

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
ROBB & STUCKY, NAPLES
January 8, 2007**

The regular January meeting of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Collier County, held January 8, 2007, at Robb & Stucky, Naples, was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by President Chris Straton. Present: Jeannette Boucher, Pat Doherty, Joyce Evans, Bonnie Michaels, Sandy Parker, Nicole Ryan, Bernice Schmelz, Chris Straton, Jen Walker and Nancy Wolfe. Excused: Marjorie Joder, Kathleen Slebodnik. Off-Board: Ann Campbell.

The first order of business concerned an appointment to the Board. **Upon a motion made by Ms. Walker, seconded, and unanimously carried, the president's appointment of Bonnie Michaels as a voting member of the Board of Directors was unanimously carried. She will serve in the position of Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The following were part of the Consent Agenda: Minutes of the December 4, 2006, Board Meeting, the Treasurer's Report, the Letter to the Editor regarding League programs, and all committee reports (Hospitality Committee will submit bi-monthly in the future).

The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda, with discussion and action as follows:

- The Treasurer's Report. Ms. Joder's report showed a balance of \$6,973.50 as of December 31, 2006. It was noted that we are short on contributions, which may necessitate a fund raising effort in March. This item will be placed on the February Board Meeting agenda. It was noted that State League's Legislative Seminar is scheduled for March 19. Ms. Straton announced that she and Ms. Parker will be attending on behalf of our League and that other directors will be welcome to join them. The Treasurer's Report was ordered filed for audit.
- The Letter to the Editor regarding League programs. Following agreement, Ms. Straton was authorized to submit the proposed letter composed by Nancy Wolfe.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Doherty, seconded, and unanimously carried, the **Consent Agenda as reconstituted was approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

Workforce Housing Consensus

Ms. Straton stressed the need to have the maximum number of members participate in discussions leading to consensus and noted that an additional discussion opportunity has been added on January 24, between 1 and 3 p.m., at the North Collier Government Center on Orange Blossom adjacent to the library. League members are leading each consensus session and are being asked to concentrate especially on the first two questions. Ms.

Straton asked interested Board members to telephone the membership to promote participation in the consensus process.

General Meeting Programs.

February: The main meeting will concentrate on Concierge Medicine. Lively League Issues will focus on Program Planning.

March: The main meeting will concentrate on Rights Restoration. Lively League Issues will feature housing.

April: The main meeting will focus on Homeland Security. The Annual Meetings of LWVCC and LWVCC Education Fund will precede the main meeting.

Bylaws Review Status.

Bylaws Committee Chair Bernice Schmelz reported that she and Ann Campbell will prepare recommendations for the February Board Meeting.

Program planning. Committees were asked to consider Florida State League items and begin discussing local items. March 1 is the State Program Planning deadline, and March 15 is the deadline for local program materials that need to be broadcast in advance before LWVCC's Annual Meeting.

Membership Renewals. Statistics were reviewed by Ms. Evans, and follow-up help by means of phone calls to those still delinquent was requested.

Strategic Planning. The agenda for this 1-1/2 day retreat, to be held at the Collier Athletic Club from 8:30 to 5:30 January 25 and from 8:00 to 12:30 on January 26, was reviewed, and all Board members were urged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resources Committee Meeting January 19. Ms. Michaels noted that the Natural Resources Committee will be meeting on January 19 at 10:00 in the East Classroom at the Conservancy. A presentation by Alice Carlson from SFWMD and Clarence Tears from Big Cypress Basin will be featured. A good turn-out by League members is needed.

League's support of speakers before the BCC disclosing who they represent .

Ms. Straton's January 9, 2007 letter to the BCC, in which she states that League is in favor of amending the Collier County Ethics Ordinance No. 04-05 to require that all speakers identify themselves and who they represent, as appropriate, was reviewed. It was noted that such transparency is consistent with League's Principles.

Guidelines for Joining Coalitions. Ms. Campbell had been asked to prepare guidelines for our League regarding joining coalitions. After suggested changes were incorporated into her recommendations, it was moved (Parker), seconded and unanimously carried **that these Guidelines for Joining Coalitions, in their changed form, be adopted and be made part of these Minutes** [Note: they are included at the end of the Minutes]. If a handbook of procedures is subsequently developed, it was recommended that these Guidelines be included.

It was noted that League is currently coalescing with the following groups:

- Collier County Non-Discrimination Coalition (Kathleen Slebodnik)
- Collier County Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Ann Allen)
- Juvenile Justice Council of Collier County (Bernice Schmelz)
- Juvenile Assessment Center Advisory Council (monitor), Bernice Schmelz
- Substance Abuse Coalition of Collier County (monitor), Bernice Schmelz

The Naples Alliance for Children was removed from the list at the suggestion of Ms. Campbell, who pointed out that we are in a net-working relationship with them rather than a coalescing relationship.

Gift of a projector promised. Ms. Straton announced that she had found a donor to underwrite the cost of a projector for the League.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Straton at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette M. Boucher
Secretary

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED 2.5.07

Joining Coalitions

(Adapted from IN LEAGUE and IN FLORIDA LEAGUE)

Combining forces for joint action toward a **limited** and **well defined** objective can double or triple League impact. Joining a coalition is a board decision. However, before the League board decides to join an action coalition, board members should fully understand the commitment involved (time, money, resources) and should, if possible, plan to play a leadership role in order to influence the activities of the coalition.

If the coalition decides to endorse candidates after the League has joined, the League should, at a minimum, issue a statement dissociating itself from that aspect of the coalition's work. Or the League may decide to withdraw. If the coalition will concentrate its activities on supporting or opposing candidates, or if League goals diverge from those of the coalition, the League should not participate.

Guidelines to be weighed by the LWVCC board of directors when considering joining a coalition:

1. The coalition's major issues should mesh with League positions. Though there need not be a League position on every issue with which the coalition is concerned, the aims of the coalition must not conflict with League positions.
2. The coalition should be nonpartisan and must not endorse candidates for office.
3. The major goals of the coalition should be in accord with adopted League priorities, or the goals should be ones the League expects to work to achieve in the future.
4. The coalition's activities should bring added effectiveness to the overall efforts to achieve the League's organizational, advocacy or educational goals.
5. The members of the coalition should be organizations with which the League can work effectively. The League should have confidence in the leadership of the coalition and the League representative may serve in a leadership capacity.
6. The League representative to a coalition must have the prior approval of the president before making any formal or public statement of League position on a specific issue. If the League disagrees with the majority opinion of the coalition, the League should dissociate itself and issue a public statement of the League's dissension.
7. Joining a coalition should be a board decision and the board shall approve the League representative to the coalition.
8. It must be determined whether and how much funding will be required from the League and how much time and expertise will be required and whether or not the League can provide these.

Sample letter to Organization/Coalition upon joining

Date:

To:

The League of Women Voters of Collier County is pleased to be able to cooperate with *(name of organization or coalition)* on *(project's name, purpose)*. However, the League must do so under the following conditions:

1. The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan and does not endorse political parties or candidates. If *(organization/coalition)* in any way endorses a candidate or party, the League must immediately dissociate itself. If it is the intent of *(organization/coalition)* to endorse a party or candidate at some future time, the League will respectfully withdraw at that time.
2. If a decision is reached by the *(organization/coalition)* that conflicts with a League position, the League reserves the right to issue an opposing statement and/or to withdraw from participation.

To this end, you are requested to keep the League informed of all activities that might affect our concerns.

We look forward to working with *(organization/coalition)* to *(purpose of cooperation)* under the aforementioned conditions.

Sincerely,

President
League of Women Voters of Collier County