

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
ROBB & STUCKY, NAPLES
October 9, 2006

The regular October meeting of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Collier County, held October 9, 2006 at Robb & Stucky, Naples, was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by President Chris Straton. Present: Susan Bookbinder, Jeannette Boucher, Joyce Evans, Marjorie Joder, Sandy Parker, Nicole Ryan, Bernice Schmelz, Kathleen Slebodnik, Chris Straton,. Excused: Pat Doherty, Alda Pierce, Jen Walker and Nancy Wolfe.

PRESIDENT

President Straton enumerated the various materials in the notebooks she had prepared for each board member and requested that each board member keep their notebook current so it can be passed down to successors. She also requested that each board member prepare a job description and include it in their notebook.

She then articulated the goal of the Welcome Back Lunch as being that of energizing members about all League offers as they return for the season. To generate excitement, committee chairs, as well as any directors needing members to assist them, are being asked to set up innovative displays and materials for recruitment. This event is slated to begin at 11:00.

A discussion ensued about charging non-members for attending League functions. This discussion resulted in the incorporation of an earlier passed motion regarding Hot Topics lunches into the following broader motion. **Ms. Parker moved that the League charge non-members \$5 more to attend either monthly General Meeting lunches or Hot Topics lunches except for a one time exemption. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Straton requested that the Board approve her recommendation that Jeannette Boucher and Bernice Schmelz serve as members of the 2007 Nominating Committee. Upon motion made by Ms. Bookbinder and seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Straton then issued an appeal for members willing to serve as members of the Budget Committee.

Ms. Straton asked Ms. Schmelz to chair a Bylaws Committee, and Ms. Schmelz agreed.

Ms. Straton recommended and members agreed that LWVCC will take advantage of a pro bono offer made by Donna Gilroy, a professional strategic plan facilitator, to guide board members and others who may be asked to participate through the process of developing a 2-year (or possibly more) strategic plan. An all-day session will be held on January 25 and will be followed by a morning session on January 26.

It was noted that the cost of lunch has been raised \$1 by our caterer. **Treasurer Marjorie Joder made a motion which was seconded and unanimously carried that the lunch price we charge members be raised to \$15, effective with the November meeting.**

Discussion of a roster was tabled until the November board meeting. Membership Chair Joyce Evans was asked to prepare a recommendation.

National League's recent PMP increase was discussed, and **upon motion made by Ms. Evans, seconded and unanimously carried, it was decided to absorb this increase rather than pass it along to our members. 2007 dues of \$65 per member (\$35 for an additional person in a household) will be recommended for approval by the membership at LWVCC's April Annual Meeting.**

The Bylaws Committee will be asked to propose a change in PMP wording so that passing along such increases is not automatic.

SECRETARY

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held April 17, 2006, were approved as submitted, and the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held September 11, 2006, were approved with one spelling correction.

Ms. Schmelz pointed out that the Minutes of the April 3, 2006, Board Meeting need approval, and it was agreed that these Minutes would be presented at the November Board Meeting.

Two actions taken by email consensus during the summer were ratified: that the repository for League funds continue to be Fifth Third Bank, and that LWVCC support the Keep Conservation Collier ballot initiative.

TREASURER

Treasurer Marge Joder presented her report showing a cash balance as of September 30, 2006, of \$4,709.62. The report will be filed for audit. The make-up of a needed Audit Committee was discussed, and Ms. Joder was asked to solicit Barbara Elliott's help. Ms. Straton will recruit an off-board member for the third member of this committee.

ACTION ITEMS

VOTER. Voter Publisher/Editor Sandy Parker reviewed circulation facts and the potential savings of using email to distribute the Voter.

The following motion as amended, made by Ms. Parker and seconded, passed unanimously:

- **Effective with the November 2006 issue, we will distribute the VOTER only by email to those current members for whom we have email addresses.**
- **We will offer to distribute a hard copy to anyone who requests one.**

- **We will communicate this change in the email itself, in the November VOTER, at the October – December general meetings, and at the Welcome Back Luncheon.**
- **We will continue to mail the VOTER to all members for whom we do not have email addresses using first class mail.**
- **We will discontinue our bulk mail permit when it comes up for renewal.**

Mirasol and related items. Natural Resources Chairman Nicole Ryan presented the committee’s recommendations and then requested approval for two action items.

Upon motion made by Ms. Ryan, seconded and passed unanimously, it was decided that The League of Women Voters of Collier County will write a letter to the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board asking them to deny the Mirasol modified Environmental Resource Permit based on the project’s negative impacts to wetland and water resources. It was noted that our opposition is based on League water policy as outlined in both the State and National League policy publications.

Upon motion made by Ms. Ryan, seconded and passed unanimously, it was agreed that The League of Women Voters of Collier County believes that the Mirasol Planned Unit Development (PUD), which has expired, should not be extended as the applicant has requested, but should go through the amendment process, thus allowing Collier County to look at the project’s compatibility and consistency with the Growth Management Plan. It was noted that while this matter will not go before the Commissioners for several months, the League will make its position known to decision-makers at appropriate opportunities.

Alternative Voting Processes Study. Voter Service Chair Susan Bookbinder circulated materials she had developed describing this study adopted by the League of Women Voters of Florida in which local leagues are invited to participate.

Ms. Bookbinder made a motion which was seconded and passed unanimously that our League not participate in Alternative Voting Processes (AVP) Study adopted as a study item by LWVF state study at its 2005 Convention.

It was noted that our League has already committed to other priorities requiring large amounts of time on the part of its members.

November and December Programs.

Ms. Straton reported that League’s State President Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti will be available to be our speaker, at no cost to us, at our November General Meeting.

Workforce Housing Committee Chair Kathleen Slebodnik reported that she is planning a program on Workforce Housing for the December General Meeting

Ms. Straton announced that Nancy Wolff has volunteered to host a holiday party at her home in Quail Creek on December 6 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Members and their

spouses/guests will be asked to bring something to eat and drink and contribute \$10 per person.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Justice. Bernice Schmelz, chair, announced that her committee had met earlier in the day and would be preparing a recommendation regarding participating in the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. This recommendation will be presented to the membership at the League's Annual Meeting in April.

Membership. Joyce Evans, chair, reported an increase of 19 new members since League's Annual Meeting in April. She emphasized the need to involve new members in committee work and suggested committee chairs appoint a person to be in charge of communicating with present and prospective committee members. Ms. Straton said she will allow more time on November's agenda for a discussion of membership.

Government. President Straton announced the appointment of Sandy Parker as Local Government Chair. This committee's responsibilities will include the members talking with members "Hot Topics" lunches that have been so popular. Also included will be "Lunch with Leaders," which will involve local government officials speaking with League members informally over lunch. Ms. Parker announced that the first "Lunch with Leaders" is scheduled for January 10. It will be a meeting with the constitutional officers. The subject of Ms. Parker's doing presentations (such as her recent one on the insurance industry crisis in Florida) for groups such as service clubs was discussed. Until such time as the League may develop a pricing policy, individuals giving presentations may determine their own fees. Resulting monies will be deposited to the League's Education Fund account..

Natural Resources. Nicole Ryan, chair, will be working to find a co-chair to handle many of the committee's responsibilities.

Voter. Publisher/Editor Sandy Parker requested that future Voter articles be submitted that deal principally with forthcoming involvement and action, not past. It was suggested that discussion of such philosophical and practical issues of communication might be included as part of the strategic plan process in January.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Straton at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette M. Boucher
Secretary

APPROVED AS CORRECTED 11.06.06