

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY - GENERAL FUND
BOARD MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017, 9:30 AM
IBERIA BANK BUILDING, 1905 PINE RIDGE ROAD, NAPLES, FL**

Attending: Charlotte Nycklemoe, Heather Baker, Patricia Forkan, Pat Howard, Ray Kalick Paul Kardon, Vi Steffan, Diana Walsh, Ron Ferguson. **Excused:** Anne Campbell, Gayle Stroup, Pam Brown, Robin Larkin, Becky Newell

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte Nycklemoe at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared. Charlotte called for any additions or changes to the Agenda. Charlotte indicated there were two additions:

Additions to the Agenda:

- Board Resignation Announcement
- Community Foundation Technology Grant Request

Ray Kalich provided his financial report.-Expenses were higher over the summer, due to covering the cost of 9 members attending the National Conference. The budget shows \$12,200 in income and expenses of \$13,200. We have shortfall of \$1,000 and will need to do some fundraising in order to do what we want to achieve.

Motion was made by Paul Kardon and seconded by Pat Howard to accept the Consent Agenda

Discussion: Char briefly discussed a book entitled “Asking,” by Jerold Panas. The book would be an aid to help us with raising funds. She went on to say the Board has a job to do this year, and to keep in the back of your mind the people you are affiliated with and the organizations you belong to that could become part of the League. Diana suggested adding our sponsors on the website – it provides recognition for them and for us. When raising funds, a letter is not enough, as noted in the book. Any one of us should be available to have a conversation or to meet a potential candidate. For example, Iberia Bank and Arthrex could be potential candidates. Keep this in the forefront of your mind.

Discussion: Discussion focused on the fact that we need a well-structured communications committee to move into the 21st Century, using the new social media tools available.

Motion: A motion was made to pursue requesting a technology grant from the Community Foundation for the purpose of updating/remodeling our website.

Action: Vi Stephen volunteered to write the request.

Discussion: Diana and Charlotte expressed the need to form a well-constructed Communications Committee with a Communications Chair. The specific job descriptions of the committee and the Chairperson will be discussed more thoroughly at the next Working Group session. A specific program plan will be devised at the committee level. Results of that discussion will be brought back to the board at a future meeting.

Char advised the Board that Gayle Stroup has resigned.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the lack of written committee reports, Charlotte invited Committee Chairpersons to give a verbal report.

Environmental Affairs:

Patti reported that the Committee was busy during the summer months. One of their key topics is Sea Level Rise (SLR). We are fortunate to have two FL scientists working on the issue focused just on Collier County. They were recently approved by Dept of Commerce to receive a \$1million grant over three years. At a presentation to the BCC the scientists gave credit to the League in particular for working on their behalf with Commerce. Judy Hushon and Sally Woliver had touched base with all the Commissioners as well as their Universities to encourage this work. In addition, Judy held a private reception for the scientists and invited local decision makers and other environmental groups to continue building community support.

Both Naples City vice-mayor, Linda Penniman, and County Commissioner Penny Taylor subsequently held a sea level summit with a four person panel including two from Miami, to provide a public forum on the subject. The County Commissioner meeting room was packed and everyone was engaged. This was an important public kick off to jump start actions to begin mitigation and resiliency planning for Collier County. Our committee will continue following the progress of this important work.

Another summer activity involved Committee members meeting with Congressman Frances Rooney to encourage him to stay strong on the Everglades work he has begun. Our members had the opportunity to engage him in discussions of Federal funding for EPA as well as Commerce Dept's NOAA .

A separate meeting was held with Diaz Balart to cover these and other topics from his district.

Social Policy:

Heather Baker presented the report on behalf of Ann Campbell. Heather provided information on potential speakers for committee meetings.

- Pam Brown, LWVCC Board Member and Gloria Padilla, representative from RCMA, (which supports low income children and families) talked about the impact of Irma on Immokalee and what is **being done to deal with unmet needs in the community.**
- Emergency Response, Kathleen Marr, RN, as a possible speaker in December - it was reported that **the special needs shelter had several issues with unexpected arrivals, some of whom were unaccompanied.**
- In February, the topic may be a special Echo One film about world hunger in conjunction with the Collier County Commission and Lee County.

- Heather is working with Patti Dunkin, LWV Lee County, to coordinate the possibility of a future field trip to the ECHO Global Farm for a tour.

At that point, Heather responded to questions posed about the activities of the Social Policy Commission. She provided the board with additional information about the committee's strategy of scheduling monthly speakers at its meetings, noting that the primary intent is to educate committee members on the issues and specifically how they play out in Collier County. The committee members identify action items and pursue those members' input. An example of this is the work being done to explore mental health programming specifically geared to identify needs in the senior population, which has been led by NAMI and other community providers. She indicated that Board input is certainly welcome as it related to selecting a topic and/or speaker for the February General meeting.

Questions arose regarding to the scope of the Social Policy Committee. Heather provided the board with information related to the breadth of topics that fall under "Social Policy." There may be opportunities and recommendations coming out of the Board's workgroup that relate to leadership and committee focus; however, at this time, the current scope of the Social Policy committee aligns directly with Social Policy positions outlined in the League of Women Voters of the United States Impact on Issues, 2016-2018 publication.

A **discussion** followed regarding the proposal of an Ethics Committee to be established for the City of Naples. There followed a discussion about the historical efforts to create one in alliance with the County. Additional discussion related to issues that had arisen in the past that had to be referred to a state-level body, and that by having one locally, there may be an opportunity to resolve local matters locally. The following motion was proposed:

MOTION: LWVCC endorses the proposal regarding Ethics Naples and getting this issue on the ballot.

The motion was approved.

Ray recommended that the board be sensitive to make sure that other members of the Board who live in the city are aware of this. We do have a quorum for this meeting, but we should be sure that the members who are on the board who live in the city are aware and giving them an opportunity to voice their concerns; i.e. get the minutes out to all board members asap.

Government Committee

Pat continues to monitor bills and the Constitution Revision Commission. The CRC chose 6 things to focus on. One was the right to earn an honest living, without having to be licensed. This is an election year which leads to speakers' ambition. Patti indicated Conservation Collier is putting taxes on property that are already being taxed, i.e. new homes.

More from FEMA and 200% increase for retail i.e. up to 24,770 families relocated. It is estimated that Collier County billing cost agents 30-40% more than other counties, so expensive to build. Habitat for Humanity homes had 2021 homes and did not have to evacuate anyone. A development was approved for 30 homes next to Briarwood with the homes being near 1800 sq ft and then 1801 - 2200 sq ft. This is not affordable living.

Justice Committee

Janet Hoffman is working to collect petitions for our League. If they are to get this passed, 2040 signed petitions are required from our League. She needs help with Action Alerts and participation in collecting signatures. She is organizing people now, so you can get hooked into that.

Book Club

The book club meets before the next general meeting.

Membership

Confirmed date of November 15 for new member welcome event. Be sure to attend – we need to talk to and inform our new members about how to get involved!

Education Committee

See the Alert to start an Education Committee. We have had 2-3 responses, but we need more. Pat Drago from the state League is speaking on Vouchers and Charter Schools on Monday, October 30 at the Jewish Federation. President would love to see a good turnout for the event. The address is 500 Vanderbilt Beach Road. The meeting will be from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

Leadership Conference Report

Diana reported that the Leadership Conference was excellent. There were many informative workshops on a variety of topics. We learned that we are not up to speed on Facebook and Twitter in comparison to many other local Leagues. We need a greater presence in the newer media. In addition, one idea that emerged from one of the sessions was to live stream our events and General meetings. It could allow us to reach many more citizens including more young people being able to “attend.” For example, Joyce had used live streaming for the forums she held in the County Commissioner’s chambers thus enabling a much larger audience for those forums.

Work Group Update: One more meeting will be held on November 16. The goal is to have in place a good, firm succession plan – incredibly important. We want to do that with the committees as well. We have come a long way.

Respectively submitted,
Vi Stephen (in lieu of Robin Larkin’s absence)