

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY, General Fund**  
**Board of Directors Meeting – October 26, 2016**  
Iberia Bank, 2150 Goodlette Frank Road, Naples, Florida

Attending: Robin Birnhak, Susan Calkins, Joyce Fletcher, Patricia Forkan, Ray Kalich, Robin Larkin, John Levy, Becky Newell, Charlotte Nycklemoe, Vi Steffan.

Not present: Michele Arnold, Ann Campbell, Paul Kardon.

Guests: Jan Eustis, Pat Howard, Claire Lang, Sandy Parker, Susan Suarez

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte Nycklemoe at 9:25 am. A quorum was declared. Char introduced Susan Suarez, who explained that she would provide a short presentation on her proposal (in Board Packet) and then respond to questions.

Susan Suarez provided an overview of her proposal and responded to questions from the Board. She then left the board meeting.

Financial Presentation: Ray Kalich, with support from Sandy Parker, provided a handout (attached) and presented the financial health of the LWVCC. It was a thorough look and compared 2015 and 2016 to-date. The report was positive, the organization on sound financial footing but questioned whether we have the funds to be as active and as visible in the community as we want be. Do we want to grow our budget? If so, how can we grow our budget and where and how will we raise funds were questions raised. Ray requested some assistance with the financials. His request was to have someone do a second monthly reconciliation of the bank accounts for both the General and Education Funds; Ray does an initial reconciliation. Vi Steffan volunteered to assist Ray in that effort.

Robin Larkin requested an addition to the agenda: brief mention that Jan Eustis and Robin L. will be emailing committee chairs, requesting they identify a mentor within their committees to mentor new members.

Joyce Fletcher noted a change in the Board Packet—the correct spelling of Nancy Payton (not Patton) as reported in the May 26 note of the Environmental Affairs Committee report. A motion was made and passed to approve the Consent Agenda (as amended), the GF Financials and April 27, 2016, Minutes.

A motion was made and passed to approve the Consent Agenda.

**Unfinished Business**

Insurance: Ray Kalich reported on the renewal of our liability insurance for Directors and Officers. The fee is \$1000. Ray reported that LWVFL is in the process of establishing a mechanism that will provide coverage to local Leagues (costing LWVCC approximately \$100) but will not be effective for several months. A motion was made that Ray pay the current insurance premium but only pay it with the understanding that we can receive a prorate reimbursement if we cancel. A discussion followed. The vote taken and the motion was denied. A motion was made authorizing Ray to pay the insurance premium. This motion was seconded and passed.

***Action: Ray will pay the insurance premium.***

Monthly luncheon costs: We discussed whether we should raise the price of our monthly lunches at the Hilton Naples.

***Action: Revisit the topic at our April Board meeting.***

## **New Business**

Susan Suarez Proposal: We had a robust discussion on the proposal presented by Susan Suarez. The proposal (included in Board Packet) is for her to provide consulting services to help us plan and implement a process to: retain/engage new members, generate revenue, and strengthen our infrastructure/board succession. Her fee for this is \$4,000.

The LWVCC would pay for the plan by applying to the CFCC for a \$2500 grant that would pay a portion of Susan's consulting services. The LWVCC would have to provide \$1000 in order to be eligible for the \$2500 grant.

There were a variety of opinions--that Susan *would* provide the needed guidance to LWVCC to accomplish her proposed activities. Other folks suggested we have already done the front-end work in her proposal and with focus we could implement the strategies without outside assistance/fees. Or see if Susan could use our existing work and provided back-end structure to guide us in implementation of our plans. Another opinion was that while we may appreciate and possibly need Susan's guidance, we are not ready to move forward with her proposal and when we are ready, is she the right person.

Ray Kalich made a motion that we contract with Susan Suarez to take information we have and work with the LWVCC to identify next steps and an action plan to help us accomplish the stated objectives.

Ray then amended the motion that we bring in outside professional help to work with the LWVCC to identify next steps and an action plan to help us accomplish the stated objectives. This motion was seconded, discussed and did not pass.

***Action: Revisit the discussion at the next meeting. R. Larkin will provide the background (refining sessions, strategic plan) and Task Force reports to the Board and Committee Chairs.***

LWVCC Board Communications: Becky Newell was asked to provide a plan for more efficient Board communications. She suggested the LWVCC Board establish a closed Facebook group to share information and links to additional information. Slack ([www.slack.com](http://www.slack.com)) was an alternative suggestion but Facebook was determined to be best first try at this process. Becky provided a handout (attached) that reported on the analytics from ads she had posted on Facebook.

A motion was made and carried to authorize Becky to continue ads through the General Election and spend \$50/month that will focus on/highlight a LWVCC topic/speaker/cause. Becky and Gayle Stroup will be responsible for determining what subject/speaker/topic will be highlighted.

The proposed Facebook closed group will consist of LWVCC Board, directors and committee chairs. Becky encouraged all to visit and post on the LWV page, to invite friends to "Like" and to share that info with friends.

As Governance Chair, Becky passed around a sheet of paper for board members to identify if they need a printed or electronic version of the LWVCC Board Book.

Michele Arnold Resignation: Char reported the Michele, with additional responsibilities at work, will not be able to attend our morning meetings and will have to resign. This triggered a discussion on holding our board meetings at alternative times and/or days.

***Action: Char will check with Michele to see if a later afternoon/early evening meeting would be a possibility for her to attend and therefore continue on the board.***

Environmental Affairs Committee Update: Susan Calkins reported on Sea-Level Rise and outreach with a number of local and State organizations. A speaker from the Harvard Study presented a report to the Board of County Commissioners. There was unanimous recognition/acknowledgement that sea-level rise exists. The Harvard Study group and FGCU will work together to further the work locally.

Patti Forkan passed out amendment “Vote No” cards to be distributed at polls. Patti also said she has ‘lawn signs’ if anyone has a place to display them.

Holiday Lunch: Char asked for volunteers to plan a fun Holiday Lunch, to be held at the Hilton Naples on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Vi Steffan and Claire Lang volunteered.

End of Season Dinner: Sandy reported that the Club at Olde Cypress has held two dates—April 12 and April 19—and requested we choose one to go with. After a discussion, it was decided that April 12<sup>th</sup> is the better date. Robin has reached out to the Country Club of Naples as an alternative venue and will report at next meeting.

ACLU Public Forum: BACKGROUND: Char sent the LWVCC Board an email on October 2, 2016, asking the Board to review a request from the Collier County ACLU that we co-sponsor a public forum on ‘Fixing Florida’s Broken Criminal Justice System: for Lower Taxes, Fairness, and Increased Public Safety.’ (That initial outline is attached to these Board minutes. The updated forum outline was handed out at this October board meeting.) The Board members reviewed the ACLU outlined proposal and responded to Char via email.

***Action: The Board voted electronically NOT to co-sponsor the public forum as originally proposed by the ACLU. This vote was reflected in an October 11, 2016, email from Char.***

Char forwarded the Boards comments to David Goldstein at the ACLU. The comments caused them to rethink their program. Char passed out an updated Public Forum announcement “Florida’s Broken Criminal Justice System: Let’s Fix It!” They, again, would like the LWVCC to participate.

***Action: Char asked that the Board and committee chairs review the updated program and email/Facebook Char with comments on how the LWVCC can participate.***

The LWVCC Telephone Answering System: Char asked for a volunteer to pick up phone messages and respond to the callers. Joyce offered to do it through the General Election. A suggestion was made that a new LWVCC member—someone with previous LWV membership/experience—may be a good choice.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Larkin, Secretary