next meeting.

Sue also cautioned that either dues will have to increase or we will need good fund raisers.

Audit

Bonnie Bishop reported that the audit is not yet completed. It will be done by July 1, 2006.

Membership

Meg Murphy reported that dues are trickling in. In two or three weeks Meg will send a follow up to those who have not renewed their membership.

Meg also announced that the Edwin Phillips household did not renew the National membership and joined our local league instead. Meg will try and monitor other National memberships assigned to us and ask them to join the local when their renewal dates come up.

Voter Protection

Bonnie Bishop reviewed the contents of the letter received from the state office [previously emailed to Board members] concerning the \$8,000.00 grant the state received for a Voter Protection Project. The intent is to focus on underserved populations with voter registration education. Bonnie has taken the initiative to sign up our league.

Bonnie also explained that in March she had worked with a group to develop a Voter's Rights document to help explain the ramifications of HB3, now in effect [June 1, 2006].

Bonnie has met with Paula Hicks Hudson to form a coalition to continue to develop a Voter's Bill of Rights. Bonnie and Paula each have a list of groups to contact. The intent is that once a document is agreed to, each participating group will print their own materials to distribute.

In the discussion, Board members expressed a concern that actions, no matter what the merits, should have Board approval before commitments are made. The Board should be aware of what is required and what is expected.

Motion: It was moved by Yvette Thompson and seconded by Sue Nichols that a committee be formed to proceed with the Voter Protection Grant and the Voter Bill of Rights. The motion carried.

In the discussion Bonnie indicated that she had talked to Peg Rosenfield. Peg doesn't know of anyone in the state who is doing a Bill of Rights. Peg was on her way to a training for Boards of Elections. She will inquire further so we might avoid a duplication of efforts.

Community Shares

Peg Hull Smith reminded members of the Hot August Night fund raiser to be held on Friday, August 11. Tickets [\$35.00] were available for purchase.

Town Hall Meetings

Nina Sabrack reviewed the large Joyce Foundation Grant for the state league. The idea is to get people excited about civic engagement. We could find people in the community to recognize and have a discussion about pertinent matters. There's not enough time before elections. Ann was working on an issue in Sylvania about merging the boundaries of the city and the township but this has been put on hold. Some suggested topics were minimum wages, imminent domain, and workman's comp. We need to pick an issue carefully and explore the proper time for action.

Motion: It was moved by Peg Hull Smith and seconded by Nina Sabrack that we get involved in town hall meetings this league year. The motion passed.

Voter Services

On May 15 we received a request form Westgate Neighbors to co-sponsor a forum for county commissioner candidates on October 8, 2006.

It was noted that many groups are now doing candidate forums and this is good news. It is no longer necessary for us to focus on them so strongly. We can hook up with organizations as long as they don't do endorsements.

Nina Sabreck stated that the state league will be sponsors of a debate for the governor candidates.

Bonnie Bishop stated that a chair is needed to keep track of all the "balls in the air."

Retreat

Peg Hull Smith will coordinate car pools and food. The home is in Beulah Michigan on Crystal Lake. It is north of Frankenmuth and south of Traverse City. Each person should bring a sleeping bag or her own linens, and towels. We will travel on Friday, have dinner, meetings on Saturday, and leave Sunday morning.

Program

There was a discussion concerning a possible general meeting on July 27. There was little enthusiasm for this. Nina Sabrack expressed a desire that something be done to celebrate the League's 86th anniversary [August 26]. This would not necessarily have to be a meeting. It was decided that Sharon Friedman and Nina would work together to plan some kind of event/activity.

Naturalization

Diane Mieczkowski stated that since no League member could attend the ceremony scheduled for July 4 at Put-in-Bay she gave the materials to the ladies from Veterans of Foreign Wars to distribute for us.

Old Business

Convention

Yvette Thompson gave an enthusiastic report of the convention and provided posters with photographs. Yvette had business cards printed which she distributed whenever she introduced herself. The convention theme was "Meeting in the Middle." Ohio had a table promoting our position on the death penalty and delegates did vote to accept this for a study. There were delegates from 49 states and the voting delegates totaled 1,297.

Yvette took along a tape recorder and interviewed several delegates to learn about why they were involved in the League. She hopes to put something together for new members. Yvette also purchased some item to be used for raffles, etc.

Sue Nichols reported that she had received an email from Ohio's new Executive Director, Jerolyn Barbee, stating that Yvette had represented the League beautifully.

Lawsuit

The lawsuit is at a standstill.

Cost Cutting

Last year the League spent \$271.00 more for copying than was spent the previous year. Some measure will be taken to cut costs.

As a start:

- Agenda will be sent by email and Board members should make and bring their own copies to the meetings.
- The phone tree will be truly organized.
- Encouragement to use the website will be intensified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Karazim, Secretary